

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

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Meath County Council

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October, 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	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	Q4 2019
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Totals	118	25,846,899		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Totals	26	5,813,948		

PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Nobber	19	3,657,000	-	-
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Totals	40	7,822,565		
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
Totals	134	30,527,981		
GRAND TOTALS	389	86,973,908		

* 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
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

Totals		136	31,271,082
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▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Bettystown	Turnkey	8	2,129,557
Bettystown (1)	Part V	26	6,509,565
Swan Lane, Balreask, Navan	Vacant Unit/Derelict Site	6	1,426,700
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	Direct Construction (Phase 5)	34	7,996,502
Totals		74	18,062,323

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: <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 the Part 8 Design process has been prepared and Departmental Stage 2 approval to proceed to Part 8 is currently awaited. Approval is also being sought for additional funding required for the revised design.
- Alverno Court - Part 8 Planning Permission is in place. The project scope has been revised and the total estimate of 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 architects team in preparation of tender documents. Contract documents for the Civil Works contract are awaited from the design team.

Acquisition Programme

- 35 sales to the value of €7,241,364 have closed and 16 acquisitions are at contract stage to date in 2019

Turnkey Units

- 15 Sales have closed to date to the value of €3,815,200
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Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability

- 326 Grants have been approved to date in 2019, to the value of €2,259,402

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 34 projects completed to date (€257,666)
- 11 projects ongoing (€134,718)
- 5 task orders sent to contractor (€47,008)

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 September 2019. For the period from 14th August 2019 to 18th September 2019, works were completed on 8 vacant units; while 7 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	0	0	0	0	0
Kells	3	3	0	5	1
Laytown/Bettystown	1	1	1	2	1
Navan	5	2	0	6	1
Ratoath	4	1	0	5	0
Trim	6	2	1	9	0
TOTALS	19	9	2	27	3

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 2019
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	5 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/3 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 – Q4 2019
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 from 1st January to 31st August 2019	102 (107 Adults)	43 (65 Adults, 83 children)	145
Placements at 31st August 2019 (includes placements in 2018)	97 (101 Adults)	26 (41 Adults,57 Children)	123

Of the 26 households with children, 15 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 a property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare

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

Social Housing Supports

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	173
Approved Housing Bodies	121
RAS	1
HAP	490
TOTAL	785

TRANSPORTATION

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Land and Property Valuation Services Consultant have been appointed. Topographical Proof Survey Contractor has been Appointed and work due to commence by end of Sept. Tender Assessment for Archaeological Consultancy ongoing. Supplementary Ground Investigation tender to be published shortly.
N2 Slane Bypass	Route options being assessed. Public Consultation re Emerging Preferred Option expected in 2 nd half of 2019.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Technical Consultancy Services have now being appointed.
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	Design 95% complete. In order to progress the scheme Part 8 process with required reports and CPO now being considered
N52 Grange to Clontail	Ground Investigation Survey Contract ongoing – awaiting factual report. Part 8 documents currently being drafted.
N51/R147 Junction Navan	TII funded safety scheme. Substantially complete.
N2 Slane Approaches	Resurfacing works commenced 29 th July and scheduled for completion in 13 weeks.
N2 Primatestown	Substantially complete.
NS Resurfacing (various locations)	Works scheduled to commence 26 th September 2019.

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

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	Detailed project appraisal submitted to DTTAS. Detailed design progressing. Landowners notified regarding proposed compensation due further to detailed site investigation.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Draft chapters of Environmental Impact Assessment report under review. Preliminary design of bridge fixed as option 2B single span concrete bridge.
R162 Kilberry	DTTAS appraisal submitted for approval. Public consultation for Phase 1 completed 24 th June. Department approval re Tender Docs received and Tenders due back 30 th September 2019.
R155 Curragha	Traffic Calming design progressing. DTTAS appraisal submitted and approved. Public consultation for Phase 1 completed 24 th June. Drainage design being finalised & overall tender drawings nearing completion. Irish Water interface re planned works to be resolved.
R162 Lisnagrew	Detailed design completed and tender docs currently under review.

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. Contracts awarded, programme well under way with over 70% complete.

