



**comhairle chontae na mí**  
*meath county council*

# **Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members**

**Monthly Management Report**  
**July 2020**

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 a very challenging time for the Council, the county and the country more generally.

This report is being provided for your information and consideration. It gives an overview of how the Council is continuing to expand its provision of essential public services during the current period of Covid-19 restrictions.

The implementation of Phase 3 of the Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Businesses on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> has seen a significant further opening up of the Council's facilities and public counters and an expansion in service provision. An up-date on Council services is provided in this report. We are not yet back to pre-Covid service levels but as we approach Phase 4 there is an increasing level of service normality returning, but with all of the necessary public health restrictions in place.

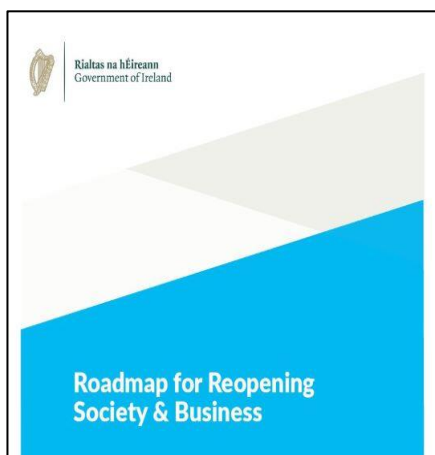
Our Return to Work Plan and the new working arrangements in place for staff across the organisation is working well but it does bring some challenges in terms of new ways of working and ensuring continuity of service delivery.

The formation of a new Government on June 27<sup>th</sup> is welcome and the Programme for Government contains a number of references to local authorities. The Covid-19 crisis and how we as a country emerge from it will be the focus for the new Government in the coming weeks, months and years and the local government sector awaits some key announcements in terms of its financing but also the role that the sector will play in realising future national objectives.

Thank You,

**Jackie Maguire**  
**Chief Executive**

## Implementing the Roadmap for Reopening



### **Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business**

On Monday, **June 29**, Phase 3 of the Government's **Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business** commenced. This saw the re-opening of the Council's public counters for the first time since mid-March, as well as, a number of other changes in the level of service provision by the Council.

### **Meath County Council Return to Work Plan**

The Council's Return to Work Plan to protect customers, employees and to minimise the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace continues to be implemented, with all modifications of the workplace and the public areas of

Council facilities now in place. The new roster for office based staff is in place and working well, with the majority of staff now enabled to work remotely, where required.

The Council will continue to assess the public guidance as it is issued and all measures in place will be reviewed in light of changing guidance where appropriate.

### **Update on Meath County Council Services**

The third phase of the Roadmap saw an expanded level of public service provision by the Council. Set out below is an up-date on some of the key services and the current level of provision.

#### **Re-opening of Public Counters**

Meath County Council has re-opened its buildings to the public from Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, as follows:

<b>Service (June 29 – July 3)</b>	<b>Opening Hours – Monday to Friday</b>
Customer Service Counters (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm
Municipal Civic Offices	9am-1pm
Cash Desk (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm
Planning Counter (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm and 2pm-4pm
Motor Tax	counters remain closed

The hours of business will be expanded in the week beginning Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> as follows:

<b>Service (from July 6)</b>	<b>Opening Hours – Monday to Friday</b>
Customer Service Counters (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
Municipal Civic Offices	9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
Cash Desk (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
Planning Counter (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm and 2pm-4pm
Motor Tax	9am-1pm

The Council has put in place a number of measures to ensure physical distancing and compliance with public health guidance. This includes limiting the number of people accessing our buildings at any one time. We thank members of the public in advance for their cooperation with Council staff in implementing these arrangements.

We continue to encourage the public to conduct their business with the Council, where possible, online or via phone (046 9097000) or email: [customerservice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@meathcoco.ie)

### **Beaches and Beach Facilities**

Following discussions with An Garda Síochána, the barriers remain in place at the main Bettystown entrance and at the Delany's entrance preventing vehicular access to the beach.

The Council is examining a means by which more limited parking can be facilitated on this beach and particularly an area where people with disabilities and older people can be accommodated.

An agreement has been reached with Colaiste na Hinse whereby the School Car Park can be used for in excess of 200 cars and facilitating access to the beach at Brookside Lane in less than a five-minute walk. Signage in respect of this facility will be put in place.

The Council's Beach Management Plan contains an objective for the phased removal of cars from the beach but subject to the identification of alternative car parking in the area and in this regard, work is underway to identify sites for such alternative parking.

The restrictions preventing access to car parking at the Mornington (Lady's Finger and Maiden Tower) and the Laytown car parks in Laytown at Netherville terrace have been removed.

The Beach Life Guards and the Life Guards commenced their duties on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The public toilets in Bettystown and Laytown are open with all the necessary health and safety precautions being put in place.

### **Car Parking**

Council On-Street and Off-Street pay parking fees remain in place for Navan, Trim and Kells.

As the various phases of the Government's Roadmap to Reopening Society and Businesses are implemented, traffic and footfall in the town centres will increase. The focus of the traffic wardens will be to ensure an adequate turnover of traffic to facilitate customers or key workers wanting to access the increasing range of businesses reopening.

The following measures commenced on June 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- Temporary COVID incentive (June 22<sup>nd</sup> to phase 4 of the Roadmap for Reopening Business)

There will be a 15 mins observation period without a charge prior to the commencement of the pay and display period and a 30 mins observation period without a charge provided after the expiry of the pay and display period.

- Following the roll out of the last phase of the Reopening of Society and Business Plan (currently scheduled for July 20th) – There will be a 15 mins observation period without any charge prior to the commencement of the pay and display period and a 15 mins observation period without any charge after the expiry of the pay and display period.

These observation periods are in addition to the parking incentives currently in place.

