



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report
May 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 Meetings

The Council meeting will continue on a hybrid basis in the Solstice Arts Centre for the May Council meeting. The Council Annual Meeting and June Council meeting will take place in person only in the Solstice Arts Centre.

It is intended that MD meetings in May will be undertaken as follows:

Municipal District	Venue	Format
Ashbourne	Ashbourne Civic Offices	Hybrid
Laytown-Bettystown	Duleek Civic Offices	Hybrid
Kells	Kells Civic Offices	Hybrid
Navan	Town Hall, Navan	Hybrid
Ratoath	Dunshaughlin Civic Offices	Hybrid
Trim	Trim Civic	Hybrid

The availability of the hybrid meeting in Duleek is dependent upon the works being completed and tested within the required timeframes.

Ukrainian Refugees

Responsibility for sourcing accommodation for refugees lies with the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), which comes under the remit of the Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The Council has been providing assistance to IPAS in this regard. To date (30th April 2022), a total of 248 Ukrainian Refugees have been accommodated at the Council's Emergency Rest Centre at Mullaghboy, on a temporary basis and all have been relocated to other accommodation facilities within the county.

Communications and Events

Official opening Phase 1 and Sod turning Phase 2 Lagore Lawns, Dunshaughlin



A sod turning ceremony to mark the start of Phase 2 of works in Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin took place on Thursday afternoon led by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, and supported by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Sean Drew, and Deputy Chief Executive, Des Foley.

Phase 1 of the development was completed in November 2021 with a total of 26 houses constructed and included the provision of nine affordable sites to be sold to qualifying individuals and families to build

their own homes. Phase 2 will see the construction of an additional 42 houses and a further five affordable sites.

Regeneration Project, Carrick Street, Kells



Minister Darragh O'Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage was presented with Carrick Street Regeneration Plans on 28 April, 2022 by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr Sean Drew.

As part of this Regeneration Project the Dept gave approval to Meath County Council to regenerate 11 vacant properties. Two properties have already been renovated and occupied and the 9 remaining properties will be rebuilt to provide 11

housing units. In addition, 36 new units will be constructed on lands to the rear of Carrick St and Maudlin St providing a total of 49 new housing units as part of the scheme.

The 49 units are a mix of one bed, two bed and three bed accommodation, reflecting the social housing need in Kells. Sixteen of the units will be designed to Universal Design access standards to allow for future proofing of the properties as people's needs change during the course of their lifetime.

Staff Retirements

The following staff members have retired from the Council in Q1 of 2022:

- Jimmy Young – Transport – Retired 07/01/2022
- Doreen Fitzsimons – Corporate, Customer Service – Retired 14/01/2022
- Teresa Carr – Housing – Retired 31/01/2022
- James Mallon – Finance – Retired 01/02/2022
- Eugene Farrelly – Community – Retired 04/02/2022
- Barbara Smyth – Transport – Retired 16/02/2022
- Treasa Ui Mhairtin – Rathcairn Library – Retired 11/03/2022
- Bernard Gaffney – Transport – Kells MD – Retired 31/03/2022

Corporate Governance

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 2022:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q1 - 2022	55	2	1

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

The following are the Q1 2022 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q1 - 2022	9	2	0

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. The following are the Q1 2022 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q1 - 2022	11

Climate Action and Environment

WASTE

Preparation of a new National Waste Management Plan - Role of Elected Members in the Making of the “National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy”

Local Authorities under the Waste Management Act are responsible for ensuring waste services are provided. Nearly all local authorities have discontinued the direct collection of waste, but they continue to provide a range of services either directly or through shared service arrangements such as waste management planning, enforcement, permitting, trans frontier shipment and the operation of civic amenity sites and bring centres. Local Authorities are required to make a waste plan either individually or collectively to provide a roadmap for management of waste arisings in accordance with EU and National Policy.

The waste plan contains a range of policies and actions aimed at preventing waste, increasing reuse and recycling and ultimately reducing the amount waste directed to disposal.

Elected members have a key role in the making of the waste plan through their engagement with strategic policy committees on behalf of constituents. These engagements impact on the shape of the policies adopted.

While the making of the waste plan is an executive function the support of the elected members is important to the implementation of the policies contained in the plan.

In addition to policy shaping and making role, elected members have the power to make bye-laws and have been instrumental in the making of consistent bye-laws for the presentation of waste across the local authority sector.

The Regional Waste Management Offices will continue to engage with Local Authority Staff and elected members to ensure this waste plan is the best possible plan for the country.

A progress report and timelines in respect of the preparation of the plan is included in correspondence for the May meeting.

GREEN SCHOOLS

22 Meath Schools will receive their Green Flags in May across a range of themes including Litter and Waste, Biodiversity, Energy, Water, Travel, Global Citizenship as part of the Green Schools Programme.

