



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

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

**Monthly Management Report**  
**March 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

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

The decision by Government to ease the majority of the public health restrictions has prompted the Council to make new arrangements for the holding of Council and Municipal District meetings.

In early February, the elected members were surveyed as to their preferred options for future meetings. A total of 39 responses was received, with 50% of members indicating that hybrid meetings were their preferred option, 45% of members preferred in-person meetings and 5% of members favouring online only meetings. Future meeting arrangements will be considered, taking account of the feedback from this survey.

At the February meetings of the Municipal Districts, the elected members agreed the following arrangements:

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ashbourne	Ashbourne Civic Offices	Hybrid	-
Laytown-Bettystown	Duleek Civic Offices	In-person only	-
Kells	Kells Civic Offices	In-person only	-
Navan	County Hall, Navan	In-person only	To be reviewed after June meetings
Ratoath	Dunshaughlin Civic Offices	Hybrid	-
Trim	County Hall, Navan	In-person only	To return to Trim Civic Offices when hybrid meetings can be facilitated

**Civic Event** - The postponed Civic Reception for the Meath Ladies Football Team will take place on **March 31, at 7pm in the Solstice Theatre**. Invitations will issue to elected members in the coming weeks.

**National Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection** – To complement the National Ceremony to remember all those who have lost their lives during the pandemic, all local authorities are requested to organise a local ceremony on the same weekend. It is therefore proposed to hold the Meath Ceremony on **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am at Bunvinda House**. The event will be organised in line with the requirements set out by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Invitations will issue to all elected members in advance.

## **Communications and Events**

### **Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin**

During February, Ireland experienced three weather events which saw a yellow warning being issued for county Meath. By using the hashtags - #StormDudley, #StormEunice and #StormFranklin across Meath County Council's social media channels the communications team provided weather warning updates as well as localized updates to our audience



### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

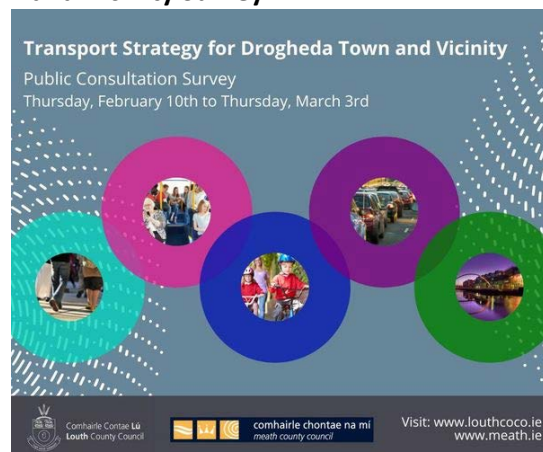
Seachtain na Gaeilge is taking place from March 1 to March 17. Updates on events in Meath are available on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) and the [Meath Library Services YouTube channel](#) See also the Libraries section of this report for more information.



### **Launch of the Transport Strategy for Drogheda Town and Vicinity Survey**

Louth County Council and Meath County Council are developing a Transport Strategy for Drogheda Town and Vicinity. The Transport Strategy will determine the transport interventions required to improve traffic and transport conditions in and around Drogheda.

Throughout February both Council's invited people who live, work, study or shop within the study area to have their say. Responses will assist in understanding current issues related to transport and obtain views on potential solutions.



The survey was open for submissions until Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> across all social media platforms.

### **Toys, Technology and Training Initiative**

Meath County Library launched their specialised Toys, Technology and Training initiative. The collection is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities or more significant needs. The toys and other resources can be accessed free of charge in branches throughout the county with the TTT membership card.



As part of the initiative, the library service will host an annual series of free lectures, recordings and workshops. These events offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

## Temperature Gauge Cards

During February, all Meath County Council staff received a temperature gauge card sharing some tips to save energy and to help reduce energy consumption in Meath County Council buildings. Additional cards were also printed for business owners and home owners, these cards were made available through local libraries, civic offices and in the Local Enterprise Office.



## Drogheda Spring Clean Weekend



Louth County Council and Meath County Council launched an online campaign inviting all resident associations, community groups, schools, sporting organisations, an individual or a few neighbours working together, to get involved, in the Drogheda Spring Clean weekend (between Friday, March 4th and Sunday, March 6th 2022).

Members of the public were invited to tackle a Kilometre of roadway, park, street or lane in your local area and help make it litter and debris free.