## **Commercial Rates**

### **Restart Grant**

Following the impacts of Covid19 on the business sector, including many business closures the Government has launched a Restart Grant which will give direct grant aid to micro and small businesses to help them with the costs associated with reopening and re-employing workers. The scheme is open from Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Minimum grant available is €2,000, maximum grant available is €10,000.

Further details available in the FAQ document on our website [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) or email: [restartgrant@meathcoco.ie](mailto:restartgrant@meathcoco.ie) Applications can be submitted on-line at <https://consult.meath.ie/en/applications>

### **Rates Waiver**

Meath County Council in line with the recent Government announcement will be waiving commercial rates, for a 3 month period beginning on 27th March 2020, for all businesses that have been forced to close due to public health requirements.

To arrange your rates waiver please contact [ratesfinance@meathcoco.ie](mailto:ratesfinance@meathcoco.ie) or contact your Rates Account Manager.

Businesses that can continue to pay their outstanding local authority rates should continue to do so in the normal way.

## **Community Services**

### **Covid-19 Support Line**

The operation of the community support line continues. The free-phone number is 1800 808 809 and it is available between the hours of 9am – 5pm, 7 days a week.

### **Community Centres**

The Unity Centre, Windtown, Navan is closed.

### **Community Grants**

The 2020 Community Grants scheme was approved at June Full Council Meeting and successful applicants notified. Any queries on the grants can be forwarded to [communitygrants@meathcoco.ie](mailto:communitygrants@meathcoco.ie) or contact Community Section on 046-9097000.

For any other Community related queries please forward to [community@meathcoco.ie](mailto:community@meathcoco.ie) or contact Community Section on 046-9097000.

### **Customer Services**

The Council is advising customers to only call to its offices where essential. Anyone wishing to transact business can do so by telephone (046 9097000) or email: [customerservice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@meathcoco.ie)

While there are restricted hours of operation at the public counters, the Customer Services team will continue to be available to take calls during normal working hours, Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm.

The out of hours emergency line (1890 445 335) will also operate as usual.

### **Dog Shelter**

The Meath County Council Dog Shelter located at Greenpark, Dunshaughlin saw a return to normal services from July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **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.

### **Social Housing and HAP Applications**

Social Housing and Housing Assistance Payment applications will be accepted by post or through the post box at Buvinda House (Council Headquarters). All applications continue to be processed.

### **Homeless Services**

Homeless services can be accessed through the regular customer service channels during office hours. The out of hours number will operate as normal

### **Maintenance**

Maintenance continues to be dealt with on an emergency response basis only.

### **Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability**

Grant inspection activity will recommence with effect from June 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Housing Projects**

Meath County Council's four direct construction sites have all reopened, with construction activity taking place in line with public health guidelines and other relevant health and safety regulations and protocols applicable to the construction sector.

## **Housing Rents (Finance Department)**

The Housing Rent charged by Meath County Council is based on Household income and calculated under the Differential Rent scheme. If a tenant's income is reduced as a result of Covid-19 then their rent will decrease to reflect their changed circumstances – similar to normal procedure.

As the situation continues to change in the coming weeks tenants should contact the Rents section where they will be given a revised amount of Rent to be paid. A formal rent review will follow when the Covid-19 situation improves.

If any tenant has any concerns regarding rent they should contact [rentsfinance@meathcoco.ie](mailto:rentsfinance@meathcoco.ie).

## **Libraries**

Libraries in Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Kells, Navan and Trim are now fully open for browsing. The branches are open 9am -1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

Libraries around the county will continue to reopen on a phased basis and all updates concerning reopening schedules will appear on social media.

## **Motor Tax**

The Motor Tax Counter (in Buvinda House) is closed until Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Motor Tax renewals should be done on-line: [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie) or alternatively you may post your completed application form and supporting documentation, if required, to Meath Motor Tax, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 Y291 (please note that it is not advisable to send cash in the post, payment by debit / credit card, cheque, postal order or bank draft is preferable).

## **Parks and Playgrounds**

### **Playgrounds**

All playgrounds reopened on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian, who are required:

- To bring their own hand sanitiser for the cleaning of their children's hands before, at regular intervals during, and after use of the playground equipment. In the absence of such sanitation parents or guardians are requested to refrain from allowing their children use of the equipment.
- To ensure physical distancing between children.
- To advise children to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.

- To ensure children under your care have regard to the safe use of equipment and to the safety of others at all times.
- To adhere to the most up to date health advice.

### **Blackwater Park**

Blackwater Park in Navan has reopened to all members of the public. All parks and car parks at parks are now open but visitors are advised that physical distancing must be adhered to.

### **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 (the Council's Headquarters), by calling: 046-909 7000 or email: [planning@meathcoco.ie](mailto:planning@meathcoco.ie) (including File reference no.). Customers may have to wait and work with the measures in place to facilitate physical distancing and ensure customer and staff safety. We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience on this matter.

With the reopening of the Planning counter, applications and submissions can be made by hand. So that you do not have to wait, a dedicated post box will be located at reception. If you are unable to make payment by cheque, then please leave your contact details in the envelope and a staff member will contact you with regards to payment over the phone.

### **Planning Applications**

Please be advised that with the enactment of the Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid 19) Act 2020, a new provision (Section 251A) has been inserted into the Planning & Development Acts 2000 (as amended) which has implications for a number of planning related pieces of legislation. Further information is provided on our website here:

<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building>

### **Roads and Transport**

All services are available, but our work practices have been amended to comply with physical distancing and other public health measures. Meath County Council will continue to review service delivery in accordance with Government advice and any public health requirements.

### **Swimming Pools**

#### **Kells Swimming Pool**

Preparations are underway for the reopening of Kells Swimming Pool in mid-July and with all the necessary Covid 19 related measures put in place to ensure the safety of visitors and staff.