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.

Following a very successful drop off day of Couches at the Councils Recycling Centres in Navan, Kells and Trim and at a privately operated facility in Dunboyne in early March the following are the dates for other waste streams over the coming months:

- Mattresses – May 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th
- Cots, Prams and 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.

Climate Action

A 'Building Capacity' webinar series has been scheduled to run from April to November 2022 and each webinar will run for approximately 2 hours.

The webinars will focus on a range of themes exploring **key topics and issues relevant to the work of Local Authority Climate Action Teams** and the effective delivery of local climate action measures.

This webinar series will cover the following themes:

- Local Authority Climate Action Plans
- Trajectory 2030: Local Authority Mitigation & Energy
- Community Climate Action
- Creative Climate Action
- Climate Action through Heritage & Biodiversity
- Adapting to Climate Change
- Decarbonising Zones
- The Circular Economy

Details in respect of the webinar including registration can be seen at www.lasntg.ie/building-capacity-webinar-series-2022

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent report was published on April 4. It looked at ways to limit and prevent further human-caused global warming.

Here are three findings from '**Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change**':

- Greenhouse gas emissions are still rising. The report details what we need to do to address this.
- We need to go further than cutting emissions – we also need to remove some carbon that is already in the atmosphere.
- If we are going to achieve this, we must leverage nature. Investing in nature-based solutions could provide up to 1/3 of the emissions reductions that we need.

URBACT Project Trim

The URBACT local group met on 28th March and identified 3 missions, which focus on sustainable energy, transportation and public and community spaces - for the URBACT Trim Project. These missions will be incorporated into the draft Integrated Area Plan, due in June 2022.

Air Quality Project Trim:

A preferred contractor has been identified for this project and the Council is currently going through the appointment process.

Housing Services

Capital Programme

- Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
DESIGN PHASE			
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
Pitcher Lane, Kells	4	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
New Lane, Abbeylands, Navan	4	Q3 2023	Q3 2024
Ratholdron Court, Navan	26	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Total	99		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS			
Kells Archdeaconary	22	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2023	Q4 2023
Nangle Court, Navan	15	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
Totals	93		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q2 2022	Q1 2024
Farganstown	84	Q3 2022	Q1 2024
Total	158		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Staleen Park, Donore	21	Q2 2021	Q3 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Total	63		
Overall Total	413		

Meath County Council Approved CAS, Part V & Turnkey

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Turnkey	7
Kells	Turnkey	12
Bettystown	Part V	2
Donacarney	Part V	12
Drogheda	Part V	10
Duleek	Part V	2
Dunboyne	Part V	11
Dunshaughlin	Part V	13
Kells	Part V	6
Kilcock	Part V	12
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Stamullen	Part V	2
Trim	Part V	6
Oldcastle	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	5
Total		103

Funding Requests - CAS, Part V & Turnkey

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Trim	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	4
Navan	Group Housing Scheme	6
Total		10

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 18th February for residential developments not commenced 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 and www.etenders.gov.ie

Refurbishment Projects

- **St Francis Park (€3,771,374)** – Departmental approval has been received to proceed to Tender Stage. A total of 5 no. 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 3rd August 2021 and will be completed across five phases. Phases 2 and 3 of the works commenced on 14th March and the tenants from Phases 2 and 3 of the works have been decanted. The scheme also consists of the demolition of 2 no. additional units which are to be rebuilt over the duration of the 5 phases. The estimated project programme for Phases 2 and 3 is 12 weeks.

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

On 28th March 2022, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advised Meath County Council of its 2022 allocation under the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme for private homes, in the sum of €2,778,750. This allocation is composed of €2,223,000 Exchequer funding (representing 80%), and €555,750 matching local authority funding (representing 20%) to be provided from the council's own resources.

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 120 applications to the value of €829,615 has been approved to date in 2022. A total of 212 applications have been awarded grant aid which equates to €1,511,406 of the 2022 Grant Allocation.

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

- Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District, as of 22nd April 2022, of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted. For the period from 16th March 2022 to 22nd April 2022, works were completed on 5 vacant units, while 9 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	1	0	1	2	0
Kells	5	2	0	5	2
Laytown/Bettystown	0	4	0	4	0
Navan	8	2	2	10	2
Ratoath	2	2	4	8	0
Trim	4	0	0	4	0
TOTALS	20	10	**7	33	4

**Note: Four 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	Estimated Completion
Narrowways, Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Q2/2022
Abbey Road, Commons, Duleek	22	North and East	Q3/2022
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Q2/2022
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Q3/2022
Applewood Court, Beaufort Place, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Q2/2022
Bryanstown Wood, Drogheda	28	Tuath Housing	Q3/2022
Tailteann, Navan	8	Meath Women's Refuge	Q3/2024
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Q4/2022
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Q1/2023
Knightsbrook, Trim	22	Tuath Housing	Q4/2022
Royal Oaks, Enfield	16	Cluid Housing	Q2/2022
Church St., Oldcastle	5	SVDP	Q2/2023
Total Number of Approved Units	323		

