



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

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

**Monthly Management Report**  
**July 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.

The report covers the following:

**Directorate for Corporate Affairs and Governance, Climate Action and Emergency Services**

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Climate Action and Environment

**Directorate for Housing, Community and Cultural Development**

Housing Services

Community Development

Library Services

**Directorate for Infrastructure, Project Management, People Management and Development**

Transportation

**Directorate for Planning, Economic and Tourism Development**

Planning and Development

Economic Development

**Directorate for Finance, Information Systems and Water Services**

Finance Services

Thank You,

**Jackie Maguire**

**Chief Executive**

## Corporate Affairs and Governance

### Meetings Administration

**Online Meetings:** The holding of Council meetings will continue to take place in line with public health measures and the Standard Operating Guidance (SOG) for the local government sector. In line with a recommendation of the CPG, the Municipal Districts will meet 'in-person' during July. Future meeting arrangements will be assessed in line with the easing of restrictions and the public health advice.

**Municipal Districts AGMs:** All six Municipal Districts held their Annual General Meetings in the County Hall between June 15-23, with the exception of the Ashbourne MD which had its meeting in the Ashbourne Civic Offices. County Hall was used to facilitate physical distancing and provide limited access to the meetings by members of the press and public. All six agreed their schedule of meetings for 2021-2022 and elected the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach, as follows:

MD	Cathaoirleach	Leas-Chathaoirleach
Ashbourne	Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	Cllr. Amanda Smith
Ratoath	Cllr. Nick Killian	Cllr. Gillian Toole
Laytown-Bettystown	Cllr. Elaine McGinty	Cllr. Geraldine Keogan
Kells	Cllr. Mike Bray	Cllr. Michael Gallagher
Navan	Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Trim	Cllr. Joe Fox	Cllr. Niamh Souhan

**Corporate Policy Group Composition:** The composition of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) for 2021-2022 was confirmed with the re-appointment of Councillor Alan Tobin (by the Ashbourne MD) and Councillor Wayne Harding (by the Laytown-Bettystown MD), who will join the Cathaoirleach and the Chairs of the four SPCs on the CPG.

**East Border Region Charter Launch:** On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the official launch of the East Border Region Charter took place in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. This Innovative Charter for Cross Border Cooperation in the East Border Region takes account of the fact that the UK is no longer a member of the European Union, sets out the parameters for cross border cooperation between the six member authorities North and South and outlines future regional cross border priorities.



### Customer Services

On Monday, July 5 public counters at Buvinda House and the Civic Offices are expected to re-open for Customer Service queries and payments at the Cash Desk. The re-opening is contingent on final agreement by Government on the opening up of businesses as pre-planned. The Planning Counter has remained operational during the lockdowns and its operations will change in line with the other services. Opening hours for Customer Services will be 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. The established queuing system at Buvinda House will remain in place.

## **Events - Communications**

### **Cathaoirleach's First Video Message**

Newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew published a short message to the Council's social media channels highlighting some of his priorities for the coming year. These included the finalising of the County Development Plan, progressing the delivery of the rail line to Navan, promoting Meath as a location for investment and increasing the delivery of affordable and social homes in the county.



### **Your Council Day 2021**

Your Council Day campaign will take place on Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. As in previous years, Your Council Day is all about showcasing the fantastic work that takes place in local authorities all year round. The LGMA plans to launch a new website [localgovernmentjobs.ie](http://localgovernmentjobs.ie) on the day, a go-to hub of information about local authority careers, highlighting opportunities available to local authority employees and promote local authorities as 'employers of choice'.

This year Meath County Council plans to focus on engineers within the organisation, each staff member will speak about their professional journey, with the viewer learning about specific jobs, how each employee got to where they are in the field, but also advice from each of those featured on how to structure career goals.

### **Kells Swimming Pool Re-Opens**

Kells Swimming Pool reopened its door to the public on Tuesday, June 8. To coincide with opening the Council launched a new online booking portal allowing customers to book their one-hour swim slot up to 7 days in advance. A short video was published showing customers how user friendly the new booking system is.