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

R154 Traffic Calming at Kiltale and Batterjohn	Traffic Calming design substantially complete. Public consultation completed 24 th June. Tenders received for Batterjohn and contractor to be appointed. Tender docs for Kiltale received and being reviewed.
R154 Traffic Calming at Batterstown	Public consultation meeting to be held 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	Construction tenders received and assessed and report issued to Department of Housing requesting approval to award the contract.
Kilbride Rd/R125 Ashbourne Rd, Ratoath	Realignment of junction - Part 8 was on public display until 19 th July 2019. Two submissions received and formal Part 8 report was issued to the MD Members at the September MD meeting.

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Kerbing works commenced on Railway Street adjacent to St Mary's Church car park. Night works were ongoing for the installation of service ducts crossings at the Brews Hill junction and for ESB ducting on Trimgate Street. Groundworks around the Bru House have been completed and preparatory work for paving completed. Deed of Dedication documents were completed for properties on Railway Street. Discussions are ongoing with owner of lands for proposed park and ride site with respect to a Covenant Agreement to be attached to a potential sale. Design
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	work for next phase of the work underway. Questionnaire surveys distributed to Bridge Street and Ludlow Street and information collated. A RTPI unit was installed at the new bus shelter on Abbey Road – MCC awaiting ESB to energise mini-pillar to provide supply to new public lights and bus shelter.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	The non-statutory public consultation is underway until 11 th of October. Drawings and an Options Report are on display in Buvinda House and Duleek offices. Submissions are invited until 25 th of October. Tender documents 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 were prepared and issued.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	Tender documents for the installation of bus shelters were prepared by Consultants appointed by the Council and issued.
Cycle Parking	Site locations were identified and tender documents prepared.

4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Scheme	Road	MD	Status
Hayestown	L3400/L50521	Navan	Civil Works substantially complete.
Longwood Village	R160/ L4020	Trim	Works complete.
Greenan, Drumconrath	R165/ L34036	Kells	Works Starting 19/09/2019
Culmullin Cross	L6205/L62051/R125	Ratoath	Works Starting 07/10/2019
Knockbrack, Oldcastle	R195/L 68197	Kells	Works Starting 07/10/2019

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.

Minor Bridge repairs are currently underway 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

Public Lighting Capital Programme	2019	Programme of Capital works commenced – 50% 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 - Tender awarded, Pre start meeting held with contractor.</p> <p>Navan MD - Tender awarded for Troytown Heights. Woodlands Estate is complete. Tenders received and contractor appointed for Troytown Heights/Proudstown Rd and for Beechmount Estate.</p> <p>Kells MD - Path rehabilitation works completed on Maudlin Street. Dwarf wall kerbing installation works have commenced on Athboy Rd. Kells.</p> <p>Ashbourne MD– Works are completed in Garden City, snagging works currently being completed.</p> <p>Trim MD –Works are complete at New Haggard Road, Trim.</p> <p>Laytown/Bettystown MD– Tender documents and drawings prepared for Ashbourne Rd & Fr Ryan Park Duleek. Tender documents and drawings prepared for Alverno Heights and Beach Grove Laytown.</p>	
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) & Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2019	Works are approx 60% complete.	
Royal Canal		Physical construction works will be completed in early September. Signage and markings remain to be carried out.	
Milltown Road Ashbourne-Road Safety Improvements Scheme		Tenders assessed, preferred contractor identified.	

FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 30th September 2019	
Applications Received	302
Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency	19
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	0
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	283
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	3
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	0
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	182
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	98
	283
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	96
Drawdowns for Restructuring Loans	5
No of customers in MARP	37

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Planning

- Planning Applications

The number of applications received in the period 01.01.2019 to 24.09.19 was 1261 in comparison to 1112 received in the same period last year.

- Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of August 2019 were €8,897,791 compared to €10,137,623 in same period last year. (Figure is inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

- Variations

Navan Development Plan

A presentation was made to the Members at the September meeting of Navan Municipal District. The same presentation will be made to the Full Council at the October Monthly meeting.

