

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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

Fón: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

R-phost: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Uimhir Chláraithe: 00172770



Meath County Council

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

Tel: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Registration No.: 00172770

July, 2019

Don/ Cathaoirleach agus ball den Comhairle

Item 6.1 - Chief Executive's Report

Dear Councillor,

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

HOUSING

Capital Programme

▪ Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PROJECTS COMPLETED				
Bettystown (Phase 1)	16	3,437,478	Complete	N/A
Athboy (Phase 1)	32	8,850,320	Complete	N/A
Proudstown Road	4	819,737	Complete	N/A
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	Complete	N/A
Totals	71	16,962,515		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	N/A	Q3 2019
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Kells	40	8,555,683	Q1 2019	Q2 2020
Cortown*	10	6,922,971	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Kilmainhamwood*	4		Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Oldcastle*	16		Q1 2019	Q4 2019
The Belfry, Trim	3	560,000	Q1 2019	Q3 2019
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Totals	118	25,846,899		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Totals	26	5,813,948		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				

Nobber	19	3,657,000	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Totals	40	7,822,565		
DESIGN PHASE				
Farganstown	42	11,204,000	Q2 2020	Q3 2021
Ashbourne	55	12,264,000	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Blackhill Cresent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Totals	134	30,527,981		
GRAND TOTALS	389	86,973,908		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

▪ **Summary of Recent Approved Funding Submissions to the Department**

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
Totals		57	12,245,085

▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
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 (1)	Part V	26	6,509,565

Bettystown (2)	Turnkey	8	2,129,557
Navan	Turnkey	8	2,214,620
Kilmessan	Turnkey	3	821,642
Totals		102	25,124,619

Expression of Interest for Turnkey Schemes and/or Lands

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

Refurbishment Projects

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

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

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	Delivery
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Ardmore, Bettystown	1	North & East Housing	Complete - 2017
Royal Oaks, Enfield (Part V)	4	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Seabury Lawns, Mornington	6	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Kellets Grove, Dunshaughlin (Part V)	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Milltown Meadows, Ashbourne	67	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Emmet Street, Trim	11	North & East	Complete - 2018

		Housing	
Dunville, Navan (30 units Part V)	64	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ceamach Close, Donacarney	16	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018)
Blackcastle, Navan	26	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Frederick Manor, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	5 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/15 Delivery Due Q2 2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete –Q1 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – Q1 2019
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2019
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – Q2 - 2019
Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath (Part V)	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q3 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Delivery Due Qtr 3 2019
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – (20 units) Q4 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond!	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Total	474		

Acquisition Programme

- 25 Sales have closed and 13 Acquisitions are at contract stage to date in 2019

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 18 projects completed to date in 2019 (€140,981)
- 10 projects ongoing (€66,373)
- 15 task orders sent to contractor (€204,370)

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

- 198 Grants have been approved to date in 2019, to the value of €1,601,865

Local Authority Vacant Units currently Unavailable for Allocation

- Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as at 20th June 2019. For the period from 15th April 2019 to 20th June 2019, works were completed on 16 vacant units; while 23 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	5	2	1	7	1
Laytown/Bettystown	2	1	1	3	1
Navan	5	0	0	5	0
Ratoath	2	0	0	2	0
Trim	9	1	0	8	2
TOTALS	25	4	2	27	4

Homeless Service

▪ Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements 2019

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements from 1st January to 31st May 2019	61 (62)	24 (35 Adults, 49 children)	85
Placements at 31st May 2019 (includes placements in 2018)	86 (90 Adults)	25 (41 Adults,60 Children)	111

Of the 25 households with children, 20 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention.

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

Social Housing Supports

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	140
Approved Housing Bodies	99
RAS	0
HAP	324
TOTAL	563

TRANSPORTATION

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Tender appraisal ongoing for Land and Property Valuation Services with Valuer to be appointed in the coming weeks. Preparation of Tender documents for Topographical Survey ongoing. Tender for Archaeological Consultancy Services published on the OJ with a submissions closing date of 8th July 2019.
N2 Slane Bypass	Route options being assessed. Public Consultation re Emerging Preferred Option expected in 2 nd half of 2019. Supplementary surveys are being undertaken to inform the formulation and assessment of possible route options.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Tender appraisal ongoing for Technical Consultancy Services
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	Design 95% complete. In order to progress the scheme Part 8 process with required reports and CPO now being considered.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Ground Investigation Survey Contract ongoing. Agronomy study is now complete - awaiting final report. Geophysical Survey on site is complete - awaiting Final Report.
N51/R147 Junction Navan	TII funded safety scheme. Works extended and are now scheduled to continue until mid July. Diversions in place – details circulated and advertised.