### **Navan Swimming Pool - Aura Navan Leisure Centre**

From Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>, customers of Aura Navan will have access to the gym and fitness classes. Re-opening of the pool along with the completed refurbished changing village will take place on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Aura Trim Leisure Centre**

From Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>, customers of Aura Trim will have access to the pool, gym and fitness classes. Full details can be found at [www.auraleisure.ie/re-opening](http://www.auraleisure.ie/re-opening)

### **Waste Collection and Recycling Facilities**

The Civic Amenity Sites at Navan, Kells and Trim are open Monday to Saturday (8.30am to 4.45pm). Visitors to the sites are required to observe the Covid 19 restrictions including social distancing.

The €2 entry charge to the three sites will be re-introduced from July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The operations at the three sites will be monitored on an on-going basis and changes made where necessary.

### **Water Services**

#### **Water Supplies**

Under an agreement with Irish Water, our staff continue to provide a full service in terms of water supply, wastewater treatment, maintenance of the system.

## Corporate Services

### Municipal District AGMs

All six Municipal Districts held their Annual General Meetings in the Chamber, County Hall, between June 9-19. The Chamber was used to facilitate physical distancing and provide limited access to the meetings by members of the press and public. All six agreed their schedule of meetings for 2020-2021 and elected the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach, as follows:

MD	Cathaoirleach	Leas-Chathaoirleach
Ashbourne	Cllr. Conor Tormey	Cllr. Suzanne Jamal
Ratoath	Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	Cllr. Gerry O'Connor
Laytown-Bettystown	Cllr. Tom Behan	Cllr. Elaine McGinty
Kells	Cllr. Paul McCabe	Cllr. Mike Bray
Navan	Cllr. Francis Deane	Cllr. Edward Fennessy
Trim	Cllr. Ronan Moore	Cllr. Joe Fox

### Customer Services

On Monday, June 29, public counters at Buvinda House and the Civic Offices were re-opened for Customer Service queries, payments at the Cash Desk and dealing with queries at the Planning Counter. While the Planning Department had enabled limited access to the public in recent weeks, the re-opening on June 29<sup>th</sup> marks a significant return to pre-Covid service levels. During the first week, counters were open from 9am-1pm each day. Opening hours will be extended in week two to 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, as well as a re-opening of the Motor Tax counters. A new queuing system and a number of other measures have been put in place to enable physical distancing and customers may have to wait in order to access buildings, where capacity has been limited.

**Community Call Support Line:** Customer Services led on the establishment of the new Community Call Support Line, which was operational from Monday, March 30. Members of the Customer Service team continue to handle the calls to the support line. In line with a national decision, the operating hours have been revised to 9am-5pm, Monday to Sunday. Since the Support Line was established, it has dealt with approximately 1,200 cases (calls and emails).

### Communications

**Video Series on Council Services:** The Communications Unit is continuing to produce a series of videos for the Council's social media accounts. The videos are intended to give an insight into the work of the Council's service departments and information on the various measures that have been put in place during the Covid-19 crisis.



The latest videos feature the work of the Environment Department and the National Age-Friendly Shared Service. Elected Members are requested to share these videos on their wn social media accounts.

**#InThisTogether:** In April, the Taoiseach launched a cross-government Wellbeing campaign - In This Together - which aims to help people to Stay Connected, Stay Active, and look after their Mental Wellbeing during the COVID-19 Emergency.

This is the second phase of the Community Call and local authorities play a key role. Much of the initiative is online based content. The Communications Team, working with other colleagues, has published a booklet to provide engaging content in line with the #InThisTogether initiative. The purpose of the booklet was to provide information in a more traditional format, especially for members of society that do not have access to the internet or do not engage in social media. The booklet has been distributed, by An Post, to every household in the county.



**#YourCouncilDay 2020:** The annual event to showcase the work and people of every council across social media, with the shared hashtag #YourCouncilDay, took place on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Given the Covid situation, the focus this year was on the resilience and impact of councils during the crisis. Councils were asked to propose good practice and the Meath Libraries service was chosen as part of the national campaign.

**Service Up-dates:** Up-dates on changes in service provision continue to be posted on the Council's website, as the phases of the Government's Roadmap are implemented.

# Housing Services

## Capital Programme

### Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>PROJECTS COMPLETED</b>				
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>28,108,186</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>				
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q3 2020
Kells	40	8,555,683	Q1 2019	Q3 2020
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q3 2020
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q2 2021
<b>Totals</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>20,515,176</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4,165,565</b>		
<b>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</b>				
Nobber	19	3,657,000	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3,657,000</b>		
<b>DESIGN PHASE</b>				
Farganstown	42	11,204,000	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Blackhill Cresent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q4 2020	Q3 2021
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	34	7,996,502	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	36	10,225,755	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>56,216,825</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>112,662,752</b>		

\* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

## 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
New Lane, Navan	Direct Construction	5	985,945
Athboy (Kildalkey Rd)	Direct Construction	20	4,135,500
Meath Women's Refuge	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	8	2,014,482
Newtown	Rural Dwelling (Disability)	1	237,718
<b>Totals</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>13,171,918</b>

## Summary of Current Funding Submissions

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Navan	Turnkey	26	6,255,445
Mornington	Part V	8	2,105,199
<b>Totals</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>8,360,644</b>

### 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](http://www.etenders.gov.ie). or via the following link on Meath.ie <http://bit.ly/EOIHouseSchemesAndOrLand>

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

Grants to the value of €1,039,038 have been awarded to 150 Households under the various grant schemes prior to Covid-19 restrictions. Grant inspection activity will recommence under Phase 3 of the Government's Roadmap to Reopening Society & Business, with effect from June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020. For the period from 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020, works were completed on 8 vacant units; while 5 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
<b>Ashbourne</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Kells</b>	5	7	5	9	***8
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	1	2	**2	5	0
<b>Navan</b>	3	1	**1	4	1
<b>Ratoath</b>	5	3	1	9	0
<b>Trim</b>	0	2	**2	4	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>

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

\*\*\*To be appointed to new Contractor commencing in Jul'20

## Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

Fourteen projects have been completed to date in 2020 (€103,605), with a further 12 task orders issued to contractors (to a value of €91,399).

