

## Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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

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## Meath County Council

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March, 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
<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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13,107,535</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>				
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	N/A	Q1 2019
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	N/A	Q2 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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>26,422,642</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q1 2019	Q1 2020
The Belfry, Trim	3	560,000	Q1 2019	Q3 2019
Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9,093,185</b>		

<b>DESIGN PHASE</b>				
Nobber	19	3,657,000	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
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 Crescent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Church View,	9	1,719,002	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
<b>Totals</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>38,350,546</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>86,973,908</b>		

\* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

▪ **Summary of Approved Part V/Turnkey Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	Approved Budget €
Ratoath	Part V (Delivered)	6	1,601,868
Ashbourne	Part V (Devivered)	5	1,275,070
Dunshaughlin	Part V	5	1,252,818
Navan	Part V/Turnkey (62 Delivered)	70	16,298,033
Dunshaughlin (1)	Part V	9	1,800,356
Duleek	Part V	5	1,228,113
Dunshaughlin (2)	Part V	9	2,336,034
Kilmessan	Part V	3	673,544
<b>Totals</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>26,465,836</b>

▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions to the Department**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Kells	Carrick Street (Vacant units (19) & back land development (30))	49	10,225,755
<b>Totals</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>10,225,755</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. 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 currently being completed, with a view to publication in Q1 2019.
- 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.
- **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
Frederick Manor, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q1 2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Qtr 1 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Delivery Due – Qtr 1 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Delivery Due Qtr 1 2019
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	4 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q4 2019
Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath (Part V)	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q1 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/15 Delivery Due Q2 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	-
Dunville, Navan	5	Tuath Housing	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>453</b>		

#### Acquisition Programme

- 4 sales have closed and 18 Acquisitions are at contract stage to date in 2019

#### Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 7 projects completed to date in 2019 (€43,931)
- 7 projects ongoing (€54,461)
- 8 task orders issued to contractor (€51,908)

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

- 88 Grants have been approved to date in 2019, to the value of €742,978

#### 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019. For the period 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019, works were completed on 9 vacant units; while 7 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	1	0	0	1	0
Kells	4	2	3	8	1
Laytown/Bettystown	2	1	0	2	1
Navan	1	2	0	3	0
Ratoath	4	1	0	4	1
Trim	2	1	1	4	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>

#### Homeless Service

- Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements 2019

Emergency Accommodation	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st January 2019	74 (79 Adults )	21 (32 Adults,45 Children)	95

Of the 21 households with children, 12 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

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	18
Approved Housing Bodies	42
RAS	0
HAP	68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>

## TRANSPORTATION

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	CPO confirmed on 2nd October 2018 – Formal TII approval received to commence land acquisition. Preparation of NTT documents ongoing. Archaeological Geophys survey commenced and further GI, Topographical Survey and Archaeological testing expected later this year.
N2 Slane Bypass	Route options being assessed. Public Consultation re Emerging Preferred Option expected February/March 2019
N2 Rath to Kilmoon	TII approval to progress Planning & Design received, consultants being procured.
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	Design stage 95% complete. Landowner negotiations ongoing ( Progress report expected by end of February 19). Environmental reports ongoing.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Topographical surveys completed. Ground Investigation, Archaeological Geophys and Agronomy surveys to commence on emerging preferred route shortly.
N51/R147 Junction Navan	TII funded safety scheme. Contractor appointed. Works expected to commence Qtr 1 2019

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

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	Detailed design ongoing.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Preferred route alignment and preliminary design progressed along corridor B1. Liaison with landowners commenced. Geophys (archaeology) tender docs prepared.

**Schedule of Municipal District Works – passed by all 6 Municipal Districts at the February meetings.  
Contracts will be going to tender now to progress the 2019 Roadworks programme.**

### 3. Sustainable Transport Initiatives – 2019 grant allocation from NTA to be confirmed

GDA Cycle Network Design Navan (Fairgreen to Johnstown) & GDA Cycle Network Design Navan (Proudstown Rd to Trim Rd Route)	The proposed scheme was on Part 8 display until 24 <sup>th</sup> of January and submission deadline was the 7 <sup>th</sup> February. Approximately 65 No. individual submissions were received and these are currently being reviewed. A Planners report is to be drafted for the March Navan MD Meeting.
Cantilevered Bridge – New Bridge, Athlumney Road (R153) Navan	Outstanding landscaping works (topsoiling and seeding) in Cllr Andy Brennan Park postponed due to weather. Works to be completed next month (subject to weather conditions)