Both Council's provided litter pickers, bags, gloves and hi viz vests. The bags of waste would be collected when clean ups finished. Those who registered could collect a free Clean Up pack from Drogheda Recycling Centre who supported the initiative.

## Climate Action and Environment

### Draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is hosting two online public meetings on the Draft River Basin Management Plan. It will include both an overview of the national plan and information on local Rivers and Catchments.

There will be two brief presentations, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion on any of the issues raised. There will also be guidance on how to make a submission on the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 - 2027.

This Zoom meeting will be recorded and held for 3 days only, to allow for post meeting gathering of public comments. - The meetings will be approx. 60mins in duration. Link to register for the meetings as follows:

<https://lawaters-ie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltumtrD0iHdNTfs7LZmGIT6Ohb9P5-xti>

Municipal Districts	Rivers and Catchments	Meeting Date and Time
<b>(West) Meath</b>  Kells; Navan; Trim	Dee, Glyde, Moynalty, Blackwater (Kells), Blackwater (Longwood), Boyne	<b>Monday 07th March 2022</b>  <a href="#">Meeting Registration - Zoom</a>
<b>(East) Meath</b>  Ratoath; Ashbourne; Laytown- Bettystown	Liffey, Tolka, Nanny-Devlin, Broadmeadow	<b>Thursday 10th March 2022</b>  <a href="#">Meeting Registration - Zoom</a>

### Green KM

The Green KM scheme has been launched for 2022 and there has been a very positive response from new and existing participants across the county.



**Free Drop Off Days 2022**  
Navan, Trim, Kells and Dunboyne Recycling Centres

Couches - March, 7th to 12th  
Mattresses - May, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th  
Cots, Prams, Nursery - June, 20th to 25th  
Garden Equipment - July, 18th to 23rd  
Toys - November, 7th to 12th

These events are for Householders Only - No Commercial customers  
Gate Fee of €2 is payable per vehicle per visit  
Enquiries to [environment@meathcoco.ie](mailto:environment@meathcoco.ie)

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### Bulky Waste Collection

The following is a calendar of Free Bulky Waste Collections for 2022 at Trim, Navan, Kells and Dunboyne Recycling Centre including couches, beds, mattresses, toys, nursery equipment.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 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. New amending Regulations have now been introduced extending the exemptions to burn waste generated by Agricultural practices until the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

### **Climate Action**

**Air Quality Project Trim:** The tender process for this contract is almost complete and the successful contractor is expected to be appointed in the coming weeks.

**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 Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>DESIGN PHASE</b>				
Swan Lane, Navan	6	1,436,415	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
Pitcher Lane, Kells	4	942,737	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
Brews Hill, Navan	12	1,667,535	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
New Lane, Abbeylands, Navan	4	985,944	Q3 2023	Q3 2024
Ratholdron Court,	26	7,096,354	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	10,247,105	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
<b>Totals</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>22,376,090</b>		
<b>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</b>				
Kells Archdeaconary	20	5,115,855	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	6,882,675	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	563,166	Q1 2023	Q4 2023
Nangle Court, Navan	15	2,961,862	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Church View, Rathmoylon	22	5,476,215	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Haggard Street, Trim	4	931,870	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
<b>Totals</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>21,931,643</b>	<b>Q2 2023</b>	<b>Q1 2024</b>
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Castle Street,	74	23,321,078	Q2 2022	Q1 2024
Farganstown	84	26,325,002	Q3 2022	Q1 2024
<b>Totals</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>49,646,080</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>				
Staleen Park, Donore	21	4,524,250	Q2 2021	Q3 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	10,964,900	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>15,489,150</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>109,442,963</b>		



## Summary of 2021 Approved Funding Submissions – CAS, Part V & Turnkey

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
<b>Totals</b>		<b>108</b>	<b>27,408,595</b>

## Summary of Current Funding Submissions - CAS, Part V & Turnkey

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 Expressions of Interest for Purchase of Lands and/or Turnkey Houses – Social & Affordable Housing

A call for Expressions of Interest was advertised on February 18<sup>th</sup>, for uncommenced residential developments and land for social and affordable housing. Proposals will be evaluated as they are received. Both calls for Expressions of Interest are open until the end of the year. 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 can be found on [www.Meath.ie/news](http://www.Meath.ie/news) and [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie)

## Refurbishment Projects

**St Francis Park (€3,771,374)** – Departmental approval is awaited to proceed to Tender Stage using the restricted procurement procedure. A total of 5 contractors have been shortlisted for the tender stage of the scheme. Estimated start date onsite is Q2 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, which comprises of the refurbishment of 4 units, is due for completion on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The tenants from Phase 1 will move back into their dwellings and the tenants from Phase 2 of the works will be decanted. The scheme also consists of the demolition of 2 additional units which are to be rebuilt over the duration of the 5 phases. Phase 2 is due to commence on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and this consists of the refurbishment of 5 units. The estimated project programme for Phase 2 is 12 weeks.

