



**comhairle chontae na mí**  
*meath county council*

# **Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members**

**Monthly Management Report**  
**October 2020**

This Monthly Management Report is prepared in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and provided to the Elected Members for consideration and information.

## Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

This Monthly Management Report gives an overview of the on-going governance of Meath County Council at what continues to be a very challenging time for the Council, the county and the country more generally. This report is being provided for your information and consideration.

The Council continues to provide an almost full range of services in compliance with the national Roadmap for Reopening Society and Businesses, the Return to Work Protocol and the national Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 – a Plan for Living with COVID-19 which was published in September.

This Plan sets out a framework for restrictive measures in response to the threat from Covid-19 and established five levels. Meath is currently at Level 2 and it is important that the county maintains its position at this level at this crucial time. The Council will do what it can to ensure this and continues to liaise with the other major emergency services, the HSE and An Garda Síochana, as well as other agencies at local and regional levels. The Plan includes specific measures that local authorities will continue to lead on and Meath County Council will implement these at county level.

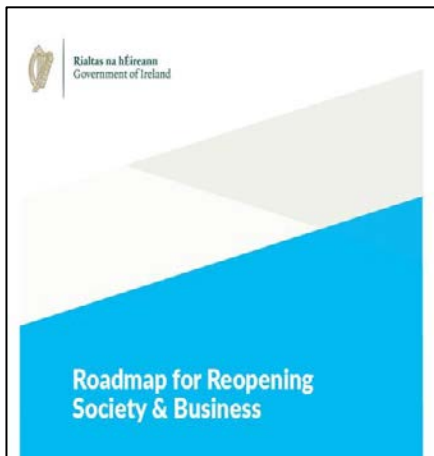
As a public service organisation, we continue to monitor and review how we are performing and our requirements to respond to the public health advice as it evolves.

I will endeavour to keep the elected members informed of developments and look forward to working collaboratively to deliver on the significant work schedule for the remainder of 2020.

Thank You,

**Jackie Maguire**  
**Chief Executive**

## Covid-19 Response



### **Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business**

The Council is operating and providing public services in line with the provisions of the Government's **Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business**. The opening of the Public Counters in June and an expansion in service levels across the full range of Council services, means that there is a near as normal level of service to the public. However, the public health restrictions in place have meant that some services and Council activities remain impacted. The Council's website will continue to provide an up-date on service levels.

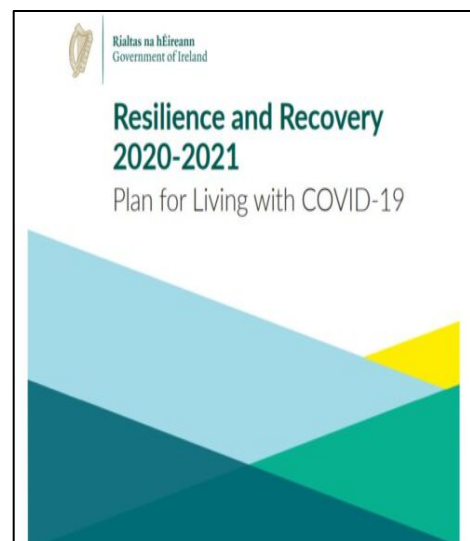
**Meath County Council Return to Work Plan:** The Council's Return to Work Plan to protect customers, employees and to minimise the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace continues to be implemented, with all modifications of the workplace and the public areas of Council facilities now in place. The roster for office based staff is in place and working well, with the majority of staff now enabled to work remotely, where required.

The Council will continue to assess the public guidance as it is issued and all measures in place will be reviewed in light of changing guidance where appropriate.

The **Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021** was launched in September and sets out a five level framework for restrictive measures. The local government sector has analysed the plan and identified actions and potential impacts directly relevant for local authorities.

### **National Guidance – Local/Regional Responses:**

The Council's response to the Covid-19 crisis is informed by the public health advice issued by NPHE and the guidance published by the Government. The Council remains in close contact with the other relevant statutory bodies at regional level and is working with these agencies to prepare a coherent inter-agency response in the event of a local or regional lockdown, with more stringent public health measures. This work will continue and the situation will be monitored as both the Health Service Executive and the Health and Safety Authority ramp-up their testing regimes in the coming weeks.



## Corporate Services

### Meetings Administration

**New Standard Operating Guidance for Council Meetings:** A new Standard Operating Guidance (SOG) document has been agreed at national level by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) that deals with attendance at Council Meetings by Elected Members, Council Officials and others and attendance at other meetings. Meath County Council has followed the public health guidance to date and risk assessed the holding of its meetings.

The new SOG introduces a number of additional measures, which the Council will incorporate as part of a new risk assessment, assess the adequacy of the measures it has put in place for all meetings and revise how it organises Council Meetings

For the moment, it is intended that all Council meetings will continue to be held in the Solstice Theatre for the foreseeable future and that all Municipal District meetings, except the Ashbourne MD meetings, will be held in the Council Chamber.

