



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report
September 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 in July, all meetings of the Council and the Municipal Districts are planned to continue as online only meetings for the foreseeable future.

Corporate Affairs

National Day of Commemoration: On Sunday, July 11 Cathaoirleach Councillor Sean Drew raised the tricolour at Meath County Council headquarters to mark the National Day of Commemoration and was joined by a number of other elected members and members of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

The day commemorated all Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations and occurs on the anniversary of the date in 1921 that a truce was signed ending the Irish War of Independence.



Excellence in Local Government Awards: Meath County Council has been shortlisted in the 17th annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 for the following projects:

- MCC Connect App – Communications Tool for Staff in Local Authority Innovation
- Laptops for Loan in Best Library Service
- RE:Form in Sustaining the Arts
- Meath Purls of Wisdom - joint Age Friendly & Climate Action in Age Friendly Initiative
- Meath County Council Municipal District Allocation Scheme in Initiatives through the Municipal District

Unfortunately, five other Meath County Council projects submitted were not shortlisted.

This year, the awards will be hosted via an online ceremony on Thursday 18th November 2021. The Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 (ELG Awards), sponsored by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by local authorities all over Ireland.



Customer Services

Public Counters: The Public Counter Service (Buvinda House) re-opened on August 3rd, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (Monday – Friday). In order to comply with public health guidance, a number of measures such as restricting the number of customers who may enter the building at any one time are in operation. For general queries, customers are encouraged to use the phone (046

9097000) or email: customerservice@meathcoco.ie and avoid physically calling to the offices, unless necessary.

Service – Monday to Friday

Cash Desk (Buvinda House) - open from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m and 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

Planning Counter (Buvinda House) – open from 9am-1pm (queuing system in place) (no change)

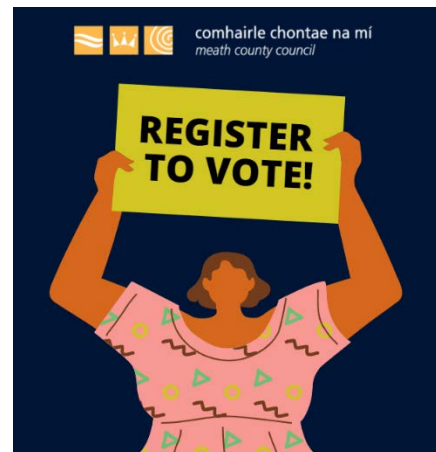
Motor Tax - open from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Municipal Civic Offices - open from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m and 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system: The Council has commenced an extensive upgrade of its Customer Relationship Management system which will be undertaken over the coming months. The system will feature a number of new features, including the establishment of a Members Portal for representations, as recommended by the recent Moorehead Report. It is expected that the system will 'go live' in April 2022.

Register of Electors #RegisterToVote #NoExcuses: The 2021 Register of Electors Social Media Campaign will launch on Wednesday, September 1st on the Council's social media platforms. Throughout the month the campaign will target new entrants, change in residence, new in Ireland and new Irish citizen groups. The aim of the campaign is to get people to register to vote.

To help make the process as simple as possible the Council will ask followers who wish to register to message the Council with their name and address, the applicant will then be posted the correct form to register.



Graphics and animations provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and designed by the Council's Communications Team will be published to encourage engagement and sign up. The campaign will consist of paid targeted adverts, boosted posts and timeline posts/tweets. Councillors are asked to share this content across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

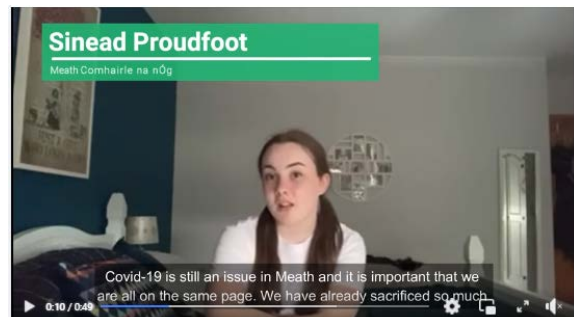
Events - Communications

Parklets Video Promotion: In July, Meath County Council produced and published a 4-minute video showcasing parklets in various towns across the county. In producing the video, the communications team worked with the Meath business community to ensure the video highlighted the newly installed parklets which will facilitate outdoor dining, increase footfall and encourage shopping-local this year.