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Design work for Scheme ongoing. Suitability Assessment Questionnaire issued on Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February through OEJU and ETenders. Intended to shortlist on SAQ submissions and invite a maximum of 7No. to tender for a section of the works in order to form a Framework of up to 4 contractors for the remaining of the project.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	Further meetings held with a number of affected property owners from Mornington. Meeting scheduled for 1 <sup>st</sup> of March with Louth County Council to review designs and agree planning approach for proposed scheme. Design work ongoing and planning documents being finalised. MCC Transportation to give presentation to Councillors at March meeting.

#### 4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Scheme		Road	MD	Status
Clondoogan	2018	R156	Trim	Complete
Glascarn	2018	R155	Ratoath	Complete
Knockbrack, Oldcastle	2019	R195/L 68197	Kells	At design stage.

#### 5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Bridge Name	Road	MD	Status
Cusackstown Bridge, Walterstown	L10011	Ashbourne	Works Complete
Snipes Bridge	L-28014	Kells	Works Ongoing

#### 6. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Public Lighting Capital Programme</b>	2018	Construction works 80% complete.	
	2019	Programme of Capital works as follows	
		<b>MD</b>	<b>Location</b>
		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		
<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	2018	<p><b>Ratoath MD</b>—Contractor has commenced works on Main Street, Dunshaughlin on 18/02/2019.</p> <p><b>Kells MD</b> - Tender for some paths on R164 and Maudlin Street in Kells out on Supply Gov website with a tender due date on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Design works commenced for Turry Meadow, Athboy. Repairs works identified for Carnaross.</p> <p><b>Ashbourne MD</b>—Works scheduled for 2018 for Garden City are complete. Works on Garden City for 2019 have been surveyed. Survey carried out on paths on the R135 at Topaz Garage and tender documents preparation commenced.</p> <p><b>Trim MD</b> –Tenders received and evaluated for works on Newhaggard Road. Appointment of contractor has commenced.</p> <p><b>Laytown/Bettystown MD</b>—Assessment of potential contractor for works at Laytown has commenced. Works due to commence in March.</p>	
<b>Community Involvement Scheme</b>	2019	List of Roads for 2019 programme being assessed and landowners will be written to	

(CIS)		by early March
Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2019	Remainder of selected schemes for Round 2 funding 2018 will be progressed. List of 2019 schemes to be confirmed.
Harlockstown Footpath & Bus Stop Scheme	2018	Part 8 on Display from Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> to Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> 2019 and submission deadline is 04 <sup>th</sup> March
Royal Canal		Final 4km section of the Greenway from Ferrans Lock to Cloncurry under construction. Works to be completed by June 2019.
County Meath Special Speed Limit Bye-Law		New Special Speed Limit Bye-Law for county Meath adopted at the December 2018 full council meeting. New speed limits to come into effect in April 2019. Contractor appointed for signage supply/installation.

## FINANCE

<b>Loans Data 1st January 2019 to 13th February 2019</b>	
Applications Received	<b>23</b>
Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency	<b>1</b>
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	<b>5</b>
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	<b>17</b>
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	<b>4</b>
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	<b>20*</b>
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	<b>0</b>
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	<b>6</b>
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	<b>13</b>
Drawdowns for Restructuring Loans	<b>1</b>
No of customers in MARP	<b>37</b>
Credit Committee cannot assess applications until Capital Allocation from Dept is known	<b>*</b>

## PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

### Planning

- Planning Applications  
 The number of applications received in the period 01.01.2019 to 17.02.2019 was 149 which is the same number received for the comparative period in 2018.
- Development Contributions  
 Development Contribution receipts for January 2019 were €793,378 compared to €520,700 in same period last year.
- Vacant Sites Levy

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019, a fee of €500 will be applied by An Bord Pleanála in relation to appeals made under sections 9, 11 or 18 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. Appeals relate to the Local Authority placing sites on the Vacant Site Register.

Meath County Council's register can be found at

<http://www.meath.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/VacantSitesRegister>

There are currently 18 sites registered in accordance with the legislation. Two of which have appealed the decision to An Bord Pleanála.