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

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	Delivery
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Ardmore, Bettystown	1	North & East Housing	Complete - 2017
Royal Oaks, Enfield (Part V)	4	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Seabury Lawns, Mornington	6	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Kellets Grove, Dunshaughlin (Part V)	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Milltown Meadows, Ashbourne	67	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Emmet Street, Trim	11	North & East Housing	Complete - 2018
Dunville, Navan (30 units Part V)	64	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ceamach Close, Donacarney	16	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018)
Blackcastle, Navan	26	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Frederick Manor, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	5 Complete 2018/17 Complete 2019/ 24 Delivery Due 2020
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/15 complete Q4 2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete – 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – 2019
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2019
Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath (Part V)	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q2 2020
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Complete - 2019
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	20 units complete 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond	Complete – 2019
Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	Complete – 2019
Moyvalley, Longwood	13	Tuath	Delivery Due – Q2 2019
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	18 Complete/36 Delivery Due – Q2 2020
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	16 Complete/9 Delivery Due Q2 2020
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	2021
The Bungalows, Dunshaughlin	8	Circle	Q2 2020
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	29	Tuath	Q2 2020
<b>Total</b>	<b>717</b>		

## Homeless Services

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	106 (112 )	27 (38 Adults, 65 Children)	133
Of the 27 households with children, 16 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 7 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.			
<b>Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:</b> 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			

Some 64 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Two clients to date required placement in Isolation Units as suspected Covid-19 cases. There are currently no placements in isolation, with no recorded confirmed cases for County Meath to date

## **Social Housing Supports**

A total of 373 new applications for Social Housing Support was received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	115
Approved Housing Bodies	78
RAS	0
HAP	319
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>512</b>

## Planning Services

### **Planning Applications**

A total of 788 planning applications were received for the period 01.01.2020 to 24.06.2020. This is compared to 831 in the same period last year.

### **Development Contributions**

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of May 2020 are €3,497,481. This is compared to €4,472,193 in the same period last year. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

### **SID – Strategic Infrastructure Development**

The Council has received notification from Indaver regarding an application to An Bord Pleanála under Section 37(E) of the Planning & Development Acts of its intention to apply for planning permission for a period of 10 years in respect of development at the existing WtE facility in Carranstown, Duleek, Co. Meath.

Meath County Council awaits formal notification from An Bord Pleanála however details of the pre-application consultation are available on the Bord's website <http://pleanala.ie/> by searching case number 305252.

### **Heritage and Conservation**

The Heritage and Conservation Officers are currently responding to submissions and compilation of the draft Chief Executive Response for County Development Plan review. They are also providing ongoing advice to the local authority and the public on matters of heritage and architectural conservation – (e.g. pre-planning, planning referrals, section 57s and CDP).

**Irish Walled Town Network:** Heritage Council Grant funding awarded in 2020 goes to the: Kells Town Wall Conservation Management Plan (€12,000), (consultants on site from July 2, 2020) and Finding the Postern Gate, Blackfriary Trim (€5,500).

**Structures at Risk Fund for 2020:** County Meath has been allocated a total of €50,000. These include: €15,000 for the Bective Mill House and €35,000 for Bective Mill House.

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020:** County Meath has been allocated a total of €79,000, as follows:

- €7,000 – Newtown Cottage, Beauparc
- €13,000 – Nannywater Cottage, Laytown
- €3,000 – The Drogheda North Lighthouse
- €6,000 – Thatched House, Julianstown
- €9,000 – Staffordstown House, Navan
- €7,000 – Tobertynan Walled Garden, Rathmoylon



- €5,000 – The Old Post Office, Kells
- €7,000 – Headfort House
- €13,000 – Julianstown Community Centre
- €9,000 – St Columba’s Church, Colpe East

**Black Friary Monastic Garden Project** – (Funded through the Town and Village Scheme): Finalised the landscape plan, improved site facilities and infrastructure, new interpretation signage panels and preparation of site heritage guide.

## Transportation

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Archaeology contractor commenced works on site and will continue for 3 months. Site investigations contractor remobilised to complete works on site. Westmeath RDO drafting contract documents for main contract. Arup appointed as design consultant for the bridge design. Ecologist from ROD/AECOM appointed to carry out environmental surveys on site.
N2 Slane Bypass	RPS design consultants progressing Phase 3 in design and environmental evaluation. Topographical Survey Contractor appointed and to commence work on site in the coming weeks. Tender report been drafted by design consultants RPS in order to appoint Site Investigation Contractor. Tender competition running to appoint Geophysical Contractors
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Second public consultation to be held in the coming weeks. ROD/Aecom are liaising with Landowners and progressing Phase 2 - Options selection. Aerial Photography survey to commence shortly along study area.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Landowner meetings and Members briefing being arranged prior to publication of Part 8. Design consultants have completed all documents for the Part 8 process.
NS Resurfacing	N51 Cruicetown Carrickdexter resurfacing contract commenced on May 20 <sup>th</sup> – 6 week programme

### Non- National Roads 2020 funding from DTT&S - € 23,696,867

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	DTTAS approval received on June 23, regarding award of contract and formal licence agreement. Land acquisition from Department of Transport being finalised prior to contract award.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Formal application to An Bord Pleanála re Environmental Impact Assessment Report and CPO lodged – on display from early July
Schedule of Municipal District Works/Road Works Programme	Surface Dressing contract commenced May 20 <sup>th</sup> – weekly programme being circulated to the Members. Phase 1 – Restoration Improvement contract has commenced. 3 remaining contracts are at tender award stage

### Non- National Roads 2020 - Funding – Other than DTT&S

R154 Batterjohn Junction Safety Improvement Scheme	Realignment and resurfacing works substantially completed and scheme being snagged.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Works to tie-in at R125 Ashbourne Road commenced June 28 <sup>th</sup> - expected completion of RORR scheme Q3, 2020
LDR1b (R161 Trim Rd –N3 Kilcarn Link Rd)	Tenders for consultancy services received and reviewed and appointment of consultants expected in the coming weeks.