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

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	CPO Operative letters issued to landowners and occupiers. DTTAS appraisal being carried out. Detailed design progressing.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	NIS for ground investigation finalised and determination made. Ground Investigation contractor & Geophys contractor appointed – awaiting start dates.
R162 Kilberry	DTTAS appraisal submitted for approval. Public consultation for Phase 1 completed 24 th June. Tender documents being finalised.
R155 Curragha	Traffic Calming design progressing. DTTAS appraisal submitted for internal approval. Public consultation for Phase 1 completed 24 th June. Tender documents being finalised.

Schedule of Municipal District Works – passed by all 6 Municipal Districts at the February meetings. Contracts gone to tender to progress the 2019 Roadworks programme. Contracts awarded, programme commenced on site

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

R154 Traffic Calming at Kiltale, Batterjohn and Batterstown	Traffic Calming design substantially complete. Public consultation completed 24 th June. Tender documents being finalised for Kiltale and Batterjohn.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Contractor has been appointed and works are progressing on site. Expected to be completed Q2 2020.
LDR6 Farganstown, Navan	ESB temporary diversion completed. Construction tender documents completed and issued with tender return date of 01 st July 2019.
Kilbride Rd/R125 Ashbourne Rd, Ratoath	Realignment of junction - Part 8 on public display- Submissions accepted until 19 th July 2019.

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

Cantilevered Bridge – New Bridge, Athlumney Road (R153) Navan	Outstanding landscaping works (topsoiling and seeding) in Cllr Andy Brennan Park completed.
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Contractor appointed for Contract 1 (Railway St and Abbey Rd). Discussions ongoing with owner of lands for proposed park and ride site, and the matter is under review. Contractor appointed to construct bus stops on Abbey Rd. Design work commenced for next contract for Navan Town Scheme.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	Design work ongoing and planning documents being finalised.

4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Scheme	Road	MD	Status
Hayestown	L3400/L50521	Navan	Contractors being appointed – works expected to commence July 2019.
Longwood Village	R160/ L4020	Trim	Contractors being appointed – works expected to commence July 2019.
Greenan, Drumconrath	R165/ L34036	Kells	Contractors being appointed – works expected to commence July 2019.
Culmullin Cross	L6205/L62051/ R125	Ratoath	Tender closed 20 th June.
Knockbrack, Oldcastle	R195/L 68197	Kells	Gone to tender – Submissions accepted until 2 nd July.

5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

The bridges to be designed are Castleparks Bridge, Annes Bridge, Stoneyford Bridge, Annesbrooke Bridge, Skearke Bridge, Clonard Bridge, Kearntown Bridge, Cornmill Bridge, Maudlin Bridge
Tenders for both consultants and contractors are currently being assessed.

Minor Bridge repairs are scheduled for the following structures Jordanstown Culvert, Rathbranchurch Bridge, Strany Beg Bridge, Kill Bridge, Kill Mill Bridge, Bailis Bridge, Foliostown Bridge, Braden Bridge, Liscarton Culvert, Altmush Bridge, Milltown Culvert.

6. Other Actions/ Projects

Public Lighting Capital Programme	2019	Programme of Capital works - Contract Awarded	
		MD	Location
		Ratoath MD	Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin
			R155 - Fairyhouse/Tattersalls, Ratoath
		Laytown/Bettystown MD	L1610 Abbey Road out to Balsaran School, Duleek
Newtown National School			
Ashbourne MD	R135 to Business Park Entrance, Ballymadun Road, Ashbourne		

		Trim MD	R148 Enfield Inner Relief Road, (R148 link from roundabout on R402 to R148 Clonard Road).
		Navan MD	The Bull, Market Square, Navan
		Kells MD	R162 Village to Muff Crescent, Nobber
Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	2019	Ratoath MD –Clonee and Dunboyne Footpath Rehabilitation Works gone to tender. Navan MD - Works at Woodlands Estate, Navan under construction. Tender awarded for Troytown Heights. Kells MD - Contractor commenced works on 13/06/2019 -Approx 8 week programme. Ashbourne MD –Contractor commenced works on 11/06/2019 -Approx 6 week programme. Trim MD –Contractor has 90% of works, snagging to be completed. Laytown/Bettystown MD – Contractor has 95% of works, snagging and tidy up of compound to be completed.	
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)	2019	Successful schemes for 2019 have been written to and Community Contributions collected – tender competition closed – letter of intent issued to successful contractor.	
Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2019	Successful schemes for 2019 have been approved by DRCD and local contributions collected – Tendered with CIS scheme.	
Royal Canal		Final 4km section of the Greenway from Ferrans Lock to Cloncurry under construction. Approx 90% completed.	

FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 13th June 2019

Applications Received	253
Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency	18
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	1
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	234
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	8
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	0
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	145
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	81
	234
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	84
Drawdowns for Restructuring Loans	5
No of customers in MARP	39

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Planning

- Planning Applications

The number of applications received in the period 01.01.2019 to 19.06.2019 was 805 in comparison to 664 received in the same period last year. This represents a 21% increase in applications.

- Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of May 2019 were €4,459,652 compared to €3,478,172 in same period last year. (Figure is inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

- Variation 1 Trim Development Plan

Variation 1 of the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 went on public display on Wednesday 19th June until 19th July. This variation incorporate the key tenets of the Meath Economic Development Strategy, as they relate to land use planning, into the Trim Development Plan.

- Variation 3 Navan Development Plan

Variation 3 of the Trim Development Plan 2009-2015 went on public display on Wednesday 19th June until 19th July. This variation gives effect to an objective in the RSES in relation to providing further employment opportunities in Navan through rezoning of a parcel of land.

- Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID)

ABP – 304629-19 - An Bord Pleanála gave notice that they received a request to enter into pre-application consultations in relation to a proposed development of a 110kv substation and associated transmission grid connection in the townlands of Harristown, Castlejordan and Clongall, Co. Meath.

- New Regulation of Short Term Letting

Circular Letter PL4/2019 was issued by the Department on 4th June, 2019. The primary objective of the new reform is to influence the bringing back of houses and apartments in designated 'rent pressure zones' which are currently being used for short term letting purposes. This comes into effect from 1st July, 2019.

In summary, if you homeshare your principal private residence in a rent pressure zone and wish to avail of the new planning exemptions, you will need to register this with your local authority and fulfil specified reporting obligations.

However, where a person owns a property in a rent pressure zone which is **not** their principal private residence and intends to let it for short-term letting purposes, s/he will

be required to apply for a change of use planning permission unless the property already has a specific planning permission to be used for tourism or short-term letting purposes.

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 17th May with the next one scheduled for Friday 28th June, 2019. 3 new councillors have been nominated to the committee.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

A meeting of the LAG took place in May with the next LAG meeting scheduled for 28th June 2019 with 3 new councillors sitting on the committee.

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)

- The Meath Age Friendly Alliance met on June 13th.
- The National Older Persons convention took place in Donegal town in May with 3 members of OPC and Age Friendly County Co-ordinator in attendance.
- MCC nominated several Acorn tablet participants for the Silver Surfer Awards 2019 with the ceremony in the Helix on the 28th of May 2019. One person was shortlisted for an award.
- The Council recently opened the housing units on the Proudstown road in Navan which are developed to Age Friendly standards.
- The Council and Prosper Meath opened a Community Sensory Garden in Trim which is specifically dementia, disability and Age Friendly.
- Kells Library reopened after refurbishment and is Age Friendly.
- The Pride of Place awards has a specific Age Friendly category included and the Eureka transition year students intergeneration project with the older persons has been entered into the Co-operation Ireland awards scheduled for November.
- The Age Friendly Alliance intends to launch an awareness of the "Message in a Bottle" for Older persons on October 9th in Flexibus offices, Mullaghboy.

Joint Policing Committee

The next JPC Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 23rd September 2019.

Public Participation Network

There are over 860 groups on the PPN. A re-registration of groups is planned over the next 2 months. The Africa Day event was held in Claremont Stadium on Saturday 15th June. Over 400 people attended the event which celebrated African culture through drumming, music, food and costume.

The Environmental Plenary held in Dalgan Park on May 11th was very informative. Topics covered by the speakers at the event included biodiversity, climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals.

PPN vacancies on Council committees are in the process of being filled. An election will be organised for both the Community College and the Social Inclusion College for the LCDC vacancies.

