

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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Meath County Council

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December, 2019

Don/ Cathaoirleach agus ball den Comhairle

Item 7.1 - 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
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	Complete	N/A
Totals	71	16,962,515		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	N/A	Q4 2019
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q1 2020
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		Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Totals	118	25,846,899		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q4 2019	Q1 2021
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q1 2020	Q1 2021
Totals	47	9,979,513		

PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Nobber	19	3,657,000	-	-
Totals	19	3,657,000		
DESIGN PHASE				
Farganstown	42	11,204,000	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Ashbourne	55	12,264,000	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Blackhill Cresent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q2 2020	Q4 2020
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	34	7,996,502	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
Totals	168	38,524,483		
GRAND TOTALS	423	95,326,747		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

▪ **Summary of 2019 Approved Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING APPROVED €
Kells	Carrick Street (Vacant units (19) & back land development (30))	49	10,225,755
Navan	Turnkey	8	2,019,330
Dunshaughlin	Part V	14	3,681,522
Kilcock	Part V	15	3,755,033
Navan	Part V	21	4,599,800
Drogheda (Meath)	Part V	7	1,412,880
Bettystown	Part V	26	6,527,565
Navan	Turnkey	8	2,214,620
Kilmessan	Turnkey	3	821,642
Haggard Street, Trim	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	4	931,300
Church Street, Kells	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	3	722,600
Pitcher Lane, Kells	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	4	886,600
Swan Lane, Balreask, Navan	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	6	1,426,700
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	Direct Construction (Phase 4)	34	7,996,502
Bettystown	Turnkey	8	2,129,557
Totals		210	49,351,406

▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Bettystown	Turnkey	14	3,970,680
Totals		14	3,970,680

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

Acquisition Programme

- Sales have closed for 45 Housing units to the value of €8,958,864 and a further 15 acquisitions are at contract stage

Turnkey Units

- 28 sales have closed to date in 2019 to the value of €7,239,829

Part V units

- The Council has closed the sales on 33 Part V units to the value of €7,611,749. A further 7 Part V units have been acquired by Approved Housing Bodies

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

- 372 Grants have been approved to the value of €2,549,600. The 2019 Allocation has been fully expended.

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 43 projects completed to date (€385,475)
- 13 projects ongoing (€85,183)

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 14th November 2019. For the period from 18th October 2019 to 14th November 2019, works were completed on 3 vacant units; while 6 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	1	0	0	1	0
Kells	8	2	0	6	4
Laytown/Bettystown	2	0	1	3	0
Navan	3	0	1	4	0
Ratoath	2	2	0	4	0
Trim	7	1	3	11	0
TOTALS	23	5	5	29	4

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
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Frederick Manor, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	5 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/3 complete 2019 and 12 Due for delivery Q4 2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete –Q1 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – Q1 2019
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q1 2020
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – Q2 - 2019
Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath (Part V)	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q4 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Delivery Due Qtr 4 2019
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – (20 units) Q4 2019

Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond!	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	12 Delivered, 11 due for Delivery– Q4 2019
Moyvalley, Longwood	13	Tuath	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	Delivery Due – Q1 2020
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee	Delivery Due – Q1 2020
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	6 Due Q4 2019 Q2 2020 19
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	TBC
Total	680		

Homeless Service

- **Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements 2019**

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st October 2019	90 (93)	16 (22 Adults, 35 Children)	106

Of the 16 households with children, 10 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention.

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

- 145 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January – October 2019

Social Housing Supports

- 894 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January - October 2019.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January – October 2019.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	206
Approved Housing Bodies	128
RAS	0
HAP	609
TOTAL	943

TRANSPORTATION

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Topographical Proof Survey work complete. Tender Assessments for Archaeological Consultancy and for Supplementary Ground Investigation ongoing. Advanced Tree Felling Contract appointment ongoing. Bat survey tender ongoing.
N2 Slane Bypass	3 rd Public Consultation on Emerging Preferred Option held on the 14th Nov. The 2019 Route Options Selection Report being finalised.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Phase 1 – Concept and feasibility reports being finalised.
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	In order to progress the scheme, a Part 8 process with required reports and CPO is now being considered. Currently in discussions with TII on how best to proceed.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Final Part 8 documents currently being reviewed in-house.
N2 Slane Approaches	Resurfacing works ongoing, substantially complete in the village, works continuing south of the Bridge
N2 Primatestown	Substantially complete.
NS Resurfacing (various locations)	Works ongoing on both the N51 and the N52. Various road closures required for these works as advertised. N51 Navan – Slane works postponed until early 2020

