

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

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Meath County Council

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Registration No.: 00172770

February, 2020

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

Rebuilding Ireland

- Summary of Rebuilding Ireland 2019 Target/Delivery

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL 2019 TARGET – 431 UNITS (New Build+Acquisitions+Leasing)		
Delivery Mechanism	No. of Units	€
MCC Direct Construction	69	15,000,651
MCC Turnkey Acquisitions	47	12,577,257
MCC Standard Acquisitions	61	11,903,864
MCC Part V	88	19,977,833
AHB CAS	9	1,743,774
AHB Turnkey	101	26,414,942
AHB Part V	46	11,701,838
AHB Acquisitions (Housing Agency)	13	2,473,030
AHB Mortgage to Rent	11	1,559,393
TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED 2019	445	103,352,582

▪ **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
Dunshaughlin	Part V	13	3,296,476
Bettystown	Turnkey	14	3,970,680
Totals		237	56,618,562

▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Trim	Part V	6	1,526,762
Dunshaughlin	Part V	8	2,222,861
Totals		14	3,749,623

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

Grants to the value of €2,540,370 were awarded to 371 Households under the various Grants schemes in 2019

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

For 2019, 52 projects were completed to existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €454,329

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

- 81 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2019

- 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 17th January 2020. For the period from 14th November 2019 to 17th January 2020, works were completed on 15 vacant units; while 17 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	2	0
Kells	8	3	1	8	4
Laytown/Bettystown	1	**1	0	1	1
Navan	4	0	**1	4	1
Ratoath	5	0	0	5	0
Trim	4	1	**4	9	0
TOTALS	24	5	6	29	6

**Note: Significant works needed including 2 no. needing Pyrite repairs and 3 no. undergoing major renovations aiming to upgrade BER rating to B2.

Homeless Service

Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements 2019

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st December 2019	97 (100)	23 (34 Adults,55 Children)	120
Of the 23 households with children, 13 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 a find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare			

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

Social Housing Supports

- 1,113 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January - December 2019.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January – December 2019.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	258

Approved Housing Bodies	182
RAS	4
HAP	699
TOTAL	1,143

Anti-Social Behaviour

▪ **Summary of Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints for period January - December 2019**

ASB Complaints	Totals
ASB Complaints received	374
ASB complaints received per MD	
Ashbourne	45
Kells	85
Laytown / Bettystown	19
Navan	135
Ratoath	28
Trim	62

ASB Investigation Cases (One case can include multiple complaints)	Totals
ASB investigation on going	119
ASB investigation completed	162

Action Taken (one case can receive multiple actions)	Totals
No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	77
Advice given / instruction letter issued	195
Verbal warning issued	24
First breach of Tenancy Notice	5
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	2
Statutory warning issued	3
Notice to Quit served (Section 15 (1) and (2))	3
Referral to other agencies	36
Exclusion Orders Sought	1
House taken back into possession (Minimal legal fees were accrued).	20
Total Action Taken	366

Tenancy Outcomes	Totals
Repossessions being Pursued (due to breach of tenancy)	20
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	1
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	1

Number of Pre- Tenancies Conducted	258
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Rightsizing	
No. of Tenants Identified - 19	Achieved - 3

TRANSPORTATION

1. National Roads 2020 funding from TII confirmed - €7,278,918

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Topographical Proof Survey ongoing. Archaeological Consultancy Services to be appointed shortly. Supplementary Ground Investigation Contractor appointed and works due to commence. Advanced Tree Felling Contract appointment ongoing. Bat survey and Ecological Clerk of Works tenders ongoing.
N2 Slane Bypass	Route Options Selection Report being finalised and will then seek TII approval to proceed to Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Phase 1 – Concept and feasibility reports finalised and submitted to TII for approval to proceed to Phase 2 Option Selection.
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	In order to progress the scheme Part 8 process with required reports and CPO 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	Substantially complete
N2 Primatestown	Substantially complete.
NS Resurfacing (various locations)	N52 complete. N51 Navan – Slane works commenced 20 th Jan 2020 under road closure for 2 weeks

2. (a) Non- National Roads 2020 funding from DTT&S - € 23,696,867

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	CPO statutory notices issued to landowners. Tender competition underway for main construction contract. Advance works/hedge clearance to commence in February 2020.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Additional EIA Report chapter, which is required following on from the Pre-application meeting with An Bord Pleanála on 27 th November last, currently being finalised.
R162 Kilberry	Appointment of contractor for Phase 1 being finalised. Construction expected to commence on site Q1 2020 and to be completed by Q3 2020.
R155 Curraghera	Interim traffic calming works carried out late last year. Balance of scheme requirements to be reviewed following completion of the Irish Water works in the area.
Schedule of Municipal District Works	Full Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2020 to be presented at all MD meetings in February

2. (b) Non- National Roads 2020 - Funding – Other than DTT&S

R154 Traffic Calming at Kiltale and Batterjohn	Works at Batterjohn currently underway and are expected to be completed Q2 2020. Tender docs for Kiltale being assessed and contractor to be appointed in the coming weeks.
R132 Traffic Calming at Julianstown	Environmental and Heritage reports required for submission to An Bord Pleanála being completed and reviewed. Application to ABP expected Q1 2020.

LDR6 Farganstown, Navan	Works commenced on site October 2019. Works on the tie-in to the R153 Kentstown road due to commence in February/March 2020. Full scheme expected to be completed Q4 2020.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Works commenced on site March 2019. Works on the tie-in to the R125 Ashbourne road due to commence in February 2020. Full scheme completion expected Q2 2020.

3. Sustainable Transport Initiatives – awaiting 2020 grant allocation from NTA

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Paving works complete on eastern side of Railway St with the exception of a number of chamber openings which are to be replaced with recessed covers and paved. Boyle Sports and Camile quadrants complete with the exception of a number of chamber openings. ESB works to be completed to connect Canon Row with Trimgate St. Discussions ongoing with landowners re Park & Ride site (Liscarton). Series of road closures scheduled to facilitate road surfacing on Brews Hill and Railway Street and these have been advertised.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	Meeting held with NPWS in December. Route through the dunes to be removed from proposal. Revisions arising from the review of the non-statutory public consultation underway. Tender assessment for the Boyne Greenway and Restoration of the Boyne Navigation (re appointment of Consultants for Feasibility & Options Development etc) is complete and a Successful Tenderer has been identified. It has been determined that insufficient funding exists to proceed with tender award, additional funding is currently being sought in advance of proceeding with the appointment process.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Consultant appointed and design work commenced. Topographical survey company appointed and survey completed, data processed and issued to the Consultants. Tender for Ground Penetrating Radar issued.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	All 12 bus shelters installed. ESB connections and wiring for lighting underway and to be completed by the end of next month.
Ratoath Cycle Network	Approval obtained to put the Pedestrian & Cycling Improvement Scheme on Part 8 display. Documents currently being edited as per comments from the Planning Validation process. It is envisaged that this will go on display in Feb 2020

4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

2019 Schemes	Road	MD	Status
Stamullen (Clistown)	R108	Ashbourne	Works complete
Ashbourne (Donaghmore)	R125/ L5019	Ashbourne	Works complete

(DTT&S Grant Allocation outlined above includes €357,000 for Safety Improvement schemes for 2020)

5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Tenders received for the repairs to Ballyfallon Bridge. Repairs to Castleparks Bridge scheduled for early February. (DTT&S Grant Allocation outlined above includes €547,500 for Bridge Rehabilitation for 2020)

6. Other Actions/ Projects

Public Lighting Capital Programme	2019	2019 Programme of Capital works commenced – 90% 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		
	2020	2020 Programme of Capital Public Lighting Works being finalised	
Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	2019	Ratoath MD –Clonee: Footpath rehabilitation works commencing Jan 26 2020 Navan MD – Beechmount Estate: 100% complete Kilcarn Court: Phase 1- Due to start mid Feb 2020 Belcourt/Blackcastle : 100% Complete Kells MD – Works approx. 50% complete on Carnaross Village Ashbourne MD – Contract for works on Killelland Park and Hunterslane currently being awarded. Laytown/Bettystown MD – Works completed on Alverno Height Laytown	
	2020	2020 Programme of Capital Footpath Works being finalised	
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) & Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2020	CIS Allocation confirmed for 2020 at € 661,000 No announcement of LIS funding for 2020 as yet.	
Royal Canal		Funding secured from DTTAS for signage and ancillaries along the route, awaiting delivery of these items	
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme		Letter of (Tender) Acceptance issue to GLAS Civil Engineering for the scheme. Due to commence on site the last week of Jan 2020.	
Oldcastle – Pedestrian Crossing		Tendering clarification sent to the preferred contractor. Awaiting response.	
Shared Pedestrian & Cyclist footway on N52 Bypass, Kells		Tender Documents issued on Supply Gov for the construction of 1.4km shared footway facility on the Town side of the N52 Bypass in Kells. Closing date for tenders is 31st Jan 2020.	

FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 27th January 2020	
Applications Received	334
Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency	18
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	4
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	312
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Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	5
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	6
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	199
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	102
	312
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Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	124
No of customers in MARP	34

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Planning Applications

A total of 1844 planning applications were received in 2019. This is compared to 1594 in 2018. An increase of 250 applications.

Development Contributions

Unaudited Development Contribution receipts for 2019 are €10,652,498. This is compared to €13,373,490 in 2018. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Strategic Housing Development

In 2019 the Planning Department attended 12 tri-partite meetings in An Bord Pleanála in relation to Strategic Housing Development applications.

Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026

The Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 remains on public display until 4pm on Friday 6th March, 2020. The Draft Plan is available to view in all public Council Offices including libraries during normal office hours. The draft is also available online on <https://consult.meath.ie/> To date over 25,000 views have been recorded on the website.

An Irish version of the draft is available online and in the following locations, Leabharlann Ráth Chairn, Navan Library and Buvinda House.

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 31st January 2020.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

A meeting of the Local Action Group (LAG) took place on Friday 31st January 2020.

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)

Work is progressing on rolling out walkability audits in a number of towns and villages.

Joint Policing Committee

The next JPC Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 24th February 2020 where the Annual Report 2019 is due to be discussed and agreed.

Public Participation Network

The PPN is implementing the national Community Well Being Vision Programme Under the “Our County, Our Voice” network brand. Workshops in all MD’s will be conducted by early February. The Kells and Trim MD’s workshops have already been held. Online consultations will build on workshop inputs to deepen the engagement rate. The project aims to develop a resource base of needs and priorities identified at grassroots community level across the county. Danielle Monahan - Resource Officer is continuing to work on strengthening PPN links with community groups and networks across Meath and has presented at the January Municipal District meetings. A national review of PPN structures is planned for early 2020. In addition, a new PPN Handbook will be issued shortly to establish best practice and processes for local use.

Pride of Place

The Pride of Place for Schools Gardening Scheme was launched on Monday 20th January, closing date 7th February 2020. This year there is a special focus on climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

The Community Grant Scheme 2020

The Community Grant Scheme was launched on Friday 24th January, with a closing date of 6th March 2020. Two new categories have been included in the scheme for 2020; they are Ashbourne 2020 Commemorative Grant Scheme and the Community Mental Health Fund.

The Community Amenity Project Scheme

All applicants have been notified if they were successful or not, works can commence on projects and claims submitted when works are completed.

Regional Festivals & Participative Events

A Fund of €11,000 is provided by Fáilte Ireland and administered by Meath County Council. All claims have been submitted and paid to applicants and funding recouped for 2019. Details for 2020 are awaited.

CLÁR

Funding was approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development for two projects. Works have commenced on one project so far.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

The Carranstown Grant Scheme 2019 was launched and is currently advertised with a closing date of 31st January 2020. A meeting of the Liaison Committee is due to take place in February to discuss allocation of 2019 Grants.

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 9th March 2020.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Works ongoing 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 DCRD, totalling €585,792- Ballivor, Kilbeg, Summerhill, Wilkinstown, Nobber and Kilmainhamwood. Works are due to commence.

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) scheme

The Programme of Work for the projects in Meath under the new HIF Round 3 has been approved by Pobal. Round 3 will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021.

Healthy Meath Strategy 2019-2021

The plan was launched by the LCDC and is now available on www.meath.ie Funding to design and deliver the plan was approved under the Healthy Ireland fund 2018. The plan links into the Healthy Ireland Strategy.

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. Three projects were approved under Measure 1 - Enfield walk along Royal canal, Deerpark in Carlanstown community park and Deerpark walking trail. Approval is awaited on the other measures.

Community Enhancement Programme

Meath's allocation was €163,835.00. All works are completed and claims submitted and paid accordingly.

Comhairle na N'Og

The 2019 annual progress report and work plan 2020 has been submitted to the department for approval.

National Broadband Plan

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) confirmed that they will commence planning the delivery of the NBP fibre broadband network in January 2020. Work will commence in Meath later in the year (date to be confirmed), initially rolling out from Drogheda and Dunboyne covering an area within 15 Km of their centralised network point. The delivery dates for services will be made available in the next few weeks, unlikely that any of the 30,000 premises being delivered in 2020 will be in Co. Meath.

WIFI4EU

The Request for Tenders to supply, install and manage the WIFI4EU network was issued in December and will close end of January.

Digital Strategy

The first meeting of the Digital Strategy Implementation Committee took place on the 31st January 2020.

Economic Development

Primary Schools Enterprise Awareness Programme

LEO Meath held a Logo/Slogan Competition as part of its Primary Schools Enterprise Awareness programme. This was won by Gaelscoil na Rithe, Dunshaughlin with its very attractive and clever logo design and slogan designed by Grace Nic Uidhrín.

Trading Online Voucher

There has been 3 Trading Online Voucher approved this year so far.

Mentoring

There have been 16 mentoring assignments so far for 2020.

Training Supports 2020

LEO Meath has launched a new programme of training supports for its clients for 2020. Full details can be found on the LEO Meath website and a hardcopy brochure is currently being printed.

Meath Women in Business Network 2020

LEO Meath will collaborate again this year with Meath Chamber to deliver an exciting line up of networking events. There are four networking events planned for 2020. These will take place in various locations across the county in February, May, September and November. Speaker panels and venues are currently being agreed and details will be going up on the LEO and Chamber websites shortly.

Networking Masterclass – February 2020

A networking masterclass is scheduled for February 6th in the Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne. This event is being jointly hosted by LEO and the Chamber and is open to all small businesses in the county who wish to improve on their networking skills or connect with other businesses in the area. It will be delivered by Caitlin O'Connor of Accelerating Performance. Caitlin is an ambassador with Dublin Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of IIBN. In 2010, Caitlin published a learning resource which is CPD accredited called "Engage Lead Generation through Networking". Caitlin is also a regular contributor to radio and is retained by a number of MBA programmes including Smurfit School, DIT and MBA Association.

GradStart

GradStart is an Enterprise Ireland Initiative that is now open to LEO clients. The aim of this scheme is to support companies with ambitious growth plans to employ a graduate on a rolling basis for a 2 year contract duration for each graduate. The graduate must have a minimum Level 6 qualification on the National Vocational Qualifications Framework or equivalent. The graduate will complete a project as defined by the employing company and will be linked to the company's overall growth plan.

Graduates may work in any area of the business **excluding** roles related to sales and marketing activities.

This is a 24 month placement support aimed at embedding higher levels of graduate capability in our client companies. Financial support of €30K (€15K per year) or 50% of individual graduate salary costs (whichever is the lesser). There is a limit of one graduate at a time for any particular company.

Full details of the scheme can be found at www.gradhub.ie.

Public Libraries

Nobber Library

Nobber library will re-open to the public on the 11th of February. The newly extended and fully refurbished branch has been completely transformed by Facilities Management following an investment of over €250,000 from Meath County Council's capital programme. The transformation has enabled the addition of a new meeting room, a new juvenile section, staff welfare and disabled access WC facilities. On re-opening the library will offer the most up to date ICT, lending and reference services as recently introduced at Athboy, Slane and Kells.

Trim - My Open Library

Trim branch library was open to My Open Library members over the Christmas break and 84 visits were recorded to the branch over the closure period. Five visits were made to the branch on Christmas Day and eleven on St. Stephen's Day. Eight visitors began their New Year with a visit to the library on the 1st of January, with 36 items self- issued on the day.

Media Campaign - *Your Library - Take a Closer Look*

A new national advertising campaign is asking everyone to take a closer look at what their local authority library has to offer. Meath County Council Library Service is joining in the campaign, which is running for the next four weeks across radio, cinema, TV on demand, digital and social. The aim of the campaign is to encourage people of all ages to join and use the library.

It is acknowledged that people who use the library regularly know how great it is. But there are those who haven't been in a while or don't visit very often. It is time for everyone to take a closer look at their library, to see beyond what they thought it was, and find out about all the amazing free services on offer.

The 'Take a Closer Look' campaign was devised by the Libraries Development Unit of the LGMA with the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is part a wider national strategy to increase library use in Ireland.

At present, around 16% of the Irish population are library members. The 'Our Public Libraries' strategy aims to increase that to 30% by 2022. Take a look at the 'Take a Closer Look' advert at <https://bit.ly/2TXs5vJ>

Healthy Ireland

The library service has received funding for an exciting collaborative project with the HSE to deliver poetry therapy to a group of older clients living with long-term mental health issues such as recurrent depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder. The library service will partner with Poetry Ireland to secure a trained and experienced facilitator to lead the poetry therapy sessions over a 6-month period. There will also be an element of training for HSE staff to continue the therapy on an ongoing basis. The Library service will host the sessions in Navan Library's meeting room and will also provide the group and facilitator with any poetry or reading materials required.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Public Consultation Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment is seeking views on the development of a new Waste Action Plan as part of the transition to a Circular Economy (i.e. one in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them while in use, then recovering and regenerating products and materials at the end of each service life.) The consultation process covers a range of issues relevant to the development of a Waste Action Plan such as exploring measures to assist in achieving our EU targets. Submissions can be made in writing to Waste Action Plan Consultation, Waste Policy & Resource Efficiency, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Newtown Road, Wexford (Y35AP90). Submissions can also be e-mailed to Wastecomments@DCCAE.gov.ie

The closing date for submissions is Friday 21st February 2020

There is a separate public consultation process on the transposition of the Circular Economy Waste Legislative Package which involves the transposition of revised Directives on Waste Framework, Landfills, Packaging and End of Life/batteries/ accumulators & Waste electrical and electronics equipment into National Law by the 5th July 2020. The public consultation closes on Friday 21st February 2020.

National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2020

The National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee have 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.

Meath County Council Anti -Litter Initiative 2020

Local Community Groups are being invited to take part in the Council's Anti-Litter Initiative 2020. The initiative, while not a competition, envisages each participating group trying to achieve a high standard of cleanliness in their local area and there is a grant for those that achieve high standards over the whole month of the initiative. Judging will take place in March and with the marking system focusing on the absence of litter (80%) and general appearance (20%), all groups who take part will be entitled to a start up pack which includes gloves, bags and litter pickers and the Council will assist with the collection and disposal of litter and waste collected. The closing date for entries to participate in the initiative is Friday 14th February.

Collection Days for Bulky Household Items

A calendar of upcoming bulky waste collections for householders in 2020 in Navan, Kells and Trim Recycling Centres has been published:

- a) 1st February Couches, Armchairs and Futons
- b) March 28th Beds and Mattresses
- c) May 30th Paint
- d) July 25th Kitchen and Bathroom Equipment
- e) September 26th Wardrobes and Shelving
- f) November 28th Toys and Nursery Equipment

Public Consultation Significant Water Management Issues for Ireland's 2020-2027 River Basin Management Plan

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) has published a consultation document that sets out their understanding of the Significant Water Management Issues that need to be addressed in the period 2022 – 2027. The purpose of the consultation phase is to gather views from the public and interested stakeholders, as to what they consider to be the significant issues for Ireland which should be addressed in the planning process for the third cycle River Basin Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive. Submissions can be made in writing to SWMI Consultation Water Advisory Unit Dept of Housing Planning and Local Government Custom House Dublin 1 or online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HGB3HZ There is also a consultation response template that can be downloaded at <https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water-framework-directive/public-consultation-significant-water-management> and which can be e-mailed to rbmp@housing.gov.ie

The consultation period closes on Friday 26th June 2020.

The current River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 was launched in 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

Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning (Amendment) (Regulations) 2019

The purpose of these regulations, which were made by the Minister in December 2019, is to extend until 1 January, 2021 an exemption provided for under the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 which exists to allow farmers, as a last resort, to dispose of wastes generated by agricultural practices.

Air Quality

In circular AQ4/19 the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment advise of the government decision to extend the ban on the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of bituminous coal to 13 additional towns effective from September 2020. The 13 towns include Ashbourne & Laytown-Bettystown and Regulations will have to be introduced to give effect to the ban and following engagement with the Local Authorities in respect of such matters as legally defining the exact geographic areas in which the ban will apply.

Meath County Council and the EPA have installed a new ambient air quality monitoring station beside the Fire Station in Navan which monitors both Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollutants which cause risks to human health in Ireland. The project is part of the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (AAMP) 2017-2022 which is funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Under the AAMP programme, the EPA together

with Local Authorities, is expanding the monitoring network and enhancing the Air Quality Index for Health to provide improved reporting of air quality and potential health impacts.

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 and continuously. Three pilot towns have been selected for the project including Trim, with staff involved 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.

Draft Beach Management Plan

Proposed revisions to the County Meath Foreshore Bye-Laws 2010, arising from the Beach Management Plan were the subject of public consultation late last year. Following consideration of an extensive number of submissions, mostly relating to the free movement of dogs and horses on the beach, the Laytown-Bettystown Members have recommended to the full Council that the revised bye-laws be adopted. This matter is listed as a separate item on the February full Council meeting Agenda.

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).

All Ireland Pollinator Plan

Meath County Council has signed up as a partner to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This involved the signing of a framework agreement with the National Biodiversity Data Centre to undertake actions to support pollinators in County Meath such as adopting pollinator friendly mowing regimes, planting pollinator friendly species, erecting signage to identify pollinator friendly habitats on Council lands and undertaking training projects to raise awareness and understanding of pollinators.

Climate Change

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

- ✓ An Energy Masterplan is currently being prepared for Batterstown SEC, this also involved considerable input from the SEC committee who undertook the distribution and collection of energy surveys.
- ✓ Trim SEC has recently been formed and hope to make an application in the next few months.. The Meath SEC set-up is seen as best practice with other LAs following our model.
- ✓ Launch of Meath Climate Academy – a vehicle for delivery of training to a number of stakeholders. First event, Citizen Climate Leadership training took place on 25th January with keynote speaker Dr. Cara Augustenborg.
- ✓ A Schools summit is scheduled for 22nd February when 40 secondary school students will be politicians for the day, debate on 8 climate action themes and produce 5 actions they can take back and implement in their school. The students will be mentored by the Climate Action Team and Elected Members on the day. Keynote motivational speaker will be Nikki Bradley.
- ✓ Sustainable tourism event scheduled for 24th March.

- ✓ Sustainable and Healthy Eating Initiative – great interest from staff and even though we are only 2 weeks into it the group have collectively dropped 38 years in metabolic age and lost 22 kg weight. Could be worth running again due to the level of interest and engagement from staff. Dr Cara Augustenborg is also very interested in our initiative and would like to feature it on her Newstalk slot.
- ✓ Developing possible partnership with Grow It Yourself in Wexford to promote locally produced food and promote food empathy (that is understanding where your food comes from, the processes it goes through, carbon print, etc.
- ✓ The new Climate Action Bill, when adopted, will place an onus on LAs to produce a Climate Action Plan to address mitigation within 18 months of adoption. This will not impact on MCC as we've addressed both mitigation and adaption in our strategy.
- ✓ CARO training – pilot training to be delivered Q2 and will commence with Elected Members and Senior staff.
- ✓ Funding – there are various funding streams coming on line such as CA Fund, LIFE, etc. however as these are for larger projects it is important we develop partnership with others whether they be public or private sector. Realistically as any projects we develop will have to go through the statutory processes we need to be looking at projects now that we could deliver in 3-4 years time. Most funding revolves around innovative and creative ideas.
- ✓ Organisational culture – ongoing with a number of inhouse initiatives.

A new report published by the Local Government Management Agency outlines for the first time the range of actions local authorities have undertaken nationally to tackle climate change and to promote climate action within their communities. The research, carried out on behalf of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) has found that half of all local authorities will achieve energy savings beyond their 2030 targets and have invested more than €120m in energy efficiency projects, preventing more than 60,000 tonnes of CO2 from being produced. Outside of energy efficiency, the local government sector has also been proactive in areas including sustainable transport development, flood risk management, water conservation, waste management, nature-based solutions and public engagement.



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