



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

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

**Monthly Management Report**  
**December 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

### Corporate Affairs

#### **New Allowances and Expenses Regime for Elected Members**

Following the publication of guidance by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the new expenses regime for elected members it is proposed to hold two workshops for members with staff from the Corporate Affairs and Governance section on how the regulations will be implemented. The proposed dates for the workshops are:

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm – 3.30pm.

Both workshops will be via Zoom and meeting links will be sent to all members in advance.

#### **Future Meeting and Civic Events**

Given the increasing incidents of COVID-19 in the community and the up-dated guidance from Government, it is proposed that all meetings of the Council – Full Council, Municipal District and other Committees, be online only meetings for December and January. The situation will be kept under review and a decision on meetings after this period will be taken in the new year.

The Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive also decided to postpone the Civic Reception for the Meath Ladies Football Team, scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, given increasing COVID case numbers. A new date will be identified for 2022 and you will be advised as soon as possible of this.



#### **Minor Football Team – Civic Reception**

The Civic Reception to honour the achievement of the Minor Football Team winning the 2021 All-Ireland Final took place on November 1<sup>st</sup> in the Solstice Theatre. The event was hosted by Rory O'Connor (from Rory's Stories), with panellists of Colm O'Rourke; Graham Geraghty and Donal Keogan joining the minor panel, the management team and their families for an evening of entertainment and recognition of the team's achievement. The full event can be viewed on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) or visit <https://youtu.be/flaDXi3o4hQ>

### Customer Service

#### **Closing of Community Call**

At end of October, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage informed all local authorities that there is no longer a need to continue the operation of their Community Response For a and the Community Call helpline service. This is due to reopening of the economy and society, as well as the fall in demand for the services provided. Any calls to the Community Call number will be re-routed through customer service staff. The Community Response Forum can be re-initiated at local authority level should it be required, based on public health advice.

## **Corporate Governance**

### **Data Management – FoI, AIE and Data Subject requests**

Meath County Council as a public body is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority subject to a number of exemptions.

The following are the number of requests received in Q1-Q3, 2021:

<b>FOI</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OIC</b>
Q1 - 2021	45	1	1
Q2 - 2021	39	2	0
Q3 - 2021	41	2	1

The link to the Council's FOI Disclosure Log is here: <https://www.meath.ie/council/your-council/your-data-and-access-to-information/freedom-of-information>

The following are the 2021 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

<b>AIE</b>	<b>AIE Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OCEI</b>
Q1 - 2021	3	0	0
Q2 - 2021	6	2	0
Q3 - 2021	11	7	2

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. To date, the unit has processed the following number of Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Q1- 2021	8
Q2- 2021	5
Q3 - 2021	6

## **Communications and Events**

### **Halloween – Media Coverage**

On Halloween night, Sunday October 31, Henry McKean, reporter with The Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk spent the evening with the Meath County Fire & Rescue Service Trim Brigade. During the reporter's time with the brigade in Trim, he met and interviewed the crew and attended a number of incidents to get first-hand experience of what it is like to be a firefighter on Halloween night which is traditionally one of the busiest days of the year. The podcast which aired on Newstalk on Monday, November 1 can be listened to at <https://bit.ly/3o7ChPF>



### **Christmas Tree Lighting**

Over the course of the last week in November, the Council began to light up Christmas trees in towns around the county including Trim, Navan, Ashbourne, and Dunboyne. The Cathaoirleach in each of the Municipal Districts delivered a Christmas message before turning on the lights. Each of the events was streamed live on Meath County Council's Facebook page.



### **Glow Red for World AIDS Day**

As part of Glow Red for World AIDS Day on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, Meath County Council lit up Slane Hill in red. The event marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the emergence of HIV and AIDS as a global epidemic in 1981. Since then, more than 9,000 people living in Ireland have acquired HIV and rates of HIV continue to rise. Tackling HIV related stigma helps to reduce rates of HIV transmission.



## Climate Action and Environment

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

A draft River Basin Management Plan for the period 2020-2027 was launched by the Minister in late September and will be subject to extensive public consultation commencing in November and running until the end of March 2022.

The draft plan and all associated documents and background information are available for viewing at [www.gov.ie/draftRBMP](http://www.gov.ie/draftRBMP) and submissions, observations and comments are now invited in respect of same during the consultation period which **closes on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**.