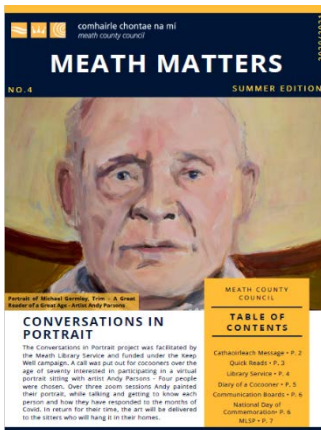
The video featured Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew, staff from Room 8, Rosemary Café, Little Sicily, Yummy Creams and 2Brew along with Cllr. Yemi Adenuga and Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons. The Parklet video can be viewed [here](#).

July Covid-19 Safety Campaign: In July, three short videos were published across the Council’s social media channels as a reminder of the simple safety measures citizens can take to help prevent the spread of the virus. This project was launched following a directive from the North East Public Health Board regarding concerns of the rising figures in Meath.



Due to time restraints the three videos were recorded by the individuals themselves and send to the Council to publish. The videos featured Cllr. Yemi Adenuga, Cathal Hickey (Meath Minor Football Team) and Sinead Proudfoot (Meath Comhairle a Nóg).

Meath Matters External Newsletter: August saw the publication of the Council’s summer edition of the Meath Matters external newsletter. A small number of printed copies was delivered to nursing homes in Meath as well as libraries, with a digital version made available online.



The summer edition includes a short message from newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew, the library services summer events programme, an article from Trim diarist Paddy Smith, a featured article on the installation of Communication Boards throughout the county and short reads on other activities within the Council.

The front- and back-page portraits were provided by artist Andy Parsons who worked on the ‘Conversation in Portraits’ project with Meath Library Service. The front page featured a portrait of Trim man Michael Gormley.

UN World Drowning Prevention Day: To support the first UN World Drowning Prevention Day, Buvinda House and key landmarks across the county were lit up in blue on July 25.



The occasion was particularly relevant to Ireland as the Irish Mission to the UN (alongside Bangladesh) brought the resolution forward. It was the very first UN resolution on drowning prevention and was a particularly proud and historic day for Ireland.

The Council paid tribute to those who have lost their lives to drowning and to those who rescue others and train children and adults in the swimming, lifeguarding and lifesaving skills that keep our population safe.

Climate Action and Environment

Climate Action

The following is a summary of measure undertaken by the Climate Action unit:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - various awareness raising measure have been implemented internally and externally. These include: the SDGs being projected onto Trim Courthouse; and an informal SDG campaign on Twitter. SDG presentations were made to all 6 MDs during the summer and further training on the SDGs for Councillors will take place on September 3.
- A national consultation process is underway as part of the preparation of the second SDG Implementation Plan - this consultation runs until September 10 and submissions can be made through: <https://climateconversations.citizenspace.com/decc/sdg-national-implementation-plan-consultation/>
- The URBACT Project (Trim) – URBACT Local Group (ULG) has been established and has populated the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities toolkit with potential SDG actions. Meath is to co-host the next transnational meeting of the project in September (on-line).
- The Low Carbon and Climate Action Act 2021 is now in force and the Council is awaiting instruction from the Minister to prepare the Climate Action Plan.
- Consultants have been appointed for Trim SEC to prepare the Energy Masterplan for the town. This work is on-going.
- CARO training for Senior Management and Elected Members was undertaken in July.

Environment

Air Quality Monitoring Project Trim: The Council have been awarded funding of €163,518 under the Digital Innovation Programme (DIP) 2021 which will see the installation of nine air quality sensors via a LoRaWAN network at nine different locations in Trim. The Council is also party to two other DIP funded projects with Dublin City Council and Offaly County Council which involve the development of innovative low-cost solutions to ring buoy thefts and Water Flow/Levels Recordings.

Waste and Litter: A 'Free Couch and Armchair Drop Off Day' will take place at Kells and Trim Recycling Centres from September 13-18 and Navan and Dunboyne Recycling Centres from September 20-25. These events will be funded by the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) 2021.

