



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report
February 2021

This Monthly Management Report is prepared in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and provided to the Elected Members for consideration and information.

Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

This Monthly Management Report gives an overview of the on-going governance of Meath County Council at what is a very challenging time for the Council, the county and the country more generally. This report is being provided for your information and consideration.

In December, I was hopeful that as we emerged from the Level 5 restrictions that the level of Covid-19 case numbers would remain stable and provide some form of normality so that the local economy and in particular the retail and hospitality sectors could remain open and trade, especially during the festive period.

Unfortunately that has not happened, as hoped, with the country now combating the spread of the disease and its more virulent forms. This situation has obviously had an impact on Meath County Council. As a local authority, most of our services are defined as essential and we have remained open for business. We will continue to monitor and review how we operate and we will continue to respond to the public health advice as it evolves.

There is an obligation on me, as Chief Executive, to ensure that our staff remain safe and their well-being is protected. Similarly, there is an obligation to ensure that all of our processes uphold the public health guidance. This includes the holding of our meetings. The decision by the elected members on January 11th to move the Special Planning Meeting to an online-only format was right and appropriate. The meetings held to date have worked well and we have tried to address any IT and wifi issues that you have and found solutions where required. The use of the online platform also really increases the transparency of the process, with much higher levels of participation by members of the press and the public. We have had meetings with up to 40 people in the public gallery, which would not have been possible otherwise.

We have all had to change and adapt how we do business in the context of the pandemic and as a Council we have made every effort possible to ensure that we continue the work in a safe and responsible manner, using the legislative tools available to us to further ensure that. We will continue to respond and be agile in our response and I look forward to your continued cooperation as we work through the current period of restrictions with a sense of hope that the vaccination programme will be delivered within or sooner than the timeframes announced.

Thank You,

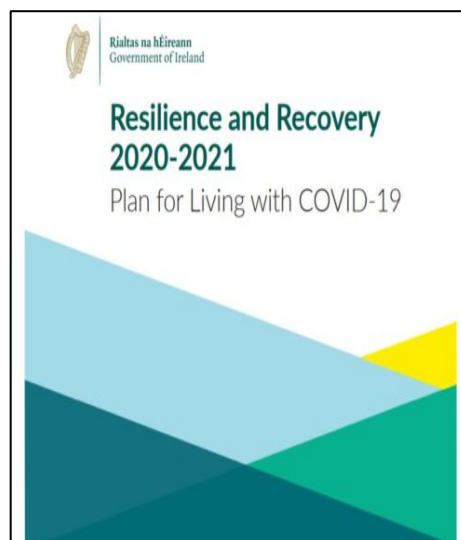
Jackie Maguire
Chief Executive

Covid-19 – Response to Restrictions

Level 5 Restrictions

The Government announced on January 6, 2021 that the restrictions to combat the increasing numbers of confirmed cases will be increased.

As Local Authorities are recognised under the Government's Resilience and Recovery Plan for Living with COVID-19 as being an essential service, there are only minor variations in the current services to be provided, mainly around construction activity. Effectively all other services provided by Meath County Council will remain unchanged.



Impact on Council Services

Public Counters

We are operating a restricted service at our public counters. Customers are recommended to conduct their business online where possible and if not to make an appointment to meet with one of our Customer Service Team.

Service	Opening Hours – Monday to Friday
Customer Service Counters (Buvinda House)	By Appointment – call 046-9097000 or email
Cash Desk (Buvinda House)	Open for Payments
Planning Counter (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm (queuing system in place)
Motor Tax	Online or by appointment in exceptional cases
Municipal Civic Offices	Closed

Motor Tax

Motor Tax renewals should, in the first instance, be done on-line: www.motortax.ie or by post.

Planning Services

Any member of the public wishing to view a current planning file is advised in the first instance to do so online at: <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building>

Only in the event that they cannot, they should make a prior request with the Planning Department to view the file at the public counter in Buvinda House. Customers may have to wait and work with the measures in place to facilitate physical distancing and ensure customer and staff safety. Planning applications and submissions can be made by hand.

Housing Services

The majority of Housing Department services are being provided at regular levels, whilst adhering to physical distancing requirements. All Housing assessments/appointments by Housing Officials, including Housing Officers, Settlement Officers and Social Worker, will continue to be conducted by telephone, negating the need for customers to attend in person to Buvinda House.

Libraries

All library branches across the county will close under Level 5.

The Council's library service will continue to operate its online services see: www.meathlibraries.ie

Swimming Pools

The Kells, Navan and Trim swimming pools will be closed for the duration of the Level 5 restrictions, as will the gyms in Navan and Trim..

Other Services

All other services remain operational, with some impact on service level arising from the Level 5 restrictions.

Corporate Services

Meetings Administration

Online Meetings: All Council meetings will continue to take place as an online-only format for the foreseeable future. Members that continue to experience problems, either with broadband availability or their tablet device, should inform the Corporate Services department.

Ethics Declarations and Political Donations Declarations: The relevant guidance and template forms have been circulated to all elected members. Please note that the deadline for completion and return of the Political Donations Declarations is January 31st. The deadline for the Annual Ethics Declaration is the end of February.

Events - Communications

Social Media activity – The Council continues to grow its number of subscribers and followers on our various social media platforms. These platforms have proved to be particularly effective during the pandemic, in providing up-to-date and timely information, running various information campaigns and in reaching various cohorts of the population. The Council will continue to grow its subscriber base but also to focus on high quality, accurate and engaging content in 2021.

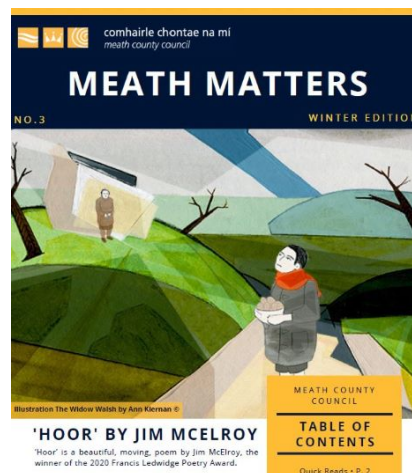
The table shows the growth in numbers for the Meath County Council accounts only.