In addition, the Local Authority Waters Programme Office (LAWPRO) who provide a shared service on behalf of the Local Authorities, and who are coordinating the consultation process, have developed a virtual consultation room which contains key information from the draft plan and includes an online submission form for community groups and members of the public to submit their views and comments – the virtual consultation room is accessible via <https://drbmp-vcr.ie/>

### **Environmental Awareness**

**Rubbish Film Festival:** This project begins at Loreto Navan on December 8<sup>th</sup> with a 2 day workshop for TY Students which will see the students create a 5 minute movie based on a local or global environmental issue. The scheme will be rolled out to 9 other schools in Meath in the coming months and the films will be shown and adjudicated at the Guth Gafa Documentary Film Festival in Kells in 2022. Meath County Council has partnered with Create School to deliver this programme.

**Christmas Toy Collection and Disposal:** The annual toy collection service will take place for a week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Children's Toys will be taken free of charge at Navan, Trim and Kells Recycling Centres. St Vincent de Paul will visit the sites during the week and take any good quality toys which can be reused, with the remaining items sent for materials recovery and disposal.

**Radio and Social Media Campaign:** A campaign has begun on social media and radio highlighting waste at Christmas, including packaging, unwanted gifts, avoidance of food waste, shopping locally, use of bring banks and recycling centres.

### **Climate Action**

**The URBACT Project (Trim):** The baseline assessment and city profiles are now complete and the project will move to the visioning and storytelling stage. Planned in person workshops will now move online. The deadline to create the vision has been extended to January 2022. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Transnational Meetings took place from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**LA Climate Action Plans:** Guidelines for same are being developed by the CAROs, EPA, Climate Ireland and a number of local authorities. These will go to the DECC for approval. It is expected these will be issued in Q1, 2022 with the Ministerial instruction to commence new Climate Action Plans. As the current Climate Action Strategy accounts for mitigation and adaptation, the new county Climate Action Plan will be a revision of the current strategy.

**World Forum for Democracy:** Meath County Council had the opportunity to present on the Meath Climate Academy at the November conference in Strasbourg 'Can Democracy Save the Environment?'. This event showcased best practices from across the globe.

**Act Now Local Workshop:** An initiative under the Innovation in Politics, took place in November with 18 groups across Europe and over 3 time zones. A number of Climate Action Forum councillors, a member of the Climate Action Team and the SEC Meath Mentor participated. The workshop was facilitated by an Innovation in Politics facilitator to guide through the process of challenge identification and solutions in relation to creating Sustainability Advisors in communities, bringing sustainability into communities, schools, clubs, etc. Training for same can be directed through Meath Climate Academy.

### **Air Pollution**

The Minister for the Environment has announced a public awareness campaign on the A-B-C of Cleaner Air this Winter and centring around three core messages relating to the lighting of fires, the burning of cleaner more efficient low smoke fuels, and maintenance of chimneys and heating appliances. The awareness campaign is being launched ahead of the introduction of the new Solid Fuel Regulations that will come into place for the 2022 heating season. The press release in respect of the campaign can be viewed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release>

### **National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024**

The National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee has agreed the following as being the priorities for the three-year period 2022-2024:

- ✓ Tackling significant illegal waste activity
- ✓ Construction and Demolition Activity
- ✓ End of Life Vehicles – (ELV) Directive and the Waste Metal Industry
- ✓ Waste collection – Household & Commercial
- ✓ Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities.

# 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	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	Q1 2024
Ratholdron Court, Navan	26	5,530,960	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	43	10,225,755	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>30,047,940</b>		
<b>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</b>				
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3,826,010</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q1 2022	Q1 2024
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	Q2 2022	Q1 2024
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	9,850,185	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
<b>Totals</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>54,211,229</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>				
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q4 2021
Donore	21	4,524,250	Q2 2021	Q3 2022
<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>571</b>	<b>141,232,791</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
Oldcastle	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	5	1,046,500
Athboy	Part V	1	305,435
Dunshaughlin	Part V	12	3,257,749
Kilmessan	Part V	3	780,747
Duleek	Part V	3	797,307
<b>Totals</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>20,312,241</b>

### Gort Fionnbarra - Tuath

On Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Meath County Council in partnership with Tuath Housing welcomed An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD to Navan to launch the remainder of houses in Gort Fionnbarra. The Gort Fionnbarra development consists of 109 homes in total and has been delivered in two phases.



