

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

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Meath County Council

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March, 2020

Don/ Cathaoirleach agus ball den Comhairle

Item 7.1 - Chief Executive's Report

Dear Councillor,

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

HOUSING

Capital Programme

▪ Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PROJECTS COMPLETED				
Bettystown (Phase 1)	16	3,437,478	Complete	N/A
Athboy (Phase 1)	32	8,850,320	Complete	N/A
Proudstown Road	4	819,737	Complete	N/A
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	Complete	N/A
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
Totals	121	28,108,186		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q2 2020
Kells	40	8,555,683	Q1 2019	Q2 2020
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Lagore,	26	5,813,948	Q4 2019	Q1 2021
Totals	94	20,515,176		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				

Donore	21	4,165,565	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Totals	21	4,165,565		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Nobber	19	3,657,000	-	-
Totals	19	3,657,000		
DESIGN PHASE				
Farganstown	42	11,204,000	Q4 2020	Q1 2022
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q3 2020	Q1 2021
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	34	7,996,502	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
Totals	189	45,991,070		
GRAND TOTALS	444	102,436,997		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Dunboyne	Part V	10	2,025,748
Athboy (Kildalkey Rd)	Direct Construction	20	4,133,500
Totals		30	6,159,248

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. Documentation for Part 8 Design process has been prepared. Further clarifications required prior to Departmental Stage 2 approval to proceed to Part 8.
- Alverno Court - Part 8 Planning Permission in place. Scope of project has been revised and total estimate of all in cost currently stands at €4,807,972. Budget approval from Department has been increased from €3,458,329 to €4,150,329, with self funding also to be provided in

order to advance scheme to the next stage. Individual surveys on the units concerned have been conducted by Architect team in preparation of tender documents. Contract documents are awaited from the design team.

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

- 128 grants approved to date, to the value of €893,426

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 5 projects completed (€19,465)
- 12 task orders issued to commence projects (€105,994)

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 21st February 2020. For the period from 17th January 2020 to 21st February 2020, works were completed on 4 vacant units; while 12 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	3	0	0	2	1
Kells	9	5	0	10	4
Laytown/Bettystown	2	**1	0	3	0
Navan	9	0	**1	10	0
Ratoath	7	0	0	7	0
Trim	3	1	**2	6	0
TOTALS	33	7	3	38	5

**Note: Significant works needed including 3 no. undergoing major renovations aiming to upgrade BER rating to B2.

▪ **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 – Q4 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	5 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete –Q1 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – Q1 2019
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2020
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – Q2 - 2019
Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath (Part V)	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q4 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Complete - 2019
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – 20 units complete 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond!	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	Complete - 2019
Moyvalley, Longwood	13	Tuath	Delivery Due – Q2 2020
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	Delivery Due – Q1 2020
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee	Delivery Due – Q1 2020
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	16 Due Q4 2019, 9 due Q2 2020
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	TBC
Total	680		

Homeless Service

- **Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements 2019**

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st January 2020	91 (94)	21 (30 Adults, 46 Children)	112

Of the 21 households with children, 9 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the 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

- 10 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 2020

Social Housing Supports

- 87 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 2020.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January 2020.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	24
Approved Housing Bodies	21
RAS	0
HAP	52
TOTAL	97

TRANSPORTATION

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Topographical Proof Survey complete on site. Advanced Tree Felling Contractor appointed & on site. Bat survey and Ecological Clerk of Works appointed and on site.
N2 Slane Bypass	Phase 2 Options Selection complete. Received TII approval to proceed to Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Phase 1 –Concept and feasibility complete. Received TII approval to proceed to Phase 2 - Option Selection. First public consultation to be held within next couple of weeks.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Part 8 documents currently being finalised by our design consultants.
N2 Slane Approaches	Substantially complete. Snagging ongoing
N2 Primatestown	Substantially complete. Snagging ongoing
NS Resurfacing (various locations)	N52 complete. N51 Navan – Slane works complete.

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

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	CPO statutory notices issued to landowners. Tender competition underway for the main construction contract. Advance works/hedge clearance to commence shortly.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Environmental reports and CPO documentation currently being finalised and checked re application to An Bord Pleanála expected Q1 2020.
Schedule of Municipal District Works	Full Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2020 was presented at all MD meetings in February.