Free Couch & Armchair Drop Off Day 2021
****This is for Householders Only - No Commercial customers****

Kells Recycling Centre & Trim Recycling Centre
Monday 13th to Saturday 18th,
9am to 4pm daily

Navan Recycling Centre & Dunboyne Recycling Centre
Monday 20th to Saturday 25th,
9am to 4pm daily



Free Mattress Drop Off Day 2021
****This is for Householders Only - No Commercial customers****

Navan Recycling Centre
Thursday 2nd September, 10am to 2pm

Trim Recycling Centre
Friday 3rd September, 10am to 2pm

Kells Recycling Centre
Saturday 4th September, 10am to 2pm

Dunboyne Recycling Centre
Saturday 11th September, 10am to 2pm



ALAGS (Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Grant): Meath County Council has been awarded €25,000 towards Anti-Litter Projects for 2021. This will include a comprehensive advertising campaign promoting the 'Bin it or Bring it Home' message in addition to advertising highlighting dog fouling, PPE Litter, and bogus collectors.

Water Fountains for Schools: Gormanston College has joined the Meath County Council Water Fountain Scheme with new fountains being installed over the summer. Starting in September single use plastics will be banned in the college and all students will be required to use a reusable bottle.

River Basin Management Plan (RBMP): The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 was launched in April 2018, setting out measures to be implemented for the protection and management of our waters. On the ground action will involve catchment assessments and stream walks to gain a better understanding of the issues impacting on water quality.

The Athboy river catchment has been identified as a Priority Area for Action, and an upcoming community information meeting will be held on September 15, 2021 at 7.30pm. Due to Covid19 restrictions, the meeting will be held as a virtual event via Zoom. Interested parties can register for the event via the LAWPRO website www.watersandcommunities.ie

Housing Services

Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
DESIGN PHASE				
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	563,166	Q1 2022	Q4 2022
Nangle Court, Navan	16	2,961,862	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Church View, Rathmoylon	22	5,476,215	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Haggard Street, Trim	4	931,870	Q2 2022	Q1 2023
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	20	4,358,112	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Ratholdron Court, Navan	26	5,530,960	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	43	10,225,755	-	-
Totals	133	30,047,940		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Totals	20	3,826,010		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	9,850,185	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Totals	202	54,211,229		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q3 2021
Donore	21	4,524,250	Q2 2021	Q3 2022
Totals	47	10,338,198		
PROJECTS COMPLETED				
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	571	141,232,791		

* 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
Totals		58	14,124,503

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
Trim	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	4	1,023,500
Oldcastle	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	5	1,046,500
Totals		28	7,070,268

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>

Refurbishment Projects

St Francis Park (€3,771,374) – Part 8 Planning process is complete. The project now proceeds to Tender for Construction Stage. Estimated start date onsite is Q1 2022.

Alverno Court Refurbishment (€4,150,329) - Refurbishment works commenced on site on August 3, 2021 and will be completed across a number of phases. Phase 1 comprises four units, with the decanting process of tenants successfully completed in advance.

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

Grants to the value of €2,264,701 have been awarded by Meath County Council to 337 Households under the various Grants schemes to date in 2021.

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

Some 19 projects have been completed to date in 2021 (€177,454), with a further 28 task orders issued to contractors (€234,065).

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 August 13, 2021. For the period from June 18, 2021 to August 13, 2021, works were completed on 12 vacant units; while 18 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	0	1	0	1	0
Kells	4	3	0	5	2
Laytown/Bettystown	6	4	0	10	0
Navan	10	5	0	14	1
Ratoath	0	1	0	1	0
Trim	7	1	0	8	0
TOTALS	27	15	0	39	3

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
PIPELINE DELIVERY			
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 - Q3 2021
Ashwood Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due - Q3 2021
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due - Q1 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
TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED	358		

Homelessness

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st May 2021 (Previous Reported Figure)	137 (145)	25 (36 Adults, 41 Children)	162
Placements at 31st July 2021	143 (150)	20 (29 Adults, 33 Children)	163

Of the 20 households with children, 12 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

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

Some 92 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1 to July 31, 2021.

Social Housing Supports

A total of 598 new applications for Social Housing Support was received for the period January 1 to July 31, 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 31st July 2021.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	213
Approved Housing Bodies	145
RAS	0
HAP	342
TOTAL	700

Community Development

Governance Structures

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): The LCDC met on July 30, 2021. The LCDC approved the allocation of €142,893 under the Community Enhancement Programme to successful applicants. There was no meeting held in August, the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday September 24, 2021.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020: The LAG met on July 30, 2021. At the meeting the LAG received the details of proposed projects under the LEADER Transitional Programme and any EOIs received. There was no meeting held in August, the next meeting is scheduled to take place on September 24, 2021.