	2019	2020
	14,264	17,514
	8,862	9,842
	972	2,023
	31	96
	2,363	2,981

31st December 2019 to 31st December 2020

Meath Matters Publication: The Council will publish the third edition of 'Meath Matters', a newsletter to inform citizens of Meath about a mix of news, information and stories on Council services and activities. This follows-on from the launch of the newsletter last year, with two editions published. The focus on the new edition will be the national 'Keep Well' campaign.

The publication is produced internally by the Communications Team and will be published in hard copy and as an e-publication, available on the Council's website, promoted on social media and circulated to subscribers.



Housing Services

Capital Programme

Summary of Rebuilding Ireland 2020 Delivery

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL 2020		
Delivery Mechanism	No. of Units	€
MCC Direct Construction	28	6,355,341
MCC Turnkey Acquisitions	30	7,371,500
MCC Standard Acquisitions	18	3,884,000
MCC CPO	3	0
MCC Part V	48	14,789,992
AHB CAS	0	0
AHB Turnkey	125	32,762,720
AHB Part V	34	8,434,910
AHB Acquisitions (Housing Agency)	2	310,000
AHB Mortgage to Rent	30	2,768,074
AHB Long Term Leasing	48	0
TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED 2020	366	76,676,537
Build+Acq.+Leasing Target 2018-2021	1,190	
Build+Acq.+Leasing Delivery 2018-2020	1,486	
% of Delivery Over Target	25%	



Direct Construction – Bettystown



Part V Bungalows, Drogheda



Turnkey units, Navan



Direct Construction - Carlanstown

Summary of 2020 Approved Funding Submissions

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING APPROVED €
Dunboyne	Part V	10	2,025,748
Dunshaughlin	Part V	8	2,222,861
Trim	Part V	6	1,549,664
Navan	Part V	5	1,116,500
Drogheda South	Part V	10	2,584,583
New Lane, Navan	Direct Construction	5	985,945
Athboy (Kildalkey Rd)	Direct Construction	10	2,067,750
Meath Women's Refuge	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	8	2,014,482
Newtown	Rural Dwelling (Disability)	1	237,718
Navan	Turnkey	26	6,362,500
Mornington	Part V	8	2,105,199
Bettystown	Part V	2	507,980
Donacarney	Part V	5	1,305,042
Bettystown	Turnkey	2	575,505
Ashbourne	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	20	5,393,367
Duleek	Turnkey	16	4,297,030
Totals		142	35,351,874

Summary of Current Funding Submissions

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Athboy	Turnkey	7	1,598,475
Donacarney	Turnkey	1	322,700
Kilcock	Part V	13	3,394,991
Stamullen	Part V	5	1,282,577
Totals		26	6,598,743

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
DESIGN PHASE				
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q3 2021	Q1 2022
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Haggard Street, Trim	4	931,870	Q2 2022	Q1 2023
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	10	2,067,750	Q2 2022	Q1 2023
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	43	10,225,755	-	-
Totals	74	16,459,346		

PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q3 2021	Q1 2023
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	-	-
Totals	180	48,187,054		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q1 2021	Q2 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	34	7,996,502	Q3 2021	Q1 2023
Totals	55	12,162,067		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Kells	40	8,555,683	Q1 2019	Q2 2021
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q2 2021
Totals	66	14,369,631		
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
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	Complete	N/A
Cortown*	10	6,922,971	Complete	N/A
Kilmainhamwood*	4		Complete	N/A
Oldcastle*	16		Complete	N/A
The Belfry, Trim	3	560,000	Complete	N/A
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Complete	N/A
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Complete	N/A
Totals	149	34,253,731		
GRAND TOTAL	524	125,431,829		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

Expression of Interest for Turnkey Schemes and/or Lands: There is currently a call for proposals 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: <http://bit.ly/EOIHouseSchemesAndOrLand>

Sale was agreed in respect of two sites in the Navan and Kells Municipal Districts respectively in 2020

Affordability Measures The following local affordability measures were advanced by Meath County Council during 2020

- The disposal of 7 LIHAF Cost Reduced Units, Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath, in accordance with local administrative scheme
- Nine low cost private sites were advertised (Lagore, Dunshaughlin), with closing date of 21st December 2020. A total of 67 applications have been received, which are currently being assessed. The sites range from €20,000 to €22,666, representing a discount of between €55,000 - €62,000 per site, when compared to market valuation.

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability: Grants to the value of €2,359,608 were awarded to 345 Households under the various Grants schemes in 2020

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme: For 2020, 37 projects were completed to existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €290,329

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation: A total of 86 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2020. In respect of vacant units, a total of €1,570,771 funding was secured in 2020 from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (pre let repairs - €1,336,000 & energy efficiency works - €234,771)

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 18th January 2021. For the period from 19th November 2020 to 18th January 2021, works were completed on 12 vacant units; while 18 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	1	1	3	0
Kells	7	0	0	1	6
Laytown/Bettystown	1	2	**1	4	0
Navan	7	1	**1	9	0
Ratoath	3	1	0	4	0
Trim	3	0	**2	4	1
TOTALS	22	5	5	25	7

Note: **Includes three pre-lets with major renovations aiming to upgrade BER rating to B2.