**Oireachtas Members Briefing:** The annual meeting of the Oireachtas Members took place on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Solstice Theatre. The meeting was chaired by An Cathaoirleach and included a series of briefings by senior management on the Council's key priorities, on-going challenges and issues that have been raised by Elected Members, including the adequacy or otherwise of some relevant legislation. The meeting of the Oireachtas Members is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2001 and all 10 Meath representatives (6 TDs and 4 Senators) were invited as were the TDs from the Louth and Cavan/Monaghan constituencies. A total of 11 Oireachtas Members participated.

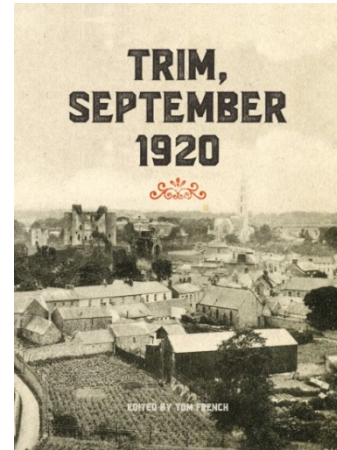


### Customer Services

**Community Call Support Line:** Members of the Customer Service team continue to handle the calls to the support line. In line with a national decision, the operating hours have been revised to 9am-5pm, Monday to Sunday. Since the Support Line was established, it has dealt with over 1,200 cases (calls and emails).

## Events - Communications

**Official Launch of the 'Trim, September 1920' Publication:** On Thursday, September 24, Trim Library was the setting for the official launch of the 'Trim, September 1920' publication. This was a virtual event, streamed live on You Tube, in order to comply with public health guidance. The event included inputs from the book's authors: Cllr Noel French and Tom French, from the Council's Library Service, with the special guest being historian, author and broadcaster Myles Dungan. The publication forms part of the Council's Decade of Centenaries programme for 2020. The publication is on sale for €10 from Trim Library and Antonia's Bookstore, Trim.



**Official Opening of the Civil Defence Headquarters:** The new headquarters of the Meath Civil Defence was officially opened by Minister Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Justice, on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. This project is the largest Civil Defence building development in the country and together with the outdoor training area on site, it will now provide the 185 volunteers with modern accommodation for both training and the housing of vehicles and equipment. The new facility will also open up the possibility of joint training with neighbouring Civil Defence units in other counties. The new headquarters represents an investment of over €2.6 million, mainly from the Council's own resources with a contribution from National Civil Defence.



The Official Opening on the Meath Civil Defence Headquarters on September 25, 2020

**An Cathaoirleach Video Messages:** In an effort to promote the work of the Council and raise awareness of Council Meetings, the Council will be posting on its social media channels a video of the Cathaoirleach outlining the key points discussed and the decisions taken, after each Council Meeting. The first such message was posted after the September meeting.

## Irish Language Scheme – Public Consultation

The Council adopted its first Irish Language Scheme in June 2006 and now proposes to develop a second scheme for the period 2020-2023, in accordance with Section 11 of the Official Languages Act 2003. The primary objective of the Act is to ensure better availability and a higher standard of services through Irish. The public consultation phase closed on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the submissions will now be considered as part of the development of the new Scheme.

# Housing Services

## Capital Programme

### Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>DESIGN PHASE</b>				
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Blackhill Cresent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q1 2021	Q3 2021
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	36	10,225,755	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>41,916,193</b>		
<b>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</b>				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q1 2021	Q2 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	34	7,996,502	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
<b>Totals</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>27,727, 089</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4,165,565</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>				
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q4 2020
Kells	40	8,555,683	Q1 2019	Q4 2020
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q4 2020
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q2 2021
<b>Totals</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>20,515,176</b>		
<b>PROJECTS COMPLETED</b>				
Bettystown (Phase 1)	16	3,437,478	Complete	N/A
Athboy (Phase 1)	32	8,850,320	Complete	N/A
Proudstown Road Navan	4	819,737	Complete	N/A
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	Complete	N/A
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	Complete	N/A
Cortown*	10	6,922,971	Complete	N/A
Kilmainhamwood*	4		Complete	N/A
Oldcastle*	16		Complete	N/A
The Belfry, Trim	3		560,000	Complete
<b>Totals</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>28,108,186</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>122,432,209</b>		

\* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

## Summary of 2020 Approved Funding Submissions

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING APPROVED €
Dunboyne	Part V	10	2,025,748
Dunshaughlin	Part V	8	2,222,861
Trim	Part V	6	1,549,664
Navan	Part V	5	1,116,500
Drogheda South	Part V	10	2,584,583
New Lane, Navan	Direct Construction	5	985,945
Athboy (Kildalkey Rd)	Direct Construction	20	4,135,500
Meath Women's Refuge	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	8	2,014,482
Newtown	Rural Dwelling (Disability)	1	237,718
Navan	Turnkey	26	6,362,500
Mornington	Part V	8	2,105,199
Bettystown	Part V	2	507,980
Donacarney	Part V	5	1,305,042
Bettystown	Turnkey	2	575,505
Ashbourne	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	20	5,393,367
Duleek	Turnkey	16	4,297,030
<b>Totals</b>		<b>152</b>	<b>37,419,624</b>

**Expression of Interest for Turnkey Schemes and/or Lands:** There is currently an open call for proposals (no deadline applies) regarding the supply of development sites or completed housing schemes that are fit for purpose for social housing within the County. Details regarding same and required forms can be found on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie). or via the following link on Meath.ie <http://bit.ly/EOIHouseSchemesAndOrLand>

**Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability:** Grants to the value of €1,616,575 have already been awarded by Meath County Council to 236 Households under the various Grants schemes to date in 2020.

**Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme:** Eighteen projects completed to date in 2020 (€138,100), with a further 12 task orders issued to contractors (€84,369)

**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 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020. For the period from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020 to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, works were completed on 5 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
<b>Ashbourne</b>	1	0	1	2	0
<b>Kells</b>	2	4	4	8	2
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	2	1	**2	5	0

Navan	6	0	**1	4	3
Ratoath	2	5	2	9	0
Trim	6	0	**1	7	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>

Note: \*\*Includes three pre-lets with major renovations aiming to upgrade BER rating to B2.

Following a submission, €1,336,000 grant fund has been approved for 80 units under the Return of Vacant Social Housing Properties to Productive Use – Voids Stimulus Package.

▪ **Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects 2017-2021**

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
<b>PIPELINE DELIVERY</b>			
The Bungalows, Dunshaughlin	8	Circle	Delivery Due - Q3 2020
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	24	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	38	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Frederick Manor	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Narrow Ways Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q1 2021
The Maudlins, Trim	9	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q1 2021
Ashwood Ashbourne	11	Cluid	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due - Q3 2021
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Royal Oaks, Enfield	16	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	49	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Narrowways, Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due –Q1 2022
<b>TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED</b>	<b>271</b>		
<b>UNITS DELIVERED</b>			
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
Ashwood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	22	Tuath Housing	Complete 2018/2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2018/2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete – 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Complete - 2019
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	20	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond	Complete – 2019



Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	Complete – 2020
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	Complete – 2020
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	29	Tuath	Complete – 2020
<b>TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED</b>	<b>518</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>789</b>		

## Homeless Service

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
<b>Placements at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020</b>	115 (120 adults)	28 (41 Adults, 65 Children)	143
<b>Placements at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020</b>	120 (126 adults )	28 (41 Adults, 63 Children)	148
Of the 28 households with children, 16 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.			
<b>Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:</b> 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.			

343 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 (221 individual/couples and 122 families). The reasons for presentations were as follows: 121 family breakdown, 83 Notice to Quit, 63 sofa surfing/cannot afford rent, 31 domestic violence, 13 leaving prison/hospital, 12 addiction, 12 mental health and 8 rough sleeping.

117 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

## Social Housing Supports

779 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	181
Approved Housing Bodies	160
RAS	0
HAP	508
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>849</b>

## Planning Services

### Planning Applications

A total of 1318 planning applications were received for the period 01.01.2020 to 22.09.2020. This is compared to 1257 in the same period last year.

### Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of August 2020 are €5,987,185. This is compared to €8,937,121 in the same period last year. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

### Material Contravention of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

The Planning Department has advertised a proposed material contravention to the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (as varied) in relation to planning register RA201017 for the Department of Education and Skills. Public display takes place from Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. At the November monthly meeting the Chief Executive's Report on the proposed material contravention will be presented whereby three quarters of the entire council (30) must be present and must vote to accept the proposal. The development description is:

*'the development of a two storey 8 classroom Primary school building in Dunshaughlin (Roll Number 20521Q) including a two classroom SEN Base. The design also includes a general purpose hall, support teaching spaces and ancillary accommodation external junior play areas, secure SEN hard and soft play area, sensory garden and outside classroom area. The proposed project also incorporates associated car parking and bicycle parking, access road, pedestrian access, bicycle lane, boundary treatment, construction of 2No. external ball courts, landscaping, connection to public services, ESB sub-station and all associated siteworks at Dublin Road, Dunshaughlin, Co Meath'.*

The site of the proposed development is zoned 'E2 – General Enterprise and Employment' in the Dunshaughlin Local Area Plan, 2009 to 2015, as varied and as such, the development would contravene materially the following objective of the Meath County Development Plan 2013 to 2019, as varied:

E2 – General Enterprise & Employment: To provide for the creation of enterprise and facilitate opportunities for employment through industrial, manufacturing, distribution, warehousing and other general employment / enterprise uses in a good quality physical environment.

