

## 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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Registration No.: 00172770

May, 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	4	819,737	Complete	N/A
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	Complete	N/A
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>16,962,515</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>				
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
The Belfry, Trim	3	560,000	Q1 2019	Q3 2019
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
<b>Totals</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>25,846,899</b>		
<b>PRE-TENDER STAGE</b>				
Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5,813,948</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, Rathmoylon	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 Recent Approved 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](http://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. Departmental Stage 2 approval to proceed to Part 8 is currently awaited.
- Alverno Court - Part 8 Planning Permission in place. Scope of the project has been revised and total estimate of the all-in cost currently stands at €4,807,972. Budget approval from the Department has been increased from €3,458,329 to €4,150,329, with self funding also to be provided in order to advance the scheme to the next stage. Individual surveys on the units concerned have been conducted by an architect team in preparation of the tender

documents. Contract documents for the Civil Works contract are awaited from the design team.

▪ **Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body (AHB) 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 2019
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	5 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/15 Delivery Due Q2 2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete –Q1 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – Q1 2019
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2019
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	5 Complete – Q2 - 2019
Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath (Part V)	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q3 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Delivery Due Qtr 3 2019
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – (20 units) Q4 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond!	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>474</b>		

### Acquisition Programme

- 12 Sales have closed and 20 Acquisitions are at contract stage to date in 2019

### Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 12 projects completed to date in 2019 (at a cost of €88,709)
- 7 projects ongoing (at a cost of €60,634)
- 14 task orders sent to contractor (€81,384)

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

- 146 Grants have been approved to date in 2019, to the value of €1,250,343

### 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> April 2019. For the period from 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019, works were completed on 3 vacant units; while 6 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	2	1	0	3	0
Kells	3	3	1	6	1
Laytown/Bettystown	1	1	1	3	0
Navan	3	0	0	3	0
Ratoath	2	1	0	3	0
Trim	2	2	1	3	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>

### Homeless Service

- Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements 2019

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements from 1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	31 (31 )	15 (22 Adults, 28 children)	46
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019 (includes placements in 2018)	77 (81 Adults )	25 (40 Adults,59 Children)	102

Of the 25 households with children, 18 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

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	85
Approved Housing Bodies	57
RAS	0
HAP	184
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>326</b>

## TRANSPORTATION

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Tender competition ongoing for land and Property Valuation Services closing date was 29 <sup>th</sup> April. Preparation of Tender documents for Topographical Survey on going
N2 Slane Bypass	Route options being assessed. Public Consultation re Emerging Preferred Option expected to be later in Quarter 2.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Tender Competition ongoing for Technical Consultancy Services closing date for tenders was 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	Design stage 95% complete. Landowner negotiations ongoing. Environmental reports ongoing.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Ground Investigation Survey Contract and Agronomy study have commenced. Geophysical Survey on site is complete - awaiting Final Report.
N51/R147 Junction Navan	TII funded safety scheme. Works commenced on 9 <sup>th</sup> April and are scheduled to continue until end of June. Diversions in place – details circulated and advertised

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

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	Received confirmation of the CPO subject to modifications, from An Bord Pleanála. MCC are preparing to issue confirmation notices. Detailed design progressing.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Record of pre-application Meeting received from An Bord Pleanála, currently being reviewed by MCC. Draft NIS for ground investigation submitted to DAU 4 <sup>th</sup> April for 6 week consultation period. EIAR being drafted.
R162 Kilberry	Traffic Calming design substantially complete. Tender documents being finalised.
R155 Curragha	Traffic Calming design progressing.

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

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

R154 Traffic Calming at Kiltale, Batterjohn and Batterstown	Traffic Calming design substantially complete. Tender documents being finalised.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Contractor has been appointed and works have commenced on site. Interface issues with pumping station construction being resolved.
LDR6 Farganstown, Navan	ESB temporary diversion completed. Construction tender documents being finalised.