A meeting to discuss the upkeep of the green areas within housing estates is being held in Ashbourne on 19th June.

Ashbourne Linear Park

Works are ongoing in developing the playground in the park.

Pride of Place

Assessment of 63 schools for the 2019 Schools Gardening Scheme took place during May and June. 15 schools were randomly selected to receive a Herb Patch Project and these have been well received by the students and teachers.

The Pride of Place Scheme closed on Wednesday 12th June, with adjudication scheduled to commence in July.

The Community Grant Scheme

Community Grant Scheme claims are being processed and completed claim forms are to be submitted by Friday 30th September, 2019.

The Community Amenity Project Scheme

Assessment of the 51 applications received is ongoing. When completed, the details will be presented in each Municipal District and to the full Council.

Regional Festivals & Participative Events

This is a Fund of €11,000 provided by Fáilte Ireland and will be distributed by Meath County Council among qualifying applicants. 9 applications were received, and all 9 were allocated funding based on the numbers of overseas visitors expected.

CLÁR

Seven applications were submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development for consideration.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

All successful applicants have been notified of their grant allocation with claim forms to be submitted by the end of the year. The next meeting of the Committee is expected to take place in September/October. The annual awards night is being arranged by Indaver Ltd for 18th July next.

Knockharley Grant Scheme

Works are currently ongoing on the Kentstown Village Project which involves the creation of green space, football pitches, parking area and changing rooms. The outgoing members were re-elected to the membership of the Liaison Committee with a further member to be elected at the July meeting.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Works have commenced by the groups under the 2018 scheme and must be completed by April 2020. Expressions of Interest were sought from community groups with applications due to the Department for consideration by 28th June, 2019.

Healthy Ireland Fund scheme

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

HIF Round 3 will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021, a workshop is scheduled for late June where an update and guidelines will be provided.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The 2019 Scheme was launched and expressions of interest for potential projects had to be submitted to the Community Section by 17th May 2019.

Seven applications in total were submitted to the Department for consideration. Three projects under Measure 1, three projects under Measure 2 and one project under Measure 3.

Community Enhancement Programme

This scheme was advertised with a closing date of the 30th of May 2019. Meath's allocation is €142,893.00. Applications were invited from groups for both small grants of under €1,000.00 and larger grants in excess of €1,000.00 for capital expenditure that address disadvantage. Strict criteria will be used to assess eligibility and the LCDC will approve the grant allocations. 103 applications were received and will be brought to the LCDC meeting of 28th June, 2019 for approval.

Comhairle na n'Óg

The Colour Run in conjunction with Meath Local Sports Partnership took place in Blackwater Park on 16th of June 2019, with over 500 participants.

National Broadband Plan

On the 7th May the Government announced National Broadband Ireland (NBI) as the preferred bidder for the National Broadband Plan. This enables NBI to finalise agreements with open eir for the use of its poles, with equipment suppliers for the network equipment and with the network installation companies to carry out the network development.

Open eir 300K Rollout

Open eir has completed most works in Meath and will complete works in Lobinstown and Duleek before moving off site.

KN Circet on behalf of open eir has also confirmed that Meath is one of 8 counties where they are commencing works this July on their urban fibre rollout plan – Ireland's Fibre Network (IFN). This project will enable urban residents on speeds lower than 100 Mbs to have their existing connections upgraded.

Improving Mobile Coverage

Work is progressing on the delivery of new Mobile Phone masts in blackspot areas including – Kilmessan (ESB Connected June 2019), Kildalkey and Ballivor. Other areas are currently in review to improve coverage in Navan and other problem areas.

WIFI4EU

Following the call for vouchers, Meath have now secured 4 WIFI4EU vouchers to deliver public Wi-Fi around the county. Work is progressing on tendering for the installation and management of the service, identification of sites and consideration of the ongoing running costs.

Enterprise

Economic Development

Internal & External Engagement Actions 1 2 & 3

- County Meath Chamber invited ED & BVFs to host a stand and meet the Australian ambassador to Ireland Mr Richard Andrews. A great networking event reaffirming a strong relationship which exists between Meath and Australia.

Action 7 Marketing:

Social Media campaign:

- Social Media followers continue to grow across, facebook, instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. A number of posts are scheduled each week with emphasis placed on current and engaging topics.

Commuter Survey

Meath & Kildare County Councils have joined forces to run a Commuter Survey with the intention of detailing and mapping the movements of commuters. The tender was published on the 12th of June and will invite expressions of interest until the 08th of July.