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

A total of 92 applications for Grant funding to the value of €681,791 was approved at the end of 2021 – carried forward into this year’s budget as works will not be completed until 2022. A further 44 applications to the value of €324,802 has been approved to date in 2022. A total of 136 applications which equates to €1,006,593 of Grant Allocation for 2022 when announced.

#### **Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme**

A total of 52 projects was completed in 2021 under this scheme with a total recoupment of €488,478.00 from the Department.

A submission for 2022 Local Authority Housing Adaptation Grants has been made to the Department requesting approval of €629,301 for 54 adaptation grants and 3 extensions.

#### **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 of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022. For the period from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022, works were completed on 2 vacant units, while 5 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
<b>Ashbourne</b>	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Kells</b>	4	4	0	5	3
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	4	0	3	7	0
<b>Navan</b>	7	3	0	10	0
<b>Ratoath</b>	3	3	1	7	0
<b>Trim</b>	2	4	2	7	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>**7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>

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

## 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

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
<b>Placements at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (Previous Reported Figure)</b>	139 (148 adults)	27 (40 adults 71 children)	166
<b>Placements at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>	145 (156 adults)	29 (41 adults 79 children)	174
Of the households with children, 29 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 find a property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare.			

A total of 3 tenancies was secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

## Social Housing Supports

Some 36 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	6
Approved Housing Bodies	1
RAS	0
HAP	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>

## Community Development

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

The LCDC scheduled for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February did not go ahead due to a lack of a quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March and will receive updates, approve the Sicap end of year report 2021 and the LCDC annual report for 2021.

Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State for Community Development & Charities visited Navan recently and met with some agencies involved in working on projects promoting social inclusion in disadvantaged areas. The Windtown bus initiative was one such project, a collaboration between a number of bodies including the council. It was set up 5 years ago to bring young people from the Windtown area of Navan to Beaufort College secondary school. The distance between Windtown and Beaufort was not sufficient for the students to qualify for the School Transport Service. The scheme has been a huge success with young people remaining in school with attendance at school >90% and minimal absenteeism. The initiative was set up to break the cycle of disadvantage by keeping young people in education.

### **LEADER Programme 2014-2022**

The LAG meeting took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February where the LAG received updates on EOI's received and considered projects recommended by the IEC.

### **Meath Age Friendly**

The alliance met in person recently and discussed progress on the draft strategy and progress on the upcoming older persons convention in May. A presentation was given to Sgt Dean Kerins on his retirement from An Garda Síochána and his contribution to the Age Friendly programme in Meath over the last 10 years.

### **Comhairle na n'Óg**

Dail na nÓg is taking place on Saturday the 26th of March in the Convention Centre Dublin. Meath Comhairle will have 7 members in attendance.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### **National Broadband Plan**

Open eir commenced work in Laytown-Bettystown to carry out underground route proving and clearing of blockages for the NBP. NBI have also sent in details of new pole locations and the general area for underground works in the Dunboyne Area.

### **WIFI4EU**

Ratoath, Oldcastle, Trim are now completed and the WIFI4EU network is live in the town centres. Connections are still required at one site each in Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne.

In Ashbourne can complete works for areas in Broadmeadow, Frederick St and the playground. The CAPEX funding for the WIFI4EU is due to expire in March 2022.

### **Broadband Connection Points**

All BCPs have been upgraded with new furniture and digital audio-visual equipment to improve the range of activities that can take place at the sites. Access Control System installations commenced in February.

### **Funding Schemes**

The Community Grant Scheme is now open for applications until 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### **Carranstown Grant Scheme**

This scheme is now open for applications until 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)**

Minister Humphreys launched ORIS on the 18<sup>th</sup> February and said that the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will see the development of natural amenities such as mountains, lakes, beaches, bogs, walkways, greenways and blueways. The Scheme, which saw its funding increased will place a focus on developing adventure tourism in Rural Ireland. It will support activities such as hiking, mountaineering, kayaking, swimming and cycling, which were especially popular among families throughout the Pandemic.