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

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

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Paving works continuing on the western side of Railway Street towards the roundabout. It is envisaged that kerbing and paving works will be substantially complete by the end of February, and road closures are scheduled for the 2 nd & 3 rd of March (8pm to 6am) to facilitate road pavement construction and line marking works. New public lighting has been erected at the Brews Hill junction and alterations made to a number of public lighting poles and new LED lanterns installed on Railway Street. Discussions ongoing with landowners re Park & Ride site (Liscarton). 4 No. tender submissions have been received for Contract 2, Abbey Road roundabouts (2 No.) and Bridge Street and the Bridge Street/Circular Road junction.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	Consultants have updated their Preliminary Design and issued it to the Ecologists for review.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Consultant appointed and design work commenced. Topographical survey completed, data processed and issued to the Consultants.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	All 12 bus shelters installed and substantially completed.
Ratoath Cycle Network	It is envisaged that the Pedestrian & Cycling Improvement Scheme will go on display in March 2020.

4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

2020 Schemes	Road	MD	Status
Kells Town	R164	Kells	Design Stage
Scottstown Gormanlough	R163	Laytown	Design Stage

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

5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Works have commenced on Ballyfallon and Castleparks Bridges. Both scheduled for completion in early to mid March. Tenders due in for the Bridge Roadworks Programme 2020 by the end of February. Designs on-going for Clonard, Stoneyford, Anne's, Cornmill, Annesbrooke, Skearke and Kearntown Bridges.

(DTT&S Grant Allocation outlined above includes €547,500 for Bridge Rehabilitation for 2020)

6. Other Actions/ Projects

Public Lighting Programme	Capital	2019	2019 Programme of Capital works commenced – 90% complete	
			MD	Location
			Ratoath MD	Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin
				R155 - Fairyhouse/Tattersalls, Ratoath
			Laytown/Bettystown MD	L1610 Abbey Road out to Balsaran School, Dule
				Newtown National School

		Ashbourne MD	R135 to Business Park Entrance, Ballymadun Road, Ashbourne	
		Trim MD	R148 Enfield Inner Relief Road, (R148 link from roundabout on R402 to R148 Clonard Road).	
		Navan MD	The Bull, Market Square, Navan	
		Kells MD	R162 Village to Muff Crescent, Nobber	
	2020	2020 Programme of Capital Public Lighting Works being finalised		
Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	2019	<p>Ratoath MD–Clonee: Footpath rehabilitation site works commenced on Monday 10th Feb 2020.</p> <p>Navan MD – Robinstown Village: 100% complete Bohermeen - Hillgrove: 80% complete Kilcarn Court Phase 1: Due to commence 27th Feb 2020 Clusker Park: Due to go to tender at end of Feb. Commence works in April Dean Cogan Place: Q3 2020 Clonmagadden Road: Q3/Q4 2020 Kilcarn Court Phase 2 : Q4 2020 Navan Town Centre: Ongoing where required.</p> <p>Kells MD – Works approx. 75% complete on Carnaross Village</p> <p>Ashbourne MD– Contract for works on Killeglad Park and Hunters Lane currently being awarded. Site works due to commence on the 4th April 2020</p> <p>Laytown/Bettystown MD– Works approx. 75% complete in Fr. Ryan Park Duleek.</p>		
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) & Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2020	<p>CIS Allocation confirmed for 2020 at € 661,000</p> <p>No announcement of LIS funding for 2020 as yet.</p>		
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme		Glas Civil Engineering Ltd has commenced works on site		
Oldcastle – Pedestrian Crossing		Letter of (Tender) Acceptance issued to preferred contractor		
Shared Pedestrian & Cyclist footway on N52 Bypass, Kells		Tender assessment has been completed for the construction of 1.4km shared footway facility on the Town side of the N52 Bypass in Kells. Tender award is in progress.		

FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 24th February 2020	
Applications Received	347
Applications Returned	16
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	3
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	328
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	6
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	5
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	206
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	111
	328
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	130
No of customers in MARP	34

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Planning

- Planning Applications
158 planning applications were received for the period 01.01.2020 to 16.02.2020. This is compared to 150 on the same period last year.
- Taking-in-charge
The following developments will go on Public Display from Monday 17th February in all Municipal District offices and online on www.meath.ie along with the various MCC social media platforms. They will remain on display until Wednesday March 18th, and the period for submissions or objections will close on Wednesday April 1st.