Shop Front Scheme

Funds were identified in the Capital budget to assist shop owners with the improvement of their store fronts. 8 shop fronts have been identified and an application form for the retailer to apply for match funding is at design stage.

Friendliest Town

Athboy & Enfield have been nominated for this years REI friendliest town awards. 10 retailers in total have been identified and the “mystery shopper” part of the programme starts on the 17th of June and runs for 4 weeks in total.

National Enterprise Town Awards – Bank of Ireland

Moynalty & Dunboyne have been nominated in the village & town category. The ED team prepared the submissions following meetings with the community groups involved. The judging schedule is due to be published towards the end of June.

ATBs - Advanced Technology Buildings:

- Currently awaiting land transfer from the IDA to MCC at the site identified in Drogheda Industrial Estate
- The tender document is ready awaiting maps to be added from the IDA

Projects (EU & other):

- An expression of interest has been submitted for participation in an upcoming Inter-reg call. Subject – To enhance innovation performance of enterprise throughout NEW regions. Upon a positive decision for us we will be putting together an application for submission.

Boyne Valley Food Strategy:

Food Series

The food series is underway with five events happening in May, including a Vegetarian Banquet, Seafood Festival and Doorstep Dining. Boyne Valley Flavours had a stand at Beltaine event held at Rock Farm Slane and Sheridan Irish Food Festival to promote the other Food Series of Events. Both events went exceptionally well with visitor numbers up on 2018.

IBYE Awards

Boyne Valley Producer, Orla Stafford of Izmoos in Drogheda was crowned the regional's Best Start-Up Business in this year's IBYE Awards and will go on to represent the region in the Finals in September.

Food Academy

A number of Boyne Valley producers have just completed the Food Academy which is supported by LEO. The presentation pitches to SuperValu buyers took place on Thursday 13th June with great response to our local producer products.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Trading Online Vouchers

5 Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs) were approved during May and June

Business Advice Sessions

73 Business Advice sessions were undertaken during May (36) and June (37).

Mentoring

4 mentoring assignments commenced in May and June.

LEO Meath Training Programme

93 participants took part in LEO Meath training courses during May and June including:

- Shooting and Editing Marketing Videos on a Budget
- Search Engine Optimisation
- Selling Skills for Owner/Manager
- Book Keeping & Computerised Accounts Course
- Building a Brand for Your Business
- Start Your Own Business
- Digital Marketing Clinics
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar

The ***Autumn Schedule of Training Programmes*** will commence in September. An Open Evening to showcase our trainers and overview all our upcoming training courses will take place on 10th September (6.30pm – 8.30pm) in Buvinda House. Details of Autumn courses are available on the LEO Meath website - www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Training-Events/Online-Bookings .

LEO Meath Mentor Network:

LEO Meath Mentor Network Event held on 28th May in Buvinda House with LEO Meath mentors and speakers including Mark Attenborough, Enterprise Ireland and Deirdre Parkinson, MicroFinance Ireland.

Evaluations and Approvals Committee (EVAC):

2 grants were approved at the June meeting of the EVAC, with 2 jobs associated with the grants approved. There was one application approved under the Enterprise Ireland Agile funding programme.

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur – County & Regional Finals:

The Meath County Final of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) took place on 2nd May in

Dunboyne Castle with 15 Meath young Entrepreneurs competing for the county title. The winner and runner up in each category were announced (Best Business Idea, Best Start Up, Best Established Business), along with the Overall County Winner. The winners of which progressed to the Regional finals. The Regional Final Awards of the Competition took place on Wednesday 12th June. Regional development of finalists included mentoring, pitch development, business case developments, as well as networking opportunities. LEO Louth and LEO Cavan will now progress and represent the region in the National finals in September.

BREXIT Preparatory Programme

Brexit Customs Workshops held on 20th May and 18th June:

LEO hosted Brexit Customs Training workshops in May and June to help business owners understand how increased customs regulations which may impact their business. Workshops were carried out by Lorna Kelly from BDO Exports and took place in Buvinda house. These practical interactive workshops were attended by circa 40 business owners from all over county Meath. The main aim of the workshop was to help business owners minimise their customs risks and become aware of the compliance responsibilities they face once the UK leaves the EU.