Housing Capital Expenditure: Housing capital expenditure was subject to claims totally €50,419,767 during 2020 to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Response Maintenance: 5,690 response maintenance cases were logged in 2020 and subsequently dealt with by Housing Operations

Vacant Homes Action Plan: Work is on-going in respect of our Vacant Homes Action Plan, including a continuous review of vacant privately own units that may be interest to Meath County Council, in its capacity as a Housing Authority. A Vacant Homes Register has been created to record private vacant homes that have been identified through the Vacant Homes Officer, that are located within areas of demand of social housing (149 units). The main reasons for vacancy have been recorded as Derelict/Uninhabitable (40%), Financial/Receiver (24%) and Currently for Sale (11%). During 2020, 64 units were removed from the Register, with the following key reasons noted for removal: i) occupied following subsequent inspection (40%), ii) sold (23%) and iii) AHB acquired (21%)

During 2020, the Environment Section compulsory purchased three derelict units that have been transferred to Housing in order to complete refurbishment works and return to productive use, while the Housing Section commenced the compulsory purchase process on one unit. A further two units were acquired under the Buy & Renew Scheme in 2020

Four brownfield derelict sites (Navan/Trim/Kells) are currently being progressed under the auspices of the Vacant Homes Action Plan, and are at various stages of the acquisition and the Department's approval process. In addition, the design for the regeneration of Carrick Street, Kells is well advanced, and will incorporate the respective agendas of age friendly, universal design and community dividend

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
PIPELINE DELIVERY			
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2021
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 2)	20	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2021
Frederick Manor	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2021
Narrow Ways Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Maydenhayes, Donacarney	12	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	2	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Ashwood Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due - Q3 2021
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due - Q4 2021
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Royal Oaks, Enfield	30	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 3)	49	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Effernock, Trim	16	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED	352		
UNITS DELIVERED			
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
Ashwood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	22	Tuath Housing	Complete 2018/2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2018/2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete – 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Complete - 2019

Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 1)	20	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	30	Respond	Complete – 2019/2020
Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	Complete – 2020
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	Complete – 2020
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	29	Tuath	Complete – 2020
Royal Oaks, Enfield	4	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2020
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 2)	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2020
The Bungalows, Dunshaughlin	8	Circle	Complete - 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	5	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2020
Flowerville, Navan	12	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2020
Oldbridge Manor, Drogheda	29	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2020
TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED	604		
GRAND TOTAL	956		

Homeless Service

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31th October 2020 (Previous Reported Figure)	127 (132)	27 (43 Adults, 63 Children)	154
Placements at 31th December 2020	134 (141)	31 (47 Adults, 75 Children)	165

Of the 31 households with children, 15 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 5 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

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.

A total of 179 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1st to December 31st 2020

554 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council for the period January 1st to December 31st 2020 (362 individual/couples and 192 families). The reasons for presentations were 105 NTQ, 301 family circumstances (199 family breakdown, 41 domestic violence, 39 addiction, 22 mental health), 17 leaving prison/hospital, 108 sofa surfing/cannot afford rent, 13 rough sleeping and 10 others (returning from abroad/outside county, fire)

202 households exited emergency accommodation in 2020, with 42% of households exiting into private rented/Local Authority/Approved Housing Body tenancies

Private Rental Inspections: A total of 1,249 Inspections of private rental accommodation properties were carried out for the period January-December 2020

A significant increase was recorded in 2020 in respect of the number of second and follow up inspections completed compared to previous years, thus further enhancing our remit in improving standards in private rented accommodation in the County

Tenant Purchase Scheme: Five units were acquired by tenants of Meath County Council under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2020, at a cumulative discount of €340,597

Traveller Accommodation

Meath County Council expended €1,135,839 directly on Traveller specific accommodation in 2020. This expenditure was across a number of initiatives, including acquisitions, halting site bay refurbishments, disability adaptations and measures to resolve overcrowding within St Patrick Park halting site.

Year 1 Targets under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 were achieved, with 15 allocations to social housing applicants from the Traveller community (Target: 10)

The issue of overcrowding as a result of unauthorised encampments within St Patrick's Park halting site was successfully resolved during 2020.

A strategy, predominately centred on facilitating transfer requests for existing tenants in bays, thus making bays available for allocation, was implemented. In total, 21 families were subject to moves in Q4 2020.

In addition, security measures were installed on site to safeguard residents of St Patrick's Park from any further unauthorised encampments and associated health and safety risks. The composite cost associated with the outlined resolution was €332,608.

Departmental approval was received on 22nd December 2020 to proceed to the Part 8 planning process in respect of the refurbishment proposal for St Francis Park (€3,771,374).

Social Housing Supports

Some 1,188 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st December 2020.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January 1st to 31st December 2020.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	300
Approved Housing Bodies	254
RAS	1
HAP	725
TOTAL	1,280

There were 163 refusals of offers of accommodation made by the Housing Department to applicants during 2020, representing a 23% refusal rate on the total offers of accommodation made. The main reasons recorded by applicants for a refusal were i) property deemed not to meet their

accommodation needs, ii) no longer willing to accept a house in previously selected Area of Choice, iii) wish to remain in existing HAP property

Estate Management: January 1st – December 31st 2020

ASB Complaints	Totals
ASB Complaints received	530
ASB complaints received per MD	
Ashbourne	23
Kells	123
Laytown / Bettystown	64
Navan	196
Ratoath	38
Trim	86

ASB Investigation Cases (One case can include multiple complaints)	Totals
ASB investigation on going	41
ASB investigation completed	335

Action Taken (one case can receive multiple actions)	Totals
No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	57
Advice / Instruction given	257
Verbal warning issued	35
First breach of Tenancy Notice	18
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	12
Statutory warning issued	2
Notice to Quit served	1
Referrals to other agencies	67
Exclusion Orders Sought	
House taken back into possession (No legal fees nor security fees were used in these cases)	14
Total Action Taken	463

Tenancy Outcomes	Totals
Repossession commenced (due to ASB)	14
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	0
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	0

Number of pre- tenancies conducted	281
Rightsizing	
No. of Tenants identified: 6	Achieved 2

Planning Services

Planning Applications

A total of 2,114 planning applications were received in 2020. This compares to 1,845 applications received in 2019, and increase of almost 15%.