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

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	Detailed project appraisal under review. Archaeology commenced on site. DTTAS approval re CPO statutory notices received. Draft tender documents under internal review prior to submission to DTTAS.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Draft EIAR and NIS discussed with Senior Legal Counsel on 22nd November. Pre-application meeting No.2 with An Bord Pleanala - 27 th November 2019.
R162 Kilberry	DTTAS appraisal approved. Tenders received re construction of Phase 1 & DTTAS approval received re tender acceptance. Appointment of contractor for Phase 1 progressing.
R155 Curragha	DTTAS appraisal approved. Public consultation for Phase 1 completed & contractor appointed. Works commenced on site. Irish Water interface re Phase 2 planned works to be resolved.
Schedule of Municipal District Works	Programme over 95% complete

2. (b) Non- National Roads 2019 - Funding – Other than DTT&S

R154 Traffic Calming at Kiltale and Batterjohn	Works at Batterjohn commenced on site. Tender documents for Kiltale being assessed.
R154 Traffic Calming at Batterstown	Public consultation meeting held 7 th November re: proposals for Batterstown. Last day for submissions was extended to 29 th November.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Works commenced on site March 2019. Expected to be completed Q2 2020.
LDR6 Farganstown, Navan	Works commenced on site October 2019. Expected to be completed Q4 2020.
Kilbride Rd/R125 Ashbourne Rd, Ratoath	Realignment of junction - Part 8 process completed. Land acquisition and detail design to be progressed.

3. Sustainable Transport Initiatives – 2019 grant allocation from NTA - €2,850,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Paving works mostly complete on eastern side of Railway St, which is opened to pedestrians. The Brú House quadrant opened to pedestrians. The Boyle Sports quadrant excavated, new ducting installed & service chambers constructed, in advance of new paving works. New natural granite paving kerbing & paving installed. At the Camile quadrant, excavations for service ducting complete and new natural granite paving kerbing & paving installed. Meeting held with Scoil Mhuire re accommodation works as well as engagement with the St Finian's Trust/ Diocese of Meath. Discussions ongoing with landowners re Park & Ride site (Liscarton)
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	High volume of submissions received, currently at over 2,500, and these are under review. Due to the numbers, the consultation summary report will not be available until the end of December/ beginning of January. Tender assessment for the Boyne Greenway and Restoration of the Boyne Navigation (re appointment of Consultants for Feasibility & Options Development etc) is underway.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Tenders for the provision of consultancy services for detailed design, tender and construction stages received & assessed. Letters to Successful/Unsuccessful Tenderers issued. Tender documents for the provision of topographical survey services received and assessed, letters issued to Successful/Unsuccessful Tenderers.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	Successful tenderer appointed and construction commenced on 19 th of November.
Ratoath Cycle Network	Permission obtained from Members at November Ratoath MD meeting to put the Pedestrian & Cycling Improvement Scheme on Part 8 display. It is envisaged that this will go on display in Dec 2019 or Jan 2020

4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Scheme	Road	MD	Status
Culmullin Cross	L6205/L62051/R125	Ratoath	Works complete
Knockbrack, Oldcastle	R195/L 68197	Kells	Works complete
Stamullen (Clistown)	R108	Ashbourne	Works commencing 18th November 2019
Ashbourne (Donaghmore)	R125/ L5019	Ashbourne	Works commencing 18th November 2019

5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Consultants have been appointed for the design of remedial works to Castleparks Bridge, Annes Bridge, Stoneyford Bridge, Annesbrooke Bridge, Skearke Bridge, Clonard Bridge, Kearntown Bridge, Cornmill Bridge, Maudlin Bridge.

Works to Moygaddy Bridge substantially complete.

All scheduled Minor Bridge repairs have been completed.