- Strategic Infrastructure Development

303211 – Applicant – Knockharley Landfill Ltd.: for development described as further development within the existing Knockharley Landfill on a 135.2 hectares site in the townlands of Knockharley, Flemingstown and Tuitearath. Navan, County Meath –for discussion on agenda under statutory business.

303568 – Applicant – Highfield Solar Limited.: for development described as proposed electrical substation and associated 110kV and MV infrastructure required to connect ground mounted solar PV generation to the electrical transmission system, underground cabling and all associated ancillary site development work at Gillinstown, Duleek, Co. Meath – for discussion on agenda under statutory business.

303678 – Applicant – SSE Generation Ireland Limited.: for development described as Air insulated switchgear 110kV transmission substation at Carranstown and Caulstown, Platin, Duleek, Co. Meath.

## **Community**

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

The next meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019.

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

A meeting of the LAG took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019.

### **Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)**

Continue to liaise with agencies and partners to progress actions within the LECP with a quarterly report presented to the LCDC February meeting.

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

Meath is part of a pilot with Limerick and Fingal through Age Friendly Ireland to test a tablet specifically designed for older persons. 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop took place on 13<sup>th</sup> February in Trim and Kells to cater for 30 older Persons taking part. The next workshop is on February 26<sup>th</sup> again in Trim and Kells.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

The next full JPC meeting took place on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Sub Committee meetings took place on 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **Public Participation Network**

There are currently 652 member groups. The plenary took place at the end of January and was well received. Presentations were given by the Charities Regulators Office and Community Section. The workplan for 2019 was adopted by the membership. Work on the website is continuing and will have membership information available on completion. Training took place for the PPN committee representatives. A survey will be carried out to get feedback from all committee representatives on their experience. Training is being rolled out on the development of a wellbeing statement for Meath.

### **Ashbourne Linear Park**



Works progressing in zone 4 of the park. These will be completed by early summer.

### **Pride of Place**

The Schools Pride of Place gardening scheme launched with closing date of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

### **The Community Grant Scheme 2019**

The Community Grant Scheme for 2019 was approved by the SPC on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February and is now open for applications; the closing date is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### **The Community Amenity Project Scheme 2019**

The new Community Amenity Project Scheme 2019 was launched on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February; the scheme is open to applications for projects that can include the development of sporting, recreational, environmental, amenity, heritage and cultural facilities. The minimum project application is €10,000 with a maximum project application of €100,000 per Municipal District per annum. The closing date is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### **National Community Event 4th - 6th May 2019**

This is a new national event which will be a celebration of the great spirit of community that exists across the country and in an effort to help people who share communities to come together, get to know each other and deepen the sense of community in their area. Events could be centred round food, sport, the environment, health, heritage, culture, family fun day, etc. and will take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend 4th - 6th May 2019. Grants of up to €500 will be available to groups. The closing date is Friday 15th March 2019.

### **REGIONAL FESTIVALS AND PARTICIPATIVE EVENTS 2019**

This is a Fund of €11,000 provided by Fáilte Ireland and will be distributed by Meath County Council among qualifying applicants. Funds amounts are directly related to the numbers of overseas visitors who attend the event. Scheme now open for applications with a closing date of March 15<sup>th</sup> 2019.

### **CLÁR 2018**

Works near completion on all projects.

### **Carranstown Grant Scheme**

The next ICLC Meeting is due to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 when the report on applications received will be considered.

### **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 11 projects awarded funding are completed apart from the 2 National Schools which are subject to additional classroom construction.

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018**

Works are ongoing on the various projects approved in 2017.

Communications have issued to each of the successful groups under the 2018 scheme and we are liaising with them to commence each project.

### **Healthy Ireland Fund scheme 2018**

The five applications under Strand 2 Healthy Ireland projects 2018 submitted are progressing and due for completion by end of March.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018**

Works due to commence on projects under this scheme under Measure 2 and Measure 3.

### **Community Enhancement Programme 2018**

Majority of claims have now been submitted and paid out.

## **Digital Strategy**

The public consultation to identify the key priorities for the Meath Digital Strategy was opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and will remain open until the 15<sup>th</sup> March. All Councillors are invited to make their contribution and to share with their own networks and followers.