Meath County Council has developed strong working relationships with the Tuath Housing Association in recent years. The strength of this partnership is reflected in the considerable number of new social housing delivered by Tuath Housing Association in the County, with the support of Meath County Council and the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government.

### 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
Navan	Group Housing Scheme	6	1,593,710
<b>Totals</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>7,617,478</b>

### Call for Proposals for Advance Purchase Turnkey Arrangements

A call for proposals has been advertised for uncommenced residential developments, primarily for affordable and mixed tenure housing. Initial proposals are sought as soon as possible, and

preferable by 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Proposals received will be evaluated, and if deemed suitable, will then form the basis of an application for funding under the Affordable Housing Fund to achieve affordability. Details regarding same and required forms can be found on Meath.ie

### Refurbishment Projects

St Francis Park (€3,771,374) – Part 8 Planning process complete. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 and will be completed across five phases. Phase 1 comprises of four units, with the decanting process of tenants successfully completed in advance

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

The 2021 Grants allocation of €3,314,174 has been fully allocated. 485 Households have been awarded Grant aid under the various Grants schemes to date in 2021.

### Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

A total of 45 projects have been completed to date (€411,481.00 excl. VAT).

A further 14 task orders issued to contractors. The total cost of these task orders is €91,838.00 excl. VAT.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. For the period from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, works were completed on 10 vacant units; while 2 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>	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Kells</b>	4	1	0	5	0
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	1	4	2	7	0
<b>Navan</b>	3	1	2	6	0
<b>Ratoath</b>	4	0	1	4	1
<b>Trim</b>	5	2	0	7	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>

### Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
<b>PIPELINE DELIVERY</b>			
Narrow Ways Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2022
Ashewood Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due - Q4 2021
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due - Q1 2022

Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 3)	30	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2022
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2022
Effernock, Trim	6	Tuath 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
Knightsbrook, Trim	22	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2022
Ruxton Oaks, Navan	20	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q1 2022
<b>TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED</b>	<b>331</b>		

### Homelessness

	<b>SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN</b>	<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>
<b>Placements at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Previous Reported Figure)</b>	<b>144</b> <b>(151 adults)</b>	<b>25</b> <b>(39 adults 49 children)</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Placements at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021</b>	<b>134</b> <b>(141 adults)</b>	<b>29</b> <b>(43 adults 68 children)</b>	<b>163</b>
<p><b>Of the 29 households with children, 22 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.</b></p> <p><b>Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is Notice to Quit &amp; unable to a find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare.</b></p>			

Some 115 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### Social Housing Supports

A total of 882 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 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> October 2021.

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
MCC Direct Allocations	253
Approved Housing Bodies	206
RAS	0
HAP	498
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>957</b>

## Community Development

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

The LCDC is met on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for its monthly update. The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled to take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

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

The LAG met on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. At the meeting the LAG received the details of proposed projects under the LEADER Transitional Programme and the EOIs received.

### **Comhairle na n'Óg**

The first meeting of the newly elected Comhairle took place on November 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a blended meeting, both online and in person. Presentations were made to the Members who have completed their 2 year term and new members were introduced and welcomed. The Comhairle continues to work on its project topic of Community Facilities and raising the profile of Comhairle in the County.

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a research piece on stakeholder engagement for the Comhairle and to prepare a 3-year stakeholder engagement plan. This work is funded by the DCEDIY and will start early in Q1, 2022 to be completed by the end of Q1.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

The annual public meeting took place on 17<sup>th</sup> November by Zoom with good attendance on the night. The next JPC Meeting is scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

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

The Meath PPN 2021 re-registration process has produced a good rate of registrations to date ahead of completion on November 14<sup>th</sup>. PPN member groups took part in the Community Integration Workshop Programme Series to support their work of linking and working with new communities in line with the Louth Meath Joint Migration integration Strategy.

### **Community Enhancement Scheme 2021**

The closing date for receipt of claims is November 26<sup>th</sup> and works must be completed by year end.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 - Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement**

The Department has extended the closing date to complete the works December 31, 2021.

### **Pride of Place awards**

The 6 Municipal District awards evening took place in Buvinda House Navan in a hybrid format with some applicants in attendance. The events were very well received with approximately 200 people in attendance over the 6 evenings and over 900 views of the virtual events.

The County awards ceremony took place on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Solstice Arts Centre with 144 in attendance. The event was also live streamed with 135 tuning in.

