

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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

Fón: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

R-phost: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Uimhir Chláraithe: 00172770



Meath County Council

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

Tel: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Registration No.: 00172770

November, 2019

Don/ Cathaoirleach agus ball den Comhairle

Item 6.1 - Chief Executive's Report

Dear Councillor,

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

HOUSING

Capital Programme

▪ Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PROJECTS COMPLETED				
Bettystown(Phase 1)	16	3,437,478	Complete	N/A
Athboy (Phase 1)	32	8,850,320	Complete	N/A
Proudstown Road	4	819,737	Complete	N/A
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	Complete	N/A
Totals	71	16,962,515		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	N/A	Q4 2019
Bettystown(Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q1 2020
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	Q4 2019
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Totals	118	25,846,899		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Lagore,	26	5,813,948	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q1 2020	Q4 2020

Totals	47	9,979,513		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Nobber	19	3,657,000	-	-
Totals	19	3,657,000		
DESIGN PHASE				
Farganstown	42	11,204,000	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Ashbourne	55	12,264,000	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q2 2020	Q4 2020
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	34	7,996,502	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
Totals	168	38,524,483		
GRAND TOTALS	423	95,326,747		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

▪ **Summary of 2019 Approved Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING APPROVED €
Kells	Carrick Street (Vacant units (19) & back land development (30))	49	10,225,755
Navan	Turnkey	8	2,019,330
Dunshaughlin	Part V	14	3,681,522
Kilcock	Part V	15	3,755,033
Navan	Part V	21	4,599,800
Drogheda (Meath)	Part V	7	1,412,880
Bettystown	Part V	26	6,527,565
Navan	Turnkey	8	2,214,620
Kilmessan	Turnkey	3	821,642
Haggard Street, Trim	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	4	931,300
Church Street, Kells	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	3	722,600
Pitcher Lane, Kells	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	4	886,600

Swan Lane, Balreask, Navan	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	6	1,426,700
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	Direct Construction (Phase 4)	34	7,996,502
Totals		202	47,221,849

▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Bettystown	Turnkey	8	2,129,557
Totals		8	2,129,557

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 for 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 is in place. The scope of the project has been revised and the total estimate of all in costs 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 architectural team in preparation of tender documents. Contract documents for the Civil Works contract are awaited from the design team.

Acquisition Programme

- 40 property sales, to the value of €7,758,364 have closed and a further 17 acquisitions are at contract stage to date in 2019

Turnkey Units

- 28 sales have closed to date to the value of €7,239,829

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

- 370 Grants have been approved to date in 2019, to the value of €2,549,600

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 41 projects completed to date (€301,489)
- 5 projects ongoing (€100,980)
- 10 task orders sent to contractor (€62,686)

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 18th October 2019. For the period from 18th September 2019 to 18th October 2019, works were completed on 10 vacant units; while 10 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	0	0	0	0	0
Kells	5	2	0	7	0
Laytown/Bettystown	2	0	1	2	1
Navan	5	1	0	6	0
Ratoath	4	0	0	4	0
Trim	6	3	1	10	0
TOTALS	22	6	2	29	1

▪ 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, Donacarne	16	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018)
Blackcastle, Navan	26	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018

Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Frederick Manor, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	5 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/3 complete 2019 and 12 Due for delivery Q4 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 – Q1 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	Delivery Due Qtr 4 2019
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – (20 units) Q4 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond!	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	12 Delivered, 11 due for Delivery– Q4 2019
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	Delivery Due – Q1 2020
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee	TBC
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	6 Due Q4 2019 Q2 2020 19
Total	604		

Homeless Service

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 30th September 2019 (includes placements in 2018)	101 (105 Adults)	23 (36 Adults,53 Children)	124
Of the 23 households with children, 14 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 a find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare			

- 128 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January – September 2019

Social Housing Supports

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	192
Approved Housing Bodies	123
RAS	1
HAP	541
TOTAL	857

TRANSPORTATION

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Land and Property Valuation Services Consultant appointed. Topographical Proof Survey work ongoing. Tender Assessment for Archaeological Consultancy ongoing. Supplementary Ground Investigation tender published. Advanced Tree Felling Contract tendered in October.
N2 Slane Bypass	Route options being assessed. Public Consultation re Emerging Preferred Option expected in Quarter 4 2019.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Technical Consultancy Services have now being appointed.
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	In order to progress the scheme Part 8 process with required reports and CPO now being considered. Currently in discussions with TII on how best to proceed.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Ground Investigation Survey Contract complete – awaiting factual report. Part 8 documents currently being drafted.
N2 Slane Approaches	Resurfacing works ongoing, substantially complete in the village, works continuing south of the Bridge
N2 Primatestown	Substantially complete.
NS Resurfacing (various locations)	Works have commenced on both the N51 and the N52. Various road closures required for these works as advertised.