## Sustainable Transport Measures Grants from NTA Confirmed - € 5,877,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Contractor, John Cradock Ltd, has been appointed for Contract 2 of the Navan Town Scheme. Works commenced on site 22nd of June. The works include Abbey Road roundabouts, Bridge Street and the Bridge Street/Circular Road junction. Information note/newsletter issued.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	Documents for ABP application are currently under review for an anticipated submission in July.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Navan Section	Consultants appointed and desk studies have commenced.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Additional bus stops have been included in the design work and drawings for a Section 38 non-statutory public consultation are being prepared in advance of the anticipated consultation to commence in July.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	Tender documents for the appointment of Consultants issued
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Consultants, AECOM, appointed for detailed design work for the project. Design commenced Monday 22nd of June. Initial data collection phase commenced
Harlockstown Bus Stops	Design work underway bus stops and signalised crossing and associated footpaths on the R125 in Harlockstown.
Laytown Park and Ride	Design work ongoing on the upgrade of the car park. Site Investigation works completed. Draft tender documents received and under review.
Navan GDA Cycle Network	List of potential additional schemes to be advanced through preliminary design and planning stages issued to NTA for review.
Dunboyne Cycle Network	Review of preliminary design proposals and recent planning developments was undertaken.
Pedestrian Crossing at Ratholdren Rd, Navan.	Contractor Appointed. Works due to commence on 13th July

## Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

2020 Schemes	Road	MD	Status
Kells Town	R164	Kells	Contractor due to start in July
Athgaine Cortown	L2813	Kells	At tendering stage
Drumbaragh	R163	Kells	
Scottstown Gormanlough	R163	Laytown	
Minnistown Road	L5615	Laytown	Designed and finalising Landowner Agreements
SallyGardens Crossroads	L1625	Laytown	

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

## Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Construction works on the Roadworks Programme 2020 bridges commenced on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and are scheduled for completion on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Tenders for the repair of Annesbrooke, Skearke and Kearntown bridges closed on Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, whilst tenders for the repair of Clonard, Stoneyford, Anne's and Cornmill bridges are closing on Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup>.

The design of repairs to Kilmainhamwood and Donaghmore retaining walls and embankments, and for the repair of Danestown and Normansgrove culverts has commenced.

### Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Public Lighting Capital Programme</b>	2020 Programme of Capital Public Lighting Works – Quotations are being sought for 2 schemes – The Dales, Dunshaughlin and Newtown Cross (Ashbourne MD)
<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	<p><b>Navan MD</b> Clusker Park: Works Contract commenced 14<sup>th</sup> June. Accelerated programme with completion date of 1<sup>st</sup> July.</p> <p>Dean Cogan Place: Tender Award process is underway – Intention for works to commence by end of July</p> <p>Kilcarn Court Phase 2: Due to commence surveys by mid-July</p> <p><b>Kells MD</b> – Contractor in Kells town, completing works on Cross Street, Farrell Street and O Growney Terrace (Overall contract 90% complete)</p> <p><b>Ashbourne MD</b>– Works completed on Killegland Park - Contractor has moved to Hunters Lane approx. 75% of overall contract completed</p> <p><b>Trim MD</b> - Summerhill Village contract awarded; commencing June 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.</p> <p>Trim Town scheme tenders assessed and preferred contractor going through process of appointment.</p> <p>Enfield; Design works on footpath extension from Baynefield to Industrial Estate on-going. Approx 60% complete. Tendering to commence 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020</p>
<b>CIS &amp; LIS Programme 2020</b>	CIS and LIS works for 2020 are at tender award stage
<b>Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme</b>	Works progressing well since site reopened after Covid 19 restrictions. Road closure (between White Ash Park & Archerstown Rd) commenced on 25th May 2020 for approx. 7 weeks
<b>Pedestrian &amp; Cyclist footway on N52 Bypass, Kells</b>	Works progressing well since site reopened after the Covid 19 restrictions
<b>(DCYA) Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation 2020</b>	Clogherboy Playground Refurbishment – due to go to Tender by mid July
<b>Ashbourne Industrial Estate Refurbishment Works</b>	Contractor (Lakeland Civils) are 80% complete. Works include minor drainage, footway repairs, new bollards, public lighting, landscaping and junction re-surfacing. Double yellow lines will be added by MD contractor when civils works are completed - this has been approved via non-statutory Section 38 Public consultation with MD Member approval
<b>Oldcastle Pedestrian Crossings</b>	Contractor (S Wilkin & Sons) commencing works on Mon 29th June. Works are expected to take 2 weeks and includes 2 no pedestrian crossing with speed tables, minor drainage and kerb realignments

## Environment

### **Wells and Septic Tanks**

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has recently made changes to the grants for wells and septic tanks.

### **Domestic Waste Water Treatment Schemes (DWWTS):**

- Grants for DWWTS (National Inspection Plan) – The scheme that is currently in place and applies to an EPA developed National Inspection Plan to help identify domestic waste water treatment systems that are not meeting the expected standard.
- Grants for DWWTS (Prioritised Areas for Action under the RBMP) - New scheme where a treatment system serves a house that is situated in one of the 190 Prioritised Areas for Action set out in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (RBMP) and a letter has been issued by the Local Authority Waters Programme Office on behalf of the relevant local authority, confirming eligibility to apply.
- Grants for DWWTS (High Status Objective Catchment Areas under the RBMP) – New scheme where the treatment system serves a house that is situated in a High-Status Objective Catchment Area in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021

### **The main provisions of the schemes are as follows:**

Meath County Council may pay a grant to a person for the carrying out of remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of a DWWTS that is deemed, following an inspection, to require such works. The treatment system requiring attention must have been registered by the owner by February 1, 2013, or in the case of treatment systems constructed or installed after this date registration must have been completed within 90 days of connection.