### **Meath Fire Service Launch Mental Awareness Campaign**



Meath County Council and Ashbourne Fire Station launched a campaign to shine a light on mental health. The aim of the campaign is to cut through the stigma associated with the illness.

Like all fire crews around the country, the Ashbourne crew have seen the fallout from people struggling with mental health issues. They are asking us all to look out for our family, friends, work colleagues and each other. In the first video of the series Ashbourne fire fighter Peter Kane speaks about mental health and its impact on local communities.

### **Launch of Communication Boards**

Meath County Council in partnership with Facebook's Clonee Data Centre has begun the installation of communication boards in 26 playgrounds across the county. The boards are primarily a communications support, with particular benefit to children or adults who are either pre-verbal or non-verbal and/or have communication difficulties.



Communication boards, which include picture representations of day to day core words, as well as images that are specifically tailored for its environment and the location for which it is proposed, help bridge this communication gap for everyone.

Pictured at the launch of the first communications board in Trim playground was

Aoife Flynn and Mark Hunter, Facebook, Des Foley, Meath County Council and Cllr. Ronan Moore, Cathaoirleach Trim MD.

### **'The Life & Legacy of Eoghan Ó Gramhnaigh' Book Launch**

Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh's 'The Life & Legacy of Eoghan Ó Gramhnaigh' was first published in *Ríocht na Midhe* in 2019. Meath County Council is reprinting the work, accompanied by poems and by images of unpublished material in the hope that a new generation of readers will come to recognise the remarkable life of this native son of Athboy, County Meath.



The publication of this volume is an action of Meath's Creative Ireland strategy. The volume is available from Antonia's Bookstore, Trim and from branches of Meath County Council Library Service priced at €8.00. Pictured at the launch with Cathaoirleach Cllr. David Gilroy is Dr. Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh and Tom French from Meath County Library Local Studies Department.

### **Staff Retirements**

The following staff members have retired from the Council in Q2 of 2021:

- Frank Lynam – Transport Trim MD – Retired 22/06/2021.

## Climate Action and Environment

### **Waste Prevention, Reduction and Litter**

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has commenced an Anti-Dumping / Litter National Summer Campaign involving radio advertisements and information for use by Local Authorities and other bodies on their social media platforms. All the material forming part of the campaign can be downloaded from [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie) Meath County Council is fully supporting the campaign.

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

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has 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 has received notification of funding in the sum of €150,000 under the terms of the scheme.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Green Schools**

14 Meath Schools have completed their assessment for the Green School Programme on a range of themes including Litter and Waste, Water, Energy, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship. The programme has been challenging this year, but they have risen to the challenge with meetings held outdoors, delivering information and messages by electronic methods, intercom, zoom. They broke the programme into small sections with individual pods taking on each 'Step'. Awards ceremony is postponed until further notice.

### **Picker Pals**

20 Meath Schools enjoyed taking part in Picker Pals this past school year, funded by Meath County Council and operated in conjunction with Voice Ireland. Picker Pals is a fun environmental activity programme for primary school children, their families, schools and communities. Through fun stories and songs and a special pack containing everything needed for litter-picking, Picker Pals motivates children to lead litter-picking adventures with their families. Picker Pals gives children the opportunity to make the world a better place through local stewardship.



### **Paint Recycling Scheme with Rediscovery Centre**

A paint reuse scheme begins in June at Navan, Trim and Kells Recycling Centre. It will see good non-hazardous paint set aside for inspection and collection by the Rediscovery Centre for remixing and resale. In time it is planned to offer this 'Recovered' Paint at a discount to Community and Voluntary Organisations who are enhancing their areas/buildings etc. The project is funded by the EPA LAPN Fund. All paint which is collected and not suitable for reuse will be returned to the recycling centres for safe disposal.