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

Cantilevered Bridge – New Bridge, Athlumney Road (R153) Navan	Outstanding landscaping works (topsoiling and seeding) in Cllr Andy Brennan Park postponed due to inclement weather conditions. Works to be completed in May (subject to weather conditions)
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Design work for Scheme ongoing. Suitability Assessment Questionnaires assessed. Tender documents prepared for a section of the works to form a Framework of up to 4 contractors for the project. The first tender package includes Railway St., Brews Hill/Cannon Rd/Trimgate St junction and the Taxi Rank on Abbey Rd. Discussions ongoing with owner of lands for proposed park and ride site, and the matter is under review. Meeting held with Bus Éireann to identify possible bus diversion routes and temporary bus stop locations during the Railway St works etc. A preferred location on Abbey Rd was identified and CSEA instructed to provide design services and SI work commissioned and carried out.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	Meeting held with Louth County Council. Design work ongoing and planning documents being finalised.

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

Scheme		Road	MD	Status
Knockbrack, Oldcastle	2019	R195/L 68197	Kells	Design prepared. Tender Documents being finalised.

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

Tenders for consultants to design major remedial works to bridges are due to be returned on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

The bridges to be designed are Castleparks Bridge, Annes Bridge, Stoneyford Bridge, Annesbrooke Bridge, Skearke Bridge, Clonard Bridge, Kearntown Bridge, Cornmill Bridge, Maudlin Bridge.

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

## 6. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Public Lighting Capital Programme</b>	2018	Complete.	
	2019	Programme of Capital works Tendered	
		<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>	2019	<p><b>Ratoath MD</b>–Assessment carried out of works required in Clonee and Dunboyne. Tender documents being prepared.</p> <p><b>Navan MD</b>–Works at Woodlands Estate, Navan commenced. Tender documents for Troytown Heights being finalised.</p> <p><b>Kells MD</b> -. Contractor being appointed to carry out works in Kells.</p> <p><b>Ashbourne MD</b>–Garden City scheme currently out to tender.</p> <p><b>Trim MD</b> –Pre-commencement meeting for Newhaggard Road, Trim took place on the 28/03/2019. Works due to commence on 29/04/2019.</p> <p><b>Laytown/Bettystown MD</b>– Contractor on-site at Laytown with approximately 50% of scheduled works completed.</p>	
<b>Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)</b>	2019	List of Roads for 2019 programme being finalised based on 2019 tender prices.	
<b>Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)</b>	2019	Round 2 schemes for 2018 completed. List of 2019 schemes confirmed and submitted to DRCD.	
<b>Harlockstown Footpath &amp; Bus Stop Scheme</b>		Planners report was presented at the April Ratoath MD Meeting. The proposed scheme was received favourably by the Councillors.	
<b>Royal Canal</b>		Final 4km section of the Greenway from Ferrans Lock to Cloncurry under construction. Approx 80% completed. Works to be completed and scheme opened by June 2019.	
<b>Improvement Works, Haggard St, Trim (Supervalu Junction)</b>		Works commenced on pedestrian improvement/safety works at Haggard St. Works to be completed in early May.	

## FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 23rd April 2019	
<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation</b>	<b>220</b>

<b>Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>33 *</b>
<b>Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>73</b>
	<b>220</b>
<b>Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Drawdowns for Restructuring Loans</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>No of customers in MARP</b>	<b>39</b>
<p><b>* Credit Committee cannot assess applications until Capital Allocation for 2019 from Dept is known.</b>  <b>All previous allocations fully exhausted.</b></p>	

## **PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE**

### **Planning**

- **Planning Applications**

The number of applications received in the period 01.01.2019 to 23.04.2019 was 478 in comparison to 393 received in the same period last year.

- **Development Contributions**

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of March 2019 were €2,487,452 compared to €1,702,948 in same period last year. (Figure is inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

- **Variation 5 Meath County Development Plan – Correction**

As part of the Chief Executive Report on Variation 5 adopted by the Council in February, 2019, a clerical error meant that submission no. MH-CH12-5 Paul Craven and Trevor Smyth, incorrectly stated that the submitters were owners of lands in Donore and claimed that their lands should have a higher priority in accordance with the requirements of Development Plan Guidelines. This error has now been corrected and removed from the Chief Executive Report and the submitters have been notified.