6. Other Actions/ Projects

Public Lighting Capital Programme	2019	Programme of Capital works commenced – 75% complete	
		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	2019	<p>Ratoath MD– Dunboyne : Footpath rehabilitation works completed.</p> <p>Navan MD – Troytown Heights/Proudstown Rd complete – Final Account pd Beechmount Estate: 95% complete Kilcarn Court: Phase 1- Contractor appointed. Due to start 13 Jan 2020 Belcourt/Blackcastle : Commenced on 20/11/2019</p> <p>Kells MD – All works completed on Athboy Road, Kells. Contractor completing sectional repairs on Newmarket St, Car park entrance at Kenlis Place, and Farrell Street; all in Kells.</p> <p>Ashbourne MD–Contract documents currently being prepared for Killlegland Park and Hunters Lane.</p> <p>Laytown/Bettystown MD– Works have commenced in Alverno Heights in Laytown.</p>	
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) & Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2019	Works are approx 95% complete.	
Royal Canal		Construction works completed in September. Funding secured from DTTAS for signage along the route, this has gone to Tender.	
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme		Letter of Intent issued to preferred Contractor. Awaiting approval from URDF/DTTAS to proceed with appointment	
St. Patrick's Park Dunboyne		Footpath extended across St. Patrick's Park to create cul de sac. Planter and bollards installed also	
Oldcastle – Pedestrian Crossing		Tenders issued on Supply Gov for installation of 3 pedestrian crossings in Oldcastle	

FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 26th November 2019	
Applications Received	313
Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency	18
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	2
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	293
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	3
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	4
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	190
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	99
	296
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	114
No of customers in MARP	35

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Planning

Planning Applications

The number of applications received in the period 01.01.2019 to 19.11.19 was 1544 in comparison to 1372 received in the same period last year.

Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of October 2019 were €9,082,902 compared to €12,168,307 in the same period last year. (Figure is inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026

The Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 will go on public display for a period of 10 weeks from 18th December 2019 to 6th March, 2020. This period includes additional days for Christmas.

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Next meeting of the LCDC will take place on Friday 29th November 2019.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The next meeting of the LAG is scheduled for Friday 29th November, 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)

- Two Walkability audits were held in Enfield and Summerhill with the Community involved. Details from the walks are being collated and discussed with the area engineer for next steps.
- The Age Friendly Alliance launched an awareness of the "Message in a Bottle" for older persons at the Flexibus annual Celebration Day with up to 600 older persons present.
- The Age Friendly Recognition awards were held in Croke Park in November with 2 projects shortlisted. The Acorn Tablet pilot won its category with Prosper Kells walkability receiving a shortlisted award in its category.
- Two Age Friendly projects Athboy Walkability and Age Friendly Shared Service are shortlisted under the "Innovation in Politics" awards being held in Berlin on December 4th.

Joint Policing Committee

The next JPC Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 9th December 2019. Commissioner Drew Harris is scheduled to attend this JPC Meeting. All Elected Members are invited to attend.

Public Participation Network

The re-registration process has improved the quality of contact information and effectiveness of communication. The Community Well Being Vision process is continuing with new workshops planned for January 2020. The Resource Officer is working on strengthening links with community groups and networks. A national review of the PPN structures is planned for early 2020.

Pride of Place

The County awards took place in the Solstice Arts Centre, Navan on Thursday 7th November, 2019. Gluais who performed from Scoil Mhuire, Trim were a big hit on the night.

The Co-operation All-Ireland Pride of Place awards are being held in Kilkenny on November 30th with 3 groups entered for Meath.

The Community Grant Scheme

The Community Grant Scheme claims are being processed as they are received and a final call for the submission of grant claims issued to the applicants of outstanding claims.

The Community Amenity Project Scheme

Details were presented to the Full Council at the November meeting and all applicants have been notified if they were successful or not.

Regional Festivals & Participative Events

A Fund of €11,000 provided by Fáilte Ireland and administered by Meath County Council to 9 qualifying applicants. Funding is being paid following receipt of claims from the applicants.

CLÁR

Funding was approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development for two projects. Works will commence shortly on these.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

A meeting of the Liaison Committee took place on 6th November, launching the next funding round for the Indaver Community Grant Scheme. Indaver's 10 Year Commemorative plaques were awarded to 6 groups at a photo-call which was held prior to the committee's 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. Next meeting scheduled for 16th December.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Works on-going by the groups under the 2018 scheme and must be completed by April 2020. The following six projects were approved under the 2019 scheme by the Department of Rural & Community Development, totalling €585,792- Ballivor, Kilbeg, Summerhill, Wilkinstown, Nobber and Kilmainhamwood.

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) scheme

New HIF Round 3 announced and will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021, 4 projects have been selected by the LCDC and have been submitted to Pobal for approval. Additional funding was awarded by the Department of Health for a Mental Health theme, 3 projects under this theme have also been submitted to Pobal for consideration. Assessments are currently being undertaken and approval is due shortly.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Seven applications were submitted to the Department for consideration. Three projects under Measure 1, three projects under Measure 2 and one project under Measure 3. An announcement of successful projects for the 2019 scheme is awaited.