BREXIT Institute Seminar: BREXIT Institute Seminar attended on 14th June in DCU at which their 2nd BREXIT report was launched and discussions took place surrounding post BREXIT Europe and details around SME preparatory requirements and potential impacts.

Primary School Enterprise Development Programme:

LEO Meath hosted the Business Showcase for the Primary school Enterprise Development Programme in Scoil Naomh Eoin on the 30th of May. The programme included participation from 15 schools across the county including Scoil Naomh Eoin, St. Stephen's NS, Lismullen NS, Navan Educate Together, St. Joseph's Mercy, Navan, Gaelscoil Eanna, Bohermeen NS, Newtown NS, Scoil Naomh Pio Knockcommon, St. Michael's NS, Coole NS, Ballinlough NS, O'Growney NS Athboy and Dunsany NS. The Enterprise Development Programme consisted of workshops on idea generation, making a product or providing a service, learning how to market a product, manage finances and write a business report. The workshops were delivered by Lena Shaw, Corporate Vision. The programme aims to inspire the next generation of young entrepreneurs in Meath. Three pupils from each participating school exhibited their business at the Showcase in Scoil Naomh Eoin, Navan. The standard was extremely high, leaving the judges with a very difficult decision. The overall winners were "Origami Animal Kingdom" from Lismullen National School.

Food Academy:

A regional Food Academy programme (Meath, Louth, Kildare and Longford) was completed on Thursday, 13th June with 7 finalists from the 13 participants, pitching their business to Supervalu. The event was hosted in the Navan Education Centre by LEO Meath.

LEO Meath Client Marketing Campaign:

LEO Meath completed a marketing campaign showcasing previous LEO Meath clients and their businesses including Qualitas, What's for Pudding, BSG Design, and Hexafly. The project is part of the National Making it Happen campaign.

Meath Women in Business Seminar

The fourth and final seminar in the current programme with the theme, 'Under Construction – it's a Womans World' took place in BoAnn Distillery on 23rd May with guest speakers Sally Anne Cooney, Marketing Director at Na Cuana & Aileen Twibill, Works Accountant at Irish Cement. The seminar reflected on two Meath women who currently hold management positions in traditionally male dominated industries. The Meath Women in Business network is a collaboration between LEO Meath and Meath Chambers of Commerce.

LIT Meet the Buyer Event:

LEO Meath Food Producers, LEO team and Boyne Valley food producers (Listoke Gin, Clarke's Fresh Fruit and Veg, What's for pudding and Dan Kelly's Cider) attended the LIT Meet the Buyer event on 23rd May. A host of Irish and UK buyers including Aldi, Lidl, Tesco, Nisa and Bartlett Mitchell, amongst others were in attendance and collaborated with producers.

Showcase 2020:

LEO Meath clients will exhibit at Showcase 2020 with the assistance of LEO Meath. Nominations were sought from clients to participate. Showcase is Ireland's Creative Expo, presented by the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, which showcases homeware, giftware, fashion, jewellery, accessories, and other products.

Retail Excellence Ireland's Friendliest Place: Slane Celebration:

A celebratory event took place on 24th June in Slane Hub to commemorate Slane holding the title as Ireland's Friendliest Place for 2019. At the event, Slane's Friendliest Place plaque was unveiled and a Slane video, which the Council commissioned, was showcased, highlighting Slane and the Slane retailers who helped to secure the coveted title for the village.

Public Libraries

Kells Library – Refurbishment

Kells library re-opened to the public on the 11th of June and it was officially opened by Cllr. Seán Drew, Cathaoirleach of Kells Municipal District on the 17th of June. The library has been totally refurbished and now has two new meeting rooms, an extended lending area, and public and staff welfare facilities. A range of new ICT equipment is now available including tablets, display screens and the fully operation self-service kiosk. Wi-fi is now available throughout the branch. These new services are in addition to the core services of 10,000 items of stock available for lending and SurfBox the self-service printing and scanning facilities.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Trim library was at the heart of Meath County Council's participation in the annual day of free creativity for children and young people on Saturday 15th June. This is part of the Creative Ireland programme and the day was jointly programmed by the library and arts service. The library hosted thirteen events. Almost 1,600 visits were paid to the branch over the course of the 11 hour day as the library also acted as a hub for the events in three other locations in town. Sixteen library staff worked various segments of the day as the programme was rolled out seamlessly. The organizers were rewarded for their creativity and hard work as RTE covered the Trim events on the main 6 One evening news.