- **Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)**

The Office of the Planning Regulator came into effect on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019.

The OPR will enhance oversight of the planning system promoting quality outcomes from, and consistency within, the planning process. The OPR is independent of Government and has three main functions.

1. Independent assessment of all local authority and regional assembly statutory plans and strategies,



2. Reviews and examines the organisation and systems and procedures used by any planning authority, including An Bord Pleanála,
3. Driving national research, training, education and public information programmes in relation to planning.

Circular Letter PL03/2019 has been circulated as part of correspondence.

## **Community**

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

The meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The next meeting is due to take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2019.

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

A meeting of the LAG took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The next meeting is due to take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2019.

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

The Council continues 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)**

Meath has completed the Age Friendly tablet pilot project with Limerick and Fingal through Age Friendly Ireland. The final large group session took place in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim on April 4<sup>th</sup> and the final workshop took place on April 25<sup>th</sup>, to deal with paying bills and paying for items online. This project is now complete.

MCC nominated several Acorn participants for the Silver Surfers Awards 2019 with the ceremony scheduled to take place in the Helix on May 28, 2019. A meeting of the Age Friendly Programme Managers took place in the LGMA on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Trim AF sub-group continue to meet and are working on Trim becoming an AF business Town. AF Alliance Meeting took place on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2019. The National OPC Conference will take place in Donegal over 3 days from May 8-10, 2019.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

A meeting of the JPC took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The next meeting, the first with new membership is scheduled to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.

### **Public Participation Network**

There are over 800 groups on the PPN. Member details are now available on the website [www.meathppn.ie](http://www.meathppn.ie). Training on the Toolkit for the roll out of the Wellbeing Statement has taken place for secretariat members and PPN staff. Secretariat members will devise a plan for the development of the statement in Meath. The issues register is available to view with the responses on the website. The Department of Rural and Community Development has commenced the process of compiling the PPN Annual Report for 2018.

### **Ashbourne Linear Park**

Works have commenced in zone 4 of the park and are continuing.

### **Pride of Place**

The Pride of Place Scheme is now open; the closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.

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

Following the decision of the Full Council, all applicants have been informed of their grant decision and allocation. Completed claim forms are to be submitted by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

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

Assessment of the 51 applications received is ongoing. When completed, the details will be presented in each Municipal District followed by the Full Council.

### **Regional Festivals & Participative Events**

This is a Fund of €11,000 provided by Fáilte Ireland and will be distributed by Meath County Council among qualifying applicants. 9 applications were received, none were ineligible. All 9 were allocated funding abased on the numbers of overseas visitors expected.

### **CLÁR**

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

### **Carranstown Grant Scheme**

All successful applicants have been notified of their grant allocation with claim forms to be submitted by the end of the year. The next meeting of the Committee is expected to take place in September/October.

### **Kockharley Grant Scheme**

Works are currently ongoing on the Kentstown Village Project which involves the creation of a 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**

Works are now commencing by the groups under the 2018 scheme and must be completed by April 2020. The 2019 Scheme was launched by Minister Ring on 16<sup>th</sup> April with the focus for 2019 on public realm projects. Expressions of Interest are now being sought from community groups and must be submitted to the Community Section by 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

### **Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) scheme 2018**

Projects are progressing under this scheme. The eligibility period for work under HIF Round 2 has been extended from March 31 to June 30, 2019.

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

Agreements have now been signed under Measure 2 and works are due to commence on projects under this scheme. The 2019 Scheme has been launched and expressions of interest for potential projects must be submitted by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

### **Community Enhancement Programme 2019**

The CEP2019 has been advertised with a closing date of May 30, 2019. Meath's allocation is €142,893.00. Applications are invited from groups for both small grants of under €1,000.00 and larger grants in excess of €1,000.00 for capital expenditure that address disadvantage. Strict criteria will be used to assess eligibility and the LCDC will approve the grant allocations.

## **Digital Strategy**

Stakeholder interviews with Community, Business and Staff stakeholders were completed in April and summary reports produced and circulated to the Steering Committee. A one day workshop was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> which identified the priority areas for Digital Skills, Digital Enterprise and Economy and delivering a Digital Council. The identified priorities and actions and how to deliver on them together with the Digital Infrastructure will be clarified during May and June.