## Transportation

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Stage 1 Archaeology Reports to be finalised. Stage 2&3 Archaeology continuing. Detailed Site investigation factual report complete, Geotechnical Interpretative Report to be finalised. Environmental/Ecology surveys by ROD/AECOM complete. Westmeath RDO finalising Tender documents for the main construction contract to be completed in Q4 2020 subject to the necessary approvals/funding.
N2 Slane Bypass	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Geophysical contractor site works complete, reports to be finalised. Site Investigation Contractor commenced early September, for 2 months. Archaeology Geophysical Contractor in the process of being appointed.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	ROD/AECOM design consultants are progressing with the Phase 2 - Options Selection assessments and surveys. Once the Emerging Preferred Option is identified a third public consultation process is due to commence in Q4 2020.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Members briefing held on the 4 <sup>th</sup> of September prior to publication of the Part 8. Atkins the design consultants are finalising Part 8 documents. The Part 8 planning application due to go on public display in October 2020.
NS Resurfacing	Resurfacing works continue at various locations on the National routes around the county

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

R162 Kilberry Traffic Calming Scheme – Phase 1	Kerbing and footpath works progressing. Works currently expected to be completed by the end of October.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Formal application to An Bord Pleanála re: Environmental Impact Assessment Report and CPO went on public display. 5 submissions were received in relation to the EIAR and 1 submission received in relation to the CPO. Responses being drafted
Road Works Programme	Phase 1 – Restoration Improvement contract 70% complete Phase 2 – Surface Dressing 100% complete Phase 3 & Phase 4 – Overlay/surface dressing 95% complete Phase 5 – CIS – 80% complete Phase 6 – LIS – At tender assessment stage

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

R154 Kiltale Traffic Calming and Junction Improvement Scheme	Davis Civil Engineering awarded contract on 04 <sup>th</sup> September and works expected to commence on site in late September.
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### Sustainable Transport Measures Grants from NTA Confirmed - € 5,877,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	New boundary wall to Scoil Mhuire & Garda Station completed and new kerbing poured. Accommodation works commenced. Paving works commenced on eastern footpath. New storm water drainage works complete and kerbing works commenced on Circular Rd and Bridge St. New watermain installed on Bridge Street. Paving works commenced outside Clarkes Bar. Temp traffic management measures remain in place on Bridge St & Circular Rd.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Section 38 consultation complete, submissions review completed and approved to proceed. Detailed design completed, and tender documents prepared and issued.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	Consultant appointed and design underway.
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Detailed design work underway. Consultants requested to include 4 new bus stops, with 2 No. adjacent to Flowerfield school and 2 No. adjacent to Co Hall
Harlockstown Bus Stops	Detailed design completed and under review. Land requirement identified and contact made with landowner.
Laytown Park and Ride	Tender process completed and Successful Tender appointed. Works to commence in October.
Pedestrian Crossing at Ratholdren Rd, Navan.	All works completed and commissioned
Pedestrian Crossing at Dan Shaw Rd, Navan (Beechmount Homepark)	Contractor appointment process ongoing – intention to start works by mid October

Additional funding of €3,105,000 from the NTA under the Jobs Stimulus Programme 2020 was confirmed for 38 schemes across the county. Lists for each MD have been circulated to the Members. Works will be commencing as soon as possible as the expenditure has to take place before the end of the year in order to avail of this grant.

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

2020 Schemes	Road	MD	Status
Kells Town	R164	Kells	Under construction
Athgaine Cortown	L2813	Kells	Contractor appointed – October Start Date
Drumbaragh	R163	Kells	
Scottstown Gormanlough	R163	Laytown/Bettystown	
Minnistown Road	L5615	Laytown/Bettystown	Contractor appointed – October Start Date
SallyGardens Crossroads	L1625	Laytown/Bettystown	
Beauparc Junction	L1600	Laytown/Bettystown	

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

## 5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

- Works on the repair of Annesbrooke, Skearke and Kearntown bridges ongoing.
- Works on the repair of Clonard, Stoneyford, Anne's and Cornmill bridges ongoing.
- The design of repairs to Kilmainhamwood and Donaghmore retaining walls and embankments are ongoing.
- Tenders currently being assessed for repair works for Danestown and Normansgrove culverts.