### **Food Digester**

The food digester at Navan Recycling Centre is over subscribed. A larger unit has been ordered and will be installed in July. The new unit will allow for additional customers to recycle their food waste, providing a whole waste management solution for householders who choose to manage their waste without subscribing to a bin service and for those who don't have access to the brown bin system.

### **River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)**

Drafting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 with Trim being the 'Leading and Learning' Town – internal team being established
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – awareness internally and externally. MCC participated in Development Perspective's SDG Roadshow cargo bike tour
- The URBACT Project (Trim) – URBACT Local Group (ULG) being established with a focus on inclusivity and will use Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC) to identify gaps and strengths in relation to SDGs.
- Establishment of an Energy Bureau proceeding in association with Kildare and Wicklow.
- The Climate Action Forum is concentrating on actions they take to promote climate action and the SDGs.
- Awaiting enactment of the Low Carbon and Climate Action Bill (most likely early Autumn) and the subsequent preparation of a Climate Action Plan within 12 months. Each section will be asked to consider their input into the plan in advance of the Minister instructing councils to prepare a plan.
  - Also awaiting announcement of Climate Action Fund – as above sections will be asked to consider potential projects in advance of the announcement
  - Tender documents being prepared to appoint consultants to undertake a Climate and Energy document encompassing the revised Climate Action Plan, Decarb Zone Implementation Plan, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP – for Covenant of Mayors)
  - Consultants appointed for Trim SEC to prepare the Energy Master Plan, 2 other SECs have made their application to SEAI to prepare an EMP.
  - Various small projects in partnership with Age Friendly, Libraries, Devenish, etc. ongoing.

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) have just launched a website [www.caro.ie](http://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.

# 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>				
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	563,166	Q4 2021	Q3 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	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>24,516,980</b>		
<b>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</b>				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q3 2021	Q1 2023
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>48,187,054</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	9,850,185	Q4 2021	Q2 2023
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9,850,185</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>				
Donore	21	4,524,250	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q3 2021
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>10,338,198</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

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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>42,809,414</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>135,701,831</b>		

\* 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
2021 Acquisition Programme	Acquisitions	45	€11,000,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>14,124,503</b>

### 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
<b>Totals</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>5,000,268</b>

### 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](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 €1,695,795 have been awarded by Meath County Council to 242 Households under the various Grants schemes to date in 2021. An additional €640,000 exchequer funding has been secured for the 2021 Grants Programme, bringing the combined funding available (inclusive of 20% local funding) to €3,341,833.

### Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

A total of 15 projects completed to date in 2021 (€148,276), with a further 24 task orders issued to contractors (€184,730).

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021. For the period from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, works were completed on 3 vacant units; while 5 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>	3	1	0	4	0
<b>Kells</b>	5	1	0	6	0
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	7	1	0	4	4**
<b>Navan</b>	10	0	0	8	2
<b>Ratoath</b>	3	0	0	3	0
<b>Trim</b>	5	0	0	4	1**
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>

\*\*Awaiting Energy Assessment Report for 5no Properties before Works are issued. Properties surveyed; just awaiting final reports.

A total of €1,444,630 funding has been secured from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage in respect of the 2021 Pre-Let Programme.

### Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
<b>PIPELINE DELIVERY</b>			
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 2022
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	2	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Ashwood Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due - Q3 2021
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due - Q1 2022
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 – Q2 2022
Effernock, Trim	16	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Beaufort Place, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q3 2022
Commons, Duleek	22	North & East	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
<b>TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED</b>	<b>442</b>		

### Homelessness

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
<b>Placements at 31<sup>st</sup> April 2021 (Previous Reported Figure)</b>	142 (150)	24 (36 Adults, 49 Children)	166
<b>Placements at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021</b>	137 (145)	25 (36 Adults, 41 Children)	162

Of the 25 households with children, 10 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 7 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

**Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:** Primary reason is Notice to Quit & unable to find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare.