The projects that will be supported under ORIS are designed to benefit the health and wellbeing of the communities in which they are located.

The Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and project applications will be accepted from the Local Authority under the following Measures:

- **Measure 1** for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €30,000,
- **Measure 2** for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,
- **Measure 3** for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and
- **Project Development Measure** funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large-scale projects.

### **CLÁR scheme**

Minister Humphreys announced the launch of the CLÁR scheme on 24<sup>th</sup> February which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in CLÁR areas.

The programme is funded by the DRCD with Measure 1 delivered by the Local Authorities. Measure 1 has been updated and will support capital interventions that contribute to the enhancement of facilities and amenities which will enhance the rural communities. Measures 2 and 3 are administered directly by the department.

## **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 (TVRS)**

The Department announced today the successful projects under Town & Village scheme 2021.

### **Dunboyne €100,000**

This proposal aims to redevelop Dunboyne Playground, which will provide more age specific play equipment for younger and older age groups and will also include repair of the existing skate park.

### **Enfield €250,000**

Enfield Multi-purpose Hall: The proposal seeks to develop and refurbish St. Patrick's Parish Hall, on the main street in Enfield, into a usable space for the community providing a community facility for a young and diverse community as well as bringing back into use a vacant building.

### **Kilcloon €100,000**

This proposal aims to develop the village square into a fully inclusive, accessible space which caters for all sections of the community and acts as a focal point in the village.

### **Kilmainhamwood €250,000**

Kilmainhamwood Multipurpose Centre: This proposal seeks to refurbish a derelict building in the centre of Kilmainhamwood into a community centre with a multi-purpose space and a remote working space.

## Libraries Services and Arts Office

### Libraries - Overview:

- All libraries fully operational
- Full complement of study spaces available for use.
- Full complement of public access PCs available for use.
- Class visits can be arranged with your local library.
- Events and activities resumed

Library services returned to normal with effect from February 21<sup>st</sup>, but with continued use of sanitisers, screens, appropriate signage and mask wearing (while mandated).

### Ireland Reads Day

Ireland Reads Day was on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February with the aim of making that day the focus of the re-opening by inviting in all adult book clubs, arts groups etc Branches also ran a welcome back story time for Parents and Toddler or young children on Ireland Reads Day.

In addition to programming a range of events staff also recruited high profile media ambassadors, to support the local campaign, and drive interest on social media channels. Fred Cooke, Killian Donnelly, and Gavan Reilly are contributing to the Meath campaign.

### Decade of Centenaries

'Unsettled Territory – The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Meath Brigade) in North Meath 1917-1921' – Meath County Council – New publication - March 2022

Having served Ireland as a diplomatic representative for over forty years in many places around the world and having seen the tricolour raised with dignity and respect, Frank Cogan returns to his roots in north Meath, to the summer of 1954. His memory of an Old IRA commemoration in Ballinlough cemetery, and the still-vivid shock of the discharge of weapons over a rural grave, lead him to explore his family connections with the struggle for statehood a hundred years ago.

His exploration begins with the founding of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion in north Meath in 1917, the decisive 1918 General Election, the tragic deaths of Séamus Cogan and Patrick McDonnell, the Sylvan Park and Drumbaragh ambushes, to reorganisation of the battalion and to Truce and Civil War.

In approaching this complex period in our history, Cogan's work is in keeping with the principle of the *Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023* of remembering appropriately, proportionately, respectfully and with sensitivity. His search leads him to make contact with a grand nephew of 2nd Lieut. Albert Henry Ball who commanded the cyclist platoon of the Norfolk Regiment in Oldcastle on the fateful night Séamus Cogan was killed and who, quite probably, pulled the trigger.

"Major Albert Henry Ball was my great-uncle and ... it is an honour for me to act on behalf of him and his family in firmly and warmly grasping your extended hand in a reciprocal act of friendship, peace and reconciliation."

This important new work takes the reader on a century-long journey from tragedy to reconciliation.

### **Writer in Residence – Brian Gallagher**

Brian Gallagher, an award-winning children's writer will work with two Meath schools to increase pupils understanding of the revolutionary period.