Development	Municipal District
Highfield	Kells
Roseville	Laytown / Bettystown
Philpotstown	Navan
Larrix Mews	Laytown / Bettystown
Foxbury	Laytown / Bettystown
Beacon View	Laytown / Bettystown
Abbey View	Trim
The Cairns	Kells
Eastbury	Laytown / Bettystown
Ard Na Boinne	Trim
Ard Na Greine	Navan
Moynalvy Manor	Ratoath

- Development Contributions
Development Contribution receipts for January 2019 are €530,012. This is compared to €793,378 in the same period last year. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)
- Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026
The Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 remains on public display until 4pm on Friday 6th March, 2020. Submissions or observations cannot be accepted after this time as there is no mechanism to do so.

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC met on Friday 28th February 2020.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The LAG met Friday 28th February 2020.

Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

Continue to liaise with agencies and partners to progress actions within the LECP with quarterly reports presented to the LCDC meetings.

Age Friendly County Initiative (AF)

Work has commenced with the setting up of an Older Persons Committee (OPC). The committee has met and agreed a chair and vice chair. This OPC will feed into the Age Friendly programme and any other programmes within the Council as required. Following last year's walkability audit in Athboy, a community meeting is scheduled for 18th February to present the findings and discuss future plans.

Joint Policing Committee

The JPC Meeting met on Monday 24th February 2020 where the Annual Report 2019 was discussed and agreed.

Public Participation Network

The PPN is implementing the National Community Wellbeing Vision Programme Under the "Our County, Our Voice" network brand. Workshops were facilitated by Dr. Harriet Emerson on February 4th for Navan and Laytown/Bettystown MD's and on February 5th for Ashbourne & Ratoath MD's. These workshops were very well attended by a variety of member groups.

Online consultations will build on workshop inputs. With support from Dr. Harriet Emerson, the PPN Secretariat and PPN staff are in the process of writing up a Wellbeing Vision for each MD and an overall County Vision. These will be used to develop a submission for the County Development Plan deadline of March 6th.

Pride of Place

The Pride of Place for Schools Gardening Scheme closed on 14th February 2020. 63 applications were received. Assessments will take place in May and June.

The Community Grant Scheme 2020

The Community Grant Scheme launched on Friday 24th January, closing date 6th March 2020.

The Community Amenity Project Scheme

The Community Amenity Project Scheme launched on Friday 24th January, closing date 6th March 2020.

Regional Festivals & Participative Events

Advertised week-ending 14th February with a closing date of Friday 13th March, with a total fund of €11,000.00 for applications for events which attract overseas visitors to Meath.

CLÁR

Funding was approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development and works have commenced on the project.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

The Carranstown Grant Scheme 2019 is now closed for applications. A meeting of the Liaison Committee is due to take place on 6th March to discuss the allocation of 2019 Grants.

Knockharley Grant Scheme

Works are currently ongoing on the Kentstown Village Project which involves the creation of green space, football pitches, parking area and changing rooms. Next meeting scheduled for 9th March 2020.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Works ongoing by the groups under the 2018 scheme and must be completed by April 2020. The six projects approved under the 2019 scheme have now commenced.

Healthy Ireland Fund scheme

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

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Seven applications were submitted to the Department for consideration. Three projects under Measure 1, three projects under Measure 2 and one project under Measure 3. The three projects approved under Measure 1 have now commenced. Await approval on measures 2 and 3.

Community Enhancement Programme

Await details for the 2020 scheme.

Comhairle na N'Og

The 2019 annual progress report and work plan 2020 has been submitted to the department for approval. Work is ongoing on a positive Body Image video piece and a "What is Comhairle" piece which was shot in the Council Chamber on Friday the 21st of February.

WIFI4EU

The tenders for delivery of the WIFI4EU programme were reviewed during February and work is commencing to deliver the WIFI network in Kells by June 2020 and in the other targeted towns in Meath by December 2020.

Public Sector Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission Act 2014 imposes a statutory obligation on public bodies to have regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity and treatment for staff and persons to whom it provides services
- Protect the human rights of staff and service users.