Trim Development Plan

A presentation was made to the Members at the September meeting of Trim Municipal District. The same presentation will be made to the Full Council at the October Monthly meeting.

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Meetings of the LCDC took place on Tuesday 17th September, the next one scheduled for Friday 25th October, 2019.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

Meetings of the LAG took place on Tuesday 17th September, the next one scheduled for Friday 25th October, 2019.

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)

- Walkability of Athboy carried out with Prosper Meath, Age Friendly and HSE Dementia section. Details from the walk are being collated and will be presented to the steering group.
- The Age Friendly Alliance intends to launch an awareness of the "Message in a Bottle" for older persons on November 1st as part of the Flexibus Annual Celebration Day in Simmonstown.
- Age Friendly Recognition awards scheduled for November in Dublin with 2 projects shortlisted for Meath.

- Meath is hosting the 2020 Older Persons Convention in Trim next May with 150 older persons expected to attend the 2 days conference.

Joint Policing Committee

The next JPC Meeting took place on Monday 23rd September 2019 with 7 new Councillors appointed to same. The JPC public meeting is on 16th October in the Headford Hotel, Kells at 7.30pm.

Public Participation Network

The re-registration of groups registered before 2019 has commenced. A national insurance survey has been completed with 104 responses received from Meath PPN members. Feedback from the groups outlined the difficulties associated with the cost of insurance and the impact which has included ceasing and curtailing activities within their communities.

Meath PPN was represented at the National PPN stand at the Ploughing Championships. Workshops for the Wellbeing Statement will commence in Kells on October 4, and will be rolled out throughout the county. This is an opportunity for PPN members to contribute to policy development within Meath. The new PPN resource co-ordinator commenced work on Monday 23rd September.

Ashbourne Linear Park

Works are being finalised within the park and it is expected to open later in the year.

Pride of Place

The Pride of Place awards nights have commenced with the Trim MD awards taking place in Byrnes Bar, Ballivor on Thursday 26th September, the other awards nights are:

- Wednesday 2nd Oct – Kells MD – Headfort Arms Hotel, Kells
- Thursday 3rd Oct – Navan MD – Buvinda House, Navan
- Tuesday 8th Oct – Ratoath MD – Dunshaughlin Community Centre, Dunshaughlin
- Wednesday 23rd Oct – Laytown/Bettystown MD – The Tribe Restaurant, Duleek
- Tuesday 29th Oct – Ashbourne MD – Ashbourne Library
- Thursday 7th Nov – County Awards – Solstice Arts Centre, Navan

The Community Grant Scheme

Community Grant Scheme claims are being processed as they are received. To date 33% of the approved grant claims have been processed. Completed claim forms are to be submitted by Monday 30th September, 2019.

The Community Amenity Project Scheme

Assessment of the 51 applications is completed. Details will be presented to each Municipal District during October followed by the Full Council.

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 with claim forms to be submitted by the end of the year. The next meeting of the Committee is expected to take place in October/November.

Knockharley Grant Scheme

Works are currently ongoing on the Kentstown Village Project which involves the creation of green space, football pitches, parking area and changing rooms. The next meeting is scheduled for October.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Works are ongoing by the groups under the 2018 scheme and must be completed by April 2020. An announcement is due in October of successful projects for the 2019 scheme.

Healthy Ireland Fund scheme

New HIF Round 3 has been announced and will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021. Four 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.

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. Announcement of successful projects is due in November.

Community Enhancement Programme

Meath's allocation is €142,893.00. Applications were invited from groups for both small grants of under €1,000 and larger grants in excess of €1,000 for capital expenditure that address disadvantage. 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 is scheduled for 14th October in the Ardboyne Hotel. Comhairle members to attend the Dail in November to celebrate 100 years with TD's and the Ceann Comhairle in attendance.

Meath Digital Strategy

There were 19 responses on the Draft Meath Digital Strategy; a summary of the submissions is available on request. The strategy has been updated to reflect many of the recommendation and will be presented to the Broadband Steering Committee and the Council at the October meeting.

Navan 2030

Shared access telecommunications ducting has been installed in Phase 1 of the Navan 2030 works on Railway Street. The purpose of this ducting is to remove the need for telecoms operators to add more cables and boxes to the front of buildings in the Architectural Conservation Area of the town.