**NBP**

Meath County Council has approved road opening licences for open eir and National Broadband Ireland to carry out works which will connect into Gormanstown village.

**Broadband Connection Points**

Ballinacree Community Centre has been added as a BCP and is now live and operational.

Meath County Council has secured funding for training programmes in the Broadband Connection Points. Idesk Cormeen and Syddan Youth Club will be running a TikTok4Teens course on the December 11/12th. Participants will be challenged to create content to promote the BCPs or the WIFI4EU initiative with prizes for the best video's produced and the ones that get the most views/likes.

Tenders have been awarded to deliver on the Connected Communities funding secured in August for each of the BCP sites.

**WIFI4EU**

The majority of lines have been installed in Dunboyne, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Trim and Oldcastle to deliver the WIFI4EU project in these towns. Civil works are required at some locations to complete the deployments. Ashbourne has been delayed while open eir upgrade the town to fibre networks which will provide better speeds when delivered.

The Access Points for providing coverage is now being deployed across the County.

## Libraries Services and Arts Office

### Arts Office

To date Q4 has been a very busy with the return of live music to the county with a series of live, in-person and recorded events funded under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (LLPPS).

This saw the production of two separate short performance films: ***Until the Dew Falls***, a musical celebration of the autumn equinox and ***All Rise - The Courthouse Sessions***, featuring live sessions at Kells Courthouse. ***Until the Dew Falls*** was premiered on September 25<sup>th</sup> at a live event and across the Hot Press social media platforms, achieving a global audience of over 10,000 viewers.



*Until The Dew Falls screening, Dunderry Park.*

The Local Live Performance Scheme also supported a one-day live music festival at Dunderry Park entitled ***Until the Harvest Comes*** which featured a sterling line up of Meath live musical acts, spoken word and street art performers.



*Gerry Tully musician on the set of All Rise - The Courthouse Sessions, Kells October 2021*

### Until the Harvest Comes Live event performers at Dunderry Park September 2021



Joy Booth  
Band



Niamh  
Farrelly



Oliver Cole



Paddy Smith Band

Other LLPPS events included the Circus Gerbola extravaganza in partnership with Duffy's and Fossett's Circus's at Slane Castle; Hinterland Festival Theatre Day and Solstice Arts Centre contemporary dance performance - 'OUTWALL' by Selma Daniels.

*Circus Gerbola Slane Castle October 2021*



In total, **145** artists, creatives and production crew were employed for a total of **494** employment days under the Meath Arts Office LLPPS Phase 1 programme.

The Arts Office has been very fortunate to work with event management company SoFFt Productions on the development and presentation of some of these events, which has ensured they have been executed to the highest standard and remained in line with government advised Covid19 restrictions.

A second phase of the Local Live Performance Scheme was announced by the Department in late October and approval for our proposed programme of events supporting Christmas themed live performances throughout Meath in December has been received.

In addition to this the Professional Artists Development Scheme Round 2 awardees were ratified at the November meeting of Meath County Council which saw the total number of supported artists, arts organisations and groups total 106 in 2021, a record amount for County Meath in a single year.



## Transportation Services

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Construction Works re Earthworks, Drainage, Fencing and ESB diversions ongoing to offline sections.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Following the completion of surveys in Slane Village, RPS to progress the design of the Public Realm.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Topographical and Lidar Tender– contractor will be appointed shortly. Legal Service appointment of Regan McEntee & Partners Solrs now complete. Analysis of submissions received following PC3 on the emerging preferred option on-going and will be contained in the Public Consultation Report and posted on scheme website once complete.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Approval awaited from TII to publish the proposed CPO. Preparation of the Phase 4 (statutory processes) deliverables ongoing.
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 – commenced Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October – scheme is being progressed in conjunction with Westmeath County Council as per Section 85 Agreement

### 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	SMDW 2021 - 87 Surface Dressing schemes completed.  SMDW 2021 - 81 Restoration Improvement schemes and the contract is nearing completion with 1 scheme remaining  CIS & LIS schemes for 2021 ongoing – 31 schemes - substantially complete
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#### 2. (b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road Scheme	ESB connections to be finalised and final account discussions ongoing with contractor.
R162 Kilberry Phase 2	Contract awarded & commenced on site on 22 <sup>nd</sup> November for portion of the proposed Phase 2 works at Meath Farm Machinery and north of the R163 junction. These works are expected to be completed by end Q1 2022. Design & procurement for balance of Phase 2 south of R163 junction expected to progress from Q2 2022.