Age Friendly County programme (AF): Meath Age Friendly held an Age Friendly Business day in Athboy on July 14th with many local businesses offering discounts to older persons on the day. Flexibus assisted by transporting locals from neighbouring areas with local musicians playing outside Floods bar which attracted many older persons including residents from the local nursing home.

Consultation is on-going for the preparation of a new Meath Age Friendly Strategy.

Comhairle na n'Óg: The new 5-year national strategic plan was launched by the Department. An additional €5,000 for stakeholder engagement has been allocated to the Comhairle budget. The Comhairle members have completed their dementia training with the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and are preparing to roll out the training when they return to school.

Preparations have begun for the AGM which will be held in October.

Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum: Next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2021.

Joint Policing Committee: The next meeting of the JPC is to take place on 20th September, with the main item on the agenda being the review of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan 2021-2026 following extensive consultation with external and internal stakeholders held during July.

Broadband

WiFi4EU: New lines have been installed in several sites with on-going discussions with landlords and business owners at other locations.

BCPs: The Council secured up to €222,354 in funding to improve facilities in the county's BCPs from the Department of Rural & Community Development's Connected Hubs call.

Rathkenny Hall hosted the filming of the “RESILIENCE- Revel once again” concert in a Jools Holland type format in July with many performers taking part. The event will be shown at BCPs across the country in early winter 2021.

Other Initiatives

Pride of Place Scheme: Adjudication for the 2021 Pride of Place Scheme took place during June, July and August.

Community Enhancement Scheme 2021: The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the LCDC. It provides grants to community groups with the aim of enhancing facilities in disadvantaged areas. The total allocation for Meath for 2021 is €142,893. 69 applications were received with a total of 55 community groups funded or part funded under the scheme. Works must be completed by year end.

Libraries Services

Summer Programme

Despite operating under the current restrictions which prevent users accessing study, IT, events or activities, the number of items issued is now running at 60% of the equivalent 2019 figure. Usage is recovering steadily with members keen to re-engage with the core lending service.

The Summer Programme is a notable success in the current climate. 1,700 children registered for the 'Summer Stars' reading programme, which is up considerably on 2019 figures. Staff promoted the programme with a very strong social media campaign.

Library Delivery Van

Funding of up to €36,832 has been approved by the Minister for Rural and Community Development for the provision of a Library Delivery Vehicle. It is proposed to purchase a new e-van with the funding and this will be the first e-vehicle in the Meath County Council fleet.

Dormant Accounts Funding 2021

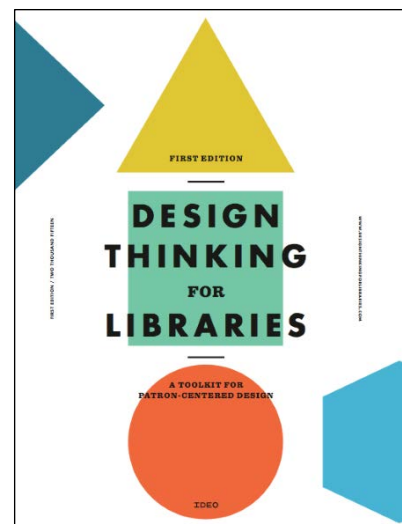
A Dormant Accounts Fund contribution of up to €18,797.09 has been approved for the provision of the following programmes and Digital Equity and Social Inclusion supports:

- installation of a Sensory Pod at Dunshaughlin library
- roll-out of a 'Toys, Technology and Training' initiative which will benefit users across the county.
- creative reading and writing programme with a number of DEIS second-level schools
- introduction of a 'Silent Books' initiative aimed at increasing awareness of the plight of refugees.

Public Libraries' Design Thinking Pilot Project 2021

Meath County Council Library service has been selected to participate in a new pilot programme run by the LGMA.

The Design Thinking approach introduces a way of working that supports libraries in developing understanding of users' needs and engaging communities in a more focused way. It offers an opportunity to review existing services, how they meet user/community needs, to identify challenges in their delivery and reconsider more effective approaches in their design. Design Thinking places an emphasis on discovering what communities want and experimenting to create more people-centric library services which meet their changing needs.



The intention of the design thinking pilot project is to support library staff in further engaging with users and local communities, particularly those at risk of being disadvantaged, socially excluded or marginalised, and in designing new services and/or developing existing services to

more effectively meet their needs. The pilot aims to spread the concept of design thinking throughout the sector and provide practical benefits for both libraries and their users.