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

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	Detailed project appraisal under review by DTTAS. Landowners notified regarding upcoming archaeological investigation commencing 29 th October.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Draft EIAR and NIS are under internal review. Hard copy printed for Senior Counsel review. ABP contacted requesting pre-application meeting no.2, MCC awaiting confirmation of date.
R162 Kilberry	DTTAS appraisal approved. Tenders received re: construction of Phase 1 and appointment of contractor progressing.
R155 Curraghera	Traffic Calming design progressing. DTTAS appraisal submitted and approved. Public consultation for Phase 1 completed & Tenders

	received re: construction of Phase 1, appointment of contractor progressing. Irish Water interface re: Phase 2 planned works to be resolved.
R162 Lisnagrew	Detailed design completed and tender docs currently under review. Funding to be agreed with DTT&S
Schedule of Municipal District Works	Programme over 85% complete.

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

R154 Traffic Calming at Kiltale and Batterjohn	Traffic Calming design substantially complete. Tenders received for Batterjohn and contractor appointment being finalised. Tender docs for Kiltale issued and expected back 18 th November 2019.
R154 Traffic Calming at Batterstown	Public consultation meeting to be held on the 7 th November re: proposals for Batterstown.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Contractor has been appointed and works are progressing on site. Expected to be completed Q2 2020.
LDR6 Farganstown, Navan	Contractor has been appointed and works have commenced on site. Expected to be completed Q4 2020.
Kilbride Rd/R125 Ashbourne Rd, Ratoath	Realignment of junction - Part 8 process completed. Land acquisition and detail design to be progressed.

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Paving works continued on eastern side of Railway Street and at the Brú House on Brews Hill junction. ESB overhead cables undergrounded on Railway Street. Watermain works completed on Trimgate Street and Railway Street. Design for next phase underway and includes Academy Street/Circular Road junction, Bridge Street and Abbey Road roundabouts. Basement surveys commenced on Bridge Street. ESB have provided power to the new public lights, RTPI unit and bus shelter on Abbey Road. Discussions continuing with owner of lands for proposed park and ride site (Liscarton) with respect to a Covenant Agreement to be attached to a potential sale.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	The non-statutory public consultation closed on the 25 th of October and submissions are being collated and reviewed. A high volume of submissions were received. Tender assessment for the Boyne Greenway and Restoration of the Boyne Navigation (with respect to the appointment of Consultants for Feasibility and Options Development and Planning Process) has commenced.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Tenders for the provision of consultancy services for detailed design, tender and construction stages were received and assessed. Tender documents for the provision of topographical survey services prepared and issued.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	Tender documents for the installation of bus shelters were received on Wednesday 23 rd of October and are being assessed.

Cycle Parking	Site locations were identified and draft tender documents prepared.
---------------	---

4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Scheme	Road	MD	Status
Hayestown	L3400/L50521	Navan	Works complete
Longwood Village	R160/ L4020	Trim	Works complete
Greenan, Drumconrath	R165/ L34036	Kells	Works complete
Culmullin Cross	L6205/L62051/R125	Ratoath	Works commencing 28 th October 2019
Knockbrack, Oldcastle	R195/L 68197	Kells	Works under construction

5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Consultants have been appointed for the design of remedial works to: Castleparks Bridge, Annes Bridge, Stoneyford Bridge, Annesbrooke Bridge, Skearke Bridge, Clonard Bridge, Kearntown Bridge, Cornmill Bridge, Maudlin Bridge.

Remedial works to Moygaddy Bridge commenced on 21st October, road closure from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November .

Minor Bridge repairs have been completed on 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, and Milltown Culvert.