The 2014 Act requires a public body to assess human rights and equality issues that are relevant to the functions of the organisation, address the issues by setting out what plans and policies already are in place or proposed to be put in place and report on developments and achievements in its annual report. The implementation process has commenced with a working group set up and an induction meeting was held on 19th February.

Arts

Arts Act Awards & Bursaries:

The following arts awards and bursaries are now open for applications. Advertisements placed in Meath Chronicle, social media and Arts Office Newsletter. Closing date 1pm Wednesday March 25th 2020.

Annual Arts Grants Scheme

This award is intended to support organisations, individuals or groups in the provision of local arts activities which enhance long-term development and sustainability of the arts in County Meath.

Community Arts Award

This award is intended to support community groups and schools in the provision of community arts projects which promote engagement and enhance long-term partnerships with professional artists.

Festival Grant Scheme

This award is intended to support arts festivals taking place in County Meath that show a commitment to quality artistic programming.

Professional Artists Development Fund

This award is intended to support Meath based professional arts practitioners in the delivery of their work and in particular, the development of new work.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Award

This award is intended to fund a week- long residential stay at the Tyrone Guthrie Artists' Retreat in Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan. The residency is open to artists of all disciplines living in County Meath.

School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme

This award is intended to support the development of Musical Instrument resources in both Primary and Secondary schools in County Meath.

Drama League of Ireland Bursary

This award is intended to fund a week-long residential stay at the Drama League of Ireland Summer School at the University of Limerick from 25th July 2020 to 1st August 2020. The residency is open to directors, designers and actors working in theatre, living in County Meath.

Music Generation Meath

Progress on Music Generation Meath roll out continues. A Music Development Officer has been appointed, based at LMETB Abbey Rd. A recruitment process for a Panel of Music Tutors is in place managed by LMETB.

In the Middle Of.....a celebration of the work of Mary Lavin

Commissioned by the Arts Office, In the Middle Of.... is an eclectic mix of original performance which includes music, theatre, readings, spoken-word and song, in an exciting celebration of the extraordinary life and work of Irish writer Mary Lavin. Curated by award-winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan artists including Steve Wickham (The Waterboys), Actress/Musician Lisa Lambe, Wayne Sheehy, Writer Sinead Moriarty, Poet Lewis Kenny, Actress Catherine Byrne (Fair City) and Singer/Song writers Michael Brunnock and SaraMai Leech were invited to respond to Lavin's evocative short story collection '*In the Middle of the Fields*' through their chosen artform. Performances took place over three nights in the Courthouse Kells and the Unitarian Church, Dublin to capacity audiences.

Meath Arts Meet Up

Meath Arts Meet-Up is an opportunity for independent artists to meet with other artists, theatre makers, dancers, writers, producers, freelancers etc. in an informal setting over a cup of tea or coffee. The first meeting of the Meath Artists network and artists clinic took place upstairs at the Courthouse Kells, in February. Freelance practitioners were updated on the application procedures for the 2020 Arts Grants, Awards & Bursaries Schemes and action was put to the needs audit carried out as part of the County Arts Plan 2019 – 2024 & the Meath Culture & Creativity Strategy 2018-2022 consultation process. Further Meet Ups are scheduled throughout 2020.

Toradh Gallery Ashbourne

Kells Photography Club: ***Meath Through the Lens***. An exhibition of work by 22 photography enthusiasts from the region. This exhibition presents a selection of images examining a common theme: *Meath through the Lens*. Each photographer approached this theme in a unique and special way. Runs until end of March 2020.

Toradh2 Gallery Kells

Solo Exhibition – ***Places, Histories and Other Matters***: a solo exhibition by Helsinki based Meath artist Jane Hughes. Originally from Navan, Jane has worked internationally as a visual artist, curator and educator in Germany and Finland for over a decade. Jane's work relates to social history and is largely researched from old photographic sources. Hughes paints from images collected in libraries, encyclopaedias, historical books, flea markets and newspaper archives; taking disregarded photographs and reincarnating them as paintings. Featuring a series of 18 painted works, Places, Histories and Other Matters is on display at Toradh Gallery in Kells until end March 2020.