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

2021 Schemes	Road	Status
Newgate	R147	Works ongoing
Liscarton	R147	Works substantially complete

Cabinhill	L-1006-0	Works complete
Clonguiffin, Longwood	L-4020/ L-80142-47 /L-2226-0	Works commenced approx. 50% completed

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

2020 Schemes	Status
R125 Donaghmore Embankment	Works ongoing and scheduled for completion December 2021. R125 reopening Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November
2021 Schemes	Status
Clavens Bridge (R147)	Works ongoing - scheduled for completion in 2021. R147 reopening on Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November.
Julianstown Bridge (R132)	Works scheduled for completion December 2021
Gibber Bridge (L-7400), Breakey Bridge (L-2805), Johnstown Culvert (L-5050) & Ashfield Bridge (L-8029)	Works scheduled for completion December 2021. Johnstown Culvert complete

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Contract 2 works are substantially complete. Paving works for section of footpath at Everards pub and to recessed manhole/chamber covers commenced 19th November. Snagging and remainder of outstanding works anticipated for completion by December. Design and tender documents for Contract 3 prepared.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Civil works at all stops and permanent road reinstatements complete. Installation of the poles and flags completed by end of November. Road markings to be completed in the coming weeks. Preliminary design work continuing on 2 stops adjacent to Athboy Rd roundabout, 2 stops on Commons Rd, 1 stop in Ratoath, in addition to a bus turn-about facility in Robinstown
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Awaiting design on the Railway crossing from Irish Rail. Slit Trenching Contract 90% complete. Ground Investigation contract commenced week of 29 <sup>th</sup> November ESB Networks design due end of November. Awaiting results of Eir network survey. Final land-take details being prepared by Consultant. Negotiations to commence with affected landowners.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Fairgreen to Johnstown	Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme – Section of overall Trim Rd to Athlumney Scheme consisting of approx. 630m. Civil and construction works are 95% complete. Landscaping 100% complete. CCTV installation 100% complete; awaiting ESB connection. Waiting on delivery of fittings for final phase of public lighting upgrade, due for completion by end of November. Additional uncontrolled pedestrian crossing installed adjacent to Athlumney Castle Estate.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1-R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	Procurement of Consulting Engineering Services for Route Option Selection Preliminary Design and Statutory Process - Tender closed 22/11/2021. Tender Evaluation underway - planned to make offer successful tenderer by 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of December.

Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1-R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	Procurement of Consulting Engineering Services for Route Option Selection Preliminary Design and Statutory Process - Tender Documents being prepared – aim to tender early December with appointment scheduled for February 2022
Boyne Greenway -Drogheda to Mornington	Ecological surveys are ongoing. Land and Visual Impact Assessment and photomontages prepared.
Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme	Project scope has been expanded to include an additional 500m section of footpath, a section of road camber adjustment works and associated drainage improvements. Design work on the additional section is currently being finalised, with tendering expected to take place in the coming weeks, construction phase anticipated to commence in Q1 2022.
N51 Park & Ride	Detailed design phase and tender documents review complete, minor changes to documents undertaken. Project out to tender, construction phase to commence on site in early 2022, subject to funding.
Bus Shelter Enabling Works	Tender assessment report drafted, and appointment process for the Contractor commenced. The construction phase to commence in early Q1 2022
Accessible Bus Stops Works	Tender assessment report drafted, and appointment process for the Contractor commenced. The construction phase to commence in early Q1 2022
Additional Outdoor Dining Infrastructure	Construction works on 1 double space parklet to be completed at Headfort Arms Hotel Kells by end of November. NTA closing the scheme at the end of 2021. No additional projects have been applied for since last update.

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

Athboy Town Centre Project	Emerging Preferred Option design progressing. Part 8 expected early 2022.
R135 Cycle Network Design	Letter of Intent issued to preferred contractor. Awaiting insurance to be aligned with IPB report. Contract award envisaged by start of December 2021
LDR4 Navan (Kells Rd to Windtown Rd.)	Valuer appointed re land acquisition. Detail design and preparation of contractor procurement documents ongoing.
Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock	Tender for consultants returned 11 <sup>th</sup> November – Tender assessment carried out and appointment of consultant progressing.
Dunboyne Ind Estate connection to R157	Tender for consultants returned 10 <sup>th</sup> November – Tender assessment carried out and appointment of consultant progressing.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Management Scheme	NIS approval received from An Bord Pleanála 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021. Preconstruction environmental studies to be carried out and detail design to commence 2022.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	Site clearance works have commenced on the Wilkinstown to Gibbstown section on rail line – track removal and construction of Greenway will get underway shortly after these works have been completed.