## **The Mobile Phone and Broadband Task Force**

The Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce Implementation Review 2018 was launched on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The report identified actions completed by the Local Authorities and identified new actions for 2019.

## **Enterprise**

### **Economic Strategy Implementation**

#### **Actions 1 2 & 3: Internal & External Engagement**

- **Asia Relations**
  - Asia Matters: Annual Membership renewed for 2019
  - Chinese Delegation: MCC hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Education of China National Centre For Educational Technology. The delegation was here to explore potential future investment opportunities. They were briefed on the advantages of Meath as a great business location under the #MakeItMeath campaign & given related marketing brochures.
  
- **Commitment for Sponsorship of events:**
  - Leinster Fleadh under #makeitmeath
  - World Kettle Bells Championships under #makeitmeath

#### **Boyne Valley Food Strategy:**

- **AGM:** Took place on Tuesday 23rd January – a very successful meeting.
- **LMFM Slots:** Tara Walkers' yearlong series on LMFM, promoting Boyne Valley Flavours Producers, aired early February.
- **Failte Ireland – Ireland's Ancient East -VEDP Workshop:** took place in the Knightsbrook Hotel on 30<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Wexford Group visits Boyne Valley:** A group of food producers & food tourism personal from Wexford visited the Boyne Valley region on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Food Series 2019:** A piece was published in the RTE Guide, Taste Ireland Magazine on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Leinster Fleadh 2019:** Request for a Food tent showcasing local food producers across the weekend. Food Development Officer to recruit producers for this event.
- **Digital Marketing / PR:** A tender for Digital Marketing and PR for Boyne Valley went to Blas Marketing. They were identified as being most economically advantageous for this project.
- **Producer Map:** Plans to develop a map showcasing all the local producers across Louth and Meath, map will be used in line with the Food Series and the Place on Plate initiative.
- **Producer Meeting:** First meeting of 2019 took place 26<sup>th</sup> February. Discussion with the producers about plans and goals for the year ahead.

#### **Economic Development**

A Social Media campaign relaunch for #makeitmeath has been established and work is also underway in other areas such as:

- A tender is currently being reviewed for issue for expressions of interest in the design for ATB's on 3 sites identified in Kells Drogheda & IDA Navan.
- Communication is ongoing re: sale of site in Eamonn Duggan industrial Estate Trim. Decision to be made by end of month
- Work is underway to investigate the benefit of running a marketing campaign for the available sites in the industrial parks.

#### **Local Enterprise Office (LEO)**

- **Mentoring assignments:** 6
- **Online trading Vouchers:** 2
- **Business Advice Sessions:** 28
- **Training**
  - 30 TOV Seminar
  - 24 SYOB
  - 5 Data protection for small businesses
- **Evaluations and Approvals Committee:**
  - 5 grants approved
  - 11 jobs associated with grants approved.
- **IBYE:** Marketing campaign and applications progressing well. Applicants aged 18-35 (as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019) are invited to apply ([www.ibye.ie](http://www.ibye.ie)). March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline date for a chance to share the Meath investment prize fund of €50,000.
- **Enterprise Week:** Agenda is set and work underway in preparation for Enterprise Week which runs from the 04<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March incl. The topic for the conference on 5<sup>th</sup> March Knightsbrook Hotel is “Driving Innovation in The Digital Age”

2019 got off to a very strong start with over €470,000 from grant funding in 2018 being committed to 37 start-up and expanding companies in County Meath. This follows some excellent employment statistics for 2018, which showed that grants approved in the year contributed to almost one hundred new jobs being created in the county, to add to the 1255 people employed in 255 LEO supported companies. Also in 2018 almost 900 business men and women participated in over forty six training programmes and over 300 companies availed of specialist one-to-one mentoring. Brexit continues to be a major focus of the LEO, with 200 companies attending various LEO led events. Of particular note are the 117 individuals who participated in the eight LEO Start Your Own Business training programmes that were offered throughout 2018.

#### **Action 7: Marketing**

- **Social Media Campaign**
  - ED has taken over the management of all social media accounts with a noted increase in Facebook followers (97 to 457)
  - A new instagram page has also been launched.
- **Make it Meath Exhibitions & Events Schedule**
  - The schedule for 2019 events has been finalised.