The pilot development and delivery will take place between 1st September and 30th November 2021. At the end of the pilot, an evaluation will take place and a report on the overall impact of the programme will be completed in December.

Transportation Services

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Construction & consultancy services contract awarded in July 2021. Construction commenced 26 th July 2021.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Topographical contractor appointed and surveys in Slane village complete. Utility survey contractor to be appointed in the coming weeks to carry out surveys in Slane Village
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. Topographical and Lidar Tender Assessment Report drafted and contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks. Legal Services Tender has been issued and awaiting return of Tender.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Awaiting approval from TII to commence Phase 4 Statutory processes.
National Road Resurfacing	Capital Maintenance Schemes - N2 Cushinstown, N52 Mandistown & N51 Halltown – works substantially complete N52 Marvelstown resurfacing – works substantially complete N51 Higginstown to Crowinstown - tenders now received and are currently being assessed – scheme is being progressed in conjunction with Westmeath County Council as per Section 85 Agreement

Signing of the N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 Realignment Scheme



Pictured at the signing of the N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 Realignment Scheme at Buvinda House, on Friday July 23rd, (L-R) : Cathaoirleach of Navan Municipal Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons, Patrick Duffy TII, Ambrose Clarke Westmeath NRO, Martin Murray DoS MCC. Front Row (L-R): Finbar Fox Fox Building & Engineering Ltd., Jackie Maguire Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach

MCC Cllr Sean Drew.

The Works are located along the N51 between Navan and Slane and will comprise of the construction of 4.4km of Single Carriageway road that will consist of a 7.3m carriageway with 2.5m hard shoulders and 3m verges.

This scheme will link the two previously improved sections which would complete the upgrade of the N51 between Navan and Slane from a Road Safety point of view for all road users, as well as benefiting travel times.

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

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

Road Works Programme	<p>SMDW 2021 included 87 Surface Dressing schemes and the contract nearing completion – 83 schemes substantially completed w/e 20th August 2021</p> <p>SMDW 2021 included 81 Restoration Improvement schemes and the contract is nearing completion with – 74 schemes completed w/e 20th August 2021</p> <p>CIS & LIS schemes for 2021 ongoing – 31 schemes in total – construction has commenced with 6 schemes completed w/e 20th August 2021</p>
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(b) Strategic Regional & Local Rds & Specific Improvement Grant

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road Scheme	New road opened to traffic on the 13th July. Surfacing to car park, side roads and upgrade to the school road junction with the coast road now expected to be complete by mid September.
R162 Kilberry Phase 2	Tender for works to link Phase 1 footpaths at R162/R163 closing 31 st August. Tenders to be assessed and contract awarded.



R150 Laytown to Bettystown Road Scheme – Proposed to be named Tara Road

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

2021 Schemes	Road	Status
Newgate	R147	Contractor currently being appointed
Liscarton	R147	Contractor currently being appointed
Cabinhill	L-1006-0	Waiting on Contractor start date

Clonguiffin, Longwood	L-4020/ L-80142- 47 /L-2226-0	Out to Tender
Donaghpatrick	L-3409-18/ L- 7414-12	Waiting on Contractor start date
Kilmore Moynalvey	R-156 / L-62161	At Design Stage
Faughanhill Bohermeen	L-4025-12	Out to Tender

(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads –Allocation for 6 Bridge Schemes for 2021

2020 Schemes	Status
Kilmainhamwood Retaining Wall	Works ongoing
R125 Donaghmore Embankment	Tenders received and are currently being assessed
Maudlin Bridge (R941)	Works ongoing

2021 Schemes	Status
Clavens Bridge (R147)	At Design Stage
Julianstown Bridge (R132)	Contractor appointed
Gibber Bridge (L-7400), Breakey Bridge (L-2805), Johnstown Culvert (L-5050) & Ashfield Bridge (L-8029)	At Tender assessment 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)	Granite footpath & kerbing installed from the Oriel Shop to the Palace Night Club. Car parking bays paved on western side from Oriel Shop to Luvida Restaurant. Paving and Kerbing completed on eastern side to Kelleher Insurances. New watermains installed from Market Sq to the Kennedy Rd junction, and connected to the existing AC watermains. Footpaths reinstated at entrance to Old Cornmarket. ESB ducting installed as part of footpath works. Watermains rehabilitation works commenced at top of Timmons Hill. Ludlow St anticipated to reopen to traffic on 31 st of August. Footpath works to continue on north western side of Ludlow St with substantial completion by end of Sept/ first week in Oct. Night-time road closures have been advertised (7.30pm to 6.00am each night, from Monday, 20th September 2021 until Monday 4th October 2021) for Ludlow St to facilitate surface course works and line marking.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Works on the construction of the 6 No. stops in Bettystown complete. In Navan Town there are approximately 45 No. stops completed and a further 7 to be completed. Permanent road reinstatements, markings and the installation of the flags, poles and carousel units to commence late September, and works (all stops)