Development Contributions

Pre-Audited Development Contribution receipts for the year 2020 were €9,470,492. This is compared to €10,652,498 in 2019. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Transportation

National Roads 2021 funding from TII confirmed - €7,629,918

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Stage 3 Archaeology works complete. Tender documents for the main construction contract & consultancy services published in Jan 2021. Advance hedge/tree removal contract to commence Q1 2021 subject to TII approval.
N2 Slane Bypass	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Site Investigation Contractor laboratory testing ongoing. Archaeology geophysical works complete. Seasonal Ecology (Wintering Birds) survey commencing January. Landowner meetings ongoing.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	ROD/AECOM are progressing Phase 2 - Options Selection assessments. Seasonal Ecology (Wintering Birds) survey completed on site early January. When the Emerging Preferred Option is identified a 3rd public consultation will take place in Q1 2021.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Preparation of Part 8 CE report complete. Decision due in Q1 2021. Atkins progressing Phase 3 design.
NS Resurfacing	2020 schemes complete. Pavement designs and tender document preparation has commenced for the 2021 schemes.

(a) Non- National Roads 2021 funding from DTT&S – Not yet confirmed

R162 Kilberry Traffic Calming Scheme – Phase 1	Road surfacing, line markings and signage completed before site closed for Christmas. Remaining works re some local entrances and minor drainage works along with scheme snagging was due to commence on 11 th January but this has now been delayed due to the current Covid restrictions.
R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	Works commenced on 4 th August circa 12 months. Works progressing on site re utility diversions and 2020 & are currently expected to take interface with existing road network at northern and southern ends of the scheme
Road Works Programme	2020 schemes complete. Preparation has commenced for the 2021 schemes. Details will be brought as part of the SMDW to each of the MD meetings.

Works included in the 2020 Road Works Programme are complete

(b) Non- National Roads 2021 - Funding – Other than DTT&S

R154 Kiltale Traffic Calming & Junction Improvement Scheme	Works were expected to be complete in Q2 2021 but are currently suspended due to Covid restrictions; programme to be reviewed once site allowed to reopen.
LDR6 Kentstown junction to Farganstown, LIHAF Scheme	Works were expected to be substantially complete in January 2021 but are currently suspended due to Covid restrictions; programme to be reviewed once site allowed to reopen.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Site remobilised on 11 th January and works on the R125 and Moulden

(RORR), LIHAF Scheme	Bridge Estate interface ongoing. Works expected to be complete end Q1 2021.
LDR4 (Kells Road to Windtown Road – Navan)	Oral Hearing re proposed CPO held on 8th December 2020. ABP decision now delayed and not expected until 5th March 2021.

Sustainable Transport Measures Grants 2021 from NTA – not yet confirmed -

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Paving works complete at Church retaining wall & Old Infirmary. New kerbing & footpaths commenced at Bridge St/ Ludlow St/Church Hill junction. Paving works commenced at Abbey Rd roundabout adjacent to Post Office with temporary traffic management measures here to facilitate road pavement renewal.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Temporary bus stops implemented and Bus Éireann commenced operation of bus services in December. Appointment of Contractor for main bus stop installation has not yet been finalised.
Provision of Accessible Bus Stops	At detailed design stage with our Consultants. Survey works to inform the detailed design process deferred due to COVID related restrictions. It is currently anticipated that the design will be complete and ready to tender in Q2 2021, with the construction phase commencing in Q3 2021.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	At detailed design stage with our Consultants. Survey works to inform the detailed design process deferred due to COVID related restrictions. It is currently anticipated that the design will be complete and ready to tender in Q2 2021, with the construction phase commencing in Q3
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Topographical and GPR survey data has been processed and completed. The geometric design of Phase 1 & 2, using the new topographical survey, is underway. Tender documents for drainage CCTV survey drafted and expected to issue shortly, subject to current COVID related restrictions.
Laytown Park and Ride	Works substantially complete. Snagging deferred due to COVID restrictions.
Kells Bus Stop Reconstruction	Works substantially complete. Snagging deferred due to COVID restrictions.
N51 Park & Ride	A total of 6 No. submissions were made as part of the Part 8 planning process and these are currently under consideration.
Ratoath Cycle Network	Part 8 submissions closed 20th Nov. Approx 210 no. submissions received. CE Report being drafted for the MD meeting in Feb or March. Alternative layouts for the contentious tree removal section adjacent to Woodlands being examined.

NTA Jobs Stimulus Programme 2020 (€3,105,000): Of the 38 schemes, 23 schemes are complete. 2 of the remaining 15 schemes are deemed essential works, ongoing and nearing completion. The remaining 13 schemes are on hold due to the current Covid Level 5 restrictions

Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

(DTT&S Grant Allocation for Safety Improvement schemes for 2021 – not yet confirmed)

2020 Schemes	Road	MD	Status
Kells Town	R164	Kells	Waiting on Traffic Lights to be installed – (Sub contractor)
Athgaine Cortown	L2813	Kells	Complete
Scottstown Gormanlough	R163	Laytown/Bettystown	Complete
Newhaggard Road	R161	Trim	Waiting on Traffic Lights to be installed (Sub Contractor)
Oberstown Cross Skyrne	L1005	Ashbourne	Waiting on Signage from Sub Contractor

A list of schemes for 2021 will be confirmed once details of the Grant Allocation from DTT&S is received.

Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

- Works on Clonard, Stoneyford, Anne's & Cornmill bridges are ongoing and due for completion mid-February
- The design of repairs to Kilmainhamwood and Donaghmore retaining walls and embankments are ongoing.
- Repairs to Danestown and Normansgrove culverts are complete
- Maudlin Bridge works have been suspended until May 2021