## **WIFI4EU**

There was a second call for vouchers on the 4<sup>th</sup> April and three further vouchers were applied for. There has been no confirmation on whether any vouchers have been secured. A national sub-group of the Telecommunications Action Group has been tasked with developing policies and tenders for the wireless access points.

## **Comhairle na n'Óg**

The next Comhairle na n'Óg Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Buvinda House on Tuesday June 4, 2019. The 2019 Colour Run in conjunction with Meath Local Sports Partnership will take place in Blackwater Park on Sunday June 16, 2019 with proposed numbers to increase this year from 400 to 600. The 2019 Comhairle Regional Networking Event took place over the Easter Holidays with Meath Comhairle represented by three Comhairle members on April 18, 2019.

## **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** – Navan selected as 1 of 6 towns nationally as part of Historic Towns Funding – awarded €160,000. Project is progressing with conservation works to the (former) Central Hotel and Meath Chronicle buildings, Market Sq.
- **Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN) Grant Programme 2019** –Awarded €13,700 from Heritage Council for heritage awareness projects in Trim and Kells.
- **Kells Printworks Project** – Restoration of printing presses and digitization of paper/poster archive on-going through funding received under T&V renewal fund.
- **ICOMOS Ireland** – As part of World Monuments Day (18<sup>th</sup> April) ICOMOS Ireland visited Meath – Slane Distillery, Kells and Martry Mill – Heritage Officer and Conservation gave a tour of recent conservation works in Kells.
- **Meath Swift Project** – Meath County Council working in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland and Meath Birdwatch to undertake the first County Swift Survey.
- **Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards** – Community Seminar held in Buvinda House (April 30<sup>th</sup>)
- **Irish Architecture Foundation** – Kells selected as one of 6 towns to take part in IAF *Reimagine* project – Project currently being scoped.

## **Enterprise**

### **Economic Development**

The Economic Development Department:

- Met with Meath Chamber to discuss the Chamber's upcoming Jobs Expo and to jointly arrange an embassy visit
- Presentation of the PLATE EBR programme at a Meath Chamber breakfast event.
- Roll out of the #MakeltMeath message to 34+ estate agents in the County and refresher training to frontline staff in Meath County Council
- attended FutureScope 2019 in Dublin's Convention Centre, where Meath company Hexafly made a presentation

### **Social Media campaign:**

- The Economic Development Department attended the Emeri Nutrition completion ceremony. General Manager Michael Delaney has requested a follow-up meeting to discuss another social media post similar to those posted in March which gained 16000 impressions on facebook. He confirmed he had received in excess of 300 job applications locally without having to advertise and thanked MCC for our help.

### **ATB's - Advanced Technology Buildings:**

- Meeting held with the IDA to confirm the position of the site in the IDA park Navan
- The tender document is currently being refined by the procurement section for issue

### **Industrial Estates Management:**

- The sale & disposal of site A Kells Business Park to Glass & ALU Cad holdings LTD has been finalised
- Communication is ongoing to close the sale of site 19-21 Eamonn Duggan Ind Est

### **Commitment for Sponsorship of events:**

- Beach VolleyBall Ireland – Bettystown Beach June 2019
- Navan Choral Festival
- Guth Gafa

### **Projects (EU & other):**

- The MICRO MBA – Unlocking Microentreprise Potential project was submitted on March 14<sup>th</sup>, awaiting decision
- Meath has accepted an invitation to work as a peri-urban, pilot site for a BIO-Economy Project which is being led by the Science Foundation of Ireland, the BEACON & UCD.

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

#### **Fleadh 2019**

- Investigating the possibility of getting a timeslot to showcase food producers on Fleadh TV

#### **2019 Food Series**

- 20,000 copies of the brochure were printed and a distribution plan is being developed. The first food series event for 2019 took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> April.

- The producer map has been printed on a tea towel which has generated huge interest. There are plans to sell this and have it available for purchase in tourist offices.

#### **Mayor of Broccostella visit to Navan:**

- Organized a Boyne Valley Flavours lunch in Slane Castle the guests received a BVF goodie bag/ information pack.

#### **Discover Boyne Valley and Boyne Valley Flavours Cross-Selling event:**

- Following on from the VEDP day with Failte Ireland held earlier this year, Discover Boyne Valley Tourism organised a cross-selling event in Tayto Park and invited the Boyne Valley Flavours members to attend. 40 companies attended.

#### **2019 BVF Launch**

- The launch of the new initiative Discover the Place on a Plate and the Food Series took place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the Conygham Arms in Slane. There was a great attendance on the day with some great guest speakers and a cookery demonstration. We also officially launched our Producer's Map at this event.

#### **Steering Committee Meeting**

- The first steering committee meeting of Boyne Valley Flavours took place on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Olivia Duff, Rosita Moyles, Roseanne Donnegan have all stepped down from the steering committee this year. There are 12 people on the committee for 2019 with good representation from all areas.

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

- **Mentoring assignments:** 16
- **Online trading Vouchers:** 8
- **Business Advice Sessions:** 13
- **Grants Approved:** 5
- **Jobs associated with Grants:** 8
- 51 participants took part in LEO courses during April including:
  - Developing a Wordpress Website
  - Business Planning
  - Book Keeping & SAGE
  - Start your own business
  - Developing a pricing strategy
  - Tax Management

**Microfinance Ireland Information Sessions:** held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April in Buvinda House and City North Hotel, Gormanston. Deirdre Parkinson from Microfinance Ireland spoke about who is eligible for a Microfinance loan, the benefits of applying through your Local Enterprise Office and how to apply. These information sessions also included a presentation by Paul Murtagh on the topic of "*Raising Finance for Your Business*". In total, 15 business owners attended these information sessions.

**Brexit Customs Workso on 9<sup>th</sup> of April:** LEO organised a Brexit Customs Training workshop to help business owners understand how increased customs regulations may impact their business. This Workshop was carried out by Austin Rutledge from Export Edge and took place in Buvinda House. This event was attended by 25 business owners from all over county Meath. The main aim of the

workshop was to help business owners minimise their customs risks and become aware of the compliance responsibilities they face once the UK leaves the EU.

**IBYE: Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) Competition: Meath Competition:** Meath's IBYE Competition has progressed during March and April with all applicants invited to our Enterprise Day on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 in Dunboyne Castle, where they learned about the supports and services of the LEO. Following our Enterprise Day, a shortlisting evaluation took place to reduce the number of young entrepreneurs to go through to an intensive Business Bootcamp, which took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, with 18 finalists. The County Finals and Awards will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

## **Public Libraries**

### **My Open Library – Trim**

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. On average twenty adult users access the service every Sunday, with many users bringing their children along. Saturday evening after 5.00pm is the most popular slot with current users.

### **Kells Library – Refurbishment**

Works are ongoing on the refurbishment of the building and the redecoration of the branch. The branch will remain closed until at least the middle of May.

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

The Dementia Tables (Tovertafels) were installed in Navan and Trim libraries on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Librarians in the respective branches are currently engaging with care organizations and interested parties to promote the new service.

WiFi upgrades and installations will be completed across all branches by the end of May.

5 large interactive touch screens will be installed in the major branches during May. These screens will modernize the meeting facilities and remove the requirement for projectors and televisions.

### **Decade of Centenaries**

*'Behind the Wire': Oldcastle, Internment and The Empire 1914-1919*

In 1914, Britain stood at the forefront of organising one of the first civilian mass internment operations of the 20th century. 30,000 civilian German, Austrian and Turkish men who had been living or travelling in Britain in the summer of that year found themselves behind barbed wire. 600 of that number – Austrians and Germans resident in Ireland and many of whom were married to Irish women - were interned in Oldcastle, County Meath.

In 2018, to commemorate the departure of the internees from Oldcastle Camp for the Isle of Man, Moylagh Historical Society and Meath County Council collaborated in the publication of the volume *Oldcastle Camp 1914-1918: An Illustrated History*, with contributions from descendants of the internees and from local historians.