#### 5. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	<b>Kells MD</b> – Works resumed in Carlanstown 18/11/2021 <b>Ashbourne MD</b> – Works in Maple Drive & Deerpark progressing -approx. 50% complete <b>Laytown/ Bettystown MD</b> – Works complete on Beach Park, Laytown. Works
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	<p>due to commence on Ballygarth Rd, Julianstown on 05/12/2021</p> <p><b>Navan MD</b> – Abbeygrove Estate – Works commenced 14/10/2021 – 40% Complete. Silverlawns Estate – Areas measured and quantified – awaiting approval</p>
<b>Pedestrian Crossings at Round-O on R162 &amp; N51</b>	<p>Civils works completed – Line-marking, signage, ramp, drainage &amp; kerbing. Pedestrian lights installed, awaiting ESB connection.</p>
<b>Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works</b>	<p>Kilcarn Culvert upgrade - works complete - extra drainage installed; Culvert rehabilitation works complete. Debris Grate Screen installed.</p>
<b>Public Lighting Energy Enhancement Programme – Eastern Region</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCC is part of the Eastern Region group on this nationwide project. The lead authority for this region is Kilkenny County Council. Arup were appointed as Consultant for Stages (i) to (iii) – from preliminary report to the conclusion of the tender process.</li> <li>• Work is currently taking place on the tender for the Consultant for stages (iv) to (v) -tenders have been received and are being assessed - the intention is to appoint the Consultant - Q1 2022.</li> <li>• This should coincide with the appointment of the Works Contractor – tenders have been received for this contract also and are being assessed by ARUP, the Tender Assessment Board is meeting again in early December. A full assessment of the tender values is being carried out as part of this process.</li> </ul>

## Planning and Development

### **Planning Applications**

A total of 2196 planning applications was received in the period 01/01/2021 to 23/11/2021. This is compared to 1776 in the same period last year. An increase of 24% year-on-year.

### **Development Contributions**

Development Contribution receipts up to October 2021 were €10,825,364. This is compared to €7,880,522 in the same period last year. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

### **Planning Enforcement Complaints**

Some 262 planning enforcement cases have been opened up to 31/10/2021.

Stage of Process	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	58
Warning Letter	108
Enforcement Notice	18
Referred for Legal Proceedings	4
Further Information Requested	3
Closed	71

### **Heritage and Conservation:**

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 and Structures at Risk Fund for 2021** – Conservation works completed for 2021 at Duleek House and nine protected structures received funding through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 and Structures at Risk Fund for 2022** – Scheme launched for 2022 and call for projects issued with closing date for applications 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

**Irish Walled Town Network - Trim:** Two projects were completed – *Hidden History of the Porchfields and Newtown Trim: An Audio-Visual Guide* documents the archaeology and ecology of the Porchfields, a medieval open field system that still survives. The video is hosted on Discover Boyne Valley website <https://www.discoverboynevalley.ie/boyne-valley-drive/heritage-sites/trim-heritage-town>. A review of the *Conservation and Management Plan for Trim Town Walls* was undertaken which included an updated photographic and recommendation for further management measures for the walls.

**Community Monuments Fund** – Six projects in County Meath received a total of €181,279 under the Community Monuments Fund 2021 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage administered through the Meath County Council. Projects have been completed and final drawdown documentation submitted. Projects funded included: (i) *Conservation works to Beaubec Medieval Tower, Beymore, Drogheda*; (ii) *Condition survey and conservation assessment of Babe’s bridge, Navan*; (iii) *Conservation Management Plan for Navan Town Walls*; (iv) *Conservation Management Plan for St Erc’s Hermitage, Slane Castel Demesne*; (v) *Conservation Management Plan for Grange of St. Michael’s, Duleek* and (vi) *Interpretation signage for Beaubec Monastic Grange, Beymore, Drogheda*.