6. Other Actions/ Projects

Public Lighting Capital Programme	2019	Programme of Capital works commenced – 75% complete	
		MD	Location
		Ratoath MD	Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin
			R155 - Fairyhouse/Tattersalls, Ratoath
		Laytown/Bettystown MD	L1610 Abbey Road out to Balsaran School, Duleek
			Newtown National School
		Ashbourne MD	R135 to Business Park Entrance, Ballymadun Road, Ashbourne
		Trim MD	R148 Enfield Inner Relief Road, (R148 link from roundabout on R402 to R148 Clonard Road).
Navan MD	The Bull, Market Square, Navan		
Kells MD	R162 Village to Muff Crescent, Nobber		
Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	2019	<p>Ratoath MD– Clonee & Dunboyne Footpath Rehabilitation Works, Contractor started on site on the 26/09/2019, St Patrick Park Completed.</p> <p>Navan MD – Troytown Heights/Proudstown Rd – Complete – Snagging works and final account to be settled</p> <p>Beechmount Estate: 75% complete- another 2/3 weeks weather permitting</p> <p>Kilcarn Court: Phase 1- Contractor appointment progressing, intention to commence before end of year</p> <p>Belcourt/Blackcastle : To be complete by direct labour in Quarter 4</p>	

		<p>Kells MD - Path rehabilitation works completed on Maudlin Street. Dwarf wall kerbing installation completed, Currently completing bay replacement and tactile paving installation on Junction into housing estates on Athboy Road, Turry Meadows Athboy works due to commence on 29/10/19</p> <p>Ashbourne MD– Preliminary Design Works on Killeland Park and Hunters Lane Ashbourne.</p> <p>Trim MD –Works are complete at New Haggard Road, Trim.</p> <p>Laytown/Bettystown MD– Tender assessment completed awaiting contractors insurances, for schemes on Ashbourne Road & Fr Ryan Park Duleek. Alverno Heights and Beach Grove Laytown.</p>
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) & Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2019	Works are approx 95% complete.
Royal Canal		Construction works completed in September. Funding secured from DTTAS for signage along the route. This will be tendered in the coming weeks.
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme		Letter of Intent issued to preferred Contractor

FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 25th October 2019	
Applications Received	302
Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency	18
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	0
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	284
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	0
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	0
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	185
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	99
	284
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	108
No of customers in MARP	35

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Planning

Planning Applications

The number of applications received in the period 01.01.2019 to 29.10.19 was 1428 in comparison to 1278 received in the same period last year.

Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of September 2019 were €9,412,816 compared to €10,974,316 in same period last year. (Figure is inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026

A total of 435 Notices of Motion were received in relation to the Members' consideration of the draft. A Special Planning Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12th November at 11am.

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Meetings of the LCDC took place on Friday 25th October, the next one is scheduled for Friday 29th November, 2019.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

Meetings of the LAG took place on Friday 25th October, the next one is scheduled for Friday 29th November, 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)

- Walkability of Athboy carried out with Prosper Meath, Age Friendly and HSE Dementia section. Details from the walk were collated and presented to the steering group for consideration of the next steps.
- The Age Friendly Alliance will launch an awareness of the "Message in a Bottle" for older persons on November 1st as part of Flexibus annual Celebration Day in Simmonstown.
- Age Friendly Recognition awards are scheduled for November in Dublin with 2 projects shortlisted for Meath- Kells Walkability and Acorn Tablet pilot.
- Two Age Friendly projects Athboy Walkability and Age Friendly Shared Service are shortlisted under the "Innovation in Politics" awards being held in Berlin in December.

Joint Policing Committee

The next JPC Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 9th December 2019. The JPC public meeting took place on 16th October in the Headfort Arms Hotel, Kells at 7.30pm with a turn-out of 30 people. Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy and Barry Lynch DoS took a number of questions from the public on the night.

Public Participation Network

The re-registration of groups registered before 2019 is ongoing with a 46% response rate. The first Community Workshop for the Meath Well-Being Vision Statement was well attended in Kells on October 4. The next workshop is to take place in Trim at the end of November. This is an opportunity for PPN members to contribute to policy development within Meath. Danielle Monahan commenced in the role of Resource Officer on September 23. Danielle and two secretariat members attended the PPN National Conference in Carlow on October 10 and 11.

Ashbourne Linear Park

The park officially opened on October 24 and zone 4 consists of the playground, bridge and ampitheatre.