Brian Gallagher [www.briangallagherwriter.com](http://www.briangallagherwriter.com) Brian Gallagher was born in Dublin. He is a full-time writer whose plays and short stories have been produced in Ireland, Britain, and Canada. He has worked extensively in radio and television, writing many dramas and documentaries.

In recent years he has concentrated on historical fiction for older children/young adults, and his novels cover the decade of centenaries period i.e: [\*Across the Divide\*](#), [\*Taking Sides\*](#), and [\*Friend or Foe\*](#)

Brian will work with schools in Navan and Slane over a two-month period, March to April, to help the children explore the history of the revolutionary period in their local areas. Boyerstown NS has been selected to participate, as it is located close to the scene of the 'Battle of Curraghtown', the major event in Meath during the Civil War.

### **Creative Ireland (Meath) – Patrick Reel Exhibition**

Patrick Reel was born in 1935 and lives in Navan, Co. Meath. He opened the Oriel Gallery beside his home and studios in 1976 – it is one of the longest running private galleries in Ireland. Reel's paintings have been included in many notable solo and group shows over the sixty-five years of his artistic practice.

'A Life in Paint: Retrospective Exhibition of Works of Patrick Reel' opens on March 10<sup>th</sup> and will run, in Dublin Castle State Apartment Galleries, until the end of July.

The exhibition will be across four rooms: Portraits (including a large one of De Valera, and one of Mary Lavin), Realism, Abstract/Semi-Abstract (pre-2015) and Abstract/Semi-Abstract (post 2015). Patrick Reel reverted to chiefly abstract work after a gap of around thirty-five years from his Solo Exhibition in the Project Arts Centre in 1973, and arguably some of his best work has been produced in the last ten years or so. There is a strong influence of Celtic/monastic images and the Boyne Valley evident in his paintings, dating back to his work as a designer in Navan Carpets in the 1960s. There are countless examples of well-known artists around the world whose best work occurred or was only recognised in older age.

The event will be linked to Creative Brain Week, and Prof Ian Robertson, Co-Director Global Brain Health Institute, Trinity College Dublin, will be the guest speaker at the launch.

The Creative Ireland (Meath) programme supported Patrick Reel with contributions towards his time and material costs in preparing for this landmark exhibition.

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Beidh imeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2022 1-17 Márta á reáchtáil ag an gcomhairle i mbliana ag úsáid an cur chuige hybrid, le himeachtaí ar líne agus seisiúin beo a bheidh dírithe ar bhunscoileanna agus don phobal araon. Tá an clár seo feabhsaithe i mbliana ag baint úsáid as an mbuiséad an oifigigh Gaeilge. Mar thoradh go bhfuil cúpla srianta fós i bhfeidhm sna scoileanna



agus nach féidir le roinnt scoileanna teacht isteach chuig an leabharlann , tá clár imeachtaí eagraithe ag an oifigeach Gaeilge le haghaidh seisiún scéalaíochta agus imeachtaí spraoi a chur ar fáil go díreach sna scoileanna. Tá iarracht déanta i mbliana chun níos mó imeachtaí a chur ar fáil do na gaelscoileanna sa cheantar chomh maith.



Beidh comórtas filíochta i nGaeilge do dhaoine fásta á lanseoil le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge, agus bhí an t-oifigeach Gaeilge tar éis comhoibriú leis an oifig ealaín chun séasúir scannáin Ghaeilge a thaispeáint san amharclann Ghrianstad ag tosú ar an Aoine 11 Márta leis an scannán *Arracht* agus ag leanúint ar aghaidh ina dhiaidh sin le scannán nua de réir mar a thagann siad amach.

Beidh na himeachtaí seo a leanas ar fáil ar líne trí zoom do na scoileanna ar dtús agus ansin beidh siad ar fáil don phobal ag baint úsáid as na meáin shóisialta an chomhairle -an suíomh gréasáin agus an cainéal YouTube.:

- Tráth na gCeist – oiriúnach do rang 5 & 6
- Candlelit Tales – seisiún scéalaíochta
- Ceardlann cheol traidisiúnta do pháistí
- SEISIÚN BEO SCÉALAÍOCHTA TRÍ GHAEILGE – ar fáil don phobal i leabharlann na hUaimhe ar an Sathairn 12 Márta ag 11:00r.n. Oiriúnach do theaghlaigh agus páistí óga.