Continued development of this network will require a significant financial commitment from the Council. All options are being reviewed to ensure that businesses and residents in Navan Town Centre are able to have access to the improvements in broadband services that the operators are rolling out.

Arts

Toradh Gallery Ashbourne

Mary Clarke *Silent:Listen* Exhibition of paintings on digital photographs accompanied by haiku poetry in transparent vinyl. Based on the topic of climate action. Mary Clarke is originally from London, now based in Navan, Co. Meath. 5 works procured for the Meath County Council Art Collection. The exhibition ran from April – June 2019.

Kieran McNulty *Borderline* Exhibition of paintings on aluminum, charcoal drawings and prints. Inspired by the River Boyne. Kieran McNulty is an artist and production designer based in Mornington County Meath. The exhibition ran from June – August 2019.

Tatyana Feeney *A Perfect Rain* Exhibition of monoprints and printed vinyl based on the picture book *Eva and the Perfect Rain*. Inspired by Irish weather. Tatyana Feeney is an author/illustrator originally from North Carolina, now based in Trim Co. Meath. The exhibition runs from Sept – Nov 2019.

Toradh2 Gallery Kells

Toradh2, in the Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub, Kells is curated and managed by the Arts Office.

Heritage Arts Group *A Sense of Place* Group exhibition of mixed media, examining what a 'sense of place' means to each artist. The Heritage Arts Group is a community amateur art group based in Kells Co Meath. The exhibition ran from June 2019.

Type Trail Collective *A Canvas of Type* Retrospective exhibition of mixed media celebrating 10 years of Kells Type Trail Festival, featuring works that examine type as an art form. Kells Type Trail Collective is an arts group featuring professional artists working with community groups. The exhibition ran from July – August 2019.

1 work procured for the Meath County Council Art Collection

Bernadette Tuite *Following Contours* Exhibition of sculptural ceramics accompanied by photography and sound art, inspired by the wild Atlantic Coastline and marine pollution. Bernadette Tuite is a ceramic artist originally from Navan, now based in Cork. 1 work will be added to the Meath County Council Art Collection as per Going Solo Award stipulations. The exhibition runs from Sept. – Nov 2019.

Workshops & Community

Tatyana Feeney delivered 3 schools workshops based on illustration as part of the **Children's Book Festival**, tying in with her exhibition '*A Perfect Rain*' concurrently on display at the Toradh Gallery, Ashbourne. Tatyana taught techniques relating to visual storytelling to school groups.

Shaping Ireland: Landscapes in Irish Art, the Arts Office in association with the National Gallery of Ireland presented a curatorial talk on Landscapes in Irish art spanning 250 years at Oldcastle Library. Facilitated by National Gallery of Ireland Educational Curatorial intern Aoife Marie Buckley, the event featured an illustrated talk based on the National Gallery Collection.

Training Notes: Music in Healthcare Programme

Meath County Council's Music in Healthcare Mentorship programme in association with Kids Classics teaches facilitation skills to musicians working in geriatric healthcare settings. 3

professional musicians work with professional mentors in Meath based nursing homes over a 12-month period.

Training Notes is part of the Arts Office FÉACH (Furthering Enterprise Arts Culture and Heritage) continued professional development programme. Healthcare partners are Navan Hospital, Beaufort Nursing Home Navan and St Josephs Nursing Home Trim.

Creative Placemaking

As part of the ongoing Bigger Picture: Kells Creative Placemaking Project, Kells Courthouse Tourism and Culture Hub welcomed its first creative tenants: Soilsíú Films. The Arts Office successfully negotiated license tenancy agreements with Soilsíú Films and the Guth Gafa Documentary Film Festival and facilitated their move on August 1st. This is a welcome development for the Culture Hub and Creative Placemaking Project and brings new employment opportunities in the film industry to Kells.

A total of 22 literary events facilitated at the Courthouse Cultural Hub as part of the Hinterland Festival 2019.