Kells Creative Placemaking – Courthouse Cultural Hub

Second creative space occupancy tenancy agreement at the Courthouse Cultural Hub, Kells in place. Hinterland Festival of Arts and Literature now based in Courthouse as per Kells Creative Placemaking Strategy.

Heritage and Conservation

- **Planning-** On-going 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).
- **Historic Towns Initiative Funding Application** – Application made for Railway Street, Navan as part of Historic Towns Funding (Feb 14th).
- **Historic Towns Initiative Seminar (Kilkenny)** –Seminar for Historic Towns Initiative organised by the Heritage Council for Local Authorities in Kilkenny – (January 10th). Presentation by Architectural Conservation officer on Navan Market Square Regeneration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnVAdRK4BsE>
- **Structures at Risk Fund for 2019** – Advertised, call for applications closing date 31st January 2020. County applications submitted for assessment (Feb 14th).
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019** – – Advertise and call for applications closing date 31st January 2018. County applications submitted for assessment (Feb 14th).
- **Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019** – Call for applications closing on March 11th.
- **County Heritage Plan Funding Application 2019** –Application submitted to Heritage Council for County Heritage Plan Programme 2020.
- **Irish Walled Town Network** – Attended the AGM and application due with the Heritage Council (Closing date 6th March 2020).
- **Kells Printworks Project**– Conservation of posters as Printworks Archive by a Paper Conservator
- **All Ireland Pollinator Plan** – Training for Local Authorities Sections as part of our partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford – (February 25th)

Economic Development

Mentoring

There have been 7 mentoring assignments.

Training Supports 2020

14 people registered for the Start Your Own Business (SYOB) (day) Programme

22 people registered for the SYOB (evening) Programme

24 people registered for the Trading Online Voucher information seminar

Trading Online Vouchers

There was 1 Trading Online voucher approved

Grant Approvals

There was an Evaluation and Approvals Committee meeting held on 13th February. There were 4 grant approvals

Public Libraries

Nobber Library

Nobber library re-opened to the public on the 18th of February. The newly extended and fully refurbished branch has been completely transformed by Facilities Management following an investment of over €250,000 from Meath County Council's capital programme. The transformation has enabled the addition of a new meeting room, a new juvenile section, staff welfare and disabled access WC facilities. Borrowers returned to find the latest ICT, including Self-Service, free Wi-Fi, Surf Box printing service and a Magic Table for autism and dementia sufferers. Users are commenting very positively on the transformation with the extension and garden attracting considerable attention.

Media Campaign

Your Library - Take a Closer Look

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

Open Day on February 29th.

1. Local media campaign organised by the MCC Communications team
 - a. For two weeks we will have our first ever library billboard up in Navan across from the library at the roundabout-advertising the free services. We will have posters at three bus shelters-Navan, Ashbourne and Dunboyne-advertising our free EBooks etc
 - b. LMFM are doing a profile on Trim Library which will air in the week running up to the Open Day
 - c. We will also post regular social media posts, using the national branding supplied and our own "Did you know's" compiled by staff
2. Each library will have extra staff available to demonstrate our eServices, magic tables, MOL, give a tour, recommend books, demonstrate ICT, self-service etc
3. LegoWeDo and SCRATCH will be demonstrated in Dunboyne
4. Each branch will run a STEAM Saturday family event that morning.
5. Local Studies will open in Navan that day
6. All new members who register between Feb 14th and 29th will go into a draw for a Kindle Fire and a book voucher.

Sensory Facilities – Call for Proposals - DRCD

Given that the county has already Magic Tables in 9 branches and that the remaining branches will be supplied with tables in the coming months, the library service has applied for funding to support the provision of sensory facilities and equipment across the entire branch network. The proposal includes an application for a Sensory Pop-up space in each branch and Sensory Walls in Ashbourne, Kells and

Navan meeting rooms. If successful the proposal will ensure that every branch will be equipped to offer an immediate and restful space to visitors with sensory issues.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2020

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

- ✓ Tackling significant illegal waste activity – including unauthorised operators, skip hire companies and man in the van activities.
- ✓ Construction and Demolition Activity -unauthorised disposal of C & D waste
- ✓ End of Life Vehicles -inspection of both authorised ELV sites and unauthorised operators.
- ✓ Waste collection – Household & Commercial – including roll out of brown bins.
- ✓ Multi Agency Sites of Interest -where there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is ongoing illegal activity.