Community Enhancement Programme

Meath's allocation under this programme is €163,835.00. The LCDC approved 52 grant allocations and 18 Men's Shed's applications. All works must be completed and claimed by year end. Claims are being paid out once received.

National Broadband Plan

The contract between the Government and National Broadband Ireland (NBI) was signed on the 19th November 2019. The majority will be connected using a fixed Fibre to the Home network running over open air and ESB's existing pole and duct network. NBI will also have responsibility for maintaining and improving the network over at least the next 25 years. NBI have contracted a network design company 4Site to carry out surveying work on the existing networks. The Meath County Council Broadband Officer and MD Engineers will be informed when crews are working at locations in the county.

The first phase of the rollout will be the connection of over 300 Broadband Connection Points (BCP) nationally. 12 locations were identified in Co. Meath for a BCP. The Council has to confirm full agreement with the locations and is awaiting the revised Service Level Agreement from the Department of Rural & Community Development.

Six locations have expressed a strong commitment to be part of the BCP project these include: Culmullen Community Hall, Teach Raithneach Heritage & Cultural Centre, Meath Hill Community Centre, Cormeen Sports Complex, Rathkenny Hall and Castletown GAA Club. Discussions are ongoing with the other four locations and one or two will need to be replaced.

Telecommunications Action Group

Meath County Council hosted the Department of Rural & Community Development and Broadband Officers monthly meeting on the 15th November in Kells Tech Hub. The Broadband Officers were very impressed with the facilities that the county has developed to support new businesses and remote workers.

Presentations covered subjects including the proposed NBI website, COMREG's role on EMF testing, Meath Enterprise and NECEC Strategies, 254 Licencing and the Acorn Tablet Pilot.

Arts

Toradh Gallery Ashbourne

Solo Exhibition – ***Places, Histories and Other Matters***: a solo exhibition by Helsinki based Meath artist Jane Hughes. Originally from Navan, Jane has worked internationally as a visual artist, curator and educator in Germany and Finland for over a decade. Jane's work relates to social history and is largely researched from old photographic sources. Featuring a series of 18 painted works, Places, Histories and Other Matters is on display at Toradh Gallery in Ashbourne Library and Cultural Centre from November 18 and will remain until January 10, 2020.

Toradh2 Gallery Kells

Kells Photography Club: ***Meath Through the Lens***. An exhibition of work by 22 photography enthusiasts from the region. This exhibition presents a selection of images examining a common theme: *Meath through the Lens*. Each photographer approached this theme in a unique and special way. Runs until January 2020.

Festivals

Teenage Dreams Youth Film Festival Run in partnership with Guth Gafa International Documentary Film Festival and Maynooth University, the Teenage Dreams Youth Film Festival saw a number of documentary film screenings take place at the Courthouse, Kells. Six schools and 290+ secondary school children attended the screenings and took part in the Q&A and discussion sessions afterwards.

The Cultural Hub at the Courthouse Kells hosted the MCC Environment Section ***Rubbish Film Festival*** ***Hinterland/Boyne Valley Flavors Samhain Festival*** with ten events taking place over the weekend.

Awards

The Professional Artists Development Fund Phase 2 instigated with funding support from Creative Ireland. The Centre Cultural Irlandais Paris/Meath County Council International Residency Award has been agreed for 2020/21 as per the County Arts Development Plan. Scheme advertised, closing date January 8th 2020.

Kells Creative Placemaking Project:

Presentation made to Kells MD November meeting to update members on the Kells Creative Placemaking Project. The Kells Creative Placemaking RRDF *Round 2 Category A Funding* secured towards the development of Kells Printworks and Typography Centre and completion works on the Courthouse as a Cultural Hub. Consultant appointed to write the business and operational plans for the Kells Creative Placemaking Project.

Economic Development

Business Advice Sessions

23 Business Advice sessions were undertaken during November.

Mentoring

6 mentoring assignments commenced in October.

Training

55 participants took part in LEO training over November, with participants on various courses.

Online Trading Vouchers

3 Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs) were approved during November.

BREXIT Preparatory Programme: LEO Meath Outreach Programme - Oct 2019

BREXIT Customs Training Workshops – 5th November in City North with 11 businesses in attendance. These practical customs workshops provide an overview of the additional documentation and procedures needed, following Brexit. The practical course content also includes understanding of how to start the import/export journey; understanding customs basics; customs declarations; additional customs facilitations; Customs Duty Reliefs; AEO/Trusted Trader and Industry Specific Issues.