Awards

Going Solo Visual Arts Award

Ceramic artist Bernadette Tuite announced as the winner of the Going Solo Graduate Award 2019. Bernadette received a solo exhibition and €1000 combined materials and purchase prize. The award is intended to support graduate artists from Meath in the earliest stages of their career providing them with financial assistance and exhibition mentorship and experience.

Drama League of Ireland Bursary Award

Introduced as an action under the County Arts Development Plan 2019 – 2024, this award is intended to fund a week-long residential stay at the Drama League of Ireland Summer School. The residency is open to directors, designers and actors working in theatre.

Heritage and Conservation

- **Historic Towns Initiative Funding Application** – Contractor is on-site and works progressing on Meath Chronicle building and Laurence Hotel (former Central Hotel), Market Sq., Navan – site inspection undertaken by 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

Social Media campaign

Social Media followers continue to grow across, facebook, instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, which the ED team managing same. A number of posts are scheduled each week with emphasis placed on current and engaging topics. Engaging with the Community through Social Media channels allows positive interaction with some sectors of the community who would not otherwise engage.

Commuter Survey

The commuter survey is in its final few weeks for the compilation of responses. We have had just under 4000 responses to date. We have had a wonderful response which we can credit to our massive social media campaign and assistance of the Corporate Services team and ED team. Also coverage on National and Local media both radio and newspapers, along with the placement of VMS on key places on the motorway. A comprehensive report on the findings is expected in mid October.

Friendliest Town

4 from 10 retailers nominated by the Council reached the Top 100 stores in the Country and 2 out of the 4 have made the decision to progress to the next stage. We wish Cafe Sabrosa & The Gift and Home Store Athboy the very best of luck.

National Enterprise Town Awards – Bank of Ireland

Dunboyne and Moynalty welcomed the judges and both made phenomenal presentations and submissions to the judges. The awards ceremony will take place in the Lyrath Estate on December 5. The announcement is awaited of the winner runners up in the small towns/villages category and large towns category.

Industrial Estates Management:

Eamon Duggan & Kells Industrial Estate

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

A joint initiative with Trim MD will follow in the coming weeks to have the available sites tidied before the valuers commence their work.

Eamon Duggan contd.

- **Sites 1,2 & 3** - Communication is ongoing on the sale of sites 1,2 & 3. The purchasers have requested an extension of 2 months to close the sale this has been granted with the hope of having contracts signed by Mid November.

- **Site 19** – Section 183 was approved on the proposal of Cllr Joe Fox and seconded by Cllr Aisling Dempsey at the September MD meeting. It will now progress to full member approval at the October Meeting.
- **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 Industrial Estate

- Final quotes have been received and commencement of 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 project 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 October 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 successful EU project submissions earlier this year: The Gig Economy; and Boundary Spanners.

Boyne Valley Food Strategy:

Samhan

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF) is hosting an event on November 1-3, 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.

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.

World Food Travel Association

Boyne Valley Flavours received notification that we are Semi-Finalists in the World Food Travel Association - Food Trekking Awards 2019 under the category

Most Innovative Food or Beverage Marketing Campaign for a Destination. We are sole nominees from Ireland. Winners will be notified on September 30, with the award ceremony taking place on November 3, in London.

Food Series

Food Series – The Food Series for 2019 has been a great success so far with number of attendees up at all events. Events running in September, October and November are also included in Fáilte Ireland's new campaign "Taste the Island".

Púca

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 November 1. The Boyne Valley Foods Officer Grainne McKeown spoke at three organised information workshops across the three hubs on how to get involved in the festival.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Business Advice Sessions

- 36 Business Advice sessions were undertaken during September.

BREXIT Preparatory Programme: Outreach Programme Sept & Oct 2019:

As part of Meath's BREXIT Preparation Programme, LEO Meath is scaling up its BREXIT preparatory practical events for Meath businesses throughout September and October, ahead of the October 31 deadline.

- **BREXIT Advisory Clinics (weekly)** - Meath County Council HQ on Wednesdays and 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 – Outreach Clinics** in each Municipal District:
Sept: 6th, 12th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 30th; Oct: 3rd, 7th, 14th, 21st.
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** - various locations across the county: Sept: 10th, 11th, 17th & Oct 8th. Practical customs workshop providing 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.
- **DBEI Outreach BREXIT Event** for Meath and Louth businesses on 23rd Sept in Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk. In conjunction with the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB-I), the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Heather Humphreys T.D. is hosted an information session on steps that small businesses should take to prepare for Brexit.

BREXIT Institute Seminar: Brexit, the Irish Economy and the Future of European Fintech

DCU BREXIT Institute Seminar attended on September 16, at which Minister Paschal Donohoe provided a keynote speech, followed with a panel discussion surrounding BREXIT and the Fintech sector, and SME preparatory requirements and potential impacts with Samantha McCaughren (Sunday Independent), Mark Harris (AIB), Deoborah Hutton (Evershed Sutherland), Lory Kehoe (Consensys) and Pierangelo Rosati (DCU).

National Women's Enterprise Day Conference:

LEO Meath's 2019 National Women's Enterprise Day Conference will take place on Thursday, 17th October (9.30am – 2.30pm) in City North Hotel, Gormanston, as a collaboration between LEO Meath & LEO Louth. There is a very interesting line-up of speakers planned including 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 will be a strong focus on exports and international trade.

2019/20 Student Enterprise Programme (SEP):

The Local Enterprise Office kicked off the 2019/20 Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) with three special Idea Generation Days in the Trim Castle Hotel on 16th, 17th, 24th September. In total, circa one thousand second level students and their teachers attended over the three days. The students learned about how the SEP works, all about branding and marketing via social media, Unique Selling Points and how to develop a business idea. At the end of each event, students got to combine all the knowledge they gained and make a presentation in front of their peers. The SEP is a national programme for second level students in which over twenty two thousand took part in 2019, with Meath represented in all three categories, Junior Intermediate and Senior. Students have to think of a viable business idea, do market research, bring the product or service to market, make sales and hopefully, generate a profit. Meath has a very good reputation in the programme, having won many national titles over the years. The SEP runs from now until early May, 2020, with the National Final to take place in Croke Park.

National Ploughing Championship

LEO Meath exhibited in the Local Enterprise Village at this year's Ploughing Championship alongside with LEO Meath client, Finnegan's Farm showcasing their products over the 3 day event in Carlow between 17th – 19th September.

Meath Partnership Job Fair

LEO Meath exhibited at the Meath Partnership Job Fair which took place on 11th September 2019 in Trim Castel Hotel with clients who were interested in starting their own businesses.

LEO Meath Autumn Training Schedule:

The LEO Meath Autumn Training schedule commenced on 5th September. LEO Meath have a great range of training courses available throughout the Autumn months including:

Start Your Own Business Courses, Sell With Confidence, Developing Your Own Website Using Wordpress, Email Marketing Using Mailchimp, Shooting & Editing Marketing Videos On A Budget, Gdpr Workshop, Getting Geared Up On Taxation For Your Business, and Book Keeping - Manual And Computerised Accounts (Sage).

Management Development Programmes: Accelerate Programme, Brexit Briefings, and Digital Marketing Clinics.

Public Libraries

Nobber Library

Nobber Library closed on Saturday, September 21, for major refurbishment work. The library will be closed for approximately 10-12 weeks and borrowers have been directed to avail of services at other libraries in the county. The branch will also receive a minor extension which will allow for the introduction of new meeting room, staff welfare and disabled access WC facilities. On re-opening the library will offer the most up to date ICT, lending and reference services as recently introduced at Athboy, Slane and Kells.

Culture Night - Dunshaughlin Library's 3rd Annual celebration of National Culture Night.

Over 150 people enjoyed superb performances by a myriad of hugely talented artists – singers, musicians, gospel choir, Irish dancers, bagpipes, harpist, and more. A delicious array of traditional food dishes from other nations was generously presented for sampling by the many foreign nationals in the local community. More than ten different nationalities were represented on the evening, including the recently arrived Syrian family. Many of the foreign nationals present attend or recently attended the *Fáilte Isteach* English language conversation classes in Dunshaughlin library. The evening was organized by a local voluntary committee in partnership with local branch library staff. The event was fully funded by Meath County Council library service.