Collection Days for Bulky Household Items

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

- a) 1st February - Couches, Armchairs and Futons -couch drop off day also held at Thornton's Recycling Centre Dunboyne on the 29th February
- b) March 28th Beds and Mattresses
- c) May 30th Paint
- d) July 25th Kitchen and Bathroom Equipment
- e) September 26th Wardrobes and Shelving
- f) November 28th Toys and Nursery Equipment

Public Consultation -Significant Water Management Issues for Irelands 2020-2027 River Basin Management Plan

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) has published a consultation document that sets out their understanding of the Significant Water Management Issues that need to be addressed in the period 2022 – 2027. The purpose of the consultation phase is to gather views from the public and interested stakeholders as to what they consider to be the significant issues for Ireland, which should be addressed in the planning process for the third cycle River Basin Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive. Submissions can be made in writing to SWMI Consultation Water Advisory Unit Dept of Housing Planning and Local Government Custom House Dublin 1 or online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HGB3HZ. There is also a consultation response template that can be downloaded at <https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water-framework-directive/public-consultation-significant-water-management> and which can be e-mailed to rbmp@housing.gov.ie. The consultation period closes on Friday 26th June 2020.

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

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

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

Air Quality

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

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

All Ireland Pollinator Plan

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

The National Biodiversity Data Centre ran a workshop on February 25th in, Buvinda House, Navan for staff to highlight the importance of pollinators and outlines ways in which the Council can adopt pollinator-friendly practices.

Climate Change

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

- ✓ An Energy Masterplan is currently being prepared for Batterstown SEC, this also involved considerable input from the SEC committee who undertook the distribution and collection of energy surveys.

- ✓ Trim SEC has recently been formed and hope to make an application in the next few months.. The Meath SEC set-up is seen as best practice with other LAs following our model.
- ✓ Launch of Meath Climate Academy – a vehicle for delivery of training to a number of stakeholders. First event, Citizen Climate Leadership training took place on 25th January with keynote speaker Dr. Cara Augustenborg.
- ✓ A date for a Schools summit has to be arranged when 40 secondary school students will be politicians for the day, debate on 8 climate action themes and produce 5 actions they can take back and implement in their school. The students will be mentored by the Climate Action Team and Elected Members on the day. Keynote motivational speaker will be Nikki Bradley.
- ✓ Sustainable tourism event scheduled for 24th March.
- ✓ Sustainable and Healthy Eating Initiative – great interest from staff and even though we are only 2 weeks into it the group have collectively dropped 38 years in metabolic age and lost 22 kg weight. Could be worth running again due to the level of interest and engagement from staff. Dr Cara Augustenborg is also very interested in our initiative and would like to feature it on her Newstalk slot.
- ✓ Developing possible partnership with Grow It Yourself in Wexford to promote locally produced food and promote food empathy (that is understanding where your food comes from, the processes it goes through, carbon print, etc).
- ✓ The new Climate Action Bill, when adopted, will place an onus on LAs to produce a Climate Action Plan to address mitigation within 18 months of adoption. This will not impact on MCC as we've addressed both mitigation and adaption in our strategy.
- ✓ CARO training – pilot training to be delivered Q2 and will commence with Elected Members and Senior staff.
- ✓ Funding – there are various funding streams coming on line such as CA Fund, LIFE, etc. however as these are for larger projects it is important we develop partnership with others whether they be public or private sector. Realistically as any projects we develop will have to go through the statutory processes we need to be looking at projects now that we could deliver in 3-4 years time. Most funding revolves around innovative and creative ideas.
- ✓ Organisational culture – ongoing with a number of in-house initiatives.

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

Draft Beach Management Plan

Proposed revisions to the County Meath Foreshore By Laws 2010 and arising from the Beach Management Plan were the subject of public consultation late last year and following consideration of

an extensive number of submissions and mostly relating to the free movement of dogs and horses on the beach, the Bye Laws were amended at the February meeting of the Council.

The Council are preparing the Part 8 planning application for the development of a Seafront Building and Civic Plaza at Seaview Terrace, Bettystown i.e. on the site of the terraced houses at the beach entrance.



Jackie Maguire,
Chief Executive.

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