The requirement for a means test is removed, with the introduction of a uniform 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. Grants will not be paid towards the normal costs of ensuring a system is working properly e.g. maintaining, servicing or de-sludging a domestic waste water treatment system.

Full details on the grants can be viewed at [www.meath.ie/council/council-services/drinking-water-and-waste-water/waste-water/domestic-septic-tanks](http://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/drinking-water-and-waste-water/waste-water/domestic-septic-tanks)

### **Well Grant Scheme – Main Provisions**

The Well Grant is for boring a new well, upgrading an existing well or installing a treatment system for a private water supply to a house where that water supply does not meet the quality standards in the Regulations or the quantity supplied is insufficient to meet the domestic needs of the household.

The house is occupied by the applicant as his or her normal place of residence; and the house is not connected to, and cannot reasonably be connected to, Irish Water or a Group Water Scheme.

The house has been fully constructed for more than seven years, and a grant has not been paid for the provision of, or improvement to, a water supply to the house under the scheme within the previous seven years.

Maximum grant for rehabilitation works is 85% of the approved costs subject to a maximum of €3,000 or for the provision of a new well 85% of the approved costs subject to a maximum of €5,000 - there is also a treatment works grant of 100% where the works are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in the Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000.

***An initial inspection has to be carried out by Meath County Council prior to any works being done.***

Full details in respect of the Well Grant Scheme can be found at [www.meath.ie/council/council-services/drinking-water-and-waste-water/drinking-water/water-grants-and-subsidies/well-grants](http://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/drinking-water-and-waste-water/drinking-water/water-grants-and-subsidies/well-grants)

### **Primary Waste Activities – impact of Covid 19**

The re-configured Roadmap with Phase 3 commencing on June 29<sup>th</sup>, enables a gradual return to normal activities for the waste sector, predominantly driven by the resumption of commercial and small and medium enterprise activity. Disposal rates at landfill continue in line with expectations and REPAK report that packaging waste volumes are up 5% year on year. Local Authority Civic Amenity Sites are fully operational and are experiencing increased volumes particularly with waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). It is anticipated that this will subside after the backlog, built-up due to the restrictions, is processed.

With regard to construction and demolition waste and the resumption in construction activities, the Regional Waste Management Offices continue to monitor Inert, Non-Hazardous, Non-Inert and Hazardous Construction and Demolition Waste arising. Operators anticipate that 2020 activity will be approximately 60% of the 2019 activity. There are no capacity deficits anticipated to the end of 2020.

### **Water Safety**

Beach Lifeguards are now in place for the bathing season at Bettystown Beach.

### **Green Schools**

A total of 20 Meath Schools have been awarded Green Flags at a virtual Green Schools Awards event hosted by An Taisce.

### **Green Coast**

Mornington Beach has been awarded the Green Coast Award in recognition of excellent water quality, high environmental standards and community involvement.

## Community

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The LCDC met as scheduled on June 26, 2020.

### **LEADER Programme 2014-2020**

The LAG

### **The Covid Community Response Forum**

The next meeting of the Community Response Forum is scheduled for July 9, 2020.

Under the #inthistogether initiative, a booklet is being delivered to all homes in the county which will set out local programmes being provided by Meath County Council including by the library, Meath Age Friendly, Meath Local Sport Partnership and Heritage.

### **Age Friendly County programme (AF)**

Meath Age Friendly continues to liaise with the Older Persons Committee (OPC) through zoom meetings. The first OPC newsletter was circulated to the committee and through the PPN. An Acorn Tablet designed for older persons was donated to residents in Athboy Nursing Home.

### **Public Participation Network (PPN):**

Meath PPN team is continuing to support the Community Call groups. Most of the groups are still in operation and are able to continue to support the most vulnerable in our community. All 1000 PPN member groups will be asked to complete a survey this month to carry out an assessment of their needs in order to become operational. Following this, Meath PPN will provide the necessary training and supports.

### **Joint Policing Committee (JPC)**

The next JPC Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, September 14, 2020.

### **Carranstown Grant Scheme**

The annual awards night is scheduled for July 30, 2020.

### **Knockharley Grant Scheme**

The Liaison Committee met on June 25, 2020.

### **Comhairle na n'Og**

The Comhairle are continuing to connect both locally and nationally through technology. Monthly meetings are being held on Zoom, however Youth Work Ireland Meath is working on face-to-face meetings in line with government guidelines.

### **National Broadband Plan- Broadband Connection Points**

Two additional Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) have been confirmed in Meath - Drumree GAA club and Meath GAA's Games Development Centre in Dunganny.

Vodafone has been appointed the Retail Service Provider for the BCPs. It has committed to delivering up to 60 sites nationwide by the end of July 2020 and all Phase 1 sites by the end of the year.

### **CLÁR 2020**

Measures 1 and 2 Expressions of Interest for the CLÁR scheme had a deadline of Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. These will be assessed and suitable applications prepared for submission to the DRCD.

### **Town and Village 2020**

Expressions of Interest for Round 2 of the Town and Village Accelerated measure and the Standard Town and Village Scheme are to be submitted to the Community Section by Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 for assessment and applications will then be prepared for submission. 5 applications can be submitted under round 2 of the accelerated measure and 6 applications under the standard scheme. Five applications were submitted under round 1 of the Town and Village Accelerated measure.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020**

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will provide funding under 3 separate measures:

- Measure 1: Small Scale repair/Promotion and Marketing (grant up to €20,000).
- Measure 2: Medium scale repair/upgrade and new Trail/Amenity Development (grant up to €200,000).
- Measure 3: Large scale Repair/upgrade and new Strategic Trail/Amenity Development (grant up to €500,000). Project applications are submitted via the Local Authorities under all Measures.