### Other Actions/Projects

<b>Public Lighting Capital Programme</b>	2020 Programme of Capital Public Lighting Works – works have been tendered – contract being awarded and Contractor will be on site in October 2020
<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	<p><b>Navan MD</b> Dean Cogan Place: Contractor on site. 80% complete            Kilcarn Court Phase 2: Contractor commenced 22/09/2020.            Approx. 8 wks            Clomagadden Road: Survey/Design Stage.</p> <p><b>Kells MD</b> Works completed on this phase on Jim Brunnock Rd Kells</p> <p><b>Trim MD</b> –Works completed on Navan Gate Street and Towerview Estate Trim. Works commenced on Longwood Village scheme from Post Office to New Houses on Clonard Rd. Contractor due to commence footpath extension from Baynefield to Industrial Estate, Enfield in mid-October            Works 90% complete on Summerhill Village Scheme.</p> <p><b>Ratoath MD</b>, Proposed scheme from Arkle House to Supervalu on the R-125 (Dunshaughlin Rd) and on R-155 (Well Rd ) tender closing date 05/10/20.            Works on the footpaths from MD offices to GAA pitch on L-2208-1 (Drumree Rd Dunshaughlin) commencing start of October -approx 2 wk programme.</p> <p><b>Laytown/ Bettystown MD</b> - Coney Hall Mornington Survey/Design Stage. Intention to go to Tender early Oct</p>
<b>Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme</b>	Works progressing well
<b>(DCYA) Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play &amp; Recreation 2020</b>	Clogherboy Playground Refurbishment – Contract offer made. Awaiting information from Contractor. Intended start date revised to mid to late October.
<b>Anti-Dumping Initiative Funded Works - Navan</b>	Kilcarn Court/Beaufort Old Railway Walk Improvement Works – Contractor appointed. Due to commence in early October
<b>Oldcastle Pedestrian Crossings</b>	Contractor awaiting delivery of Zebra crossing and public lighting equipment
<b>R135 Cycle Network Design</b>	DBFL have prelim design done, with option / layout selection nearer conclusion, prior to detail design. Topographical and Utility Services surveys ongoing
<b>Town &amp; Village Renewal Scheme – Johnstown Village Traffic Calming Works</b>	Application made for grant funding. Awaiting approval before commencing to Contract Document preparation.

## Environment

### Environmental Initiatives

**Stop Food Waste Challenge:** Meath County Council worked with Laois, Westmeath and Wicklow County Councils and the EPA's Stop Food Waste to undertake a regional Stop Food Waste Challenge over a 4 week period in July and August.

A series of Stop Food Waste Challenge videos was screened every Sunday over the period, with an online Q&A hosted live every Wednesday afternoon. The Campaign had 210,000 online hits over the period which also included radio and press. The aim of the campaign is to encourage people to make small changes to the way they consume food, in order to make a large difference to food waste.

**Dog Fouling Campaign:** An Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign took place over the summer on LMFM and on billboards.

**Paint Collection:** The collection of old or unused paint has resumed at all Meath Recycling Facilities.

**Paint Reuse Scheme:** Meath County Council has been successful in acquiring funding from the LAPN for a Paint Reuse project in conjunction with the Rediscovery Centre. The project will be rolled out over the next 12 months and will see unused paint diverted from disposal for resale and reuse. Paint will be collected at the Recycling Centres, reusable paint will then be sent to the Rediscovery Centre for repotting and resale. Meath County Council will examine the possibility of acting as a depot or collection location for reusable paint.

### Revised grant scheme for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Septic Tanks etc) and Private Water Supplies (Wells)

**Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS):** Grants for DWWTS (National Inspection Plan) towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system under the EPA's National Inspection Plan.

Grants Prioritised Areas for Action under the RBMP – this grant scheme is towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system situated in a Prioritised Area for Action in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.

Grants High Status Objective Catchment Areas under the RBMP – this grant scheme is towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system in a High Status Objective Catchment Area in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021

General rules applying to the DWWTS Grants schemes - Grant rate of 85% of the eligible costs of remediation, repair or upgrading works, or replacement of any such system or €5,000, whichever is the lower. Means test requirement removed.

**Grants for Private Water Supplies (Wells)** -- revised grant scheme towards the carrying out of improvement works to a private water supply. Provision of a new well: 85% of the approved costs for the provision of a new well, subject to a maximum of €5,000. For rehabilitation works: 85% of the approved costs for rehabilitation works, subject to a maximum of €3,000. For treatment works: 100% of the approved costs for works that, in the opinion of the housing authority, are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in the Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. Examples of such treatments are filtration or Ultra Violet treatment.

### **River Basin Management Plan**

Following public consultation on SWMI (Significant Water Management Issues) a draft River Basin Management Plan for the period 2020-2027 is scheduled to be published in December 2020 and will be subject to extensive public consultation.

With regard to the current RBMP work is ongoing by the Local Authorities Waters Protection Regional Offices (LAWPRO) in the Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) identified in the Plan for Meath including the Dee, the Tolka, the Lower Nanny and the Blackwater (Longwood). Works typically include desk studies, fieldwork investigations and referrals to bodies such as Irish Water. Council staff are also involved in targeted water quality investigations / stream surveys in a number of catchments, around the County.