Pride of Place

The Municipal District Pride of Place awards nights have taken place across the six districts with 245 groups representatives and over 700 people in attendance. The County awards will take place in the Solstice Arts Centre, Navan on Thursday 7th November, 2019.

The Community Grant Scheme

Community Grant Scheme claims are being processed as they are received, to date 75% of the approved grant claims have been processed. Final call for the submission of grant claims has issued to the applicants of outstanding claims.

Regional Festivals & Participative Events

This is a Fund of €11,000 provided by Fáilte Ireland to be administered by Meath County Council to the 9 qualifying applicants. Funding will be paid following receipts of claims from the applicants.

CLÁR

Funding was approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development for two projects. Works will commence shortly on these.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

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

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 December.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Works are on-going by the groups under the 2018 scheme and must be completed by April 2020. The Council awaits the announcement of successful projects for the 2019 scheme.

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) scheme

New HIF Round 3 announced and will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021, 4 projects have been selected by the LCDC and have been submitted to Pobal for approval. Additional funding was awarded by the Department of Health for a Mental Health theme, 3 projects under this theme have also been submitted to Pobal for consideration. Approval is due in the coming weeks.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Seven applications in total were submitted to the Department for consideration. Three projects under Measure 1, three projects under Measure 2 and one project under Measure 3. Await announcement of successful projects for the 2019 scheme.

Community Enhancement Programme

Meath's allocation is €163,835.00. The LCDC approved 52 grant allocations and 18 Men's Shed's applications. All works must be completed and claimed by year end.

Comhairle na N'Og

Comhairle AGM **took place on the 14th** October in the Ardboyne Hotel. Great support was shown to all involved with 11 local Councillors in attendance as well as both Minister of State, Damien English T.D and Thomas Byrne, T.D. Comhairle members will attend the Dail in November to celebrate 100 years with TD's with the Ceann Comhairle in attendance.

Meath Digital Strategy

The Meath Digital Strategy was presented to the Council at the October meeting. Most of the actions identified can be delivered through existing budget plans. The funding of additional items will be examined as part of the budget process.

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** – Contractor on-site and works progressing on Meath Chronicle building and Laurence Hotel (former Central Hotel), Market Sq., Navan – site inspection undertaken by the Heritage Council and Department of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht with Council and owners (Sept 27th)
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019** – Completing site visit and reports
- **Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN) Grant Programme 2019** –Community Heritage Dig completed in Trim and awareness event held in Kells.
- **Meath Swift Project** – First county survey of *Swifts* completed by Meath County Council working in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland and Meath Birdwatch. Final report being finalised.
- **Attended Heritage Council Workshop** – Heritage and Rural Development – Thurles (Sept 18th and 19th).
- **Geology Exhibition** – Text for exhibition on geology of County Meath prepared.
- **National Biodiversity Action Plan** – Funding received to deliver autumn biodiversity
- **Girley Bog Meitheal** – Meeting in Kells and project participated in All Ireland Pride of Place Competition (Sept 2nd)

Economic Development

Exhibitions & Events:

The Council exhibited at the County Meath Job expo organised by County Meath Chamber; the event was an outstanding success. Many attendees referred to the MCC commuter survey. Other events attended include LEAN seminar organised by Mullingar Chamber, Meath Green & Gold Conference, the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum in Croke Park and the opening night of Trim Trad Festival.

Commuter Survey

The commuter survey is now complete and the results will be available this week.

Friendliest Town

Two of the 10 retailers nominated by the Council have entered the Top 30 stores in the Country.

National Enterprise Town Awards – Bank of Ireland

Dunboyne & Moynalty: The awards ceremony will take place in the Lyrath Estate on December 5. We eagerly await the announcement of the winner and runners up in the small towns/villages category and large towns category.

Industrial Estates Management:

Eamon Duggan & Kells Ind. Est

Expressions of interest will be sought for valuers to form a panel for the remaining sites in Trim and in Kells to be valued & a marketing plan will ensue.

Eamon Duggan contd.

- **Sites 1,2 & 3** - Communication is ongoing on the sale of sites 1,2 & 3 the purchasers and an extension has been granted to close the sale, we hope to receive signed contracts by Mid November.
- **Site 20 & 21** – GIS Maps are being drawn up for the purchase of site 20 & 21 to correct site lines.
- **Vacant sites Kells** – To be included for current market valuations to be carried out.