Some 74 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

### **Social Housing Supports**

A total of 477 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

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 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
MCC Direct Allocations	167
Approved Housing Bodies	113
RAS	0
HAP	264
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>544</b>

## Community Development

### Governance Structures

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

The scheduled meeting took place on Friday, June 25, 2021. The LCDC was to agree on the theme for the 2021 SICAP case study.

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

The meeting of the LAG took place on Friday, June 25, 2021. The LAG received 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 31<sup>st</sup> with local businesses and the Meath Age Friendly Business Ambassador Sean Boylan. The launch coincided with the official opening of the new medical centre in the town which has doctors, dentist, physiotherapists and other services located within the one building.

Meath Age Friendly participated in the Dementia Inclusive Communities workshop as Athboy is one of the five pilot towns rolling out the promotion of Dementia Awareness to Communities.

#### **Meath Public Participation Network (PPN)**

Current consultations open to the PPN to participate in include: DRCD National Structural Review of PPNs; Eirgrid's Kildare - Meath Upgrade community forum: and the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

#### **Comhairle na n'Óg**

Comhairle na n'Óg has started interviewing Meath Oireachtas members, in relation to youth facilities and issues that are important to them. A new youth participation officer Suzanne Byrne has been appointed for Meath Comhairle, she has already started her role. Comhairle will be marking pride month in conjunction with Youth Work Ireland Meath's LGBTQI+ Group and An Garda Síochana with the Garda "Pride" squad car in Navan on Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum**

A quarterly meeting of the forum took place in June to discuss on progress of actions within the joint integration strategy and an update on the 3-year funding received from the National Integration Fund. Next meeting scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### Broadband

#### **WiFi4EU**

Information has been provided to traders and surveys are now being completed to confirm viability of delivery at the sites identified.

#### **BCPs**

Carnaross Mart and Cortown GAA have been surveyed for connection. An application has been made to the Department of Rural and Community Development to secure funding for the BCPs under the Connected Hubs call. A decision on successful applications is due by the end of July 2021. The BCP's will host the production of RESILIENCE a concert evening curated by SOFFT productions. This will be recorded and presented as live during the summer.

## **Other Initiatives**

### **Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme**

The submissions from the 48 schools taking part in the Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme took place in June. The schools were asked to complete the criteria relevant to their level and send in their submissions digitally. Despite the closure of schools earlier in the year the submissions were of excellent quality and showcased the work the students carried out in their schools to support biodiversity, climate action awareness and learn new gardening skills. Each school will be presented with a certificate acknowledging their achievement before the school year closes.

### **DCEDIY funding**

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth has opened applications for the Capacity Building Grant and Hub na nÓg Training to support implementation of the National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in decision-making at the level of everyday practice.

The fund and training is open to organisations that provide services, programmes or projects to children and young people from the following sectors:

- Tusla Registered Early Learning Care and School-Age Childcare providers.
- Arts Organisations\*\* (Working directly with Children and Young People)
- Youth Services
- Youth Justice
- Traveller Service Providers
- Disability Service Providers
- Homeless Service Providers

Eligible organisations are invited to apply for the training and grant which will enable participation in training from Hub na nÓg and to develop and/or purchase resources to support use of the '*Everyday Spaces Checklist*' in their work with children and young people.

The application deadline has been extended. Applications must be sent by close of business, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of July to: [citizenparticipation@equality.gov.ie](mailto:citizenparticipation@equality.gov.ie)

## Libraries Services

### Cruinniú na nÓg

Meath County Council Library and Arts Services programmed, managed and delivered *Cruinniú na nÓg* on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The programme involved 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 were delivered through a mix of live and pre-recorded events. Includes arts, heritage, STEM and Irish Language events.

Despite the very warm weather and the long summer day, many parents supported and encouraged children and young people to go off and pick up their electronic devices and go online to enjoy some of the best cultural offerings available anywhere in the country.