LEO Meath Client Engagement Offering – This project is on-going. 30 LEO Meath grant-aided clients are taking part in a programme of intensive mentoring to develop a strategy plan for their business. The deadline for submission of plans and final reports from the mentors is Friday, 13th December. Enterprise Ireland has provided a €50,000 budget to deliver this project to assist businesses to prepare for the impact of BREXIT.

LEO Meath 2020 Training Schedule:

The 2020 Training Schedule has now been agreed and dates set for all management training for the coming year. The brochure is currently being compiled and will go to print shortly. Details of all courses will be posted on the LEO Meath website before the end of the year.

EEN Meet The Buyer Event – 21st November

The Enterprise Europe Network, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Offices and Invest NI, hosted a Food EirEEN, a food “Meet the Buyer” event which offered participants the opportunity to engage in face-to-face sales meetings with senior food buyers from throughout Ireland and the EU. The event which was held in the City North Hotel on Thursday, 21st November, was attended by many of our food producers from the Boyne Valley and staff of the Local Enterprise Office.

Innovate Accelerate Programme

The InnovateAccelerate Europe Programme aims to increase the innovativeness and thus the competitiveness of companies in the region by helping them to plan a pathway to the internationalisation of their businesses. The programme is a joint initiative between Meath, Louth and Newry & Mourne District Council. It is imperative that companies in this region build new business relationships in markets other than Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic and Britain in order to survive Brexit.

The focus of InnovateAccelerate Europe is on accessing current, real world business opportunities in European markets. Each participating business is receiving individually tailored support to help them identify new business collaboration opportunities. InnovateAccelerate Europe’s combination of mentoring support, networking, greater access to information and resources, upskilling to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by IT and links to third level educational establishments and the technology sector as well as B2B linkages offers businesses in the east transfrontier region a significant opportunity to develop, diversify, innovate and compete more effectively in international markets.

We have recruited 21 SMEs from the Newry Mourne Down/Louth/Meath transfrontier region to participate on a business opportunity mission to Berlin where they will have the opportunity to engage with potential partners.

Public Libraries

Facebook – Donation

The library service has received a donation of €29,000 from Facebook to develop and introduce a new initiative in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (“STEAM”). The funding will be used to purchase a pilot collection of STEAM backpacks for all 12 branch libraries in Meath. These backpacks will then be made available for loan to children aged 3-6 years.

Family Time

Branch libraries will be hosting a range of events this December as part of the initiative which aims to:

- support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme;
- increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children;
- increase awareness among parents and families of services and resources for children in public libraries and support further engagement between users and library staff.

Decade of Centenaries

The Sack of Trim, September 1920

IRA activity, for much of 1919, involved capturing weaponry and freeing republican prisoners, while the Dáil set about building a state. In September, the British government outlawed the Dáil and Sinn Féin and the conflict intensified. The IRA began ambushing RIC and British Army patrols, attacking their barracks and forcing isolated barracks to be abandoned. As part of that campaign Trim RIC barracks was raided by local Republicans and arms were taken. The reprisal for this action came in late September 1920.

A publication to commemorate the centenary of the burning of the town of Trim by members of the Black & Tan force on 26 and 27 September 1920 will be published in 2020. The book will reproduce facsimiles of original courts martial and prison documents, contemporary newspaper accounts, stills of contemporary newsreel footage, and rare photographs of the town in the immediate aftermath of the burning.

Climate Action

The library service is exploring the possibility of lending home energy saving kits to the public in partnership with the Climate Action team. This follows on from the OWL Energy Saving Monitors which the library service has been lending to the public since 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2020

The National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee has agreed the following as being the priorities for 2020:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity – including unauthorised operators, skip hire companies and man in the van activities.
- Construction and Demolition Activity - unauthorised disposal of C & D waste
- End of Life Vehicles - inspection of both authorised ELV sites and unauthorised operators.
- Waste collection – Household & Commercial – including roll out of brown bins.
- Multi Agency Sites of Interest - where there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is ongoing illegal activity.

Climate Change

Further actions from the Climate Action Strategy launched in September were initiated in recent weeks following on from those highlighted in previous Chief Executive's reports.