### **Smoky Coal Regulations**

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has signed Regulations to give legal effect to the extension of the smoky coal ban to all towns with populations of over 10,000 people. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, Ashbourne Town and Environs will become a Low Smoke Zone under the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. The current Low Smoke Zones of Navan, and Laytown-Bettystown remain unchanged.

From that date it will be illegal to burn bituminous coal (Smoky Coal) within the Low Smoke Zone. Information and a map showing the specified areas is available on [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie) and can also be obtained from Meath County Council or on the website [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie). Smokeless coal, turf/peat briquettes and wood are deemed to be smokeless fuels and are acceptable.

Coal merchants and retail outlets will not be allowed to display or sell bituminous coal within this Low Smoke Zone.

Local Authorities are primarily responsible for the enforcement of the smoky coal ban within their functional areas and staff from the Environment Department have been engaged in an extensive on

the ground awareness campaign around Ashbourne and also through public advertisement and social media.

### **Impacts of Covid 19 on the Waste Sector**

The Regional Waste Management Plan Offices have produced an interim report on the impacts of Covid 19 on the waste sector with the main findings being:

- **Municipal Solid Waste** - That the structures and relationships which are in place ensured essential services continued and that there was a robust, reliable and resilient response of the sector to the crisis particularly in the early stages.
- There are no current issues arising from Covid with collections, treatment exports etc returning to normal
- Household waste figures have all increased while some areas of retail are down by significant percentages
- **Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste** - Covid shutdown had a significant impact on the C&D sector with overall activity likely to be down by about 30% on expectations.
- Capacity available nationally for soil and stone but some issues on capacity for non hazardous, non-inert and C&D Fines.



## Community

### Governance Structures

**Local Community Development Committee (LCDC):** A meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Grant applications under the Community Enhancement Programme were approved at the meeting. Total funding allocated to community groups throughout the county was €220,477.

**LEADER Programme 2014-2020:** A meeting of the LAG scheduled took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. 4 projects totalling €221,000 were presented for approval to the LAG and bringing the budget to 86% committed.

**Age Friendly County programme (AF):** Meath Older Persons Committee (OPC) collated their 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter for circulation. The OPC is currently working on initiatives for Positive Ageing Week, scheduled for week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> September. It is hoped to hold a meeting with the OPC face to face on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Public Participation Network (PPN):** Meath PPN hosted a webinar with Development Perspectives on the Sustainable Development Goals which was well attended by a wide variety of community groups. The PPN Community Groups Response Map to Covid was updated to reflect active groups. There are now over 70 groups available to provide supports as required.

**Joint Policing Committee (JPC):** The JPC met in the Solstice Arts Centre on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September and received presentations on discussed the growing problem of drugs in the county. The next meeting is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Comhairle na n'Óg**

The Comhairle continues to meet virtually and are preparing for an online AGM. A notice of motion was put forward by Cllr Ronan Moore, that the Comhairle would make a presentation to the Full Council every February at the last Council meeting.

### **Public Sector Duty**

The working group for the implementation of the statutory Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty re-commenced through virtual workshops. This will continue over the coming months.

### Grant Schemes

#### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020**

**Accelerated Measure Covid - Round 2:** 4 applications were approved by the DRCD

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Ballinabrackey/Castlejordan	€40,000
Ardbraccan	€25,000
Gibbstown	€19,187
Dromconrath	€21,527
<b>Total</b>	<b>€105,714</b>

Accelerated Measure Covid - Round 3 (additional measure announced on 7<sup>th</sup> August): Nine applications were submitted to the DRCD for consideration and await the announcement of these.

Standard Town & Village Scheme: 10 applications allowed for submission with the closing date 30th September 2020.

**Carranstown Grant Scheme:** The AGM of the ICLC was held where Cllr Stephen McKee was elected Chairperson and Cllr Geraldine Keogan was welcomed onto the Committee. The next meeting is planned for November to review progress on the current scheme and plan for the next scheme.

**Knockharley Grant Scheme:** The Kentstown Village Project is near completion stage with an opening date planned for October.

**CLÁR 2020:** Six applications were submitted to the DRCD for consideration and announcement awaited.

#### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020**

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will provide funding under 3 separate measures. Proposed applications under Measure 1 to be submitted to the DRCD by 30th September.

## Libraries Service

### Library Service Overview

Public Libraries are continuing to offer more services to the public as outlined in the various phases of the Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business. However, it will be some time before full library services can resume.

Services are being provided to the public in a step-by-step manner in line with public health guidance. All twelve branches in the county are now open again for browsing and lending. All branches are also offering PC access, photocopying and online services.

Branches are back operating late evening and Saturday opening hours. Opening hours have been increased at Nobber and Slane as part of a plan to increase access to services after the refit of both branches. The full opening hours for all branches are available at

<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/libraries-and-opening-hours>

Online services continue to be available as the county moves through the re-opening phases. It is possible to:

- join the library online;
- download eBooks and eAudiobooks;
- read magazines and newspapers
- take eLearning or language courses;
- watch or listen to storytimes; or,
- take part in other activities like online quizzes.

### Children's Book Festival

The Children's Book Festival 2020 is due to commence on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. Given the current circumstances, it will be fully online this year. The Library Service has curated and programmed thirty-five videos which will be offered to the schools. The events can be accessed online at the Meath County Library YouTube channel and all schools in the county will have the potential to engage in this digital feast of children's literature. Highlights include

- **Cressida Cowell** (Children's Laureate UK 2020) of the *How To Train Your Dragon* series,
- **Muireann Ní Chíobháin**, screenwriter, performer and author of *Scúnc agus Smúirín*,
- **Nicola Pierce**, author of *The Spirit of the Titanic* and *Chasing Ghosts*
- **Steve Skidmore** with his fantastic *iHero* series

There are storytellers, cartoonists, two autism-friendly videos by author and illustrator Oisín McGann, music events, a book quiz, competitions for book hampers, book tokens and lots more. There is something for everyone from ages 4 –12 years and not forgetting the parents and carers who can check out the Family Days on offer.

### **Laptops for Loan Scheme – Update**

Phase 1 of the very ambitious Laptops for Loan Scheme, sponsored by Facebook, is drawing to a close with eighteen post-primary schools already signed-up to the initiative. Six hundred and seventy laptops have now been distributed to the schools for distribution to senior cycle pupils.

Library staff presented details of the project at an international online library conference Occupy Library- under the topic “Serving communities in times of crisis”. The session included speakers from Hungary, Germany, Lithuania, Moldova and Finland.

## Arts Office

### **Arts Office Overview**

The Arts Office continues to adapt and respond to the circumstances presented by Covid 19. It has adopted a proactive approach in re-imagining the 2020/21 Arts Programme and is currently engaging with creative partners, artists, groups, organisations and the wider creative community. It has also engaged with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Arts Council in Covid Response development.

**Grants, Bursaries & Awards 2020:** Applications under the Annual Arts Grants; Community Arts Awards; Professional Artists Development Fund; Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Award and Festival Grant Scheme have been processed and assessed, with recommendations to October Council Meeting.

**Kells Creative Placemaking:** The Arts Office is working with the Council's Facilities Management unit with regard to the Kells Creative Placemaking (KCP) capital works. The Council's Arts and Heritage Offices are working with consultant Vincent O'Shea and our creative partners towards the competition of KCP Development Plans.

**Music Generation Meath:** Roll out of Music Generation Meath continues with LMETB as lead partners. Aoife O'Connell, Music Development Officer has successfully completed CPD programmes with the musician panel. A number of pilot programmes have been initiated e.g. TY Songwriting programme – secondary schools; Early years and violin programme – primary schools; Songwriting programme with Youthwork Ireland Meath; MG Online singing programme.

**On-line content:** The *Theatre Tuesday*, *Ceol Comfort* music series and the *Toradh Thursday* visual arts exhibitions are continually updated/added to. These initiatives are intended to provide alternative means of supporting those artists and creatives who have seen their work, performances and engagements cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future, whilst providing greater access to the wider community to quality creative and cultural experiences. Viewing figures for this initiative are strong with 67,700 views to date and very positive public response.

All the artists under the initiatives above are being paid a fee for their work or for rights to broadcast.

**Arts Council:** The 2020 financial and qualitative data returns have been completed and submitted. Application for programme funding 2021 has been submitted as per MCC/Arts Council Framework agreement.

## Type Trail Kells 2020

Further pieces added to this year's Type Trail Festival. This is one of the few festival events nationally that have been able to proceed under current Covid 19 restrictions. Now celebrating its 11th year, this is an annual festival celebrating typography and lettering as a modern art form. Each year one word is translated into a variety of languages reflecting the diversity of the community in Kells. This year's theme word is 'JOURNEY'.



Type Trail 2020 runs until end October with 26 public art installations created by local, national and international artists, third level final year degree students, and local arts groups. All works are sited around the streets and on the buildings of Kells - a significant achievement in the current circumstances. The annual Type Trail printed map has been replaced by a new Type Trail website and downloadable map. [www.kellstypetrail.com](http://www.kellstypetrail.com). Some examples of this year's pieces below:



### Homage (to Saint Colmcille)

This year's Shrine welcomes the New Irish, 12 shades of green, 12 Irish typefaces & 12 different translations to represent the nationalities that now form our multi-cultural society

Mark Smith & Sean Crowe



### Find the Way

Learning to read is the beginning of an adventure, a book is a magical portal; propelling you to places that you never imagined, to encounter characters and situations that can startle, enthral and leave you all the wiser. To grasp upon the written words of others is to lose yourself in a maze of possibilities, spun and woven, waiting to be unraveled by the venturing reader.

Caithriona Moore



### TAITH (Journey)

Taith yw'r llyn sydd rownd y gornel, yr annisgwyl, Taith yw rhywbeth yr anelwn tsag ato. Taith yw egypt i edrych ar yr olygfa, cyn symud ymlaen. Taith yw llybrau drwy'r goedwig, Pa un a ddeiwsw'n ni? Aled Lewis Evans

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Flint, North Wales

## Economic Development

### Response to Business Threats

The two biggest threats to businesses in the county are the COVID pandemic and Brexit.

**COVID-19:** The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continues to be the First Stop Shop for businesses in County Meath and has been widely promoted as such by the Government in the media. The economy has suffered a severe shock with the advent of Covid 19 and the LEO is at the forefront of the response to the small business community during this crisis. In extraordinary circumstances the LEO is delivering a suite of supports which will be critical to ensuring the survival of many small local businesses. The most recent of these supports is a €2M Micro Enterprise Assistance fund announced on 20<sup>th</sup> September, which makes grants of up to €1,000 to micro-enterprises affected by COVID. The existing grants, Trading On-Line Vouchers and loan funds continue to be made available.

**BREXIT:** BREXIT has come back firmly onto the radar of many companies with the recent announcements in the UK and the fact that the transition period will end in less than 100 days. The LEO is ramping up the BREXIT awareness campaign among the business community, along with scheduling frequent customs workshops to assist businesses to prepare for BREXIT. One-to-one specialist mentoring is also available for companies who require to plan for business change and disruption because of BREXIT.

### Tourism

**Marketing and Promotion:** Meath County Council and Boyne Valley Tourism are working closely with the tourism industry to support them through collective meetings to devise marketing campaigns to attract holidaymakers.

The Rediscover the Boyne Valley marketing campaign targets domestic staycations and the Northern Ireland market through digital and is aimed at 5 audiences with specific digital ads to target them to holiday in the Boyne Valley while directing people to [discoverboynevalley.ie/rediscover](https://discoverboynevalley.ie/rediscover) to get inspiration from the many itineraries created. Advertising was undertaken with Celtic Media across its six region newspapers. Themed weeks have been organised to promote golf clubs, wellness in the county and this coming week, we will promote the small accommodation providers through a social media takeover, competitions, special offers and videos.

**Grants and Tourism Initiatives:** Failte Ireland has announced details of its Adaptation Grant. Tourism Businesses are eligible to apply for an adaptation Grant to Failte Ireland. The Fund will help offset some of the costs that businesses have incurred in adapting premises and operations for safe re-opening. Expenditure on items such as protective screens, outdoor areas, PPE, online apps, technology and sanitisers are all covered.

The Restart Grant Plus is available to commercially rateable premises through Meath County Council. B&B's are eligible to apply and should apply directly to Failte Ireland.

Stay and Spend Scheme runs from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Businesses should sign up before 1st October. People can claim 20% of spend back on 625 euros. The list of Meath businesses is available [here](#).



## Finance Section

### Commercial Rates

**Restart Grant Scheme:** This scheme commenced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 and ceased on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020. 1342 applications were made, 1,239 of these have been paid to a value of €4.74M. Of the remaining 105, 101 were refused, withdrawn or duplicated applications and 2 are awaiting further information.

**Restart Grant Plus Scheme:** This commenced on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020. A total of 478 new applications have been received of these 326 have been paid €2.05m. A declaration has issued to the 1,239 previous successful applicants under the Restart Grant Scheme, 1,217 have responded and €6.52m has been paid.

In total €13.29m has been paid to businesses in Meath under the Restart Grant and Restart Grant Plus.

**Six months Rates Waiver Scheme:** This was announced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 and is currently being applied to all customer accounts automatically that meet the relevant criteria. At present the waiver has been applied to 3620 properties to the value of €11.39m. The process has not yet finished.

### Housing Loans and Rents

**Home Loans:** The 3 month mortgage payment break has been applied to 42 Loan accounts, this scheme was expanded for a further 3 months, 11 Loan accounts have availed of this at present.

An update from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government is awaited to address the present criteria of 2 years continuous employment in relation to Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans home loan applications. This has a great impact on prospective applicants due to the Covid 19 situation.

<b>Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 23rd September 2020</b>	
<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>Applications Returned</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee</b>	<b>127</b>
	<b>341</b>
<b>Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase (includes restructuring)</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>No of customers in MARP</b>	<b>34</b>

**Rents:** Meath County Council operates a Differential Rents Scheme, where notified of income reduction or increase a tenant's rent is adjusted accordingly in line with this scheme.

**Non Principal Private Residence**

The level of applications for certificates remains constant, all issued within the 14 day limit, once the application is in order. There is no back log of applications.