Ashbourne Ind. Est

- Work on the refurbishment project is due to commence at the end of this month.

Food Digital Tech & Innovation Hubs:

The offices in Dunshaughlin have been closed to enable works on the Hub to progress with the hope of opening in the New Year.

The Food and Innovation Hub Navan is currently out for further information. An application for RRDF funding has been made by Meath Enterprise for funding of the next stage of development.

We also await the results of the Commuter Survey in November to enable us to identify strategic areas where the placement of hubs would be beneficial and where there is demand for remote working.

Projects (EU & other):

Work continues to prepare for the commencement date of the two EU project submissions we have been successful in this year: (a) **The Gig Economy** and (b) **Boundary Spanners**.

Boyne Valley Food Strategy:

Samhan

Boyne Valley Flavours are hosting an event on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of November in conjunction with Hinterland. The theme of the event is SAMHAN – 5000 years of Food and Culture. BVF has secured €3000 funding from Failte Ireland for this event. This show stopping festival will host 26 individual events across Kells and the wider community with guest speakers such as JP McMahon, Darina Allen, John and Sally McKenna to name a few. Full line up available on www.hinterland.ie

Place on a Plate

Place on a Plate – BVF has secured €15,000 funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) to develop and promote the Place on a Plate initiative. With this funding we were able to appoint ambassadors to help promote this initiative and recently announced are collaboration with the Gastro Gays who have a huge Culinary, Foodie following across all social media platforms.

Puca

Food Element at Púca Festival – The Food Development officer is working closely with Fáilte Ireland in developing a food offering across Trim, Athboy and Drogheda. This also includes a special dinner in Slane Castle on the 1st November.

Food on The Edge

Food on the Edge – a number of the Boyne Valley Flavours producers took a stall at this year's Food on the Edge event in Galway! 2 great days of networking and meeting top food personalities in Ireland with some of our local produce used in the lunch and evening dinners.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Business Advice Sessions

- 33 Business Advice sessions were undertaken during October

Mentoring

- 13 mentoring assignments commenced in October.

Training

- 56 participants took part in LEO training over October, with participants on various courses.

Evaluations and Approvals Committee

- The EVAC meeting took place on 22nd October, with 5 grants approved during the period.

Online Trading Vouchers

- 6 Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs) were approved during October.

BREXIT Preparatory Programme:

LEO Meath Outreach Programme - Oct 2019

As part of Meath's BREXIT Preparation Programme, LEO Meath scaled its BREXIT preparatory practical events for Meath businesses throughout October, ahead of the 31st October 2019 deadline.

- **BREXIT Advisory Clinics (weekly)** - Meath County Council HQ on Wednesdays & Thursdays: One hour one-to-one advisory sessions will help to ensure businesses are preparing for Brexit as the deadline grows ever closer. These one-to-one sessions are designed to help businesses plan and avail of all the various supports and grants available
- **BREXIT Mentor Programme – 24 Outreach Clinics** took place on Oct: 3rd, 7th, 14th, 21st in Ashbourne; Gormanston; Kells; Trim; and Dunboyne. These two hour one-to-one mentoring sessions are designed to help businesses plan and take immediate action to effectively mitigate the risks and avail of the opportunities that Brexit presents, increasing business' resilience and competitiveness irrespective of the outcome.
- **BREXIT Customs Training Workshops** – took place on Oct 8th & 23rd Oct in Navan with 47 businesses in attendance with BDO Customs and International Trade Services Limited and *KGH Customs* - Dr Andrew Grainger, Director, Trade Facilitation Consulting Ltd providing the training. These practical customs workshop provide an overview of the additional documentation and procedures needed, following Brexit. The practical course content will also include understanding how to start import / export journey; understanding customs basics; Customs declarations; additional customs facilitations; Customs Duty Reliefs; AEO/Trusted Trader and Industry Specific Issues.
- **LEO Meath Client Engagement Offering** – 30 LEO Meath grant-aided clients are taking part in a client engagement project which includes intensive business support expertise to deliver a deeper level of engagement than our standard mentoring programme. The quantifiable value of partaking in this project is €5,000 worth of consultancy services and efficiencies per client for their business development. Enterprise Ireland has provided a €50,000 budget to deliver this project to assist businesses to prepare for the impact of BREXIT.