- Further communication with the various stakeholders involved in the Sustainable Energies Community (SEC) project for Batterstown – a number of other towns in the County have expressed an interest in developing similar plans for their area.
- Support for the National smart metering project as part of the National Climate Action Plan. ESB Networks has recently commenced a major meter replacement programme, which will result in the upgrade of 2.4 million electricity meters to modern smart ready digital technology.
- Officials from the Council attended the Youth Forum on Climate Change in the Dáil on the 15th November – children in the age group 10-17 presented their proposals to Minister Bruton.
- Officials attended Stamullen National School as part of the roll out of Climate Action awareness training
- Planning has commenced for a schools event at local level along the lines of the RTE Youth Assembly, where students will debate on climate action, develop robust actions, vote on these and establish a Climate Action Charter that they can bring back to their school.
- The Chair of the Environment SPC and three other elected members were invited to attend a Climate and Biodiversity Action Workshop for Councillors in Wood Quay on the 4th December 2019

National ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 - 2022

The EPA in 2017 published the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 - 2022 to provide an expanded national monitoring network of enhanced real time information on air quality to the public. The programme provides for an additional 38 new monitoring stations in all urban areas, the siting of which will be based on the criteria of population size, vulnerability to air quality issues and spatial distribution. The network of sites will monitor a range of specified air quality parameters including particulates, heavy metals, inorganic and organic gases.

A new monitoring station for Navan in close proximity to the Fire Station has now been put in place and providing enhanced real time information on air quality for the area. New monitoring stations are also proposed for Drogheda and Balbriggan

Green Schools

A Green Schools Seminar for all schools in Meath took place in Buvinda House in November. The An Taisce Green Schools team were on hand to assist schools in rolling out their environmental programme across a range of themes – Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Travel, Global Citizenship.

Really Rubbish Film Festival and Guth Gafa

10 Meath Secondary Schools showed their movies at the Guth Gafa Documentary Festival in Kells in November, with themes such as climate action and biodiversity. The schools also took part in the Meath County Council Really Rubbish Film Festival in 2018/19, where Colaiste Na Hinse Bettystown and St Patricks Secondary School Navan were declared the winners.

National Food Waste Recycling Pilot – Trim

Meath County Council is supporting a collaborative Food Waste Recycling Pilot project with Cre (the Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland) and the Irish Waste Management Association, with the objective of addressing barriers to householders using their Food Waste bin effectively. Three pilot towns have been selected for the project including Trim with staff calling to households to explain the objectives and to distribute householder packs including kitchen kaddies and sacks to the households who agree to participate in the pilot project.

The project got underway in November and will run over a 6 month period.

ReLove Fashion

The aim of the initiative is to encourage young people to develop an understanding of the challenges which 'Fast Fashion' create in terms of damage to the environment, and to find new ways to upcycle existing fabrics and textiles.

The Regional Final took place in the Rediscovery Centre in November where four Meath Schools took part.

Community Environment Action Fund (previously Local Agenda 21)

The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund (LA21) which has operated since 1997, promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level. The Scheme has been renamed the Community Environment Action Fund from 2019 onwards.

The projects involve partnership arrangements between local authorities and various local groups including community groups, schools and environmental NGOs and for this year's scheme there is a particular emphasis on projects which target Climate Action and Biodiversity. A total of 50 applications were submitted, involving 75 projects, of which 36 were approved for funding.

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 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

A regional integrated Catchment Management Programme for the Midlands and Eastern region was published earlier in the year and setting out the areas prioritised for action and the schedule for commencing works by recently established Catchments assessment teams. Public consultation is a key feature of the programme in advance of any works being undertaken and to date public consultation evenings have been held in respect of proposed works for the Kilmainham Dee & Moynalty Rivers and the Boycetown River near Dunsany/Kiltale the River Inny /Lough Sheelin catchment, the Broadmeadow Catchment in Ashbourne, and the River Tolka in south east Meath.

Provision of Slipways – River Boyne and Blackwater

An Bord Pleanála by order dated 26th November 2018 approved the planning application and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the provision of the boat slipways and construction of access thereto on the River Boyne and River Blackwater. Construction work on the 5 slipways commenced in early August and is now substantially complete.

Draft Beach Management Plan

At the February Laytown Bettystown Municipal District meeting, members 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 were placed on public display from 19th July 2019 to 30th August 2019.

A number of suggestions contained in the submissions will be the subject of discussion with the appropriate bodies and a report will be prepared and considered at MD level.

The Council is preparing the Part 8 planning application for the development of a Seafront Building and Civic Plaza at Seaview Terrace, Bettystown i.e. on the site of the terraced houses at the beach entrance. It is intended that the Building will house the Lifeguards, Beach warden and other services. A consultation with local stakeholders was held in Bettystown in mid August, when some very constructive ideas and suggestions were put forward for consideration. It is hoped to commence the statutory Planning/Part 8 process early in the new year.



Jackie Maguire,
Chief Executive.

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