Oíche Chultúir - Leabharlann Ráth Chairn

Bhí léacht fíor spéisúil i Leabharlann Ráth Chairn le Simon Ó Cróinín faoi cheird agus stair na bheacaireachta. Tá Leabhar nua foilsithe ag Simon "*Crónán na mBeach*" agus beidh sé ar fáil tríd na leabharlanna go léir.

Schools Service

Staff organized a number of Open Evenings for Schools across the county during September. The evenings were targeted at teachers, parents, secretaries, and library volunteers.

The events encouraged participants to find out more about the wide range of services for schools, local history resources, class novel collections, Eservices, new technologies, events programme and much more.

Ócaidí Liteartha san Leabharlann

Tá €2,800 faighte ag an seirbhís ó Foras na Gaeilge le Ócaidí a chur ar siúil i leabharlanna ar fud an chontae. Beidh na h-imeachtaí ar siúil idir seo agus am Nollaig.

National Ploughing Championships

Mark McLoughlin, Librarian, Dunboyne represented Meath County Library at the DRCD stand at the championships. Meath County Library was invited to showcase elements of the ICT equipment purchased through recent DRCD funding schemes.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Climate Change

The Climate Action Strategy (CAS) was officially launched on September 16, 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 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 held 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 Road shows in each of the Municipal District.
- ✓ The holding of a Council Day of Climate Action to coincide with the global day of climate action 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.
- ✓ The Climate Action Team will have a stand at the forthcoming Green & Gold business conference on the 15th October and were also present at the Meath Chambers Ex-Po held on the 2nd October.
- ✓ Climate Action Training for Senior Staff Members and Elected Members to be held on Wed 23rd October.
- ✓ 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.

National ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 - 2022

The EPA in 2017 published the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022, providing for a greatly expanded national monitoring network with 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 from which the residents in East Meath will be able to monitor real time air quality data.

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 and 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 with staff involved calling to households to explain the objectives and to distribute householder packs including kitchen kaddies, and sacks to the households who agree to participate in the pilot project. It is hoped to the project underway by mid-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.

2019 Anti Dumping Initiative

Under the Anti Dumping Initiative, Government 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 is somewhat expanded this year and 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.

Meath County Council has been approved for 7 projects at a total cost of €87,000 and including Kilcarn Court Railway Walk Navan , Bohermeen Bog, Naul & District, Bracetown Clonee, Mobile CCTV systems and Bulky Waste collections. These projects have to be completed by the end of September 2019.

The scheme for 2019 also provides funding for waste stream promotion days in the Civic Amenity Sites including the holding of a Waste Paint disposal facility (99,000 litres of paint collected) and 701 pieces of nursery equipment (cots, buggies etc) and 12.5 tonnes of toys at Navan Trim and Kells Recycling Centre.

Draft Litter Management Plan

A draft Litter Management Plan for the County covering the period 2019-2021 was the subject of public consultation from 19th July – 30th August and submissions received are currently being examined.

Waste Presentation Bye Laws

The Council at the October 2018 full Council meeting adopted the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-laws. These Bye Laws which have also been adopted by all other local authorities are primarily intended to give additional powers to Local Authorities to target persistent offenders who do not have appropriate arrangements in place for waste disposal provide for a number of enforcement provisions including fines and fixed penalty notices. Every household must be able to prove that they have a contract in place with an authorized waste collector or that they regularly use a civic amenity site or recycling centre.

The Regional Waste Management Plan Offices commenced on the 20th June a national awareness campaign in respect of the bye-laws comprising of national and local radio advertisements, newspaper notices and leaflets , social media including on the mywaste.ie platform.

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 setting 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 & Moynalty Rivers and the Boycetown River near Dunsany/Kiltale.

A further public consultation in respect of proposed works on the River Inny /Lough Sheelin catchment within County Meath is scheduled to be held in Oldcastle on the 16th of October – exact venue to be confirmed

Provision of Slipways – River Boyne and Blackwater

An Bord Pleanála by order dated 26th November 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 is expected to be completed by 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 by mid October.



Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive.

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