My Open Library – Trim

The system is operating very smoothly and demand is high for membership of the new service. Eight hundred and sixteen visits were recorded over the June Bank Holiday weekend as students made good use of the facility as they engaged in final preparations for the state exams.

Summer Stars

All branches launched *Summer Stars* on Saturday 15th June .This is an annual reading programme which promotes children’s literacy and reading development. It takes place during the summer months and focuses on encouraging children to develop and continue the reading habit during their school holidays.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

2019 Anti Dumping Initiative

Under the Anti Dumping Initiative, Government funding is provided to Local Authorities who, in collaboration with local community groups and other state agencies, arrange for the cleanup of locations which are subject to continual dumping. The scheme is somewhat expanded this year and includes support for measures which tackle unauthorised waste collectors and ‘man in the van’ type operators who advertise their services on social media outlets to collect waste from households without any waste collection permit, and often resulting in the waste being deposited in scenic areas around the County.

MCC have been approved for 7 projects at a total cost of €87,000 and includes Kilcarn Court Railway Walk Navan , Bohermeen Bog, Naul & District, Bracetown Clonee, Mobile CCTV systems and Bulky Waste collections. These projects have to be completed by the end of September 2019.

Anti Dumping Campaign – Mattress Collection Days

As part of the Council’s successful Anti Dumping Campaign 3 Mattress collection days were held in the Navan , Kells and Trim Recycling Centres during the month of May – in excess of mattresses 700 mattress were collected some of which otherwise have been illegally deposited.

Waste Presentation Bye Laws.

The Council at the October 2018 full Council meeting adopted the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-laws. These Bye Laws which have also been adopted by all other local authorities are primarily intended to give additional powers to Local Authorities to target persistent offenders who do not have appropriate arrangements in place for waste disposal provide for a number of enforcement provisions including fines and fixed penalty notices. Every household must be able to prove that they have a contract in place with an authorized waste collector or that they regularly use a civic amenity site or recycling centre.

The Regional Waste Management Plan Offices commenced a national awareness campaign on the 20th June in respect of the bye-laws comprising national and local radio advertisements, newspaper notices and leaflets and through social media including on the mywaste.ie platform.

Anti-Litter Initiative 2019

30 Meath Schools were awarded Green Flags by An Taisce Green Schools in May.

River Basin Management Plan 2018 -2021

The River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 was launched on the 17th April 2018 and outlines the measures the State and other sectors will take to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters over the next four years. The 726 water bodies including 9 in County Meath form part of a total of 190 Areas for Action which have been prioritised nationally for particular attention.

A regional integrated Catchment Management Programme for the Midlands and Eastern region was published earlier in the year. It sets out the areas prioritised for action and the schedule for commencing works by recently established Catchments assessment teams. Public consultation evenings have been held in respect of proposed works for the Kilmainham Dee & Moynalty Rivers and the Boycetown River near Dunsany/Kiltale.

Climate Change

Meath County Council commenced work on the preparation of a Climate Change Strategy in 2018 and incorporating a local adaptation strategy as required under the National Adaptation Framework published in January 2018.

A draft strategy was the subject of public consultation last year and in light of requirements to carry out Appropriate Assessments (AA) is currently the subject of further public consultation until the 17th July 2019. The procurement of Consultants to carry out such assessments was done by the Local Authority Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) whose main role is to formulate Regional Adaptation Plans and to act as advisors to local authorities on preparation of their own local plans.

The Climate Action Strategy titled "Making Meath Climate Ready" sets out eight thematic areas where action will be taken and drawn from areas within Meath County Councils control -these thematic areas are Economy, Mobility, Built Environment, Clean Energy, Resource Management, Water, Natural Resources and Planning. There are objectives and specific actions (circa 135 actions) listed for each thematic area and with indicators and owners being assigned against each action.

The draft Strategy and supporting documentation can be viewed at <https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/draft-local-authority-climate-change-adaptation-strategy>

Provision of Slipways – River Boyne and Blackwater

An Bord Pleanála by order dated 26th November approved the planning application and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the provision of the boat slipways and construction of access thereto on the River Boyne and River Blackwater. The Consultants engaged by the Council on the project, have completed the detailed design for the five locations involved and tenders from Contractors for construction stage are currently being assessed.

It is anticipated the construction phase involving in stream works will take place in the period July to September 2019 and with the slipways being ready for use shortly thereafter.

Draft Beach Management Plan

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



Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive.

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