On May 26, 2019 the Moylagh Historians and Meath County Council will host the exhibition *Behind the Wire* which places Oldcastle Camp in an international context and which has been shown in Scotland and South Africa, and plans are in train to take it to Canada and New Zealand.

To coincide with the opening of the exhibition, a half-day seminar is being held in Oldcastle Library which is located across the road from the site of the internment camp. Four speakers are scheduled to speak – Stefan Manz of the University of Aston, Birmingham, whose monograph *Constructing a German Diaspora: the Greater German Empire 1871-1914* (Routledge, 2014) was named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2015; Gisela Holfter of the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick whose most recent works are *Ireland in the European Eye* (with B. Migge, Royal Irish Academy, 2019) and a monograph *German Migration to Ireland since 1922* (Palgrave 2020); and Anne Hecker Lahiffe and Barbara Mogerele, family historians who have researched the subject extensively and both of whose grandfathers were interned in Oldcastle Camp.

### **Schools Service**

'The EU is a failed experiment' is the motion for debate between Drogheda Grammar School and St. Oliver's Community School, Oldcastle in an upcoming contest. The two schools will compete in the final of the MCC Library service EU Debating competition at the EU Centre in Grange on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **Creative Ireland**

#### **An Gaeilge**

The *Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh* Gaeltacht Scholarship scheme will open for applications after Easter and the twelve award winners will be named at an event in Navan library on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May at 7.00pm.

#### **Writer - in - Residence**

Oisín McGann has been appointed Writer-in-Residence for 2019 and he will work with designated schools and libraries across the county, building on the work of the 2018 residencies introduced under the Creative Ireland programme in 2018.

#### **Archivist - in - Residence**

The residency has been advertised and it is hoped to make an appointment in June. The residency will be for 6 months and the successful candidate will work on a number of projects funded under the Creative Ireland programme.

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

### **2019 Anti Dumping Initiative**

Details of the 2019 Anti Dumping Initiative have been announced, under which funding is provided to Local Authorities who in collaboration with local community groups and other state agencies, arrange for the cleanup of locations which are subject to continual dumping. The scheme was successfully used in 2018 to clean up regular dumping sites in bogs, and housing estates. The members have been invited to submit possible locations for inclusion in applications which have to be submitted to the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WEARLA) by the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The scheme is somewhat expanded this year, including support for measures which tackle unauthorised waste collectors and man in the van type operators, who advertise their services on social media outlets to collect waste from households without any waste collection permit and often resulting in the waste being deposited in scenic areas around the County.

### **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 –in May these will include free mattress and bed drop off days in the three Recycling Centres –Trim (Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May), Navan (Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May), and Kells (Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May).

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

A record 139 groups registered for the 2019 Anti-Litter Initiative. While it is not a competition there is a grant for those that achieve high standards over the two months. This initiative took place in March and April and overlapping with the National Spring Clean (An Taisce) which ran for the month of April. Judging began on 20<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. Grants and medal available to high achieving groups.

### **Election Posters**

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) have asked Local Authorities take action to prevent election posters from being placed in a way that obscures traffic signs, particularly those that relate to the Rules of the Road and road user safety. These would include speed limit, junction, warning, road works signs as well as those giving directions.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1961, Section 95, Subsection 14 *"It is an offence to erect any notice that makes a traffic sign less visible to road users, causes confusion or obstructs the view of the road."*

Local Authorities have the power under the Traffic Signs Manual issued by the Department of Transport to take appropriate action to deal with any obstructions or confusion caused to the clear visibility of signs.

The RSA have requested that any candidate posters which distract road users, obscure vision splays, or road signs be removed by council staff under these powers. This is particularly important at traffic junctions and roundabouts.

### **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 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 advisories 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 has submitted an application to Kildare County Council who are the lead Authority for the 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 is 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 and to include a workshop and awareness day in late May/early June.

### **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 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. It is anticipated the construction phase involving in stream works will take place in the period July to September 2019

### **Draft Beach Management Plan**

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

*Jackie Maguire.*

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**Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive.**

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