Regional Agencies Support Brexit Scenario planning seminar

DBEI BREXIT Regional Agencies Support Scenario Planning meeting was attended by Head of Enterprise and Business Advisor on 1st October, held in LMETB, Dundalk to review reactions to various scenarios as a result of Brexit

BOI Get to Grips with Brexit Event Leinster

BOI Get to Grips with Brexit Information sharing Event Leinster attended on 3rd October in City North Hotel. The event provided advice and guidance on the key actions necessary to minimise the potential disruption to enterprise, particularly around the supply chain and logistic challenges that may emerge. The briefing covered the current political climate around Brexit, implications from changes to tariffs, revenue guarantees, and new documentary requirements for businesses trading with the UK.

BREXIT Institute Seminar: Brexit and Data Protection

DCU BREXIT Institute Seminar attended on 17th October at which **Helen Dixon, the Data Protection Commissioner of Ireland** provided a keynote speech, followed with a panel discussion of academics and business leaders; **Mike Harris** (Grant Thornton), **Tuomas Ojanen** (University of Helsinki), **John Quinn** (DCU) and **Colin Rooney** (Arthur Cox), moderated by **Susan Daly** (The Journal). The seminar was concluded by a keynote speech by **Peter Hustinx, the first European Data Protection Supervisor**.

LEO Meath Autumn Training Schedule:

The LEO Meath Autumn Training schedule continued throughout October with a great range of training courses completed throughout including:

Start Your Own Business Courses (Day & Evening versions), Wordpress course, Selling Skills for Owner Managers, Shooting and Editing Marketing Videos On a Budget; Digital Marketing Clinics, Selling Online and the Law, Search Engine Optimisation, Developing an Effective Email Marketing Campaign, Market Research and Design Thinking, Social Media & Online Images, Whiteboard Animations course, Data Protection for Websites, Instagram for business, Book Keeping - Manual And Computerised Accounts (Sage), and a Branding Workshop.

LGMA Supplier Event

LGMA Supplier Event was attended in City West on 1st October with a LEO Meath stand and staff on hand to assist any businesses who might like to tender for public sector contracts.

EU Funding

Erasmus+ Funding Seminar

Erasmus+ Funding seminar on Strategic Partnerships for SMEs and Entrepreneurships took place on 8th October in the Aisling Hotel Dublin, in advance of the Gig Economy project commencing, which LEO Meath is leading.

LEO Meath Mentor Network Event

LEO Meath hosted a networking event for our LEO Meath Mentors on 9th October. Guest speakers discussed Lean; Succession Planning; and an overview of Brexit preparations and expected impacts on LEO Meath clients.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Conference

The SBIR *Public Sector Proposers* Conference took place on 14th October in Enterprise Ireland, East Point and was attended by LEO Meath. *At the event the new competitive SBI call was launched. The event provided the Irish public sector to learn more about SBIR as an instrument to foster innovation. Global SBIR leaders and fellow Irish public sector colleagues who have used SBIR as a means to address societal Challenges provided overviews of their previous projects.*

National Women's Enterprise Day Conference:

LEO Meath's 2019 National Women's Enterprise Day Conference took place on Thursday, 17th October in City North Hotel, Gormanston, as a collaboration between LEO Meath & LEO Louth. 75 Women in Business attended the conference, which included Lorraine Murphy, of Lorraine Murphy Coaching & Training; Evelyn Garland, Director and co-founder of Simply Fit Food; Sarah Daly, Executive Director of Creative Spark, Centre; Elaine Connolly, Director Cubicle 7 Entertainment with Margaret E Ward as our keynote speaker for the event. The theme of the event is "*Making It Happen*" and there was a strong focus on exports and international trade.

University Business Forum

Joe English, Head of Enterprise was invited to make presentation and participate in the University Business Forum in Brussels between 23rd - 25th October.

Mid East Regional Innovation Conference

The inaugural Mid East Regional Innovation Conference took place in Osprey Hotel, Naas on 31st Oct. Collaboration between LEO Meath, LEO Wicklow, and LEO Carlow. The event focused on competitive advantage for those who innovate.

Public Libraries

Bettystown Library

Meath County Council is currently looking for a suitable location for a library in Bettystown and has allocated money in the capital programme to undertake works when a suitable location is sourced.

Fr. Eoghan O'Growney

Over 200 people attended *In Anam an Athar* – a concert to celebrate the life *and* work of Fr. Eoghan O'Growney. This year marked the 120th anniversary of the death of the patriot and scholar, who founded the Gaelic League with Eoin McNeill and Douglas Hyde. The event was produced by Solstice Arts Centre in partnership with the local studies department. Fr. O'Growney's legacy was celebrated over the course of the evening with the finest Irish music, dance and poetry.

World Library IFLA Congress

The Library Association of Ireland and the Irish National Organising Committee will host the 86th IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Dublin in 2020. Over 4,000 librarians will travel to Ireland for the event.

Library Visits are offered to delegates as part of the official congress programme. These visits deeply enrich the overall conference experience and are a particular highlight for many international delegates. An application has been made to the organising committee to include Ashbourne library in the programme of visits.

Ócaidí Liteartha san Leabharlann

Tháinig Olga Balaeva ar chuart go Leabharlann Cill Dheagláin , bhí daoine i lathair ó gach chuid den chontae agus ó chontae Lú le eisteach leis an t-údar óg ón Rúis a scríobh *Ireland as Gaeilge*.

Children's Book Festival

Family Day Navan Library – Sunday 20th October

Over 150 people enjoyed a wide range of literary and cultural events for families in Navan library on Sunday 20th October. The event proved very popular with all of the events fully booked. Many new visitors availed of the opportunity to access the service on a Sunday afternoon. Staff took the opportunity to introduce the visitors to the many new ICT services introduced in recent years.

Right to Read Award

Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, presented Maedhbh Rogan McGann, Senior Executive Librarian, Meath County Council, with the Right to Read Champion Award at a ceremony in Dublin on 17 October.

The delivery of the Right to Read programme at local level is led by the public library services in each local authority and the implementation is overseen by a Right to Read co-ordinator in each library service.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Climate Change

The Climate Action Strategy (CAS) was officially launched on the 16th September by the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach, Senior Management, Chair of the Climate Action Forum and Climate Action Team. Implementation of the various actions has now commenced and designed to ensure that climate change is embedded into our everyday activities, services and projects and in accordance with the all of government Climate Action Plan 2019 to lead by example and actively engage with citizen stakeholders to promote climate friendly behaviours. An implementation plan for specific actions to be rolled out in 2020 is currently being developed.

Amongst the particular initiatives underway or proposed are:

- ✓ The establishment of a Climate Action Forum for which all members were invited to attend – the first meeting of the forum was held on the 21st August when it was agreed that this forum would comprise of 12 elected members and representing each political grouping and each Municipal District. A number of places are still available on this forum
- ✓ The holding of a series of Climate Action Meath Climate Matters Roadshows in each of the Municipal District
- ✓ The holding of a Council Day of Climate Action to coincide with the global day of climate action and when staff were invited to make a climate pledge, to change one thing that would have a positive impact on climate change and the environment. The initiative involving interaction with staff resulted in over 80 pledges being made.
- ✓ The publication of a fortnightly newsletter to keep the elected members abreast of developments with regard to Climate Change initiatives.
- ✓ Caroline Corrigan presented on the opportunities from climate change at the inaugural Green and Gold Breakfast Conference on the 15th October and the Climate Action Team had a stand at the event also, they were also present at the Meath Chambers Expo held on the 2nd October.
- ✓ Climate Action Training for Senior Staff Members and Elected Members was held on Wed 23rd October. Meath is the first local authority in the country to provide such training.
- ✓ Meath County Council presented on their extensive climate engagement initiatives to the CARO Regional Steering Group on the 17th October, the CARO see these initiatives as strong leadership and feel they could be rolled out across the Region.
- ✓ A Sustainable Energies Community (SEC) project for Batterstown is currently underway in association with Energy Solutions and involving the development of an Energy Master Plan – a number of other towns in the County have expressed an interest in developing similar plans for their area.
- ✓ Support for the National smart metering project -as part of the National Climate Action Plan, ESB Networks has recently commenced a major meter replacement programme,

which will result in the upgrade of 2.4 million electricity meters to modern smart ready digital technology.

National ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 - 2022

The EPA in 2017 published the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 - 2022 and expanded the national monitoring network providing enhanced real time information on air quality to the public. The programme provides for an additional 38 new monitoring stations in all urban areas, the siting of which will be based on the criteria of population size, vulnerability to air quality issues and spatial distribution. The network of sites will monitor a range of specified air quality parameters including particulates, heavy metals, inorganic and organic gases.

A site for a new monitoring station has been identified for Navan in close proximity to the Fire Station and preparatory works for same have commenced. New monitoring stations are also proposed for Drogheda and Balbriggan and from which the residents in East Meath will be able to monitor real time air quality data.

Green Schools

A Green Schools Seminar for all schools in Meath will take place in Buvinda House in November. The An Taisce Green Schools team will be on hand to assist schools in rolling out their environmental programme across a range of themes – Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Travel, Global Citizenship.

Really Rubbish Film Festival and Guth Gafa

10 Meath Secondary Schools will show their movies at the Guth Gafa Documentary Festival in Kells in November. The schools took part in the Meath County Council Really Rubbish Film Festival in 2018/19. Each movie will have an environmental theme and the winner will be announced on November 12th. The Council is working with Guth Gafa to provide a series of movies aimed at young people, with themes such as Climate Action, Diversity, Activism. All Meath secondary schools have been invited and encouraged to attend.

ReLove Fashion

Five Meath Secondary Schools are taking part in this pilot project in conjunction with schools in Dublin City, Wicklow, Westmeath and the Rediscovery Centre. The aim of the initiative is to encourage young people to develop an understanding of the challenges which 'Fast Fashion' create in terms of damage to the environment, and to find new ways to up-cycle existing fabrics and textiles. The Regional Final for the competition will take place in the Rediscovery Centre in November with a view to a nationwide roll-out in 2020.

National Food Waste Recycling Pilot – Trim

Meath County Council is supporting a collaborative Food Waste Recycling Pilot project with Cre (the Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland) and the Irish Waste Management Association, with the objective of addressing barriers to householders using their Food Waste bin effectively and continuously. Three pilot towns have been selected for the project including Trim. Staff will call to households to explain the objectives of the pilot and to distribute householder packs including kitchen kaddies, and sacks to the households who agree to participate in the pilot project.

The project got underway in late - October.

Community Environment Action Fund (previously Local Agenda 21)

The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund (LA21), which has operated since 1997, promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level. The Scheme has been renamed the Community Environment Action Fund from 2019 onwards.

The projects involve partnership arrangements between local authorities and various local groups including community groups, schools and environmental NGOs and for this year's scheme there is a particular emphasis on projects which target Climate Action and Biodiversity

The closing date for submissions was the 27th September 2019 and in total 50 applications were received and are currently being assessed.

River Basin Management Plan 2018 -2021

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

A regional integrated Catchment Management Programme for the Midlands and Eastern region was published earlier in the year and sets out the areas prioritised for action and the schedule for commencing works by recently established Catchments assessment teams. Public consultation is a key feature of the programme in advance of any works being undertaken and to date public consultation evenings have been held in respect of proposed works for the Kilmainham Dee and Moynalty Rivers and the Boycetown River near Dunsany/Kiltale, the River Inny /Lough Sheelin catchment and the Broadmeadow Catchment in Ashbourne.

Provision of Slipways – River Boyne and Blackwater

An Bord Pleanála by order dated 26th November, 2018 approved the planning application and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the provision of the boat slipways and construction of access thereto on the River Boyne and River Blackwater. Construction work on the 5 slipways commenced in early August and were substantially complete at the end of October.

Draft Beach Management Plan

The Members at the February Laytown Bettystown Municipal district meeting agreed to accept the findings of the draft plan and recommendations there from, and noting that the specific provisions from the Natura Impact Statement relating to dogs on leads and horses will require revisions to the 2010 Foreshore Bye Laws. The proposed revisions were placed on public display from 19th July 2019 to 30th August 2019.

A number of suggestions contained in the submissions will be the subject of discussion with the appropriate bodies and a report will be prepared and considered at MD level.

The Council is 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. It is intended that the Building will house the Lifeguards, Beach Warden and other services. A consultation with local stakeholders was held in Bettystown in mid August when some very constructive ideas and suggestions were put forward for consideration. It is hoped to commence the Statutory Planning / Part 8 process in early November.

Jackie Maguire.

Jackie Maguire,
Chief Executive.

Designated Public Official under Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015. www.lobbying.ie