Expressions of Interest are now being sought for projects under all measures and must be submitted to [community@meathcoco.ie](mailto:community@meathcoco.ie) by Monday August 31, 2020.

### **Community Enhancement Programme**

The 2020 Community Enhancement Programme was launched June 22 by Minister Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development. Meath has been allocated €62,883. There will be flexibility to use this fund on COVID-19 related capital expenditure, where this is a priority.



## Libraries Service

### Overview of Services

Public Libraries are continuing to offer more services to the public as outlined in the various phases of the Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business. However, it will be some time before full library services can resume.

Services are being provided to the public in a step-by-step manner in line with public health guidance.

The five busiest branches in the county Navan, Trim, Ashbourne, Dunboyne and Kells commenced offering a 'Contact and Collect' service from June 8. Staff and services were concentrated at these locations as this allowed the service to reach 75% of library users.

Navan library was one of the first libraries in the country to re-open for browsing on June 17, and the other 4 main branches transitioned to browsing by June 29: (Ashbourne and Trim by June 22 and Dunboyne and Kells by June 29).

Further branches will come on stream as local circumstances allow. Duleek is a priority given the absence of any library service in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District. In all situations, the health and safety of library users and staff will be paramount. Social distancing will be observed where library users interact with services, and all health and safety protocols will be observed.

Online services will continue to be available as the county moves through the re-opening phases. It will be 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.

### Cruinniú na nÓg

The Cruinniú na nÓg Meath team delivered an exciting range of activities for children, young people and their families to get involved in on June 13, as Meath celebrated the national day of creativity for young people. The programme was devised and delivered online through a dedicated Meath Cruinniú na nÓg YouTube channel by the Library and Arts Services.

Online workshop highlights included – *Brickflicks; Creative Writing with Oisín McGann; Little Pack O' Tailors & Turas Scoile Traditional Song with Aileen Lambert; Make a Floral headdress with Saraden Designs; Everyone is a Translator with Juliette Saumande; Michael Brunnock song writing workshops with Act Out Youth Theatre; Code with Ciara and Illustration with Tarsila Krüse!!* Some of these

workshops took place in the run up to June 13, adding value to the programme and stimulating interest in the events.

*Online events included* Meath Musical Mystery Tour with Kids Classics, Me & Molly & Moo read by Deirdre Kinahan; STEM messy fun with Toodlelou: A series of short science experiments videos with Dr Brain of Funbelievable Science; Stories and crafts as Gaeilge with Sadhbh Devlin: Screening of two short films and filmmakers Q&A with Act Out Youth Theatre; Irish History Live with Michael Moylan and screening of #WeAreAllinThisTogether short film by Act Out Youth Theatre members.

### **Traveller Genealogy Project**

Meath County Council Library Service received funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2019, through the Dormant Accounts fund, to devise a project aimed at marginalised and disadvantaged communities. It was decided to organise and run a Traveller Genealogy project. Travellers are very interested in their own ancestry and family history but encounter particular difficulties in research. Official records often do not exist, know-how on research methods and on accessing repositories is absent and literacy skills can also be a barrier.

Library staff worked with the Navan based Meath Travellers Workshop and with author and historian, Dr Liam McNiffe, to plan and devise six teaching sessions at which participants from Meath and Galway attended for 3 hours each time.

In addition to gaining practical genealogy research skills, Travellers learned the value of oral history recording, mapping Traveller routes and campsites, collecting and preserving old photographs, collecting Traveller artefacts, and recording their songs and recitations. This enhances Traveller equality and ethnicity values.

A full colour course manual, including all 6 sessions, course tips and advice, and photocopiable pages for family trees, has been produced. A training DVD is included with each manual which will guide both tutor and participant through each teaching session ensuring detailed understanding of the content.

The initiative enabled the library to reach community members who do not routinely use the service. Social inclusion has taken place and the understanding of discrimination and inequality gained by all involved will foster increased inclusion. Director of the Meath Travellers Network, Michael McDonagh, has stated that the positive impact of this initiative on Traveller self-esteem and, consequently, on their mental health is hugely significant. Empowering a Traveller group with knowledge and teaching skills instils pride, fosters personal identity and underpins recognition of unique ethnicity.

Quotes from participants include:

*"I never realised how valuable of a resource the library is, the amount of history and information that is available to us. I am much more aware of it now."*

*"This was a fantastic, eye-opening experience."*

*"What started off as a 6 week programme developed into a powerful resource of information that can be used for future generations of Travellers and country people."*

*"Thank you sincerely for allowing us to be part of our history, and allowing our voices to be heard."*

### **Summer Stars Reading Adventure 2020**

Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children that runs from June 15 until the end of August. All children throughout the country are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Given the restrictions in place around events the programme will be delivered online.



Activities for Summer Stars 2020:

1. **Summer Stars BorrowBox:** Browse, borrow, read and listen to the Summer Stars collection of children's e-books and e-audio books through the library's BorrowBox app. This is free for all members to use from anywhere, anytime. Non-members can join online for free at <https://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library>.
2. **Online Storytime:** Summer Stars storytime will be delivered by local library staff and Irish authors including chapter-a-day readings from books, available through local library social media pages and via [www.meathlibraries.ie](http://www.meathlibraries.ie) and [www.summerstars.ie](http://www.summerstars.ie).
3. **Story Competition:** As well as enjoying the amazing worlds of books, Summer Stars is also celebrating children's imaginations by running a short story competition, *An Unexpected Adventure*. There are three age categories with great prizes for all the winners and runners-up.

## Arts Office

### Arts Office – Period of Restrictions

The Arts Office continues to adapt and respond to the circumstances presented by Covid 19. It has adopted a proactive approach in re-imagining the 2020/21 Arts Programme and is currently engaging with creative partners, artists, groups, organisations and the greater creative community. It has also engaged with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Arts Council in its Covid Response development.