Scheme launched for 2022 and call for projects issued with closing date for applications 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

*Right: Conservation works at Beaubec, Beymore, Co. Meath (ME020:031).*

**Irish Walled Town Network – Kells** - Conservation methodology prepared in advance of conservation works to repair the mural tower to the rear of Cannon Street, Kells, Co. Meath. Assessing the current condition after the first stage of vegetation removal and developing a conservation methodology and specifications for future works.

**Heritage Council County Heritage Plan Fund** – Funding was secured to undertake Phase II of *Meath Industrial Heritage Survey*. Archaeology Plan Ltd were appointed to complete the survey which focused on sites in the baronies of Morgallion, Slane Lower, Slane Upper, Duleek Lower and Duleek Upper. A project archivist was engaged to catalogue the Clayton Woollen Mill Archive to series level. Support was provided to bring the seventh volume of the Knowth Excavations through the publication stage – *The Megalithic Art of the Passage Tombs at Knowth, County Meath*.

**National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding** – Two online workshops ran throughout October and November to assist community groups and interested individuals on sustainable and pollinator-friendly gardening as part Meath County Council’s partnership to the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan*. A series of radio advertorials were broadcast on LMFM to provide advice on actions the public can take to help pollinators.

## Economic Development

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	11
Trading Online Vouchers Approvals	10
Training Online Courses Attended	177
Online Trading Voucher Information Seminars Attended	23

### Minister Visit to LEO

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD, visited Meath County Council on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, as part of a series of similar visits by the Minister, who is keen to engage with the LEO teams and their client companies throughout the country.

The Minister was met at Meath County Council Offices by Deputy Chief Executive, Des Foley, who presented a review of economic development in the county. The Head of Enterprise at LEO Meath, Joe English then briefed the Minister on the work of the LEO including recent highlights as well as their future plans. Further presentations were given on the value of the Local Enterprise Office to SMEs in Meath and on the Boyne Valley Food Initiative.

Minister English also met a number of LEO client companies throughout the day. In Duleek, Alan Jackson of Qualitas Electronics outlined how his company specialises in the manufacture of printed circuit boards and providing consultancy services to the electronics industry worldwide.

At Buvinda House, Minister English also spoke to Eileen and Barry Finnegan about their business, Lvlogics, a high technology company designing and supplying bespoke sensors and measurement equipment to the bulk grain and liquid industries. Dominic McDowall of Cubicle7 Games explained how his multi-award-winning games company develops and markets role-playing games in the Warhammer and Dr. Who series. The Bunnery's Catriona Callaghan told the Minister how her online cooking school is designed to make cooking fun and is particularly focused on children, but also caters for teens, adults and corporate clients.

In the afternoon, the Minister travelled to Ashbourne for his final engagement where he visited 3D Printing Ireland. The company was founded by Keith and Jenny Davis and they provide 3D printing, scanning and modelling along with visualisation services to individuals and companies in the engineering, pharmaceutical, film production, architecture and museum industries.

### Remote Working Hub - Dunshaughlin

County Meath's second remote working hub run by Meath Enterprise was officially opened on Monday, November 8 by Damien English TD, bringing to almost 100 the number of co-working desks now available in the county. The new facility is based in the



Dunshaughlin Civic Offices and will offer local commuters and business-owners the option of working all or part of their week close to home while also availing of fibre broadband and high-spec meeting rooms. The facility augments the existing Kells Tech Hub, which offers over 50 remote workstations.

## Finance Section

**Commercial Rates Waiver:** The targeted commercial rates waiver for Q4, 2021 is currently being applied. Approximately €1.2M will be applied to 625 qualified customers.

### Housing Loans :

RIHL Loans Data 1st January 2021 to 29th November 2021		
<b>Fully Completed Applications Received</b>	<b>86</b>	
<b>Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)</b>	<b>4</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Awaiting Further Information</b>	<b>2</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Approved by Credit Committee</b>	<b>63</b>	4 relate to 2020 applications
<b>Refused by Credit Committee</b>	<b>17</b>	4 relate to 2020 applications
<b>Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee</b>	<b>6</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Returned to Customer</b>	<b>6</b>	4 relate to 2020
<b>Active Approvals</b>	<b>42.25</b>	0.25 relate to 2020
<b>Expired</b>	<b>22</b>	12 relate to 2020 applications *
<b>Drawdown by Customer</b>	<b>26.43</b>	10.43 relate to 2020 applications
Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2021 – 29th November 2021 and in some cases relate to applications pre-2021. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases		