



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report
February 2022

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

Ethical Framework – Submission of Annual Declarations

The statutory deadline for completion of the Annual Declaration is February 28, 2022. Members will have received notification of this and the relevant documentation from the Council's Ethics Registrar. Where you do not have any interest to declare you must insert 'Nil'. The use of 'N/A' or 'not appropriate' or a strikethrough or other such insertion is not an appropriate declaration and your form will be returned for correction.

You may return signed original forms to the Ethics Registrar directly or return by email – if returning by email forms must be printed and signed (live signature required) and scan the two completed documents to: ethicsregistrar@meathcoco.ie

Live Register of Electors 2022/2023

The Live Register of Electors 2022/2023 has been made available to elected members on Sharepoint. Requests for copies of registers or other related queries should be submitted to: registerofelectors@meathcoco.ie or alternatively by telephoning: 046 9097007. Please note that under the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 2001, it is an offence to use the information in the Register for a purpose, other than electoral or other statutory purpose.

Future Meeting and Civic Events

The decision by Government to ease many of the public health restrictions will have an impact on the Council's activities including its statutory meetings and other public events.

It is proposed that the meetings of the Municipal Districts in February will be in-person only meetings. This is to accommodate full discussion on the schedules of Municipal District Works. The schedule of meetings and locations is as follows:

Municipal District	Date	Time	Location	Comment
Ashbourne	08/02/2022	10am	Ashbourne MD office	In-person only
Ratoath	09/02/2022	9.30am	Chamber, County Hall	In-person only
Laytown-Bettystown	10/02/2022	10am	Duleek MD office	In-person only
Kells	14/02/2022	4pm	Chamber, County Hall	In-person only
Navan	16/02/2022	10am	Chamber, County Hall	In-person only
Trim	18/02/2022	2pm	Chamber, County Hall	In-person only

Future meetings of the Council are being kept under review and will be organised in line with the Return to Work Protocols and good practice guidance, which is being developed and national level and for the sector.

In is intended that the postponed Civic Reception for the Meath Ladies Football Team will take place at the end of March, on a date to be agreed.

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-Q4, 2021:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q1 - 2021	45	1	1
Q2 - 2021	39	2	0
Q3 - 2021	41	2	1
Q4 - 2021	35	1	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:

AIE	AIE Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q1 - 2021	3	0	0
Q2 - 2021	6	2	0
Q3 - 2021	11	7	2
Q4 - 2021	7	0	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
Q4 - 2021	6

Communications and Events

Clean Cup Campaign

In January, Cllr. Sarah Reilly and Climate Action Officer Caroline Corrigan featured in a short video promoting the Clean Cup Campaign. The campaign is now 5 months old and to date 22 business have signed the Clean Cup Pledge. By signing the Pledge, businesses have agreed to actively encourage and welcome re-usable cups. The video invites more businesses to get involved and also encourages customers to be climate conscious and choose a re-usable cup.



Launch of the RSVP Campaign

In December the government launched a new Covid-19 Information campaign – R.S.V.P. The aim of the campaign was to empower people to assess the risk involved in different activities by providing practical information and guidance. The campaign leaflet and information was shared widely across Meath County Council social media channels and through the staff newsletter.

Sod Turning at Blackwater Park

On Monday, January 24, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew with Mayor of Navan Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons and Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire turned the sod to mark the start of a proposed development in Blackwater Park, Navan.



The project will see the construction of a single storey building which will include changing rooms with shower facilities, public toilets and a changing place facility. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year at a cost of €606,606.

Contract Signing for Recycling Centres

Early in January, Meath County Council signed a contract with Oxigen Environmental for the Management and Operation of Navan, Trim and Kells Recycling Centres. Oxigen Environmental operates a number of public recycling centres across the country in addition to the Oxigen Recycling Centre in Ballymount.



The new contract will be in place for 3 years and will see the current services at each of the sites maintained with new additions to the list of materials accepted including C&D waste, herbicides and pesticides together with a new waste awareness campaign for householders and schools. A calendar of Free bulky waste collections for householders will be published in February 2022.

Navan Bus Stop Facilities

The construction works for new bus stop facilities in Navan was completed in December. The works, funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA), included the delivery of 53 new wheelchair-accessible bus stops along with signage and information display units. Minor refurbishment work to 13 existing bus stops within the town was also completed. The new stops will facilitate the N1 and N2 Navan town bus routes that were introduced a year ago this week. The services are operated by Bus Éireann and funded by NTA.



The people of Navan have responded very positively to the introduction of N1 and N2 one year ago. In 2018 and 2019,

the town services attracted about 4,000 passengers each four-week period. The figure now is over 16,000, a major jump in patronage

#PurpleLights21

Meath County Council joined the annual worldwide celebration to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities by lighting up the Tower of Lloyd and Kells Courthouse Purple on Friday December 3.

The theme for 2021 was “Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world.” Every organisation and community has them. Those that step up, the leaders. Just as important are those that participate as part of disability groups in companies and communities all over Ireland or as inclusion or access officers.



Glow Red for World Aids Day

In support of Glow Red for World AIDS Day Meath County Council lit up Slane Hill red from Tuesday, November 30 to Wednesday, December 1. The 2021 event marked the 40th 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.

Staff Retirements

The following staff members have retired from the Council in Q4 of 2021:

- Michael Fitzsimons – Civil Defence – Retired 31/10/2021
- Mary Harrington – Transport – Retired 30/11/2021
- Bernard Carroll – Transport – Trim MD – Retired 09/12/2021
- Francis Murray – Community – Retired 23/12/2021

Climate Action and Environment

Environmental Initiatives

Bulky Waste Collection

A calendar of Free Bulky Waste Collections has been developed for 2022 at Trim, Navan, Kells and Dunboyne Recycling Centre including couches, beds, mattresses, toys, nursery equipment. The calendar will be published widely.

Drogheda Spring Clean

Meath and Louth County Councils have developed a joint initiative to encourage Clean Up activities in Drogheda. A Spring Clean Weekend is planned for March 4th – 6th, whereby groups, clubs, schools and individuals will be invited to avail of litter picking equipment and a waste collection service to tackle litter and waste in their area. The awareness campaign will include Radio advertising, Radio Interviews, Press, Social Media, PPN Network, Community Database. Subsequent to the Clean Up participants will be encouraged to continue to take regular clean ups as part of the Green Kilometre Scheme. Saplings will be provided to participating groups to mark Tree Week which takes place in March.

Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning

The Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 allowed farmers, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and as a last resort, to dispose of green waste by burning i.e. untreated/uncontaminated wood, trees, tree trimmings, leaves and brush which were generated by agricultural practices. This exemption was extended by way of Regulation on a year by year basis however, the Department of Environment Climate and Communications (DECC) have now advised that no further extension is being provided beyond the 1st January 2022. The Department is evaluating alternative options and is in discussion with the Department of Agriculture (DAFM) and the Air Quality Unit.

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 2000-2024:

- ✓ 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.

Recycling Centres / Bottle Banks

The Council has entered into a 3 year contract with Oxigen Environmental to operate and manage the 3 Civic Amenity Sites in Navan, Trim and Kells, and Glassco Recycling being appointed to manage the 31 Bring Banks sites for the collection of glass, cans and textiles. In 2021, there was 3,645 tonnes of glass and cans collected from Meath bring banks equivalent to 11.7 million glass bottles and jars.

Draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)

The draft River Basin Management Plan for the period 2020-2027 which was the subject of presentations at Municipal District and SPC levels will as part of an extensive public consultation process continue to be available for viewing at www.gov.ie/draftRBMP until Thursday 31st March 2022 . Staff from the Environment Department are currently engaged in farm inspections in the Killary and Nanny Catchments as part of our ongoing works under the current RBMP.

Climate Action

The URBACT Project (Trim): The storytelling and visioning stage of the project is almost complete and the next Transnational Meetings will take place on 25th and 26th January. Partner co-ordinators are invited to attend the URBACT E-University from the 1st to 3rd February.

LA Climate Action Plans: The Annex to the national Climate Action Plan was published in December with some 500 actions and sub-actions within same. While local authorities are charged with specific actions they will indirectly impact or be impacted by a majority of the action. The CAROs are undertaking a work brief to ascertain the impact for local authorities and consequences for local Climate Actions Plans. The Climate Action Plan Guidelines are still with the Minister for consideration and are expected to be signed off upon in coming months.

Air Quality Project Trim: The tender process for this contract is almost complete.

Energy Bureau: Meath County Council in collaboration with Kildare and Wicklow County Councils is progressing the establishment of a regional Energy Bureau which will be co-funded to 50% for a period of three years by the SEAI. The tender for same will be published by early February. The Energy Bureau will be initially inwards facing, progressing energy projects to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions within councils.

Housing Services

Capital Programme

Summary of Rebuilding Ireland 2021 Delivery

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL 2021		
Delivery Mechanism	No. of Units	€
MCC Direct Construction	27	6,378,341
MCC Standard Acquisitions	15	3,244,450
MCC Acquisitions Buy and Renew	2	235,000
MCC Part V	38	9,419,590
AHB CAS	12	2,500,500
AHB Turnkey	93	41,385,704
AHB Part V	30	7,426,764
AHB Acquisitions (Housing Agency)	2	285,000
AHB Mortgage to Rent	15	920,695
Private Mortgage to Rent	31	0
LA Long-Term Leasing	6	0
AHB Long term Leasing	24	0
TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED 2021	295	71,796,044
Rebuilding Ireland Summary		
Build+Acq.+Leasing Target 2018-2021	1,190	
Build+Acq.+Leasing Delivery 2018-2021	1,614	
% of Delivery Over Target	35.63%	



Meath County Council Site Direct construction – Lagore Road, Dunshaughlin (€5.8m)

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
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
Ratholdren Court, Navan	Direct Construction	26	7,096,354
Totals		108	27,408,595

Summary of 2021 Funding Submissions awaiting approval

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
Navan Brews Hill	Direct Construction	6	1,667,535
Totals		35	9,285,013

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
DESIGN PHASE				
Swan Lane, Navan	6	1,436,415	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Pitcher Lane, Kells	4	942,737	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Brews Hill, Navan	6	1,667,535	Q1 2023	Q2 2024
New Lane, Abbeylands, Navan	4	985,944	Q1 2023	Q2 2024
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	563,166	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Nangle Court, Navan	16	2,961,862	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Church View, Rathmoylon	22	5,476,215	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Haggard Street, Trim	4	931,870	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	20	4,358,112	Q3 2022	Q1 2024
Ratholdron Court, Navan	26	5,530,960	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	43	10,225,755	-	-
Totals	153	35,080,571		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Kells Archdeaconry	20	3,826,010	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Totals	20	3,826,010		

TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q1 2022	Q1 2024
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	Q2 2022	Q1 2024
Totals	160	44,361,044		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	9,850,185	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Donore	21	4,524,250	Q2 2021	Q3 2022
Totals	63	14,374,435		
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
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Complete	N/A
Totals	215	48,623,362		
GRAND TOTAL	611	146,265,422		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

Call for Proposals for Advance Purchase Turnkey Arrangements

A call for proposals has been advertised for un-commenced residential developments, primarily for affordable and mixed tenure housing. Initial proposals are sought as soon as possible, and preferable by 14th 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 3rd August 2021 and will be completed across five phases. Phase 1 comprises of four units, with decanting process of tenants successfully completed in advance.

Affordability Measures

The following local affordability measures were advanced by Meath County Council during 2021:

The remaining three cost reduced units in Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath were disposed of in 2021, thereby realising the full affordability dividend associated with the first phase of the Ratoath LIHAF project (10 units). A further 10 units will be made available in the second phase of the project.



Cost Reduced LIHAF units, Ratoath.

Nine low cost private sites as incorporated in the Phase 1 of Lagore Lawns, Dunshaughlin, were allocated during 2021, following the receipt of 51 eligible applications, representing a further affordability measure undertaken directly by Meath County Council.

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

The 2021 Grants allocation of €3,314,174 was fully expended. 485 Households were awarded Grant aid under the various Grants schemes in 2021.

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

In 2021, 52 projects were completed to existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €481,546.

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

A total of 96 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2021

In respect of vacant units, a total of € 1,349,196 funding was secured in 2021 from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (pre let repairs - €1,125,422 & energy efficiency works - €223,774).

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 14th January 2022. For the period from 12th November 2021 to 14th January 2022, works were completed on 9 vacant units, while 16 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	0	1	1	0
Kells	5	1	0	5	1
Laytown/Bettystown	4	0	4	8	0
Navan	7	2	0	9	0
Ratoath	3	3	1	7	0
Trim	3	3	1	7	0
TOTALS	22	9	**7	37	1

**Note: Six of these pre-let properties include energy upgrade to bring the property to B2 BER rating or better.

Housing Capital Expenditure

Housing capital expenditure was subject to claims totally €30,406,493 during 2021 to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Response Maintenance

A total of 6,003 response maintenance cases was logged in 2021 and subsequently dealt with by Housing Operations.

Vacant Homes Action Plan

A Vacant Homes Register was created in 2020 to record private vacant homes that have been identified through the Vacant Homes Officer (129 units currently on the Live Register). The main reasons for vacancy have been recorded as Derelict/Uninhabitable (41%), Vacant (17.8%) and Currently for Sale/Sale Agreed (11.6%). During 2021, 97 units were removed from the Register, (64 in 2020). with the following key reasons noted for removal: i) occupied following subsequent inspection (34.8%), ii) sold (32.3%) and iii) AHB acquired (13.7%)

During 2021, the Vacant Homes Section commenced CPO's on three units located in Trim, Laytown and Kells respectively. Refurbishment works are well underway on the unit in Trim. Negotiations are ongoing between the owner and MCC to acquire the property in Laytown, and CPO Notices were issued in November 2021 on the property in Kells.

Some 4 No. Derelict houses were acquired under the Acquisitions programme and the houses will be demolished and additional units built on each of the sites.

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
PIPELINE DELIVERY			
Narrow Ways Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q1 2022 (delays owing to Covid)
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due Q1 2022 (delays owing to covid)
Royal Oaks, Enfield Phase 2	16	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q1 2022
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 3 b)	30	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q3 2022
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2022
Apple Wood Court, Beaufort, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Delivery Q2 2022
TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED	238		
UNITS DELIVERED			
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Ardmore, Bettystown	1	North & East Housing	Complete - 2017
Royal Oaks, Enfield (Part V)	4	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Seabury Lawns, Mornington	6	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Kellets Grove, Dunshaughlin (Part V)	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Milltown Meadows, Ashbourne	67	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Emmet Street, Trim	11	North & East Housing	Complete - 2018
Dunville, Navan (30 units Part V)	64	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ceamach Close, Donacarne	16	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018)

Blackcastle, Navan	26	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	22	Tuath Housing	Complete 2018/2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2018/2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown (Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete – 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2019
Commons Road, Navan	12	North & East Housing	Complete - 2019
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 1)	20	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	30	Respond	Complete – 2019/2020
Maudelin Brook, Duleek	30	Respond	Delivered 2021
Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	Complete – 2020
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	Complete – 2020
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	29	Tuath	Complete – 2020
Royal Oaks, Enfield	4	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2020
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (Phase 2)	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2020
The Bungalows, Dunshaughlin	8	Circle	Complete - 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	5	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2020
Flowerville, Navan	12	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2020
Oldbridge Manor, Drogheda	29	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2020
The Maudlins, Trim	9	Cluid Housing	Delivered 2021
Ashewood, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivered 2021
Frederick Manor, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivered 2021
Mayden Hayes, Donacarney	12	Cluid Housing	Delivered 2021
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	2	Tuath Housing	Delivered 2021
Effernock, Trim	16	Tuath Housing	Delivered 2021
St, Marys Court, Dunboyne	16	Co-operative Housing	Delivered 2021
Ruxton Oaks, Navan	12	Cluid Housing	Delivered 2021
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan (phase 3a)	19	Tuath Housing	Delivered 2021
Royal Oaks Enfield Phase 1	14	Cluid Housing	Delivered 2021
Bryanstown Wood, Drogheda	24	Tuath Housing	Delivered 2021
Athlumney, Navan	1	I-Care	Delivered 2021
South Shore Drive Laytown	1	Oaklee	Delivered 2021
Castlemartin view Bettystown	1	Oaklee	Delivered 2021
TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED	783		
GRAND TOTAL	1,021		

Homeless Service

A total of 126 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31 th October 2021 (Previous Reported Figure)	134 (141)	29 (43 Adults, 68 Children)	163
Placements at 31 th December 2021	139 (148)	27 (40 Adults, 71 Children)	166
Of the 27 households with children, 21 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 6 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.			

A total of 499 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council in 2021 (329 individual/couples and 170 families). The reasons for presentations were:

- 98 NTQ;
- 248 family circumstances (130 family breakdown, 34 domestic violence, 34 addiction, 33 relationship breakdown 14 mental health, 2 house repossession, 1 family home sold);
- 30 leaving prison/hospital;
- 65 sofa surfing, cannot afford rent, cannot source private rented accommodation, unsuitable living conditions, rent arrears, eviction;
- 28 requesting financial assistance;
- 7 rough sleeping;
- 13 others (returning from abroad/outside county, fire, letter for Social Welfare, illegal occupant, referred to other LA);
- 5 Aftercare;
- 5 Barring & Protection Orders.
- 249 households exited emergency accommodation in 2021, with 30% of households exiting into private rented/Local Authority/Approved Housing Body tenancies

Private Rental Inspections

A total of 664 Inspections of private rental accommodation properties were carried out for the period January-December 2021. Covid 19 Restrictions resulted in a reduction of Inspections which were carried out during 2021.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Ten units were acquired by tenants of Meath County Council under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2021, at a cumulative discount of €646,900.

Traveller Accommodation

Meath County Council expended €627,900 directly on Traveller specific accommodation in 2021. This expenditure was across a number of initiatives, including one acquisition, halting site bay refurbishments, disability adaptations and measures to resolve overcrowding within St Patrick Park halting site

Year 2 Targets under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 were achieved, with 37 allocations to social housing applicants from the Traveller community (Target: 9).

Part 8 Planning was secured, and the Tender process is now completed for the Refurbishment of St Francis' Park and it is expected that work will proceed in early 2022.

The LTACC (Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee) met on 22nd December 2021.

Refurbishment works on 13 bays on St Patrick's Park halting site, Navan were completed, to a value of €130,738.



Upgrade Works St Patrick's Park Halting Site, Navan

A funding submission was made to the Traveller Accommodation Unit for the provision of a six-unit Traveller specific Group Housing Scheme in Navan (€1,593,710).

Estate Management: 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021

ASB Complaints	Totals
ASB Complaints received	883
ASB complaints received per MD	
Ashbourne	49
Kells	184
Laytown / Bettystown	112
Navan	305
Ratoath	85
Trim	148

ASB Investigation Cases (One case can include multiple complaints)	Totals
ASB investigation on going	22
ASB investigation completed	861

Action Taken (one case can receive multiple actions)	Totals
No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	81
Advice / Instruction given	472
Verbal warning issued	28
First breach of Tenancy Notice	25
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	10
Statutory warning issued	9
Notice to Quit served	1

Referrals to other agencies	145
Exclusion Orders Sought	0
House taken back into possession (No legal fees nor security fees were used in these cases)	29
Total Action Taken	800

Tenancy Outcomes	Totals
Repossession commenced (due to ASB & other reasons)	29
Repossession completed	29
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	0
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	0

Number of pre- tenancies conducted	294
Rightsizing	
No. of Tenants identified: 10	Achieved 2

Tenant Liaison

In excess of 300 tenants completed pre-tenancy training during 2021, obtaining a variety of information concerning their tenancy with Meath County Council.

A new Meath County Council Tenant Handbook has been developed and published, representing an important resource for all new tenants regarding their tenancy with Meath County Council.



Meath County Council Tenant Handbook

Estate Management Policy

A draft Estate Management Policy was devised in order to provide an overall framework to promote and achieve better estate management and outcomes within Meath County Council's own estates. The policy was approved by the Strategic Policy Committee in December 2021 and It is intended that this draft policy will be submitted for approval by the by the full Council in February 2022. A pilot Estate Management Initiative was completed in Tailteann, Navan during 2021, in the main comprising of public realm upgrade works within a targeted area of the estate. The learning from this pilot will inform the 2022 Estate Management work programme.



Pilot Estate Management Initiative (Before & After)

Disability

Meath County Council's 'Strategy for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026' was developed in 2021, under the auspices of the Housing Disability Steering Group. Actions have been identified under the headings of Housing Supply, Health & Care Services, Collaboration, Housing Pathway, Participation & Awareness.

The Carrick Street, Kells, refurbishment project has been selected, by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage as a pilot capital project in respect of incorporating Universal Design principles within 30% of the proposed units, with a view to informing national policy on the matter.

A total of 26 level access units were delivered across 4 sites in 2021, in order to cater for applicants with mobility issues. These units emanated from Part V delivery negotiated by Meath County Council and Approved Housing Body activity.



Level access units delivered through Part V (Dunshaughlin & Drogheda)

Social Housing Supports

1,033 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st December 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 December 2021.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	290
Approved Housing Bodies	242
RAS	0
HAP	525
Long Term leasing	36
TOTAL	1,093

There were 223 refused offers of accommodation made by the Housing Department to applicants during 2021, representing a 29% refusal rate on the total offers of accommodation made. The main reasons recorded by applicants for a refusal were

- i) property deemed not to meet their accommodation needs,
- ii) no longer willing to accept a house in previously selected Area of Choice,
- iii) wish to remain in existing HAP property

The introduction of the Choice Based Lettings System which came into operation in December 2021 should eliminate refusals going forward.

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC met on Friday 28th January and approved the SICAP annual plan for 2022.

LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The LAG met on Friday 28th January and received updates on ongoing activities and EOI's received.

Comhairle na n'Óg

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, which has already commenced, is funded by the DCEDIY and is scheduled to be completed by the end of Q1. Tenders have been sought to develop an APP to map community facilities in the county which is the current project the Comhairle is working on.

Joint Policing Committee

The JPC Meeting in December saw the draft 6-year strategy approved by the members and will be submitted to the Policing Authority. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st February.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Meath PPN, Meath County Council and the Department of Rural & Community Development are working to develop and deliver a plenary event for network member groups. The plenary event will be the first meeting since the recent re-registration and new governance requirements published in 2020.

The plenary event will seek agreement on key processes such as the election of a new Secretariat and will provide an opportunity for member groups to agree the direction for network development

Ministerial Visit to the County

On January 31st and February 1st, Mr Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Social Protection visited the county to meet with a number of local organisations and groups and to see at first-hand projects and community initiatives supported by his Departments. While in Navan he met with An Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive and with representatives from: Beaufort School, specifically on the Windtown Student Bus Service; Cultúr Celebrating Diversity; and Oaklawns Community House.



NBP

Meath County Council has granted licences for NBI and open eir to carry out their works in the Drogheda Deployment Area and to install new wooden telegraph poles to allow the development of their network. The Council is currently awaiting the submission of dates when they will commence this work.

WIFI4EU

Work has been completed at several sites in the county with WIFI4EU going live in Dunboyne, Ashbourne, Trim, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Trim and Oldcastle.

Work in Oldcastle is now complete with coverage in the town centre and at the playground area. Work continues in the other towns where there have been issues securing adequate broadband connections. Most of these issues have been resolved and connections were completed in January.

Funding Schemes

The **Community Amenity Scheme** funded by the Council and the **Community Activities Fund**, funded by the Department were launched in December with a closing date of 31st January 2022.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

This scheme is now open for applications until 25th February 2022.

Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme

A total of 3 projects were approved for funding by the Department as follows:

- Dunshaughlin Community Centre €20,000
- Sonairte €7,725
- South Meath Social Enterprise €2,310

Projects must be completed, and funding drawn down by 1st June 2022.

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021

Funding was approved for 2 projects by the Department and works must be completed by March 31st, 2023, as follows:

- Balrath FC Accessibility to All was awarded €52k
- Social Farming Meath was awarded €22k

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure scheme (ORIS)

The following projects were approved by the Department under each of the 4 Measures.

Measure:	Project Reference:	Project Name:	Funding approved:	Completion Date:
1	OR121MH01	Balrath woods	13,500	31/12/2022
1	OR121MH01	Partickstown viewing point	19,800	31/12/2022
1	OR121MH01	Castletown amenity areas	19,811	31/12/2022
1	OR121MH01	Cycle repair stations	8,420.95	31/12/2022
2	OR121MH01	Drumaonrath walking trail	199,800	30/06/2023
2	OR121MH01	Ribbontail car park amenity	152,244	30/06/2023
3	OR121MH01	Wilkinstown to Castletown greenway	500,000	30/06/2023
PD4	OR121MH01	Laytown riverside park	39,906	31/12/2022

Libraries Services and Arts Office

Ireland Reads

Following the huge success of Ireland Reads in 2021, this national reading campaign will take place once again in 2022. Everyone in the country will be invited to take some time to experience the pleasure of reading and to share their experience with family, friends, book clubs or online, culminating with national communications and events on February 25th.



Meath Libraries staff are currently updating the Ireland Reads website - sharing their expertise by reviewing and adding a diverse range of recommended titles. The aim is to build up an enhanced, varied database with even more choices and suggestions for people to (re)engage with during the campaign in 2022.

In addition to programming a range of events staff are also currently recruiting high profile media ambassadors, to support the local campaign, and drive interest on social media channels.

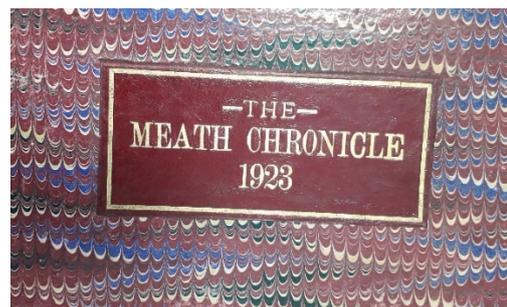
Laureate for Irish Fiction – Colm Tóibín

The newly appointed Laureate for Irish Fiction, Colm Tóibín will make one of his first appearances as Laureate in Dunboyne Library in early April.

Dunboyne library was selected from libraries across the country to host this prestigious national book club event with the new Laureate for Fiction. The event is a collaboration with the Arts Council. The event which will be recorded, will be facilitated by librarian and poet Tom French.

Meath Chronicle

With the return of the *Meath Chronicle* to its original, historic premises on the Market Square, Navan, towards the end of 2021, Meath County Library Service was delighted to accept the donation of the newspaper's own collection of bound volumes of the newspaper, a volume for each year of the paper's existence since 1897. This represents one of the most important acquisitions by the County Library Service in recent years.



Hard copies of the county's newspaper of record have been archived by the County Library as they have been published over the years, and this resource has been extensively used for research purposes by historians and students. In addition, the Library Service also maintains a collection of *Meath Chronicle* on microfilm which is available to consult in the Local Studies room and which has been used extensively by researchers working on GAA club histories and by historians and students working on theses and assignments.

Meath County Library Service also makes available via subscription the archives of the main national dailies and most of the regional newspapers via the Irish Newspaper Archive. The microfilm collection continues to be useful as a backup to the digital service wherever gaps occur, and the hardcopy collection of the paper acts as a backup to the microfilm collection in cases where high resolution copies of articles and images are needed for reproduction.

Bequests to Meath County Council Library Service

Very Rev. Gerry Rice - The regretted death of Fr Gerry Rice occurred in 2021. Following his retirement as Parish Priest of Kilcloon he lived for some years in a Kildare Nursing Home. While there he made arrangements for St Finian's Meath Diocesan Trust to take some of his book collection for the diocese. The balance of his collection was to come to the Local Studies Department in Navan Library.

This has resulted in the addition of approximately 550 items to the collection representing his wide and varied interests. He was an English and History teacher in St Patrick's Classical School, Navan, for 18 years; was principal of St Mary's Diocesan School, Drogheda, for 8 years and Editor of *Riocht na Midhe*, the journal of the Meath Archaeological & Historical Society, for 21 years.

As a historian and internationally recognised coin expert Fr Rice's stock of history books is impressive, and their acquisition adds greatly to the depth and range of titles available to readers and researchers. Highlights include *The Boyne Valley Vision* by Martin Brennan, now out of print and valued at €125; a first edition of *A View of The Coinage of the Heptarchy* (1842) by John Lindsay now valued at €400; *Calendar of the Gormanston Register 1175-1397* by James Mills and M.J. McEnery now worth €300; and several copies of Simington's Civil Survey of Ireland for various counties, including 4 copies of the Meath volume, meaning this valuable resource can be placed in other locations in the library network. His donation of such a valuable and important collection is testament to his kind, public spirited and generous nature. The collection is currently being processed and will be made available for consultation in the coming months.

Professor George Eogan - Renowned archaeologist and Nobber native, George Eogan, was a leading scholar of Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe. His research on the passage tombs of Ireland, especially in the Boyne valley, led to over 40 years of archaeological excavations at Knowth where he was the first person in modern times to enter the great burial chamber there.

Following his retirement from UCD he decided, with his family, to donate many items from his personal library to the Local Studies Department of Navan Library. In 2021, some 200 books and journals were given to the Local Studies collection in Navan. His interests were wide ranging, covering archaeology, history and culture, and this addition to stock is both welcome and significant.

Important titles include a first edition (1912) of *New Grange and Other Incised Tumuli in Ireland* by George Coffey; also *Treasures of Ireland: Irish Pagan & Early Christian Art* by A. T. Lucas and the very rare and valuable 2 volume set *Irish Medieval Figure Sculpture 1200-1600* by John Hunt, recently valued at €400.

Of great interest also is George's evident love for the Irish language and some of his donated titles include *Peadar Ó Gealacháin Scriobhai* by Ciarán Dawson; *The Fortunes of the Irish Language* by Daniel Corkery, first published in 1954 and works by Peig Sayers, Sean O Tuama, Sean O Riordain and Nollaig O Gadhra.

The collection is currently being processed and will be made available for consultation in due course.

Transportation Services

National Roads 2022 funding from TII - €9,996,967

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Construction Works re Site clearance, Earthworks, Drainage, Fencing to offline sections ongoing. Online construction works to commence February 2022.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Issue Road Safety Audit to TII, issue draft reports for construction works in the SAC, update Accommodation Works drawings and issue Public Realm design report for review.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Awaiting TII approval to proceed to Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation
N52 Grange to Clontail	Phase 4 (statutory processes) deliverables currently going through the TII approval process. CPO documents currently been finalised with design consultants, Atkins.
National Road Resurfacing	Capital Maintenance Schemes - possible 2022 schemes currently being discussed/reviewed with TII N51 Higginstown to Crowinstown –works ongoing– scheme is being progressed in conjunction with Westmeath County Council as per Section 85 Agreement

Non- National Roads 2022 funding from DoT – Grant Allocation Awaited

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

Road Works Programme	SMDW 2022 currently being compiled for February MD meetings CIS & LIS schemes 2022 – Waiting on confirmation of funding allocation from DoT and DRCD respectively.
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(b) Strategic Regional & Local Rds & Specific Improvement Grant

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road Scheme	ESB connections completed. Some minor works to be completed. Final account discussions ongoing with contractor.
R162 Kilberry Phase 2	Contract for the portion of proposed Phase 2 works at Meath Farm Machinery & north of the R163 junction expected to be completed end Q1 /early Q2 this year

(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Awaiting 2022 Allocation

2021 Schemes	Road	Status
Newgate	R147	Works ongoing
Liscarton	R147	Works substantially complete
Clonguiffin, Longwood	L-4020/ L-80142-47 /L-2226-0	Works commenced approx. 70% completed

(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads –Awaiting 2022 Allocation

2021 Schemes	Status
Clavens Bridge (R147)	Works complete.
Julianstown Bridge (R132)	Works suspended due to Covid outbreak
Gibber Bridge (L-7400), Breakey Bridge (L-2805), Johnstown Culvert (L-5050) & Ashfield Bridge (L-8029)	Works suspended due to Covid outbreak
Kiltale and Tatestown Culverts	Tenders currently being assessed for consultants
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2022	Tenders currently being assessed for Contractors

3. Active Travel Grants 2022 from NTA – €13,910,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Contract 2 works substantially complete. Paving works for section of the Market Sq footpath adjacent to Everard’s pub continued & paving to recessed manhole/chamber covers. The remainder of the outstanding works recommencing. Tender issued for construction of Contract 3 (Kennedy Road bus interchange, Kennedy Plaza works, Paddy O’Brien Street junction, Abbey Rd (to include new taxi rank), and Market Sq.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Snagging works undertaken and further close-out works recommencing. A launch event was held on the 16th of December with MCC Chief Executive, NTA Chief Executive and BE Head of Operations, and the Mayor of Navan in attendance. A press release was subsequently issued.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Currently awaiting a design on the Railway crossing from Irish Rail. Slit Trenching Contract works were substantially completed. Awaiting revised start date from Ground Investigation contractor. Negotiation with potential affected property owners ongoing. Final designs from ESB Networks design received. Draft Traffic Signals design also received. Eir network survey being reviewed by the design team. Drainage CCTV survey complete and the findings will be incorporated into the final drainage design.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Fairgreen to Johnstown	Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme – works substantially complete and snagging undertaken. Periodic inspections and monitoring undertaken by MCC and these will continue during the trial period.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1-R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	A letter (of Intent) was issued to the Preferred Tenderer for the appointment of a Consultant, being appointed currently and options design work will commencing on the proposed scheme

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 prepared
Boyne Greenway -Drogheda to Mornington	Ecological surveys are ongoing. Flood Risk Assessment and Updated Outline Construction Methodology Assessment Report prepared.
Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme	Tender prices returned. Tenders have been assessed. Letter of Intent issued to preferred tenderer/Contractor. Envisage appointment & start of works in Feb 2022.
N51 Park & Ride	Tenders have been received for the construction works, and are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that, subject to funding, works will commence in Q1 2022.
Bus Shelter Enabling Works	Appointment process for the Contractor ongoing
Accessible Bus Stops Works	Appointment process for the Contractor ongoing.

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

Athboy Town Centre Project	Part 8 for proposed bus turning area on public display from the end of January with a submissions deadline of 14th March 2022.
R135 Cycle Network Design	Pre-start meeting with preferred contractor planned for the 1 st week of Feb 2022. Letter of appointment to be issued on back of successful prestart meeting, with works to commence within 20 days of issuing same.
LDR4 Navan (Kells Rd to Windtown Rd.)	Valuer appointed re land acquisition. Consultant progressing detail design and preparation of contractor procurement documents.
Dunboyne Ind Estate connection to R157	Consultant appointed. Constraints and available info being reviewed to progress option selection.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Management Scheme	Environmental consultant appointed to carry out Preconstruction environmental studies. Detail design to commence Q1 2022 for initial phase of the scheme
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	Site clearance and track removal works are completed on the first 4kms between Gibbstown and Wilkinstown. Drainage works commencing on this section during the last week of Jan 2022. Tender competition for section of Greenway between Castletown and Nobber closed 24 th Jan 2022. Tender assessment underway

5. Other Actions/ Projects

<p>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</p>	<p>Kells MD – Works completed in Carlanstown, Kells, Nobber schemes.</p> <p>Ashbourne MD – Works in Maple Drive & Deerpark progressing - approx. 75% complete</p> <p>Laytown/ Bettystown MD – Works complete on Beach Park, Laytown. Works due to commence on Ballygarth Rd, Julianstown Feb 2022</p> <p>Trim MD – Rathmolyon Footpath (From Church to Trammon Cross) works have started</p> <p>Navan MD – Abbeygrove Estate – Works complete. Silverlawns Estate – Contractor Appointed – Awaiting Start Date Q1</p>
<p>Pedestrian Crossings at Round-O on R162 & N51</p>	<p>Works Completed and ESB power connected 20th January 2022</p>
<p>Public Lighting Energy Enhancement Programme – Eastern Region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Tenders being assessed for Consultants for next two phases and for Contractors also

Planning and Development

County Development Plan 2021-2027

On January 28, 2022, the Minister for Local Government and Planning, Mr Peter Burke TD, issued a Direction pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended). A copy of the Direction has been circulated separately to all elected members. The Council is required to comply with this Direction to ensure that the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 sets out an overall strategy for proper planning and sustainable development and meets the requirements of the Act.

Planning Applications

A total of 2434 planning applications was received in 2021. This is compared to 2114 in 2020. An increase of 15%.

Development Contributions

Pre-Audited Development Contribution receipts for the year 2021 were €13,299,784. This is compared to €9,470,492 in 2020. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Planning Enforcement

A total of 303 planning enforcement cases has been opened to 31/12/2021. This is compared to 316 cases in 2020.

Stage of Process	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	46
Warning Letter	120
Enforcement Notice	30
Referred for Legal Proceedings	5
Further Information Requested	3
Closed	99

Heritage and Conservation:

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022 and Structures at Risk Fund for 2022 – Funding schemes have been advertised and call for projects to be submitted on or before January 31st, 2022.

Community Monuments Fund – Site visit and preparatory work undertaken to prepare for applications for the Community Monuments Scheme Fund 2022.

Heritage Council County Heritage Plan Fund – Application for County Heritage Plan Projects submitted to the Heritage Council on January 21st, 2022.

Know Your Locality Free Online Course – The Heritage Office in association with the Irish Archaeology Field School launched a course that will take participants through the available online sources that will allow them to paint a picture of the geological, archaeological, and historical

events that happened close to where they live. The course will focus on the geology, archaeology and history of the county of Meath. Course starts February 2nd and will run weekly on Wednesdays until March 2nd 2022.

Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme – Grant scheme has been advertised and community groups are being assisted with applications - projects to be submitted on or before February 16th, 2022.

Economic Development

Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	22
Trading Online Vouchers Approvals	11
Training Online Courses Attended	97
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	4
Grant Approval	1

LEO Meath ranks number two for job creation in 2021

At a live virtual event on January 17th, An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, announced the annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2021 which showed that the Local Enterprise Office Meath supported companies created 421 jobs in 2021. The net jobs created by LEO Meath supported clients in 2021 was 205, which takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland. In 2021, there were 131 transfers nationally by Local Enterprise Office companies to Enterprise Ireland. The new figures show that the LEO Meath financially supported 277 small businesses in its portfolio across the county, these companies in turn employ 1509 people.

These results indicate that the LEO Meath was ranked number two in the country for job growth.

The LEOs also provide substantial funded supports to thousands of other small businesses across the county with programmes such as the Trading Online Voucher, Lean for Micro Green for Micro, along with Feasibility, priming and business Expansion grants. The LEO also supports hundreds of companies and businesses across the county with dedicated training and mentoring

Finance Section

Local Authority Home Loans Scheme

The new Local Authority Home Loans Scheme (LAHL) came into operation on 4 January, 2022, and provides for the provision of loan finance by local authorities to eligible first-time buyers for the acquisition of new or existing houses, or for the construction of houses. This scheme replaces the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.

The Local Authority Home Loan is different to what existed before in that:

- A "Fresh Start" principle applies, allowing that people who are divorced or separated and can demonstrate no interest/liability in the previous family home, and those who have undergone personal insolvency or bankruptcy arrangement or proceedings or other legal process, may now apply.
- A single person can be earning up to a maximum of 65 thousand euros gross per annum

Details of the LAHL are available here:

<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/housing/local-authority-mortgages-and-mortgage-support/local-authority-mortgages-local-authority-home-loan>

Housing Loans

RIHL Loans Data 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021		
Fully Completed Applications Received 2021	99	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	5	all relate to 2021 applications
Awaiting Further Information	1	all relate to 2021 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	73	4 relate to 2020 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	20	4 relate to 2020 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	7	all relate to 2021 applications
Returned to Customer	6	4 relate to 2020
Active Approvals	38.12	0.25 relate to 2020
Expired	29	12 relate to 2020 applications *
Drawdown by Customer	28.56	10.43 relate to 2020 applications

Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2021 - 31st December 2021 and in some cases relate to applications pre-2021. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Commercial Rates Waiver

The targeted commercial rates waiver for Q4 2021 is complete. €1,195,419 has been applied to 601 qualified customers. The Government has extended the targeted commercial rates waiver to include the period Q1, 2022, the process of applying the credit to the qualified customers is currently under way.

The process of preparing Commercial Rate Demands is underway, the value of which will be approximately €47.3m.