Live and/or virtual public events: Attendance: **463**

Schools Programme : Attendance: **518**

YouTube: **1,238 views** in last 28 days with a total watch time of 49.3 hours for a range of offerings



- Kids Classics:
- Me & Molly & Moo:
- Youth choir:
- Bóinn various videos
- This is Art various videos:
- Crafts & Miscellaneous

### Dormant Accounts Funding 2021

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, through the Dormant Accounts Fund, is making funding available to local authorities to provide support to marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities.

The public library strategy '*Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities*' focuses on removing barriers to access and improving accessibility, with a specific focus on communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged. Funding will support measures set out in the strategy, including:

- building on existing and developing new relationships with local agencies and groups to facilitate greater engagement with hard to reach, marginalised and disadvantaged communities.
- provide opportunities for all users to engage in lifelong learning through the delivery of services developed in collaboration with national and local partners.

Meath County Council library service has applied for €35,000 for a range of projects supporting people with sensory needs, from installation of a Sensory Pod at Dunshaughlin Library, to the roll-

out of a 'Toys, Technology and Training' initiative which will benefit users across the county. Projects designed to promote and increase access to library services for children and young people in DEIS and CLÁR areas are also included in the application.

### **National Age Friendly Library Recognition Programme – Trim and Athboy**

In 2019, 48 libraries across the country achieved the recognition of becoming an Age Friendly Library. These libraries, including Kells Library, carried out a four stage process and in doing so committed to implementing initiatives to make access to libraries a more enjoyable and comfortable experience for older people.

The National Age Friendly Recognition Programme is now entering a second phase and Meath County Council has nominated Trim and Athboy Libraries to participate in the expanded programme. The programme is a very valuable means of encouraging re-engagement with older people now that libraries are open to the public again.

### **National Integration Fund – Meath County Library Initiatives**

The National Integration Fund 2020 is a key element of the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020 which was developed to enable migrants, or persons of migrant origin, to participate on an equal basis with those of Irish heritage. Its primary objective is to ensure that barriers to full participation in Irish society by migrants or their Irish-born children are identified and addressed.

The funding is provided to projects which take an inclusive approach, aiming to bring migrants and host communities together and encompassing a range of themes, including increasing mutual understanding between local communities and migrants; combatting racism and xenophobia; promoting the integration into Irish society of vulnerable or socially-excluded immigrants and promoting the involvement of immigrants in sport, volunteering and cultural activities.

Work is now on-going on a number of outreach projects which will benefit amongst others the

- Polish school in Navan
- Pre-school and Homework Club in Mosney

Cultúr has also been engaged to train library staff and support the delivery of multi-cultural and inter-cultural events and embed diverse programming in the libraries wide-ranging calendar of events.

Funding will also be directed to increasing the range of multi-cultural stock and resources available for public lending across the branch network.

## Transportation Services

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Construction & consultancy services contract to be awarded subject to DoT/TII approval. Assessment of the tenders received for the legal services contract during the construction phase is ongoing.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Preparing to appoint topographical contractor to carry out surveys in Slane village. Letters issued to the residents in Slane 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 and posted on scheme website once complete. Preparation of Legal Services tender documents has commenced.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Phase 3 design deliverables submitted to TII for approval. Preparation of CPO drawings and schedules is ongoing
National Road Resurfacing	Capital Maintenance Schemes - N2 Cushinstown, N52 Mandistown & N51 Halltown – contracts awarded – N51 & N52 road closures required  N52 Marvelstown resurfacing – contract awarded – road closure required  N51 Higginstown to Crowinstown at tender documentation preparation stage – design progressing with Westmeath County Council as per Section 85 Agreement