**LMETB: Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí** – Tá an oifigeach Gaeilge ag comhoibriú leis an mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí chun imeacht a chur ar fáil i mbliana do na foghlaimoirí fásta atá lonnaithe i Mosney – tá an scéalaí Niall De Búrca curtha in áirithe don dream seo chun scéalta agus cúpla focal i nGaeilge a mhúineadh dóibh, agus beidh seisiún ceoil traidisiúnta ó Chomhaltas ar súil fosta.

Beidh na comórtais seo a leanas á lánseoil le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2022:

- Comórtas Náisiúnta Filíochta do dhaoine Fásta – **Comórtas Filíochta Máire Mhac an tSaoi – comórtas in ómós Máire Mhac an tSaoi le tacaíocht ó Eire Ildánach (An Mhí)**
- Comórtas Léirmheas Leabhar – comórtas atá dírithe do na gaelscoileanna sa cheantar i gcomhoibriú leis an Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga Ráth Chairn/Baile Ghib
- Comórtas dathúcháin seamróige do pháistí á reáchtáil ag an tseirbhís leabharlainne

Tionscnaimh eile: - beidh Tráth na gCeist dátheangach agus pop up Gaeltacht ar fáil don Fhoireann na Comhairle le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge ag am lóin i dteach Buvinda ar an Déardaoin 10 Márta.

- Beidh an tseirbhís leabharlainne agus an oifigeach Gaeilge á fhógairt an Club Leabhar Gaeilge arís le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge chun baill nua a mhealladh agus an club seo a chur ar bun.

## 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 have now commenced on the Slane end.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	RPS progressing the Phase 3 design works
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Option Selection Report published on the 16 <sup>th</sup> February ( <a href="http://www.n2rath2kilmoon.ie">www.n2rath2kilmoon.ie</a> ) Topographical, LiDAR and Utility Services Survey to be appointed in the coming weeks. Awaiting TII approval to proceed to Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation
N52 Grange to Clontail	CPO documents currently been finalised with design consultants, Atkins. Phase 3 deliverables currently going through the TII approval process. Awaiting TII approval to enter Phase 4 (statutory processes).
National Road Resurfacing	<p>Capital Maintenance Schemes - proposed 2022 schemes submitted and are currently being reviewed/assessed by TII</p> <p>N51 Higginstown to Crowinstown –works ongoing– scheme is being progressed in conjunction with Westmeath County Council as per Section 85 Agreement</p> <p>N2 Balrath Cross, N2 Curtis Cross, N2 Kilmoon and N52 Stokes Cross resurfacing scheduled to commence in March 2022 with associated road closures</p> <p>N2 Kellystown to Glassallen, N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiteath and N51 Halltown overlay schemes at design stage</p>

### Non- National Roads 2022 funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €24,992,217 in total

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

Road Works Programme	<p>SMDW 2022 passed by the 6 MDs at the February meetings – tender documents being finalised</p> <p>CIS schemes 2022 – Funding allocation confirmed from DoT. Successful applicants will be notified in the coming weeks</p> <p>LIS schemes 2022 - waiting on confirmation of funding allocation from DRCD</p>
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#### (b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road Scheme	Final account discussions ongoing with contractor. Land acquisition to be progressed.
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R162 Kilberry Phase 2	Works re current phase at Kilberry nearing completion. MCC to meet DOT to discuss next Phase of works to the R162 route.
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**(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional/Local Roads, 2022 Allocation - €337,000 – 9 schemes**

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, 2022 Allocation - €675,000 – 9 schemes**

2021 Schemes	Status
Julianstown Bridge (R132)	Works recommenced 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022
Gibber Bridge (L-7400)	Works recommenced 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Breakey Bridge (L-2805)	Works recommenced 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Ballymacarney Culvert (L-5043)	Works recommenced 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022, road closure required
Ashfield Bridge (L-8029)	Works recommenced 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>2022 DoT Schemes</b>	
Tremblestown Bridge (L-40131)	Consultant currently being tendered
Seymourstown Culvert (L68291)	Consultant currently being tendered
Donaghpatrick Bridge(L7413)	Consultant currently being tendered
Monknewtown Church Bridge (L5606)	Consultant currently being tendered
Tatestown Culvert (L3409)	Tenders currently being assessed for Consultant
Dardistown Bridge (R108)	Tenders being assessed for Consultant.
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Tenders being assessed for Consultant
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Required works being finalised
Rath Bridge (L62151)	Tender documents for consultants being prepared
<b>2022 Own Resources Schemes</b>	
Mullaghmore Bridge (L34031)	Tender documents for consultants being prepared
Kiltale Culvert (L62033)	Tenders currently being assessed for Consultant

