



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

June 2021

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 and is being provided for your information and consideration.

There is obviously a more positive outlook now than earlier in the year, with the on-going re-opening of society and the economy and the roll-out of the national vaccination programme.

The Council has remained open for business throughout all of the public health restrictions and we are continuing to respond to the decisions and new initiatives that are being announced by Government. It is particularly welcome that there are a number funding streams available to support local business, as the economy opens up and the Council is having to be flexible, agile and resourceful in trying to maximise the benefit of these schemes to the county.

Following on from the recent arrival of Mr. Martin Murray, as Director of Services in April, I am particularly happy to inform you that Mr. Dara McGowan has also been appointed as a Director of Services and joined the Management Team, with effect from May 31st. These additions have strengthened the capacity and capability of the Management Team and have also prompted some re-structuring of the Directorates, Departments and teams, further details in this report.

Finally, I wish to thank Councillor David Gilroy for the commitment, energy and fortitude during his term as Cathaoirleach in 2020-2021. It was not an easy time to be Cathaoirleach and it was a year with a variety of challenges which David always approached with enthusiasm and an appreciation and understanding of the role that he had to fulfil.

I wish the incoming Cathaoirleach every success and I look forward to working with them over the next 12 months.

Thank You,

Jackie Maguire
Chief Executive

Organisation Structure - Change

Organisational Structure

The recent appointment of Mr Dara McGowan as Director of Services, following on from the recent arrival of Mr Martin Murray has expanded the Management Team and bolstered its capacity and capability. It has also allowed for an internal re-structuring and a re-distribution of responsibilities as follows:

Ms Fiona Lawless:	Director of Services for Finance, Information Systems and Water Services, with responsibility for the Ashbourne and Laytown/Bettystown MDs.
Mr Barry Lynch:	Director of Services for Housing, Community and Cultural Development, with responsibility for the national Age Friendly Programme.
Mr Des Foley:	Director of Services for Planning, Economic and Tourism Development, with responsibility for the Trim MD.
Mr Martin Murray:	Director of Services for Infrastructure, Project Management, People Management and Development, with responsibility for the Navan MD.
Mr Dara McGowan:	Director of Services for Corporate Affairs and Governance, Climate Action and Emergency Services, with responsibility for Ratoath and Kells MDs.

These changes will take effect on Jun 28th, 2021.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Corporate Services

Meetings Administration

Online Meetings: The holding of Council meetings will continue to take place in line with public health measures and the relevant guidance for the local government sector. In this regard, the AGMs and monthly meetings of the Municipal Districts during June will take place as 'in-person' meetings. Future meeting arrangements will be assessed in line with the easing of restrictions and the public health advice.

Womens' Caucus: The Council has been successful in its application for funding to support the establishment of a local level caucus for women councillors. The Department has indicated that it received a substantial number of proposals from local authorities which it feels "clearly demonstrates the interest and enthusiasm in this area for congeniality among female members regardless of party membership".

The monies allocated to Meath County Council have been provided for facilitation of the Caucus and other related activity. The Department may also initiate a further call for funding later this year to support other activities that were not approved for funding on this occasion.

Events - Communications

Trim Library Contract Signing - This €5.9m project will develop the site as a fully integrated Library & Cultural Centre, establishing it as the Cultural hub of the town (1,162m²). It will integrate the existing library, the conserved and refurbished St. Patrick's Chapel and the performance and visual arts spaces around a new civic space and foyer, with a shared and multi-use space available to each of the elements.



Trim Porchfields Contract Signing -The Porch Field is a 25 hectare field adjoining the town centre of Trim. Apart from the R154 ring road constructed in the late 20th century, development has been limited to several footpaths. The field is used for agricultural purposes with the lands currently being grazed by sheep.



This €646,825.90 project will consist of upgrading and improving sections the existing footpath, signage and information panels, provision of picnic areas, creating a performance area and improving the biodiversity of the site by developing Wild flower planting areas.

Athboy becomes and Age Friendly Business Town - Businesses in Athboy recently came together to help launch the Age Friendly Business recognition scheme in the town. The launch coincided with the official opening of the new Medical Centre which is now home to the local doctor's surgery, dentist, physiotherapist, opticians and lots more.



Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council Cllr David Gilroy officially launched the scheme along with Sean Boylan, Meath Age Friendly Business Ambassador with business owners Padraig and Brenda Staunton. The Age-friendly Business initiative is an educational outreach campaign that provides practical low cost or no cost tips to help businesses become more age-friendly and attract older customers.

World No Tobacco Day Launch - World No Tobacco Day on Monday, May 31st seen the launch of the 'Not Around Us' campaign across County Meath.

The purpose of the campaign is to help protect children and young people from second-hand smoke exposure, it calls on stakeholders to have an active involvement in de-normalising smoking for children and young people, while working together to reduce the environmental nuisance, cost of cleaning and damage that discarded tobacco products create. The campaign also highlights the services and resources available to those wishing to quit through HSE Quit.



Pictured at the launch was Cathaoirleach Cllr. David Gilroy, Madeline Kennedy, HSE Health and Wellbeing Division, Jackie Lynch, CNS Smoking Cessation, Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, Mark Garvey, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator with Meath Comhairle na nÓg members Alina Mardri, Lucias Hill and Faith Lynch.

Working together to prevent wildfires in County Meath

Meath County Council in collaboration with Coillte, the custodians of 7% of Ireland's lands, which equates to 440,000 hectares of forests, have produced and released a new promotional video to facilitate a better understanding of how to enjoy forestry areas within County Meath through both land-based wildfire prevention measures and a greater awareness of litter pollution.

The video also highlights the severe impact and devastation these wild fires can have on the environment and communities when we don't treat these areas of forestry and bogs appropriately with actual footage from the recent forest fires that heavily impacted the surrounding communities of Kildalkey and Brannockstown in 2018, where over 120 acres of forest and bog were destroyed.



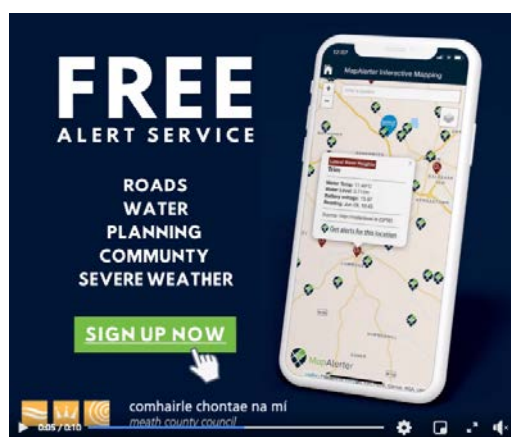
The video can be viewed on the Council's YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook channels. RTE News also featured a piece on primetime news at 1pm and 6.01pm on Monday, May 31st.

Meath Alerts – Free Alert Service MapAlerter Launch

Throughout the month of May a social media campaign was launched to promote the MapAlerter App and to encourage sign ups.

The service was introduced by Meath County Council to ensure that timely information is given to people for specific events that may affect them. This may include day-to-day events on roads, water, planning, community or other isolated events such as severe weather emergencies.

New Feature: MapAlerter is now publishing alerts and updates for over 200 bathing water locations across Ireland for summer 2021. Using the EPA's open data, these sampling locations include many of Ireland's beaches as well as some popular inland waterways. Alerts are issued for new water quality results and Do Not Swim notices.



The new alert service allows users to subscribe to get alerts from Meath County Council using Mapalerter technology. There is no charge to create an account and there are no costs to receive alerts through any channel, including SMS texts. Log onto: <https://alerts.meath.ie/en/> and subscribe to get alerts by SMS Text Alert and email from Meath County Council.

World Awareness Day for Verbal Dyspraxia - On Friday, May 14th Meath County Council illuminated Buvinda House, Navan in blue to support World Awareness Day for Verbal Dyspraxia. Also known as childhood apraxia of speech, or apraxia, verbal dyspraxia is a relatively rare lifelong neurological speech sound disorder.



Darkness into Light 2021 - On the morning of May 8th, a number of Meath County Council buildings throughout the county were illuminated in yellow and in some cases displayed the Darkness into Light logo in support of Pieta House and to give hope to all who have been impacted by suicide and self-harm in Meath and across Ireland.

Housing Services

Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<u>DESIGN PHASE</u>				
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	563,166	Q4 2021	Q2 2022
Nangle Court, Navan	16	2,961,862	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Church View, Rathmoylon	22	5,476,215	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Haggard Street, Trim	4	931,870	Q2 2022	Q1 2023
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	20	4,358,112	Q2 2022	Q1 2023
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	43	10,225,755	-	-
Totals	107	24,516,980		
<u>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</u>				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q3 2021	Q1 2023
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	-	-
Totals	180	48,187,054		
<u>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</u>				
Donore	21	4,524,250	Q4 2021	Q3 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	9,850,185	Q4 2021	Q2 2023
Totals	63	14,374,435		
<u>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</u>				
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q3 2021
Totals	26	5,813,948		
<u>PROJECTS COMPLETED</u>				
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	N/A
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Complete	N/A

Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Complete	N/A
Kells	40	8,555,683	Complete	N/A
Totals	189	42,809,414		
GRAND TOTAL	565	136,060,516		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

Summary of 2021 Approved Funding Submissions

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING APPROVED €
Athboy	Turnkey	7	1,598,475
Enfield	Part V	1	255,000
Duleek	Part V	2	458,675
Stamullen	Part V	3	812,353
Totals		13	3,124,503

Summary of Current Funding Submissions

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Donacarney	Turnkey	1	322,700
Kilcock	Part V	13	3,394,991
Stamullen	Part V	5	1,282,577
Staleen, Donore	Low Cost Private Sites	5	€551,682
2021 Acquisition Programme	Acquisitions	45	€11,000,000
Totals		69	16,551,950

Expression of Interest for Turnkey Schemes and/or Lands

There is currently a call for proposals regarding the supply of development sites or completed housing schemes that are fit for purpose for social housing within the County. Details regarding same and required forms can be found on www.etenders.gov.ie. or via the following link on Meath.ie <http://bit.ly/EOIHouseSchemesAndOrLand>

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

Grants to the value of €1,464,420 have been awarded by Meath County Council to 208 Households under the various Grants schemes to date in 2021.

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

On the 7th May 2021, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced an allocation of €359,569 to Meath County Council for 2021 under the Disabled Persons Grants (DPGs) / Improvement Works in Lieu (IWILS) scheme. A sum of €35,957 of this allocation must be provided by Meath County Council from its own resources.

A total of 11 projects have been completed to date in 2021 (€115,858), with a further 21 task orders issued to contractors (€160,822)

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 26th May 2021. For the period from 23rd April 2021 to 26th May 2021, works were completed on 10 vacant units; while 12 units became vacant during this period

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	3	1	1	5	0
Kells	6	0	0	5	1
Laytown/Bettystown	6	0	0	3	3**
Navan	7	0	0	7	0
Ratoath	3	1	0	4	0
Trim	5	0	0	4	1**
TOTALS	30	2	1	28	5

**Awaiting Energy Assessment Report for 3no Properties before Works are issued.

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
PIPELINE DELIVERY			
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 2)	20	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2021
St Mary's Dunboyne	16	Co-Operative Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2021
Bryanstown Wood, Drogheda	28	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q3 2021
Narrow Ways Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	2	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Ashewood Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due - Q3 2021
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due - Q4 2021
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2022
Royal Oaks, Enfield	30	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 3)	49	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Effernock, Trim	16	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Beaufort Place, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q3 2022
Bridge Street, Ashbourne	20	Peter McVerry Trust	Delivery Due – Q4 2022
Tailteann, Navan	8	Meath Women's Refuge	Delivery Due – Q1 2023
TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED	420		

Homelessness

Some 55 tenancies have been secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1st to April 30th 2021

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st March 2021 (Previous Reported Figure)	138 (142)	26 (40 Adults, 57 Children)	164
Placements at 30th April 2021	142 (150)	24 (36 Adults, 49 Children)	166
Of the 24 households with children, 10 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT Family Hubs. <u>Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:</u> Primary reason is Notice to Quit & unable to find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare.			

Social Housing Supports

A total of 371 new applications for Social Housing Support was received for the period January 1st to 30th April 2021.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January 1st to 30th April 2021.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	143
Approved Housing Bodies	66
RAS	0
HAP	200
TOTAL	409

Planning Services

Planning Applications

A total of 1,046 planning applications was received in the period 01/01/2021 to 31/05/2021. This is compared to 669 in the same period last year. An increase, year-on-year of 64%.

Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts for April 2021 were €5,316,825. This is compared to €2,885,385 in the same period last year. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Planning Enforcement Complaints

Some 109 planning enforcement cases have been opened up to 31/05/2021. An increase of 28 from the previous report. Cases are broken down as follows:

Stage of Process	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	62
Warning Letter	29
Enforcement Notice	2
Referred for Legal Proceedings	2
Further Information Requested	3
Closed	11

Material Alterations to Draft Meath County Development Plan

The submission deadline relating to the public display of the Material Alterations closes at **4pm on Tuesday 29 June**. No submissions can be accepted after this date. Submissions can only be made in writing (addressed to the Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department) or on the dedicated website <https://consult.meath.ie/> Please note that **email submissions cannot be accepted**.

Transportation

1. National Roads 2021 funding from TII - €7,629,918

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Construction & consultancy services contract to be awarded subject to DTTAS approval. Tender competition for legal services during the construction contract ongoing.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Preparing Tender docs for topographical and utility surveys for Slane village. Letters to be issued to the residents in Slane in the coming weeks informing them of the surveys.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Analysis of submissions received following PC3 on the emerging preferred option is on-going and will be contained in the Public Consultation Report. Walkover ecology studies are ongoing. Affected landowners/residents have received correspondence in relation to these surveys.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Preparation of CPO documentation ongoing
National Road Resurfacing	Pavement designs and tender document preparation ongoing for 2021 schemes. N52 Marvelstown resurfacing tendered N51 Higginstown to Crowinstown at tender documentation preparation stage – design progressing with Westmeath County Council as per Section 85 Agreement
N2 Slane Retaining Wall	Repair works substantially complete

2. Non- National Roads 2021 funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €26,145,367 in total

2. (a) Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing)

Road Works Programme	Surface Dressing contract commenced 2 Restoration Improvement contracts have commenced with a third to commence early June. Processing of CIS & LIS schemes for 2021 ongoing
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2. (b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road Scheme	Surfacing works to the new section of the R150 commenced 24 th May last. Scheme currently expected to be substantially complete by the end of July 2021.
R162 Kilberry Phase 1	Works Substantially complete since end April 2021. Snagging and final account yet to be completed
R162 Kilberry Phase 2	Ground Investigation expected to commence early June 2021 to allow for completion of detailed design and preparation of Tender Documents

2. (c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional/Local Roads - Allocation - 7 Safety Schemes for 2021

2020 Schemes	Road	Status
Newhaggard Road	R161	Waiting on ESB to complete connection to traffic lights
2021 Schemes	Road	Status
Newgate	R147	At Design Stage – Consultation with Landowners
Liscarton	R147	At Design Stage – Consultation with Landowners
Cabinhill	L-1006-0	Tender closed 28 th May 2021
Clonguiffin, Longwood	L-4020/ L-80142-47 /L-2226-0	Consultation with Landowners
Donaghpatrick	L-3409-18/ L-7414-12	Tender closed 28 th May 2021
Kilmore Moynalvey	R-156 / L-62161	At Design Stage
Cabinhill Reask Junction	L-5006-25/ L-5024-8	Landowner issues – safety works scheme may not proceed

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works – Allocation for 6 Bridge Schemes for 2021

2020 Schemes	Status
Kilmainhamwood & Donaghmore	Design of repairs to retaining walls & embankments ongoing
2021 Schemes	Status
Clavens Bridge (R147)	Consultants appointed to design remedial works
Julianstown Bridge (R132)	At Design Stage
Gibber Bridge (L-7400), Breakey Bridge (L-2805), Johnstown Culvert (L-5050) & Ashfield Bridge (L-8029)	At Design Stage

Minor Bridge works complete. Bridge Roadworks Programme 2021 works scheduled for completion by the end of May.

3. Sustainable Transport Measures Grants 2021 from NTA – €14,284,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Works on Abbey Rd roundabouts and Bridge St complete. Works have commenced on Ludlow St, consisting of installation of new watermain and new property watermain connections. Road closure advertised for Old Cornmarket (4 weeks commencing on the 28 th of June). Excavation and installation works associated with the new granite footpaths has commenced on Ludlow St
Navan Town Bus Stops	New bus stop works completed on Clonmagadden Road and St Patrick's Park. Works have commenced on Commons Road
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Draft tender documents (drawings) currently under review for section from Dan Shaw Rd to Solstice roundabout. Design review meeting held for section from Solstice roundabout to Loreto Secondary School. Contractors appointed for site investigation and CCTV drainage surveys. Meeting held with Flowerfield School

N51 Park & Ride	Contractors appointed for the Archaeological Investigation works and Topographical Survey for the site. Investigation works and survey work to commence at the end of the month. Detailed design ongoing. Contractors appointed for Archaeological Investigation and Topographical Survey. Archaeological licence applied for and received from the National Monuments Service. Investigation works and surveys commencing & detailed design ongoing.
Ratoath Cycle Network	Alternative layouts discussed with the NTA. A number of drafted options have been issued to the NTA for their approval/comments. In house Topographical Survey being completed. Non statutory public consultation process for 2 new revised layouts for the Woodlands section of the Ratoath Part 8, to run from Thurs 27 th to Fri 11 th June 2021.
Boyne Greenway -Drogheda to Mornington	Response to MCC clarification letter received from An Bord Pleanala dated 7 th May regarding Further Information request.
R154 Kiltale	Final surface course to the R154 commenced 24 th May. Works expected to be substantially complete by end June 2021. New lighting for footpath has been ordered but not now expected to be installed until end July 2021.
Safe Routes to Schools Programme -Support	Tender documents prepared for appointment of Consultants. Meeting to be held with NTA and An Taisce to review their comments prior to issue (anticipated for June).
HGV Transport Study -Navan	Proposal received from Consultants and is currently under review.
Additional Outdoor Dining Infrastructure	Contractor procured to provide 6 No. 'parklets' in Navan. Transport will assess additional applications as they are received from other MDs

NTA Jobs Stimulus Programme 2020 (€3,105,000): Of the 38 schemes, 28 schemes are complete. The remaining 10 schemes commenced/are due to commence since Covid restrictions eased and construction re-opened on 4th May.

NTA funding for 2021 Bus Shelter Enabling Works and Accessible Bus Stops is €265,000 and €295,000 respectively. Detailed design is ongoing for both projects.

4. Non- National Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes 2021 - Funding other than primarily DoT & NTA

Athboy Town Centre Project	Bus Turning Area – Non-statutory public consultation in relation to proposed options running from 18 th May until 18 th June 2021. Emerging Preferred Option expected to be identified next month. Topographical Survey complete & Traffic Surveys being procured
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme	Snagging works delayed due to ESB not completing outstanding works re-scheduled for last week in May. Stage 3 Safety Audit will follow once ESB are finished.
R135 Cycle Network Design	CCTV contractor completed on site. Letter of Intent issue to

	preferred Site Investigation contractor for S.I works on the R135. Detailed design progressing, Draft tender documents to be issued by end of May 2021
LDR6 Scheme Navan	Works expected to be substantially complete by end June 2021 - awaiting ESB connection for lighting and signals and Road Safety Audit sign-off.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road (RORR), LIHAF Scheme	Works expected to be substantially complete by end June 2021 - awaiting ESB connection for lighting and signals and Road Safety Audit sign-off.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	Navan to Wilkinstown section on rail line – Documents are being finalised with a view to going to tender in early June

5. Other Actions/ Projects

Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	<p>Kells MD – Kells Schemes Works due to commence Monday 21/06/2021.</p> <p>Ashbourne MD –Schemes in Ardcaigh (Church View Housing Estate); Stamullen (Mountain View Housing Estate entrance); Bellewstown (Woodview Estate) - Works 90% complete - due to be finished by end of May</p> <p>Trim MD –Works commenced on Mornington Heights 04/05/2021, works on Kildalkey Road, Trim commenced last week in May</p> <p>Laytown/ Bettystown MD - Coney Hall Mornington – Site works approx. 75% complete</p> <p>Ratoath MD- Dunshaughlin Main Street - Site works due to commence July 2021</p> <p>Navan MD – Blackcastle Estate – works complete including speed ramp repairs. Abbeygrove Estate – Initial footpath survey commenced</p>
Public Lighting Capital Programme	Programme of Capital Public Lighting Schemes - Schemes selected in 2020 are 95% complete
Johnstown Village Traffic Calming Scheme	Provision of speed control ramps and associated signage - scheme completed 28 th May
Pedestrian Crossings at Round-O pub on R161 & N51	Preliminary design works completed for provision of 2 No. zebra pedestrian crossings North of the Round-O junction in Navan; one each on R162 Kingscourt Rd & N51 Slane Rd. Tender process ongoing. Road Safety Audit to be arranged

Environment

Waste Prevention, Reduction and Litter

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021 (ADI) - The Council has been notified of the allocation of €100,000 funding for projects under the 2021 ADI Scheme, including clean ups of individual dumping sites at Arrigal, Nobber and Crossakiel.

Other projects being funded include equipment for the Green Kilometre Scheme, Mattress and Bed Couches and Garden furniture amnesties, Toy and Nursery Collections and Bikes for Africa. Since the introduction of the ADI scheme in 2017 over 1,000 projects have been supported nationally, resulting in the removal of 10,000 tonnes of illegally dumped waste from our landscape - a total of 30 Meath projects have been supported under the scheme.

€5m Anti- Littering Infrastructure / Capital Supports – Outdoor Spaces and Covid 19

The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment have informed Local Authorities of the above funding stream in order to support anti-littering efforts arising out of higher levels of outdoor dining and domestic tourism following the easing of COVID 19 restrictions.

The additional funding will support:

- The provision of quality litter picking materials such as litter pickers, gloves and bags;
- Immediate mapping of existing levels of on street infrastructure (bins and dog fouling receptacles) and the urgent provision and immediate roll out of additional infrastructure to address any gaps identified;
- Support for servicing of street infrastructure;
- Additional education and awareness efforts.

The Council is engaging with the Department in respect of this scheme.

Green Kilometre Scheme for Meath

The scheme which commits individuals or groups to maintaining a kilometre or longer stretch of local road free of litter over the course of a year is continuing to attract considerable interest with near 220 individuals / groups now participating.

Incentives of some native trees, litter pickers, bags and gloves are on offer for all participating individuals/groups and if desired, the Council will arrange for an adviser (when restrictions allow) to visit to give advice in relation to planting, care of heritage features etc. where applicable.

Draft National Strategy for Ireland to transition to a Circular Economy

The government has published a [draft national strategy](#) on how Ireland can transition to a Circular Economy and is inviting businesses, communities and citizens to contribute their views through a public consultation.

The draft Strategy sets out what is a circular economy, why Ireland needs to achieve a circular economy and how national policy will develop to support that goal. The public consultation is open until 11th June 2021.

In line with the measures proposed in the Waste Action Plan, also launched is a consultation on Ireland's new [Circular Economy Programme](#), led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This new programme builds on fifteen years of leadership by the EPA on waste prevention, including Ireland's well-regarded food waste prevention campaign and the development of national guidance on priority topics such as Construction Waste Management and Green Public Procurement.

Other Initiatives

Forest and Wild Fires Awareness Initiative - The Environment Section have engaged with the Fire Service and Coillte to carry out a social media campaign to increase awareness surrounding the prevention forest and wildfires in County Meath. The collaboration includes a 1 minute video informing the public of the issues and impacts fires have on forests and our Environment and this was recently aired on RTEs Six One News.

River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) - Drafting of the 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan (for the period 2022 – 2027) is underway and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) hope to publish same in mid-summer and commencing an extensive public consultation, including public meetings in every municipal district in the country and presentation to SPCs and full Council levels. It is planned for the final plan to be adopted in early 2022.

Climate Action - On-going projects include:

- Identification of a Decarbonisation Zone
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The URBACT Project (Trim) – the Council hosted (virtually) the European Team lead from Tallinn Estonia for this project in May
- Establishment of an Energy Bureau proceeding in association with Kildare and Wicklow
- The role of the Climate Action Forum
- Awaiting enactment of the Low Carbon and Climate Action Bill and the subsequent preparation of a Climate Action Plan within 18 months.

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) have just launched a website www.caro.ie to support all County and City Councils in leading Ireland's climate action efforts.

Rooske Road Burial Ground Extension Dunboyne - Work is continuing on the extension to the Rooske Road Cemetery in Dunboyne with additional capacity to be available in early June. Further expansion is planned which involves the acquisition of some adjoining lands and which will facilitate the provision of parking and other associated facilities. Some development will be the subject of a Part 8 planning process in the coming months.

Community

Governance Structures

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The scheduled meeting took place on Friday, May 28, 2021. The LCDC was to agree on the theme for the 2021 SICAP case study.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

Meeting of the LAG scheduled to take place on May 28, 2021. The LAG will receive details of proposed projects under the LEADER Transitional Programme and any EOIs received.

Age Friendly County programme (AF)

Meath Age Friendly launched the Age Friendly Business initiative in Athboy on May 31st with local businesses who have signed up. A consultant has been appointed to commence the review and prepare a new 5-year Meath Age Friendly Strategy.

Meath Public Participation Network (PPN)

The work to put fundamental governance systems in place continues. The development of good governance in the PPN is a requirement of the Department and necessary for the network to be fit for purpose for its member groups and effectively support participation and representation of communities in decision-making within Meath.

Comhairle na n'Óg

Comhairle na n'Óg has set the date for its AGM as Thursday, October 14th, 2021. Save the date invitations have been sent to schools and elected representatives. It is hoped that a blended approach can be taken with both virtual and in person attendance, restrictions permitting.

Comhairle has just completed work with Heathy Meath where it consulted on the 'Not Around Us Campaign'. Interview invitations to national representatives are being finalised in the hopes of interviewing them on youth issues and are seeking funding to get a developer to assist them to develop an APP that will record youth services for the County.

Comhairle participated in a Twitter Campaign to promote vaccination in conjunction with the HSE and Age Friendly Ireland and hope to undertake dementia awareness training with the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland over the summer months.

Broadband

National Broadband Plan - Works are on- going in the roll out of broadband services in the county.

WiFi4EU - Provisional sites in Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Ratoath, Trim and Oldcastle have been identified for the next phase of the WIFI4EU rollout. An information session is being arranged to provide traders with relevant details and potential buildings will be checked for feasibility.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) - A total of 12 out of 15 of the County's BCPs are now live providing outdoor access. The GAA facilities are still prevented from facilitating indoor access due to Covid Restrictions. The 3 remaining sites to be connected are Kilskyre, Carnaross Mart and Cortown GAA.

Grant Schemes

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Scheme 2021

The funding is aimed at supporting outdoor recreation tourism, a growing tourism sector internationally, which has the potential to have major economic spin-off benefits for rural towns and villages as well as improving the health and well-being of rural communities.

The 2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will provide funding under 4 separate measures:

- Measure 1: Small Scale Repair/Development/Promotion and Marketing - grant up to €20,000
- Measure 2: Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail/Amenity Development - grant up to €200,000
- Measure 3: Strategic Large-Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Strategic Trail/Amenity Development projects - grant up to €500,000
- Project Development Measures - is new for 2021 and will provide funding for the detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or 3 of ORIS - grant up to €50,000

Expressions of interest are currently being assessed and applications prepared for submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021

The measures that will be supported by the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme include:

- Tackling dereliction in town centres
- Turning vacant properties into remote working and community spaces
- Supporting Local Authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers to their county
- Investing in green spaces, parks and recreational amenities
- Upgrading and improving shop fronts & streetscapes on Main Streets
- Projects that support and enhance the night time economy and add vibrancy to town centres

In the 2021 Town and Village Scheme, footpath development/improvement projects or similar will not be supported. The closing date for the receipt of Expressions of Interest is **Wednesday 16th June 2021**.

Co-Operation Ireland Pride of Place

Three groups have been selected to represent Meath at the National Pride of Place Scheme this year;

- Athboy Development Forum – Population category
- Bettystown Tidy Towns – Islands and Coastal Communities category
- Ratoath Men's Shed – Community Wellbeing category.

Groups will submit an online submission in June and adjudication will take place by September 2021. The results will be announced on 20th November 2021.

Community Enhancement Programme 2021

The CEP funding for 2021 has been launched. Meath have received an allocation of €142,893. 30% of the funding will be ring fenced for small grants of less than €1,000.00. This year's CEP will provide: grants towards projects or equipment enhancing facilities (similar to previous years) and one-off grants towards costs associated with reopening of a facility or the sustainability of a facility. The project must benefit the local community and relate to a priority identified in the Meath Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) in order to be eligible for consideration. **Closing date is 5pm Wednesday the 30th of June 2021.**

Capital Play and Recreation Grant Scheme 2021

Funding was approved by the Department Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth under the above scheme to the amount of €14,588 to refurbish the Athboy Playground.

Libraries Service

Overview – Library Services

Despite the many alternative attractions afforded by the reopening of the leisure and retail sector, patrons are still finding time to flock back to their local libraries. Over 3,000 items were issued within the first two days of the libraries reopening to the public. Branches are fully open for browsing and borrowing with staff reminding patrons that there's never been a better time to visit their local library, as the shelves are literally creaking with the thousands of new books purchased during the lockdown.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg is Ireland's national day of free creative activity for children and young people up to 18 years of age. Over the past 3 years it has become a key date in Ireland's cultural calendar. It provides opportunities for Ireland's 1.2 million children and young people to be inquisitive and curious, to be inventive and innovative, and to fulfil a creative ambition or showcase an inner creative talent. **In 2021, Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on Saturday 12th June.**

Meath County Council Library and Arts Services programme, manage and deliver Cruinniú at local level. This year the programme involves a:

- Blend of on the day and lead in workshop participatory events.
- 40 + activities for children & young people from 0 – 18 years.
- Partnerships with Music Generation, Act Out Youth Theatre, primary and secondary Schools.
- Diverse range of shows and workshops that will be delivered through a mix of live and pre-recorded events. Includes arts, heritage, stem and Irish Language events.

Summer Stars

Summer Stars is the national summer reading programme for children and runs from the 14th of June until the end of August. Children are invited to register for Summer Stars in their local library and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer months. Summer Stars is non-competitive and is completely free! There are lots of competitions and membership draws where children can win Tayto Park family vouchers, Kindle Fires and lots more. Parents and children are invited to call into their local Meath library and register from June 14th. Full details are available at www.meathlibraries.ie

Summer Programme

There is a very busy programme of online events planned for Meath children this summer, from arts and crafts with Tarsila Krüse, Covid Conjuring with magician Billy Bubbles, Storytelling with Niall DeBúrca, computer coding with Glow group, animation with RTE's Tina Mation, LEGO fidget cubes with our very own STEAM team and Harry Potter themed crafts with Aoife Munn. There are weekly Yoga sessions, Clayotic packs to give away and children will learn how to build and fly the ultimate kite. Weekly competitions, featuring the library service mascot Rí na Mí, and the first ever summer bucket list will ensure it's going to be a busy fun-filled summer.

Little Library Book Bags

Meath County Council Library Service is delighted to announce that the First 5 Little Library Bags for registered Early Learning Centres are now being despatched from local branch libraries. The Little Library bags each contain 5 books, one in Irish and four in English. The books are aimed at the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) age range of 2.5 years to 5.5 years primarily, but can be used with all preschool children. A number of other resources are also provided.

There is a separate Little Library Bag for distribution to the *Naoinraí*.

Tá cúig leabhar i nGaeilge i ngach mála. Is ar chúraim agus oideachais luath-óige atá na leabhar dírithe (ECCE) idir 2.5 bliana d'aois go 5.5 bliana d'aois go príomha, ach is féidir iad a úsáid le aon páistí réamhscoile.

The First 5 Little Library Bags initiative is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth and the Department of Rural and Community Development to build on the relationships between the Early Learning and Care centres and libraries as part of the First 5 Government Strategy for babies and children and the public libraries Right to Read programme. The library service will also have the First 5 Little Library bags available to loan to parents and for story times and reading corners in the library.

Eduroam

Eduroam is a federated service that allows roaming research and educational users to more easily obtain Internet access via the WiFi service at participating sites. When attaching to eduroam WiFi users are authenticated via their home institution. If authentication succeeds the user is granted wireless network access.

An application to introduce the service to all twelve branch libraries has been approved by HEAnet and a contractor is being procured at present. The cost of the new service is fully funded by the Higher Education Authority and the programme is being rolled out with the support of the broadband officers.

Economic Development

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	12
Trading Online Vouchers Approved	13
Training Online Courses Attended	258
Trading Online Voucher Information Webinar Attended	30
LEO Fund Grants Approved	3

Student Enterprise Programme

Students from Meath have taken three prizes at the National Final of this year's Student Enterprise Programme. The Finals of the Local Enterprise Office initiative were broadcast virtually on Friday, 14th May from Croke Park with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Ambassador Derval O'Rourke speaking with host RTE's Rick O'Shea, as students and teachers watched on from across the country.

Supported by Local Enterprise Office Meath, Andrew Harford, St. Patrick's Classical School, Navan (teacher Patrick Molony) won third place in the "My Entrepreneurial Journey" Intermediate Category.

In the Senior Category, Rachel Conway and Mia Frawley, two students from Ratoath College, (teacher Gary Flanagan) were awarded the prize for "Most Creative Use of Social Media" for their business "Wired Jewellery". The students' Tiktok video had over seven hundred thousand views.

Also in the Senior Category, "Easy Ex" a business which produces a visual aid for home-workers to help build exercise into their day won the "Best Adaptability in the Covid 19 Era". Students are Oisin Craig, Joshua Keating, Sean Mc Dermott and Carl Mc Govern from St. Ciaran's CS in Kells (teacher Peter Carry).

Tourism Update

As tourism accommodation reopens across the county, a summer marketing campaign is planned for the Boyne Valley: **'Boyne Valley, A vibrant landscape, inspired by the past'**. Graphics of the key messages of outdoor activities, heritage, food, the coast and family activities were created for the campaign which will be used across social media advertising, print and website.

Campaign Activities include:

- **8 press visits** are organised to highlight the county to national press and travel bloggers.
- **Boyne Valley Ambassadors** project in association with Failte Ireland commenced 31st May where 15 ambassadors will share digital content on the destination.
- **Press Releases** on offers, stories, outdoor dining, free activities and many more themes will be circulated to media every two weeks.

- **Sponsored ad campaigns are scheduled across social media channels**
- **Ezines** will be circulated each two weeks and 2 blog articles are shared on social media each week on topics such as [Alfresco dining in the Boyne Valley](#), [Free access to OPW sites this Summer](#), [Boyne Blueway Trim](#), [Special Offers in the Boyne Valley](#) and [Perfect Picnics](#).
- **Radio** activity will commence shortly, dates and details being tied down.
- **#MyBoyne Valley Photograph campaign:** A four week photography competition where the public voted on the winning photos. There was a reach of 106k over the 4 weeks.
- County Meath will participate in the **travel series 'County by County'** with TV3 presenter Ciara Whelan. The show will be aired on PBS channel Create in the US. The first series had 37mn viewers.
- **Meath County Council Tourist Offices have reopened**
- The **Tourism Business Continuity Scheme Phase One Plus** launched end May and is open for new destination experience organisers, tourism activity providers and tourism golf courses. More information [here](#).



Finance Section

Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC): The applications portal is now closed for Q1 2021. 374 applications were received, 251 of which were fully completed. Some 145 applications have been approved and paid totalling €580,000. 10 Applications are ongoing, with 96 applications declined.

The go live for Q2 has not yet been confirmed, it has been announced that the scheme for Q2 will be expanded to include businesses operating from a non-rateable premises such as a home office or hot-desk now eligible for help with fixed costs

Housing Loans Overview

Loans Data 1st January 2021 to 26th May 2021		
Fully Completed Applications Received	44	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwritten)	11	all relate to 2021 applications
Awaiting Further Information	5	3 relate to 2020 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	25	4 relate to 2020 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	8	4 relate to 2020 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	5	all relate to 2021 applications
Returned to Customer	2	1 relates to 2020
Active Approvals	32.43	11.43 relates to 2020
Expired	11	all relate to 2020 applications
Drawdown by Customer	4.25	all relate to 2020 applications

Figures above relate to activity in those areas from 1st January 2021 - 26th May 2021 and in some cases relate to applications pre 2021