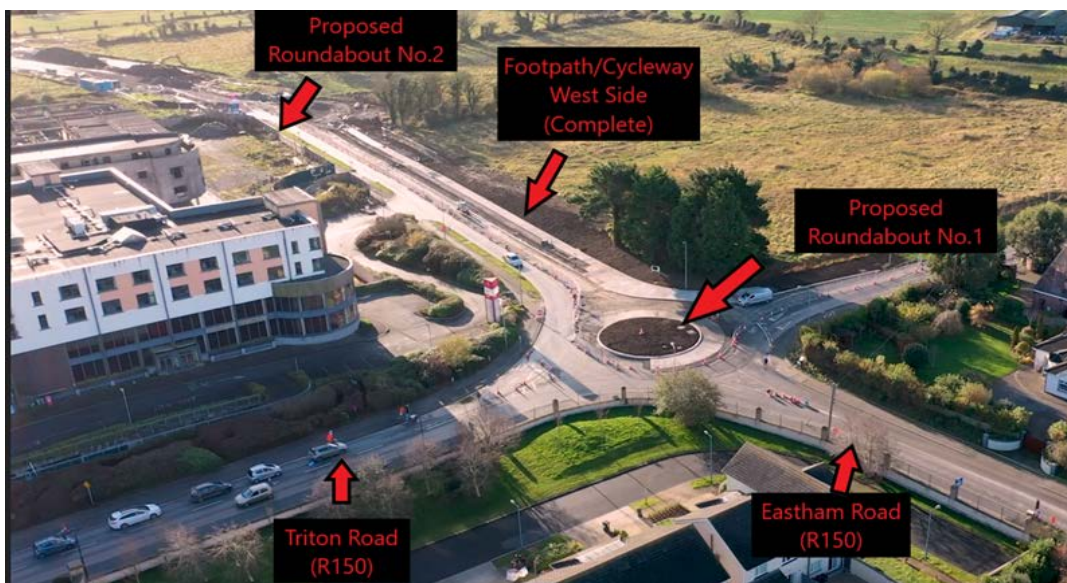
A list of schemes for 2021 will be confirmed once details of the Grant Allocation from DTT&S is received.

6. Other Actions/ Projects

<p>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</p>	<p>Kells MD – Schemes in Kells, Fr McCullen Park, Moynalty Rd to Fr McCullen Park, Gardenrath Rd & Nobber (O Carolan Park)-at contractor appointment stage, due to commence Mar 2021 if restrictions lifted. Athboy (Church View & St Joseph Villas estates) at contractor appointment stage, due to commence Feb 2021 if restrictions lifted.</p> <p>Ashbourne MD – Proposed Schemes in Ardath (Church View Housing Estate); Stamullen (Mountain View Housing Estate entrance); Bellewstown (Woodview Estate) Tender assessment complete, appointment of contractor underway, due to commence Feb 2021 if restrictions lifted.</p> <p>Trim MD – Footpath extension from Baynefield to Industrial Estate, Enfield 90% complete - public lighting to be installed when restrictions lifted and contractor available. Summerhill; Rathmolyon Rd, Awaiting ESB to remove poles before footpath works can be completed</p>
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	<p>Ratoath MD Scheme from Arkle House to Supervalu on R-125 (Dunshaughlin Rd) & R-155 (Well Rd) 90% complete - Contractor due to complete on site at end of January</p> <p>Laytown/ Bettystown MD - Coney Hall Mornington – due to commence in early Feb when restrictions are lifted.</p>
Public Lighting Capital Programme	Programme of Capital Public Lighting Schemes - Works on the schemes selected in 2020 have commenced and are 50% complete
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme	Construction works substantially completed before Christmas – some minor off line and snagging works will continue into Jan/Feb 2021
R135 Cycle Network Design	Comments / feedback received from NTA on Preliminary design. Response sent back in relation to these comments on the proposed design. Tender documents for CCTV surveys of existing drainage networks returned and currently being assessed
Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Ramparts Boyne Walk Refurbishment Scheme - At tender award stage. Works will not commence yet due to Covid restrictions on construction works

Progress on Works on the Spine Road



Environment

Waste Prevention, Reduction and Litter

Anti Dumping Campaign: The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications launched a new communications campaign titled “Your Country -Your Waste” on November 13, 2020, as part of the fight against illegal dumping. The Campaign has been developed as part of the 2020 Anti Dumping Initiative and includes a tailored suite of information and awareness messaging for use by local authorities, community and voluntary groups during 2020 and 2021.

Anti-Litter Awareness and Activity: The Council has undertaken an extensive social media campaign, aimed at reducing the high volume of litter on our roads network, including posts on dashboard dining, food waste litter and littering at recreational areas. In response to a high level of interest, the Council continues to support all community groups and individuals who wish to take part in Clean-Ups within their local area (5km) and in line with current Covid guidance and safety procedures. The provision of litter pickers, bags and gloves and a collection service in certain circumstances is currently proving very popular.

Stop Food Waste Christmas Campaign: Meath County Council worked with the other local authorities in the region to promote Food Waste Prevention at Christmas with a social media campaign in conjunction with Catherine Fulvio. Videos were released each day reminding householders to plan their festive food shopping efficiently in order to minimise waste, how to use leftovers and how to manage unavoidable food waste when the party is over.

Christmas Trees: Christmas trees are currently accepted for recycling across the county.

ReLove Fashion: The Final of the ReLove Fashion Event has been postponed until the end of February to accommodate school closures. It will be a virtual event hosted centrally by the Rediscovery Centre on behalf of participating local authorities.

River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)

Drafting of the 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan (for the period 2022 – 2027) is underway. The draft plan which will be published by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) imminently, will be subject of extensive public consultation before the final plan is published in December 2021. The EPA provides technical input and advice to DHLGH on the plan content, for example in updating the characterisation of pressures and impacts on water status.

Whilst recognising the real challenge to attaining good status for waters in Meath by 2027 and being aware of the economic implications of same, the Council has commenced drafting an appropriate work plan for the RBMP 3rd Cycle consistent with our recent submission to the EPA

The EPA in its recently published State of the Environment Report states that water quality is one of a number of environmental indicators going in the wrong direction and with declines in pristine river sites and with just over 50% of surface waters being in a satisfactory ecological condition. The report suggests that in order to meet compliance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and policy objectives, that extensive targeted action on water catchments is required together with enforcement of existing legislation and implementation of best practice policies. The report further highlights the need for environmentally sustainable improvements in agriculture, wastewater investment and better management of nutrients and other land use drivers.

All statutory site inspections and sampling is continuing during the COVID restriction period.

Revised grant scheme for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Septic Tanks etc) and Private Water Supplies (Wells)

Grants for DWWTS (National Inspection Plan) - grant scheme towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system under the EPA's National Inspection Plan.

Grants for DWWTS (Prioritised Areas for Action under the RBMP) - grant scheme towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system situated in a Prioritised Area for Action in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.

Grants for DWWTS (High Status Objective Catchment Areas under the RBMP) - grant scheme towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system in a High Status Objective Catchment Area in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021

General rules applying to the DWWTS Grants schemes - Grant rate of 85% of the eligible costs of remediation, repair or upgrading works, or replacement of any such system or €5,000, whichever is the lower. Means test requirement removed.

Grants for Private Water Supplies (Wells): Revised grant scheme towards the carrying out of improvement works to a private water supply. Provision of a new well: 85% of the approved costs for the provision of a new well, subject to a maximum of €5,000. For rehabilitation works: 85% of the approved costs for rehabilitation works, subject to a maximum of €3,000. For treatment works: 100% of the approved costs for works that, in the opinion of the housing authority, are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in the Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. Examples of such treatments are filtration or Ultra Violet treatment.

Climate Action

Meath County Council has become the first and only Irish EU Climate Pact Ambassador. This initiative, under the EU Green Deal, invited individuals and organisations (as ambassadors) to take climate action and create awareness about this. Currently there are 181 Ambassadors across the EU, which offers an opportunity to learn from others and develop a strong action focused network.

Meath County Council was approached by EMRA to submit an URBACT <https://urbact.eu/> application for a pilot project to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Trim was proposed for this application and Cork city is the other Irish applicant. The project will be piloted with 15 EU cities, the closing date is the 29th January. If successful, the project will last for 20 months and may provide a platform for other EU funding.

Meath County Council will be represented on the Natural Capital Ireland (NCI) SDG workgroup. (NCI are funded by the NPWS and aims to protect and enhance natural capital in Ireland).

A multi-discipline Climate Action & SDG team has been formed, introductory meeting to take place shortly.

Climate Action Training for Senior Management and Councillors is to commence in Q1 2021 via the CAROs. Training under 6 pillars will be provided to 29,000 council staff and councillors.

Tuile Leabhar Nollag (Christmas Book Flood) initiative delivered under the switching off/being creative initiative/funding, this was very warmly received by recipients. It is planned to make it an annual initiative.

The Climate Action Team and Age Friendly Team are going to further collaborate with ICRAAG on the 'Purls of Wisdom' project. This will connect older people with scientists to start a climate conversation while producing climate related wool craft pieces. The initial pilot was very successful with a lot of external interest in the project.

The Low Carbon and Climate Action Bill is being progressed to enactment, this will put specific obligations on local authorities to create a Climate Action Plan within 18 months, addressing both mitigation and adaptation.

National Environmental Enforcement Priorities 2021

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

- Waste collection – Household & Commercial – Household and Commercial Waste Segregation
- Construction and Demolition Activity -unauthorised disposal of C & D waste, Article 27 Notifications & Skip Operators.

- End of Life Vehicles Directive and Metals Industry -inspection of both authorised ELV sites and unauthorised operators, storage of immobilised Vehicles.
- Tackling significant illegal waste activity –illegal dumping, unauthorised operators, man in the van activities.
- Multi Agency Sites of Interest -where there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is ongoing illegal activity.

Water Monitoring and Air Quality

Enforcement Priorities have also been agreed at National Level in respect of Water Monitoring and Air Quality

Water: Undertaking Water Framework Directive monitoring, bathing water monitoring and investigative monitoring

- Monitor and enforce the drinking water standards in private water supplies
- Farm Inspections -upstream of water bodies in priority areas for action
- Inspection of Septic Tanks and other wastewater treatment systems

Air Quality Priorities

- Compliance in low smoke zones -Smokey coal
- Support ambient air monitoring programme
- Respond to Air Complaints
- Air Enforcement -solvents, deco-paints, petroleum vapour regulations, air pollution licences.

Community

Governance Structures

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): A meeting of the LCDC is scheduled to take place on Friday 29th January 2021 where the 2021 SICAP Annual Plan will be considered for approval.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020: A meeting of the LAG took place on 18th December 2020 where it was advised that 100% of the total budget committed to date with €1.3M drawn down in claims representing 26%.

As a result of the delays at EU level in agreeing the EU budget for 2021-2027, there will be a gap between the current LEADER programme and the next one which will not begin until January 2023. The Minister is introducing a Transitional LEADER programme from April 2021 to bridge the gap. The budget allocation for Meath towards projects is €470,668. Also as a result of Covid the Minister is also extending the current programme deadline for project commitments to 31st March 2021. The next Meeting of the LAG is scheduled to take place on Friday 29th January 2021.

Age Friendly County programme (AF): The Athboy walkability audit report which is Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly was launched by Minister Helen McEntee TD and the Cathaoirleach in Athboy in December. Meath Age Friendly will continue to work with the library, arts, Sports Partnership, Climate Change and Biodiversity sections to roll out initiatives under the Keep Well national campaign. Christmas Hampers, which included Christmas cards made by children from local schools, and dinners were delivered by Meath Age Friendly and the Community Gardai to older vulnerable people in the garda districts of Kells, Navan, Trim and Ashbourne.

Meath Public Participation Network (PPN): In December 2020, Meath PPN budget was committed in line with membership survey views. From January, staff will distribute Covid care supplies to community groups. A 2021 training programme will help build capacity within member groups. PPN Community Covid19 Response Network continues to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

Comhairle na n'Óg: A very successful Comhairle Showcase took place online on Saturday the 5th of December 2020. The 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Funding request has been submitted to Pobal for approval. The Comhairle was successful in securing funding of €2,717.97 for a laptop, printer and video equipment under the DCYA ICT grant.

Grant Schemes

Carranstown Grant Scheme: The scheme is now open to receive applications with a closing date scheduled for 26th February 2021.

Knockharley Grant Scheme: The walking track within the Kentstown Village project is open for the public to utilise. The official opening date has yet to be arranged due Covid 19 restrictions still in place.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020: Under the Standard Town & Village Scheme, the following four applications were successful:

- Nobber awarded a grant of €200k
- Baltrasna awarded a grant of €100K
- Stamullen awarded a grant of €100k
- Kells awarded a grant of €100K

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020

Meath				
Meath	Girley Bog Loop walk	Upgrade works	Girley Bog, Co. Meath	€19,935.00
Meath	Oldcastle Cycling Routes	Signage and promotion	Oldcastle, Co. Meath	€9,630.00
Meath	Nobber Greenway Amenity Park	Development of park/amenity area along Greenway	Nobber, Co. Meath	€20,000.00

Three applications under Measure 1 were approved by the DRCD. 3 Applications were submitted under Measure 2 and one under Measure 3 and await a decision by the DRCD.

Community Amenity Project Scheme: Three of the 2020 Projects have commenced the claim process and claims for the 2019 Scheme continue to be submitted and paid accordingly.

Community Enhancement Programme 2020: €69,067.51 has been paid to date and reminders will issue.

The Community Grant Scheme 2021: The Community Grant Scheme is set to launch week commencing 25th January, closing date 5th March 2021.

Covid-19 Emergency Fund – 2nd Round: The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has provided an additional €52,730 for a 2nd round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. This round will provide grants to community groups to assist them:

- to adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- to become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

The scheme launched on 21st December 2020, the closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is Wednesday 27th January 2021. The draft allocations will be presented to the LCDC at their meeting on Friday 26th February 2021.

Other Initiatives

Public Sector Duty: The working group for the implementation of the statutory Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty met in December through a virtual workshop to finalise the implementation plan for 2021. A workshop took place virtually on January 12th with Civil Society Groups to validate and agree human rights & equality issues identified as part of assessments of local plans.

National Broadband Plan- Rollout: NBI commenced surveys in parts of Ratoath and Ashbourne MDs on the 11th January 2021. Tree pruning, duct repairs and other work will need to be completed before installation of the fibre will be commenced.

NBI have also announced plans to survey a small area around Clonalvy across to North of the Naul.

National Broadband Plan- BCPs: Syddan GAA and Drumree GAA clubs were connected to Vodafone's

network in December bringing to eight the number of sites providing free public WIFI outdoors.

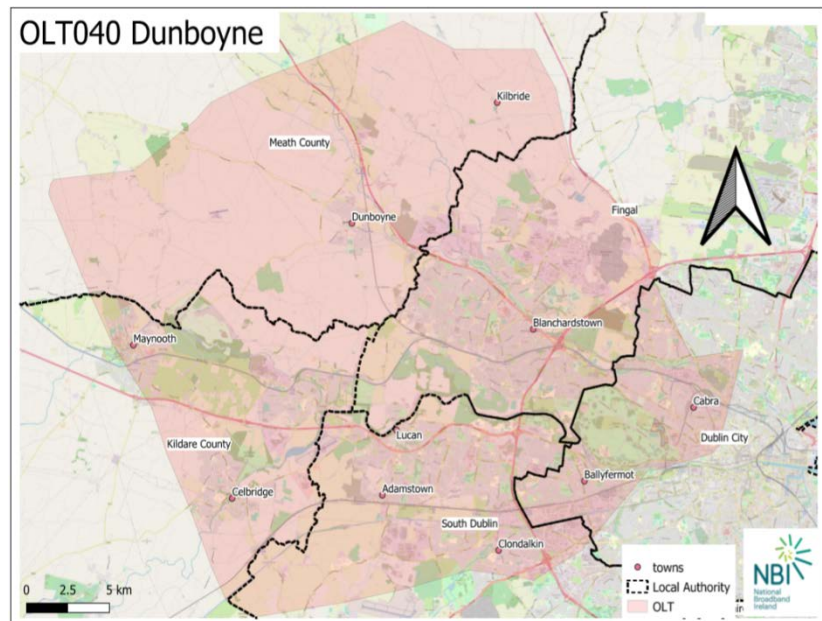
WiFi4EU: Agreement has been reached with several businesses in Navan to host access points and connections for the WiFi4EU. These sites will need to be surveyed and new broadband connections installed prior to the installation of equipment.

Healthy Ireland - Keep Well Campaign: The campaign is being co-ordinated at a local level by Meath County Council and sub-groups set up based on the themes of the Keep Well Campaign. These are:

- Switching Off/Being Creative and
- Staying connected

An allocation of funding has been provided by the Department of Health in the amount of €107,560 through Healthy Ireland to help fund local initiatives. The campaign will run until the end of March. A new joint Healthy Ireland co-ordinator for Meath/Louth commenced work in late November and is working on initiatives under the Keep-Well campaign and Healthy Ireland programme.

Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration strategy: Meath was successful in securing funding of €132,500 over 3 years from the Department of Justice. This will be used to deliver actions in the Migrant Integration Strategy.



Libraries Service

Overview of Current Services

Due to Level 5 restrictions, all twelve branches in the county remain closed for browsing and lending. The service is also required to cease operation of the 'Contact and Collect' model. There were over 200,000 physical items issued in 2020, despite the restrictions around access and the minimum services on offer. Online issues accounted for a further 50,000 issues and it is expected that these levels will be maintained during the next phase of lockdown.

Online services will continue to be available. It is possible to:

- join the library online;
- download eBooks and eAudiobooks;
- read magazines and newspapers
- take eLearning or language courses;
- watch or listen to storytimes; or,
- take part in other activities like online quizzes.

All staff are very actively engaged in creating and curating digital content to meet the high demand for online events and activities. Courses delivered with funding from the 'Keep Well' programme have proven to be particularly popular with large numbers registering for both the 'Creative Writing' and 'A Short History of the Irish Revolution' courses. These courses are provided in addition to the online content delivered through the 'Healthy Ireland at Your Library' programme and the weekly library programming.