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Additional paving to complete snagging/outstanding works arrived on site, anticipated to be completed in March. Tender process closed for construction of Contract 3 (Kennedy Rd bus interchange, Kennedy Plaza works, Paddy O’Brien St junction, Abbey Rd (to include new taxi rank), and Market Sq. - Tender submissions are currently under assessment.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Final construction elements completed (fencing, additional drainage and road reinstatements), snagging works ongoing
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Awaiting a design on the Railway crossing from Irish Rail. Negotiations with potential affected property owners ongoing. Final draft designs for ESB ducting, traffic signals and public lighting underway. Awaiting final revised design for Eir network. Drainage design almost complete. Negotiation process for agreement on replacement extension works on Station House is ongoing
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Fairgreen to Johnstown	Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme – works substantially complete. Periodic inspections and monitoring undertaken by MCC will continue during the trial period. Projected to make Part 8 planning application in Q3 2022 for a proposal to make the trial scheme permanent. The intention is to seek tenders in March for Consulting Engineering Services for delivery of a proposed scheme to planning stage to provide cycle and pedestrian facilities from Convent Rd to Kentstown Rd, and onwards to the Metges Rd junction.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1-R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	Consultant appointed for the delivery of Phase 2 to 4 design works, Works commenced on surveys and route option sifting process. It is anticipated that a draft Feasibility study & Options Selection Report will be prepared by end of March
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 Processes ongoing – Tender request issued to NTA Framework panel on 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Navan GDA Cycle Network – Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Draft tender documents commenced for appointment of Consulting Engineering Services for delivery of Phase 2 to 4 (through to planning stage) services, and this tender is anticipated to commence in March 2022
Navan Public Realm – Academy Street Upgrade	Currently drafting options considerations, preparing to invite Tenders for Consultants

Boyne Greenway -Drogheda to Mornington	The Consultants are currently compiling the additional data and updating reports for submission to An Bord Pleanála by 4 <sup>th</sup> of March
Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme	Letter Of Acceptance issued to preferred Tenderer/Contractor. Construction works envisaged to commence mid-March 2022.
N51 Park & Ride	Tender Assessment Report received from our Consultants. Final consent to advance to construction being sought from the NTA. Once approval received (subject to funding), this will lead to the appointment of the construction Contractor, with works anticipated to commence end of March/start of April 2022
Bus Shelter Enabling Works	Contractor appointed. Works being undertaken in conjunction with the Accessible Bus Stops Works project. Works scheduled to commence in March. Construction expected to take circa 5 months
Accessible Bus Stops Works	Contractor appointed. Works being undertaken in conjunction with the Bus Shelter Enabling Works project. Works scheduled to commence in March. Construction expected to take circa 5 months
Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	Tender for the appointment of Consultants completed. Tender appointment process commenced.

#### **Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes 2022 - 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 submission deadline of 14th March 2022.
R135 Cycle Network Design	Successful pre-start meeting was held with the preferred Tenderer and the appointment process is ongoing. Works envisaged to commence on site late March 2022.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Management Scheme	Detail design underway for initial phase of the scheme.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	Construction works continuing on the Greenway between Gibbstown & Wilkinstown. Tender process complete for section between Castletown & Nobber, appointment process ongoing. Tender documentation currently being prepared for construction of two further Greenway sections, Nobber to Kilmainhamwood and Castletown to Wilkinstown. Site clearance / enabling works currently taking place between Nobber & Kilmainhamwood.
N52 at Calliaghstown, south west of Kells	Following consultation with TII Safety Section, the design is now being finalized. Environmental reports being amended to suit final design and required TII design reports being uploaded to TII Portal in advance of formally submitting Part 8.

## Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	<b>Ashbourne MD</b> – Works in Maple Drive & Deerpark almost complete  <b>Laytown/ Bettystown MD</b> –works commenced on Ballygarth Rd, Julianstown  <b>Trim MD</b> – Rathmolyon Footpath (From Church to Trammon Cross) works ongoing  <b>Navan MD</b> –Silverlawns Estate – Contractor Appointed – Start Date April 2022
<b>Housing Estate 30 km/h Speed Limits</b>	Signage being installed for the additional housing estates which were added to the Special Speed Limit bye-law in December 2021 – new Bye-Law comes into effect on the 4th April 2022.
<b>County Wide Special Speed Limit Review</b>	Transportation staff will be attending the March MD meetings to advise the Members in relation to an upcoming review of the Special Speed Limits within County Meath. The county wide Special Speed Limit review in accordance with the Department of Transport Guidelines is a considerable body of work and a new Bye-law is not expected to be adopted until Q4 2023.