	<p>to be completed by mid-October.</p> <p>Preliminary design work by the Consultants is continuing on the following potential additional bus stop locations: 2 No. bus stops adjacent to Athboy Rd roundabout, 2 No. stops on Commons Rd, 1 No. bus stop in Ratoath, in addition to a bus turn-about facility in Robinstown.</p>
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	<p>Draft tender documents being reviewed for Trim Rd section from Dan Shaw Rd to the Solstice. Correspondence issued to landowner on western side of Trim Rd. Site meeting held with Eir re scope of works and extent of network survey work to be undertaken.</p> <p>Consultants progressing geometric design for Phase 2 (Solstice to Loreto School). Conservation Architect has undertaken a condition assessment of railings in front of County Hall to inform the scope of services for the construction contract. Draft accommodation works prepared for Flowerfield School.</p>
N51 Park & Ride	<p>Site Investigation work is now complete. Detailed design work ongoing, with the electrical elements of the design being finalised.</p> <p>Tendering for the works is anticipated to commence in September</p>
Ratoath Cycle Network	<p>Meeting held with Ratoath MD Councillors to discuss outcome of the non-statutory public consultation process, possible options & ways forward. It was agreed/acknowledged that some trees would have to be removed, but to try keep this to the minimum, with a consensus reached on a shared facility from the Summerville Roundabout to Woodlands Estate being the best solution. This involves repositioning the existing wall back at Woodlands Park to provide the required width for the shared space. A fee proposal has been agreed with Atkins to update/changed the Part 8 drawings and documents to reflect the changes.</p>
Boyne Greenway - Drogheda to Mornington	<p>Ecological surveys are ongoing. Quotations received for landscaping Design and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the Boyne Greenway.</p>
R154 Kiltale	<p>Works substantially complete 22nd June 2021. Delay re delivery of new lighting for footpath resulted in lighting not being installed until end August 2021. Snagging and final account to be completed.</p>
HGV Transport Study - Navan	<p>Consultants have commenced work on the HGV study.</p>
Additional Outdoor Dining Infrastructure	<p>Navan MD Parklet Scheme: 11 No. Parklets are now fully installed.</p> <p>Ashbourne/Ratoath MD Parklet Scheme: 7 No. Parklets are complete, consisting of 3 No. in Ashbourne, 2 No. in Stamullen, 2 No. in Dunboyne.</p> <p>Kells MD Parklet Scheme: 1 No. Parklet in Kells is complete, and 2 No. Parklets in Nobber are complete.</p> <p>Trim MD Parklet Scheme: 3 No. Parklets in Trim are complete.</p>

NTA Jobs Stimulus Programme 2020 (€3,105,000): Of the 38 schemes, 33 schemes are complete or substantially complete.

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

Athboy Town Centre Project	Non-statutory public consultation in relation to proposed options closed 18th June 2021. Submissions reviewed and Emerging Preferred Option public consultation expected in the coming weeks.
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme	ESB Works completed to Traffic signals. Contractor to install permanent lights ASAP. Once these are installed the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit will be undertaken.
R135 Cycle Network Design	Site Investigation Contractor (IGSL) have substantially completed the slit trenches / trial holes work on the R135 on the north side of Ashbourne. Core testing remains outstanding. Suitability Assessment Questionnaire submissions assessed & all 7 contractors involved passed. Tender documents for the north section (Dunnes Stores to the Pillo Hotel) issued to these 7 contractors.
LDR4 Navan (Kells Rd to Windtown Rd.)	Notification re Decision to approve scheme received from An Bord Pleanála July 2021. MCC clarifying required CPO modifications with ABP and will then publish statutory notices.
Dunboyne Industrial Estate Connection to R157	Tenders for consultants to progress this scheme to Phase 4 Statutory Approval due to be returned 6th September 2021.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road (RORR), LIHAF Scheme	Works now expected to be substantially complete by early September 2021 - awaiting traffic signals switch on and Road Safety Audit. Some additional landscaping at R125 junction due in next planting season (October). Final account Conciliation process commenced 16th August 2021.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	Navan to Wilkinstown section on rail line – Letter of Intent issued to the proposed Contractor.

Other Actions/ Projects

Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	<p>Kells MD – Works ongoing on Gardenrath Rd in Kells, Works in O Carolan Park Nobber commencing week beginning 23/08/2021</p> <p>Ashbourne MD – Works in Maple Drive and Deerpark due to commence in early September</p> <p>Trim MD – Works on Mornington Heights and Kildalkey Road, Trim completed, snagging and contract closeout ongoing</p> <p>Laytown/ Bettystown MD - Works on Ballygarth Road and Castlegrove Estate in Julianstown and in Beach Court in Laytown commencing week beginning 23/08/2021.</p> <p>Ratoath MD- Works completed in Kilmessan snagging and contract closeout ongoing</p> <p>Navan MD – Abbeygrove Estate – Contractor appointed – works to</p>
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	proceed Q4 of 2021
Pedestrian Crossings at Round-O pub on R162 & N51	Provision of zebra pedestrian crossing North of the Round-O junction in Navan - one crossing to be located on R162 Kingscourt Rd. Road Safety Audit completed. Contractor appointed. Start Date planned for mid-term break to avoid traffic congestion.

Planning and Development

Planning Applications

A total of 1621 planning applications was received in the period 01/01/2021 to 23/08/2021. This is compared to 1135 in the same period last year. An increase of 43% year-on-year.

Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts for July 2021 were €7,981,199. This is compared to €5,471,401 in the same period last year. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

Planning Enforcement Complaints

Some 128 planning enforcement cases have been opened up to 31/07/2021.

Stage of Process	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	48
Warning Letter	68
Enforcement Notice	13
Referred for Legal Proceedings	3
Further Information Requested	3
Closed	42

Economic Development

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	22
Trading Online Vouchers Approved	18
Training Online Courses Attended	166
Trading Online Voucher Information Webinar Attended	42
LEO Fund Grants Approved	1
#LookForLocal Training Attended	671
LEAN for Micro Projects Approved	3
Green for Micro's Approved	3

Dunshaughlin announced as an Ireland's Friendliest Place finalist

Dunshaughlin is one of five finalists in the National Retail Excellence Awards, for Ireland's Friendliest Place, having passed through a rigorous auditing process when Dunshaughlin retailers were assessed by mystery shoppers testing service standards in the town.

Congratulations to the business owners and teams at SuperValu (Healy's), Tara News, Haven Pharmacy Kavanagh's, The Parcel Concierge and Sweet Planet Home Bakery for their excellence in customer service and experience, and for showcasing Dunshaughlin as a National leader in retail excellence.

The Final Awards event will take place virtually in November 2021.

Pictured L-R: Karen McBride (The Parcel Concierge), Edel Walsh & Fiona Gill (Haven Pharmacy), Barry Lynch DoS Meath County Council, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew, Alan Forde (Super Valu), Imantas Vaicikauskas (Sweet Planet), Sean McWilliams (Super Valu & Tara News) and Elamarie Kavanagh (Haven Pharmacy).



Finance Section

Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC):

The applications portal is now closed for Q2 2021. A total of 374 applications was received for Q2, 201 of which were fully completed. 121 applications have been approved and paid totalling €442,000. 80 applications were declined.

Commercial Rates Waiver:

The commercial rates waiver has been extended to Q3 2021. The criteria of the scheme remain the same as both the Q1 & Q2, 2021 waiver schemes. The process of applying the waiver to all customers that qualify to the scheme is almost complete.

Housing Loans:

RIHL Loans Data 1st January 2021 to 30th August 2021

Fully Completed Applications Received	65	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	2	all relate to 2021 applications
Awaiting Further Information	0	all relate to 2021 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	52	4 relate to 2020 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	17	4 relate to 2020 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	all relate to 2021 applications
Returned to Customer	6	4 relate to 2020
Active Approvals	46.25	3.25 relate to 2020
Expired	13	10 relate to 2020 applications *
Drawdown by Customer	14.43	9.43 relate to 2020 applications

Figures above relate to activity in those areas from 1st January 2021 - 12th August 2021 and in some cases relate to applications pre 2021. *Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.