### Cruinniú na nÓg – June 13<sup>th</sup>

This national initiative run in partnership with Creative Ireland and RTE is programmed and managed by the Arts Office and the Library Service in Meath.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2020 was successfully moved online with over 40+ events taking place for children and young people 2 – 18yrs. The programme encompassed a wide range of activities and disciplines – Arts, Heritage & STEM - and contained a balance of passive and interactive events. Some events took place on the day only, others had a workshop/engagement element running over a six-week lead in time to Cruinniú.

The newly established dedicated Cruinniú na nÓg Meath YouTube channel received 1541 views with a total view time of 75.3 hours between June 12 – 14. One of the Meath Cruinniú programme commissions – *Traditional Song workshops by Aileen Lambert* – has since been included as part of the RTE Summer Hub section on the RTE 'Home School Hub' webpage <https://www.rte.ie/learn/2020/0616/1147791-a-summer-of-traditional-song-workshops/> The full Cruinniú programme is available at [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

### Meath Cruinniú na nÓg 2020

## EVENTS PROGRAMME

**Cruinniú na nÓg 2020, Ireland's national day of free creative activities for children and young people takes place on Saturday June 13th.**  
Meath County Council Arts Office & Library Services, supported by the Meath Creative Ireland Programme, have put together an exciting range of activities for children, young people and their families to get involved in. All events are fun, free and creative and available online so you can enjoy and take part from the comfort of your own home!

Full details available on MCC Facebook & Twitter, and at [www.meath.ie/events](http://www.meath.ie/events) <https://cruinniú.creativeireland.gov.ie/> and a dedicated Meath Cruinniú na nÓg YouTube channel



**13 June 2020**

Buachaill na Míreann  
Governance of Meath **RTE** Clár na nÓg  
Creative Ireland  
Programme **CI** comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



Some of the initiatives from the successful Cruinniú na nÓg 2020

### On-line content

The *Theatre Tuesday* readings by playwright Deirdre Kinahan; *Ceol Comfort* music series and the *Toradh Thursday* visual arts exhibitions are being updated/added to weekly. These initiatives are intended to provide alternative means of supporting those artists and creatives who have seen their

work, performances and engagements cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future, whilst providing greater access to the wider community to quality creative and cultural experiences.

Viewing figures for this initiative are strong with very positive public response. All the artists under the initiatives above are being paid a fee for their work or for rights to broadcast.

**Bealtine:** As on site events had to be cancelled due to Covid 19 a number of *Bealtine At Home* events took place online including the Mary Clarke exhibition Silent:Listen.

**Music Generation Meath:** On-going discussion and liaison is taking place with Music Generation Meath regarding the re-adapted roll out of the programme in the Covid 19 context.

**Festivals:** The Arts Office is working with its creative partners in the Hinterland Festival & Type Trail regarding alternatives to this year's programme. A Hinterland Virtual Festival took place on June 27–28 with programming input from the Arts Office. [www.hinterland.ie](http://www.hinterland.ie)

**Toradh Galleries 1 & 2:** Plans for the reopening of the two art galleries in Kells and Ashbourne are underway with exhibitions planned for July- August.

## Economic Development

### Introduction

Since the start of the Covid19 crisis the Local Enterprise Office and the Economic Development Department have been at the forefront of supporting small and micro businesses in the county.

### Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Several significant new initiatives have been introduced by the Government, and the LEO has been very actively promoting them to the business community, with excellent results. 576 Business Continuity Voucher applications, with a value exceeding €500,000 have been received from local companies.

LEO Meath has also been allocated 390 Trading On-Line Vouchers, with a value of almost €1 million – this is twice the national average on a county-by-county basis. Applications for these vouchers are currently being processed.

Over 60 companies have received direct one-to-one Covid19 mentoring, along with over 400 companies availing of the new on-line training programmes. These initiatives are in addition to the Re-Start grants currently being processed.

Facebook made available a very generous grant of €250,000 for small businesses in the county effected by the Covid19 crisis. The funding was administered by the Meath Chamber and supported by the LEO. Over two hundred grants were approved in recent weeks.

### Overview of Activity

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	30
Business Continuity Vouchers Approved	100
Training Participants	60
Grants Approved	6
Trading Online Vouchers Approved	49

### Economic Development

**Remote Working Hubs:** There has been increasing interest in the infrastructure required to support remote working. Work is progressing with the Digital Hub in Dunshaughlin and design for a future Innovation Hub in Navan. Scoping work is continuing for additional remote working centres across the county.

**Forward Planning – Future Investment:** Close working with Forward Planning Department has highlighted the need for a database of all vacant properties/green field sites in the county for potential investors. In excess of 40 estate agents have been approached to make links and to be

added to their database for contact when property opportunities arise. Staff are also developing a pro-active framework for approaching potential clients and investors.

## Finance Section

### Commercial Rates

The Restart Grant Scheme commenced on May 22, 2020 and is in full operation. 1042 applications have been made, 865 of these have been paid to a value of €3.5m. (as of 26<sup>th</sup> June). Those remaining require further information or a very small number where the application has been refused, withdrawn or duplicated.

Regarding the 3 months Rates Waiver Scheme, this waiver will be applied to rates accounts once the exact details of the scheme and processes are known.

### Housing Loans

The 3 month mortgage payment break has been applied to 36 loan accounts, there may be a further update on this scheme shortly.

An update from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is awaited to address the present criteria of 2 years continuous employment in relation to Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans applications. This has a great impact on prospective applicants due to the Covid 19 situation.

<b>Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 25th June 2020</b>	
<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>359</b>
<b>Applications Returned</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>125</b>
	<b>341</b>
<b>Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase (includes restructuring)</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>No of customers in MARP</b>	<b>34</b>

### Rents

Meath County Council operates a Differential Rents Scheme, where notified of income reduction or increase a tenants rent is adjusted accordingly in line with this scheme.

### Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR)

The level of applications for certificates remains constant, all issued within the 14 day limit, once the application is in order.