## Planning and Development

### Planning Applications

A total of 240 planning applications was received in the period 01/01/2022 to 24/02/2022. This is compared to 350 in the same period last year.

### Development Contributions

Pre-Audited Development Contribution receipts for the January 2022 were €633,788. This is compared to €572,505 in January 2021. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

### Planning Enforcement

A total of 44 planning enforcement cases has been opened to 25/02/2022.

Stage of Process	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	16
Warning Letter	24
Enforcement Notice	0
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Further Information Requested	0
Closed	4

### Forward Planning

Dates have been set for the five legal challenges being taken against the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 which will be heard in the Commercial Court.

	Case	Start Date	No. of Days
1	JR KILLEGLAND ESTATES LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	24/05/2022	2
2	JR MC GARRELL REILLY HOMES LTD & ANOR -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	31/05/2022	3
3	JR HICKWELL LTD & ANOR -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	15/06/2022	2
4	JR PROTECT EAST MEATH LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL & ORS	17/06/2022	3
5	JR DOLENT PROPERTIES LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	23/06/2022	2
	Total		12

## Economic Development

### Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	12
Trading Online Vouchers Approvals	4
Training Online Courses Attended	162
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	6
Grant Approvals	4

The Local Enterprise Office Meath continues to provide excellent support to businesses throughout the county. End of year statistics released by Enterprise Ireland, MicroFinanceIreland and .ie domains show that in 2021:

- LEO Meath is number two in the country for job gains in the annual employment survey
- Meath is number two in the country for job creation associated with MicroFinance Ireland loans
- Meath is number three in the country for new on-line business registrations.

Some headline figures for the supports and services delivered to local businesses by the LEO Meath in 2021 show:

- **Feasibility, Priming & Expansion Grants** – 33 companies approved for financial assistance, creating 421 new jobs
- **Trading online Vouchers** – 165 companies were assisted to bring their businesses on-line
- **Training** – 2845 individuals and companies availed of training services in 2021
- **Mentoring** – 168 companies availed of 1-to-1 assistance
- **Start-Ups** – 307 new entrepreneurs completed Start Your Own Business training
- **Efficiency** – 30 companies availed of LEAN consultancy in 2021

LEO Meath continues to roll-out the very successful Innovate/Accelerate Europe programme to support local businesses overcome some of the difficulties encountered because of Brexit. This programme was designed and delivered collaboratively by the LEOs in Meath and Louth and the Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency, with funding from the three relevant councils. The third tranche of 21 companies is coming to the end of its programme. Minister English, when he visited LEO Meath recently, commented on the unique and innovative use of technology evident in the programme. Recruitment for the next phase will begin in Q2, 2022.



## Finance Section

### Commercial Rates Waiver

The Government extended the targeted commercial rates waiver to include the period Q1 2022, the process of applying the credit to the qualified customers is virtually complete. At present €1.19m has been credited to 593 customers for Q1 2022.

Commercial Rate Demands for 2022 have issued. 4,533 demands were generated to a value of €47.3m.

### Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Loans Data 1st January 2022 to 23rd February 2022		
<b>Fully Completed Applications Received 2022</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)</b>	<b>4</b>	all relate to 2022 applications
<b>Awaiting Further Information</b>	<b>5</b>	all relate to 2022 applications
<b>Approved by Credit Committee</b>	<b>8</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Refused by Credit Committee</b>	<b>2</b>	all relate to 2021 applications
<b>Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee</b>	<b>2</b>	all relate to 2022 applications
<b>Returned to Customer</b>	<b>2</b>	1 relates to 2021 & 1 to 2022
<b>Active Approvals</b>	<b>34.12</b>	34 Relate to 2021 & 0.12 relate to 2020
<b>Expired</b>	<b>29</b>	12 relate to 2020 applications *
<b>Drawdown by Customer</b>	<b>2</b>	all relate to 2021 applications

Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2022 - 23rd February 2022 and in some cases relate to pre-2022 applications.