- **Eurozone Summit:** ED attended the Eurozone summit in the Convention Centre Dublin
- **BREXIT:** Economic Development team attended the Brexit Summit & Food & Drink Business Expo
- **National Enterprise Week**
  - Promotional flyers were included in the 4,800 Rates Demand bills issued this month

## **Public Libraries**

### **My Open Library – Trim**

Eighty members have now been inducted to Trim MOL. The system is operating very smoothly and demand is high for membership of the new service. Induction training for new members is continuing with sessions booking up very quickly. The open evenings and induction training will continue each Tuesday and Thursday for the foreseeable future.

### ***Seachtain na Gaeilge***

Beidh léacht againn san Uaimh le Dr. Lesa Ní Mhunghaile – The Irish Language in Meath 1700 – 1900.

The lecture will take place in Navan library on the 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm and it is being organised in partnership with Navan & District Historical Society.

### **Kells Library – Refurbishment**

As works have now progressed the branch will close for a period of time to allow for complete re-ordering and redecoration of the branch. The branch will be closed from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March until after Easter.

### **Slane Library – Refurbishment**

Work is nearing completion in Slane with the service now due to re-open on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

### **Funding to support the establishment of public libraries as digital learning centres and enablers of digital services**

Installation and commissioning is ongoing of the *Hublets* the complete and ready to use self-service solution to offer tablets for lending in public libraries. The service will be introduced at Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Navan and Trim. The product keeps the tablets organised, charged and up to date. With the cloud-based management tool, Hublet Manager, it is possible to easily control and pre-define tablet contents. The product was first introduced through the public library system in Finland in 2016.

## **ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING**

### **Election Posters**

In recent months, the Environment Department has received both complaints and enquiries in respect of the erection of election posters and public event advertisements. Such enquiries have included suggestions that a ban be put in place on the erection of posters for the Local and European

Elections to be held in May of this year in certain locations, and specifically in areas of heritage and tourism as well as where tidy towns and other environmental groups are particularly active.

While the erection of posters do have environmental and visual impacts and particularly cable ties left in place for many years after the event, it is pointed out that the introductions of such bans would require a protocol to be agreed locally by candidates or political parties, on a voluntary basis - all new candidates would need to be made aware of such a protocol. It is submitted that fewer election posters would be in keeping with the Council's draft Climate Action Strategy.

It is pointed out that posters may only be erected for a certain specified time period before an election -this time period is either (a) 30 days before the poll date or (b) from the date the polling day order for the election has been made, whichever provides the shorter period of time. The posters have to be taken down within 7 days of the election.

The Council introduced an event signage policy some years ago and providing for an application procedure for non-commercial one off events and which accords with the Litter Management Plan 2015- 2017 – this application procedure which is used by sporting, cultural and community groups etc provides for consent for the erection of one off events posters and subject to certain conditions including timeframes as to when the posters can be put up and taken down . In line with the Policy, signage is only ever permitted in Meath on approach roads into urban areas within speed limit areas but not within town/village centres. The signs should not be erected upon roundabouts, or affixed to any traffic signs or traffic lights, or block visibility of road users.

It is pointed out that Public Meeting advertisements are not subject to the Event Signage Procedure but fall under Section 19(7) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Signage must clearly state the words "Public Meeting" in order to comply with the Act.

### **Anti-Litter Initiative 2019**

Details of the Council's Anti-Litter Initiative 2019 have been announced and encouraging residents to become involved with local groups in trying to achieve a high standard of cleanliness in their local area. While it is not a competition there is a grant for those that achieve high standards over the two months. This initiative will take place in March and April and will overlap with the National Spring Clean (An Taisce) which runs for the month of April. Judging will begin on 19<sup>th</sup> March, and there will be two rounds of judging. Points will be deducted for the presence of litter and there will be a score for general appearance. All groups who take part will be entitled to a start-up pack which includes gloves, bags and litter pickers. We will arrange to assist with the collection and disposal of litter and waste collected from public areas

### **Anti Dumping Campaign**

As part of the Council's successful Anti Dumping Campaign, which in particular utilises social media platforms to discourage members of the public from giving their household waste to unauthorised waste collectors, a number of further environmental initiatives are to be held in 2019 –these include:

- A free couch recycling day was held in Navan Recycling Centre—in excess of 400 couches were dropped off on the day – the next event will take place in Trim Recycling Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> March
- The Regional Tidy Towns Conference was held in Trim in February and with 440 people in attendance.
- Funding provision made in 2019 estimates for each Municipal District to fund Community and Estate clean ups and removal of household type bulky waste

- Further sites which are subject to continuous dumping to be cleaned up as part of the 2019 Anti Dumping Initiative
- A continuation of the Man in the Van campaign in 2019

### **National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2019**

The National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee have agreed the following as being the priorities for 2019

- ✓ Illegal Activity and Unaccounted for Waste –tackling significant illegal waste activity and where a multi Agency response is required –Illegal dumping and unauthorised movements of waste will be targeted under this priority.
- ✓ Construction and Demolition Activity and Capacity Challenges – activity that can address current capacity challenges including roll out of Brown Bins & enforcement of Construction and Demolition waste activities.
- ✓ Dealing with sites containing illegally deposited waste –sites which contain waste that has been deposited without authorisation

### **River Basin Management Plan 2018 -2021**

The River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 was launched on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Plan, in fulfilment of requirements under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), is to result in the protection and improvement of water quality in approximately 726 of Ireland’s 4,829 water bodies 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 during this cycle (2018–2021) and where a multidisciplinary and cross-agency approaches will be involved.

There has been a rebranding of the Local Authority Water Community Office (LAWCO-lead authorities Kilkenny County Council and Tipperary County Council) to the Local Authority Waters Programme Office which incorporates the Communities Office and the recently established Local Authority Catchments Team who are made up of Scientists of different backgrounds who will be undertaking scientific assessments and driving the identification and roll out of mitigation measures at a local level in the 190 areas for action including 28 Areas assigned to the Midlands and Eastern Region. Various other groups are being put in place also including an Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme Group made up of Teagasc and Dairy Industry professionals.

A regional integrated Catchment Management Programme for the Midlands and Eastern region was recently published and setting out the areas prioritised for action and the schedule for commencing works by the Catchments assessment team and how communities and other stakeholders will be engaged with and included. Such engagement for Meath commenced with a public consultation evening held in February in respect of proposed assessments on the Kilmainham Dee & Moynalty Rivers which are two of the nine priority areas for action in the County. Further consultation is proposed in May in respect of assessments for the Boycetown River near Dunsany/Kiltale.

### **Climate Change**

As the Members will be aware the Council appointed Consultants to (1) prepare a Climate Change Strategy, (2) to provide input into Climate Change considerations in the draft County Development Plan and (3) to provide data for inclusion in a Sustainable Energies and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) which will form part of the application for Membership of the EU Covenant of Mayors Scheme. A draft Strategic Plan and accompanying documentation was the subject of public consultation in 2018 and submissions from members of the public and other stakeholders were considered.

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 are currently procuring Consultants to carry out Appropriate Assessments (AA) in respect of the provisions of the Adaptation Plans and due to the advanced status of the Meath Strategy this will be one of the first plans to undergo such assessment before full adoption of same.

The Council have submitted an application to Kildare Co. Council who are the lead Authority for Eastern & Midlands Area, in respect of a possible partnership arrangement in assisting in the roll out of a CARO work programme over the next five years.

The Environment Department are currently procuring specialists in Video production to create a promotional video in respect of Climate Action and supporting the contents of the draft Climate Action Strategy –the video production will be closely linked to the Make it in Meath business initiative. Proposals in respect of a joint initiative with a local group in Batterstown to develop an energy master plan are at an advanced stage.

#### **Provision of Slipways – River Boyne and Blackwater**

By order dated 26<sup>th</sup> November An Bord Pleanála approved the planning application and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the construction 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, are as part of the next phase proceeding with detailed design for the five locations involved and preparation of the necessary documentation for the tendering out of the construction stage.

#### **Draft Beach Management Plan**

Councillors at the February Laytown Bettystown Municipal District meeting agreed to accept the findings of the draft plan and recommendations there from. They noted 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 ultimate approval of which come before the full Council following the statutory consultation process. Arrangements are now being made to have the proposed revisions to the Bye Laws placed on public display.



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**Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive.**