Ireland Reads

Ireland Reads is a new library campaign to encourage as many people as possible to get reading. The campaign will run throughout February, leading up to **'Ireland Reads Day' on February 25th**.

What's it all about?: Ireland Reads is about promoting the power of reading for enjoyment and wellbeing, combatting lockdown by encouraging everyone, young and old, to get back into the habit of reading and regularly setting aside time to sit and read a book, a poem, a comic, a newspaper, whatever works for them!

What is planned so far?: A national promotional campaign will launch in early February and run throughout the month leading up to 'Ireland Reads' Day on February 25th.

Touch, Type, Read, Spell (TTRS)

TTRS is a multisensory, structured, online typing course which assists students to learn at their own pace.

In addition to developing typing skills, TTRS is designed to benefit students of all ages, in particular those who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties. Learners with dyslexia or literacy issues have also found it helpful.

TTRS can be beneficial for:

- learners with Dyspraxia
- learners with Dysgraphia
- students studying English as a second language
- those who wish to upskill and improve their general typing skills
- those who wish to improve their literacy skills or those having literacy difficulties
- those who wish to improve their memory skills or who are experiencing memory problems

The course is now available through the library service and feedback is very positive with parents very appreciative of the free access to this very valuable resource. The course is of particular benefit to parents supporting children with learning difficulties during lockdown.

Users can register by emailing meathlibrariessocial@meathcoco.ie stating their full name, local library and email address.

Economic Development

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Meath Women in Business Network: The LEO will continue to work in collaboration with Meath Chamber to roll out a series of Women in Business Events throughout 2021. Events will be held quarterly on the zoom platform and will feature a mix of well-known female keynote speakers and some local case studies. It will be facilitated by local female entrepreneur and business coach, Lorraine Murphy.

Launch of Meath Business Owners Network: LEO Meath and Meath Chamber jointly launched a Virtual Business Network on January 22nd, to address the need for small businesses in the county to network, collaborate and do business together, in times of unprecedented hardship. Meetings will be facilitated by business people within the network. The first meeting will be facilitated by local accountant and entrepreneur, Raymond Gibbons. Topics being discussed include, post-Brexit advice for those trading with the UK or having to use the UK as a land bridge, services available from your Local Enterprise Office and services on offer from Meath Chamber.

Overview of Activity

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	14
Trading Online Vouchers Approved	47
Training Courses Attended (online)	52
Training Voucher Seminars Attended (Online)	134
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended (online)	16
Grants Approved	3

2021 Training Courses

General Business Courses

Start Your Own Business Course
Define Your Business Idea Workshop
Developing & Using a Successful Sales Process
PR on a ShoeString
Design Strategy Masterclass
Developing Your Own Website Using Wordpress
Management Development Masterclasses

Finance Courses

Access to Funding & Additional Supports

Managing Tax Returns for Small Businesses
Costing & Pricing your service/ product
Grant Information - Financial Supports & Grants available
Basic Booking for Small Business
Financial Forecasting for your business

Staff Payroll and Benefits
Credit Control & Cash Flow Management
Digital Marketing Courses
Managing and Promoting Your Brand online
Driving Sales Through Your Business Website and Social Media Platforms
Creating a Digital Marketing Strategy for Your Business
Facebook for Business, L1 (The Basics) & L2 (Advanced)
Instagram for Business
Twitter, for Business L1 (The Basics) & L2 (Advanced)
Women in Biz / Meath Chamber
Quarterly Meeting with Meath Chamber
Trading Online Voucher
TOV Seminar
Brexit Supports
Import & Export Procedures Workshop
Working with Brexit
Food & Drink Courses
Social Media for Food Businesses
Food Photography Workshop
Chefs Training/ Producer Showcase
Product Pricing for Food Businesses - Getting it Right
Expressions of Interest- Food Academy
Developing a Food or Drink Business - Advice Clinic

Brexit Mentoring: The LEO continues to provide one-to-one mentoring clinics with customs, agents and Brexit experts for all our clients. These clinics are free of charge and can be booked through the LEO website. Demand has increased for these since January 1st.

Digital Marketing Clinics: Due to popular demand, the LEO will continue to provide these to clients. They can also be booked through the website.

National Enterprise Awards: The annual National Enterprise Awards that takes place across the network of LEOs had to be cancelled last May due to COVID 19. It will now take place virtually on **Thursday, 11th February at 6pm**. The event will be broadcast live from the Mansion House, with MC Brian Dobson. The judging took place last November and all finalists will be featured in local and national media over the coming weeks in the run up to the Awards Ceremony. The Meath finalist is Alan Jackson of Qualitas Electronics, based in Duleek Business Park. The ceremony will be available to view online at www.localenterprise.ie/awards.

Finance Section

Commercial Rates:

The Restart Grant Schemes: These schemes commenced on May 22, 2020 and ceased on October 31, 2020. These schemes are now closed and processing of all applications is complete. A total of €18,973,679 was distributed to 1,775 businesses throughout the county via a combined total of 3,681 applications across both Restart Grant Schemes. This includes appeals from Restart Grant Plus applicants that did not apply for the original Restart Grant.

Commercial Rates Waiver Scheme: This scheme was announced on July 23, 2020 and was initially intended to cover a period of 6 months. It was expanded to include a further 3 months. This waiver has automatically been applied to all customers' accounts that satisfied the relevant criteria. A total of 3,633 properties with a value of €17,924,876 received the waiver. This process is now complete.

A further 3 month Commercial Rate Waiver for 2021 has been announced and will be applied to the relevant customer accounts once the details of the scheme are known.

Housing Loans:

The 3 month mortgage payment break has been expanded to a possible 9 month payment break. The assessment, processing and engagement with customers is ongoing. 43 loan customers have availed of the scheme to date.

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 19th January 2021	
Applications Received	393
Applications Returned	16
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	3
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	374
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	4
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	6
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	230
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	134
	374
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase (includes restructuring)	154
No of customers in MARP	34