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

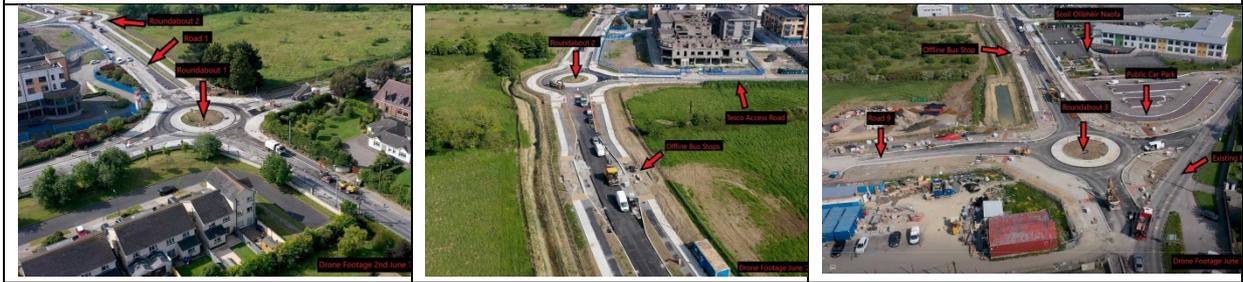
#### (a) Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing)

Road Works Programme	SMDW 2021 included 87 Surface Dressing schemes and the contract is ongoing – 35 schemes substantially complete w/e 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021  SMDW 2021 included 81 Restoration Improvement schemes and the contract is ongoing – 36 schemes commenced or complete w/e 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021  Processing of CIS & LIS schemes for 2021 ongoing – community reps contacted for successful schemes re contributions due
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#### (b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road Scheme	Surfacing works ongoing. New road expected to be open to traffic from mid July. Surfacing to car park and some side roads expected to be complete by late August.
R162 Kilberry Phase 2	Ground Investigation completed. Scheme to be split into 2 contracts. Draft tender documents being prepared for works to link Phase 1 footpaths at R162/R163 junction. Contract for works further south towards GAA club to be tendered later this year, subject to DOT approval.

### Up-date on the R150 Laytown to Bettystown Road Scheme



### (c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads - Allocation for 7 Safety Schemes 2021

2021 Schemes	Road	Status
Newgate	R147	Gone out to Tender w/e 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Liscarton	R147	Gone out to Tender w/e 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Cabinhill	L-1006-0	Contractor currently being appointed
Clonguiffin, Longwood	L-4020/ L-80142-47 /L-2226-0	Consultation ongoing with Landowners
Donaghpatrick	L-3409-18/ L-7414-12	Contractor currently being appointed
Kilmore Moynalvey	R-156 / L-62161	At Design Stage

### (d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads –Allocation for 6 Bridge Schemes

2020 Schemes	Status
Kilmainhamwood	Tender closed 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021 – assessment underway
R125 Donaghmore	Tender documents being prepared
2021 Schemes	Status
Clavens Bridge (R147)	At Design Stage
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 complete

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	New watermains from Oriel Shop to Berminghams Pub tested and passed. Shutdowns effected & new connections made. New granite footpath & kerbing installed from Boyne Travel to Berminghams Pub. Watermains installed from Birmingham's Pub to Market Sq. Excavation commenced on Market Sq - temporary traffic management in place. Old Cornmarket to close to through traffic on the 28th June for up to 4 weeks to facilitate watermains work.
Navan Town Bus Stops	New bus stop works completed on Commons Rd. Works commenced on stops on Trim Rd due for completion end of June/start of July. Following this, Contractor intends relocating to Kentstown Rd for further bus stop construction works.

Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Draft tender documents under review for section from Dan Shaw Rd to the Solstice. Correspondence issued to a landowner on western side of Trim Rd. Site meeting held with Eir to discuss the scope of works. Consultants progressing the geometric design for Phase 2(Solstice roundabout to Loreto School). Conservation Architect has undertaken a condition assessment of the existing railings in front of County Hall to inform the scope of services for the construction contract
N51 Park & Ride	Archaeological Investigation works and Topographical Survey for the site completed. Detailed design work is ongoing. Site Investigation work is programmed for next month.
Ratoath Cycle Network	A non-statutory public consultation process completed and submissions are under review. Approx. 145 No. submissions were received (Approx. 95% want no trees removed). A few of the submissions received demonstrated an understanding as to why the scheme is required and indicated the option with the least trees for removal would be their preference. Meeting scheduled with the Ratoath MD Councillors on site to discuss options & possible ways forward
Boyne Greenway -Drogheda to Mornington	Ecological surveys ongoing.
R154 Kiltale	Works substantially complete. New lighting for footpath ordered and expected to be installed by end July 2021. Snagging and final account to be completed.
Safe Routes to Schools Programme - Support	Draft tender documents prepared and under review.
HGV Transport Study -Navan	Comments on Consultants scoping document received from NTA & under review.
Additional Outdoor Dining Infrastructure	<b>Navan MD Parklet Scheme:</b> 8 No. Parklets installed. Surface infrastructure complete on all 8. Awaiting installation of boundary fences by end of June. <b>Ashbourne/Ratoath MD Parklet Scheme:</b> 6 No. Parklets under construction. 3 in Ashbourne, 2 in Stamullen and 1 in Dunboyne. Due for completion end of June. <b>Kells MD Parklet Scheme:</b> 1 No. Parklet in Kells - works commencing Tues 22nd June.

NTA Jobs Stimulus Programme 2020 (€3,105,000): Of the 38 schemes, 32 schemes are complete or substantially complete.

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 and it is currently anticipated to tender by the end of July.

#### **Non- National Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes - Funding other than primarily DoT & NTA**

Athboy Town Centre Project	Non-statutory public consultation in relation to proposed options closed 18th June 2021. Submissions being reviewed and Emerging Preferred Option expected to be identified in the coming weeks.
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme	ESB Works completed & associated reinstatement works also. Temporary cones/ barriers fully removed from footpaths and cycle lanes. Line marking of cycle tracks to be completed by end of June 2021. Stage 3 Safety Audit to

	follow once ESB energise the mini pillars.
R135 Cycle Network Design	Letter of Intent issued to preferred Site Investigation contractor (IGSL) for works on R135 – waiting on Traffic Management Plans before awarding contract. Suitability Assessment Questionnaire being assessed to form framework of Contractors to price the works. Detailed design progressing – draft issued by DBFL to MCC for review
LDR6 Scheme Navan	Works on course for completion in the coming weeks
Ratoath Outer Relief Road (RORR), LIHAF Scheme	Works expected to be substantially complete by mid July 2021 -awaiting ESB connection for lighting and signals and Road Safety Audit sign-off. Final account to be agreed and snagging to be completed
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	Navan to Wilkinstown section on rail line –Tender’s due back on 24th June 2021

### 5. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	<p><b>Kells MD</b> – Kells Schemes Works commenced on 16/06/2021 approx. 4 weeks programme</p> <p><b>Ashbourne MD</b> –Schemes in Ardcath (Church View Housing Estate); Stamullen (Mountain View Housing Estate entrance); Bellewstown (Woodview Estate) - Site Works completed on the 9/06/21. Snagging and contract close out on-going</p> <p><b>Trim MD</b> –Works on Mornington Heights and Kildalkey Road, Trim due to be completed by the end of June 2021</p> <p><b>Laytown/ Bettystown MD</b> - Coney Hall Mornington – Site works on main contract complete, additional works commenced on 21/06/2021 approx. 2 week programme</p> <p><b>Ratoath MD</b>- Dunshaughlin Main Street - Site works due to commence July 2021</p> <p><b>Navan MD</b> – Abbeygrove Estate – Quantities &amp; Tender documents are being compiled</p>
<b>Pedestrian Crossings at Round-O pub on R161 &amp; N51</b>	Provision of zebra pedestrian crossing North of the Round-O junction in Navan - one crossing to be located on R162 Kingscourt Rd. Tender process ongoing. Awaiting Road Safety Audit results from TII.

## Planning and Development

### Planning Applications

A total of 1200 planning applications was received in the period 01/01/2021 to 21/06/2021. This is compared to 781 in the same period last year. An increase of 65%.

### Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts for May 2021 were €6,584,236. This is compared to €3,523,854 in the same period last year. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

### Planning Enforcement Complaints

Some 128 planning enforcement cases have been opened up to 23/06/2021:

Stage of Process	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	56
Warning Letter	41
Enforcement Notice	2
Referred for Legal Proceedings	3
Further Information Requested	3
Closed	23

## Economic Development

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	8
Trading Online Vouchers Approved	10
Training Online Courses Attended	303
Trading Online Voucher Information Webinar Attended	42
LEO Fund Grants Approved	2

### Consultancy Services

A new panel of consultants has been procured to delivery consultancy to portfolio clients in the following areas:

- LEAN for Micros
- Green for Micros
- Leadership Coaching
- Strategic Financial Capability
- New Market Development

The framework will be in place for one year with an option to renew for each of the two subsequent years until June 2024. Under this framework, consultants will be assigned to clients using the cascade method and the maximum fee chargeable by consultants per day is €900 plus VAT.

### #LookForLocal - Training Partnership with Google Digital Garage

With many elements of the economy opened and reopening over the coming weeks and months, the Meath Local Enterprise Office is working closely with clients to ensure they are best prepared to make the most of it.

To complement the training and mentoring that each Local Enterprise Office is engaged in to assist their clients with the reopening, the LEOs have agreed a partnership with Google Digital Garage to deliver a series of **FREE** webinars. These five expert led webinars will be held regionally and cover a range of topics that are vital to a businesses' online success from Search Engine Optimisation to a company's Digital Strategy.

The webinars take place on Wednesdays at 11am for 1 hr – all free of charge. The remaining dates are on **30<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July & 14<sup>th</sup> July:**

[All about SEO](#)

[Make Your Website Work for Your Business](#)

[All about Google Analytics](#)

## Finance Section

### Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC)

The applications portal is now closed for Q1, 2021. A total of 374 applications were received, 251 of which were fully completed. 150 applications have been approved and paid totalling €600,000. 101 applications were declined.

The SBASC for Q2, 2021 is now Live and applications can be made on-line via [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie). The scheme has been slightly amended. The main changes are:

- The property in which a business is located does not now have to be capable of being rated. (home office, hot desk, office hubs etc.);
- Businesses that had a turnover over less than €50,000 in 2019 can now apply now, subject to a reduced grant amount of €1,000 if successful.

All members have been circulated details of the scheme. Meath County Chamber has also been notified of same. The Council's website and social media channels have also been updated. All successful recipients from Q1 have been notified that the scheme for Q2 is now open. The closing date for the Scheme is July 21, 2021

### Commercial Rates Waiver



#### Commercial Rates Waiver

The commercial rates waiver has been extended to Q3, 2021. The criteria of the scheme remains the same as both the Q1 and Q2 2021 waiver schemes. This waiver will be applied to all the relevant accounts in the coming weeks.

### Housing Loans

#### RIHL Loans Data 1st January 2021 to 18th June 2021

<b>Fully Completed Applications Received</b>	<b>47</b>	
<b>Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)</b>	<b>6</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Awaiting Further Information</b>	<b>1</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Approved by Credit Committee</b>	<b>36</b>	4 relate to 2020 applications
<b>Refused by Credit Committee</b>	<b>8</b>	4 relate to 2020 applications
<b>Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee</b>	<b>2</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Returned to Customer</b>	<b>6</b>	4 relate to 2020
<b>Active Approvals</b>	<b>32.43</b>	11.43 relate to 2020
<b>Expired</b>	<b>8</b>	all relate to 2020 applications *
<b>Drawdown by Customer</b>	<b>5.25</b>	4.25 relate to 2020 applications

Figures above relate to activity in those areas from 1st January 2021 - 18th June 2021 and in some cases relate to applications pre 2021. \*Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.