Homelessness

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 28 th February 2022 (Previous Reported Figure)	143 (155 adults)	33 (55 adults 80 children)	176
Placements at 31 st March 2022	136 (145 adults)	40 (69 adults 93 children)	176
<p>Of the households with children, 33 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 7 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.</p> <p>Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is Notice to Quit & unable to find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare; leaving Hospital / Treatment / Prison / Refuge; couch surfing</p>			

- 8 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1st to March 31st 2022.

Social Housing Supports

- 181 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st March 2022.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st January to 31st March 2022.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	22
Approved Housing Bodies	34
RAS	0
HAP	77
MTR	3
TOTAL	136

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next meeting is scheduled for 29th April and will receive any new updates.

LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The next LAG meeting is scheduled for Friday 29th April where the LAG will receive updates on EOI's received and consider any projects recommended by the IEC.

Comhairle na n'Óg

A Stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared and will be discussed at the next Comhairle na n'Óg steering group committee with a view to increasing participation levels in the Meath Comhairle and to increase engagement with a wider demography of stakeholders in Meath.

Joint Policing Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd, 2022.

NBP

Work continues in Laytown Bettystown to complete "make ready" works in preparation for NBI's new cable and connections. Preparation meetings have taken place with Transportation and NBI for the commencement of works in the Dunboyne Clonee DA during the summer. Surveying was commenced in April in Trim and Carnaross DAs. This is the first stage of the delivery in these areas. When surveying is completed NBI will then work to develop the plan to install the fibre network, identify poles that need to be replaced and any new poles required.

WIFI4EU

The EU WIFI4EU network is almost complete. One additional access point is planned in Dunshaughlin to complete the network.

The network is showing very good usage with almost 45,000 connections made by up to 7838 individual users to the network in March 2022.

	Sum of # Clients	Sum of Usage (Gb)
Ashbourne	1180	23.1
Dunboyne	1916	111.4
Dunshaughlin	1902	252.2
Kells	10499	339.3
Navan	23631	371.0
Oldcastle	1019	74.5
Ratoath	1105	7.0
Trim	3661	57.8
Grand Total	44913	1236.2

Broadband Connection Points

Bective GAA hosted a TikTok4Teens workshop on the 14th April. The workshop taught the participants about internet/social media safety as well as the skills to produce engaging video content for sharing online. The participants have now been challenged to create their own content that will feature the BCPs or WIFI4EU with a prize for the best video content produced.

Cortown GAA, Kilskyre GAA and Drumree GAA have all applied for Connected Hubs funding 2022 to improve their facilities, such as improving energy efficiency and comfort to facilitate remote working and other community uses of their facilities enabled by the BCP connectivity.

The Community Grant Scheme

The Community Grant Scheme report was presented to the SPC meeting on Monday 11th April who recommended the report be forwarded to the Full Council for approval. It was agreed to re-advertise the scheme (with the exception of The Burial Grounds Grant) to encourage groups who haven't submitted an application to apply. The closing date for submission of applications is Friday 13th of May.

Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme

Applications for the scheme closed on Thursday 7th April, 41 schools applied for the scheme. 20 schools were chosen to receive Herb Patch kits. Judging will begin in May.

Pride of Place Initiative

The Pride of Place Initiative was launched on Tuesday 11th April, closing date for applications is Friday 27th May. Categories will remain the same as 2021. Judging is due to take place during June, July & August.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

30 applications were received by the closing date and these are now being assessed for discussion at the next meeting of the committee.

ORIS

Four applications under Measure 1 and one application under the project development measure have been submitted to the Department for consideration.

LAMA awards

The annual LAMA awards deferred from 2021 were held in person on the 9th April in Santry. 4 projects were shortlisted for the awards, three of which were submitted by the Community Section. The Mosney project was awarded bronze in their category.

Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place awards

The deferred 2021 Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place awards are being held in person and livestreamed in Killarney on May 16th with Bettystown Tidy Towns, Athboy Development Forum and Ratoath Men's Shed entered and hoping for wins on the night.

Meath Public Participation Network

The Meath PPN are holding an online plenary event for member groups on the 27th April 2022. With support from an independent facilitator, the event is an opportunity for member engagement and network development.

Community Response Forum Ukrainian refugees

The response forum that was in place during the pandemic has now been mobilised and is being co-ordinated by the Community Section to assist with the needs of Ukrainian families entering the county.

Libraries Services

My Little Library Book Bags

To help children to navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag of books just for them that can be collected at any library.

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting school in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout the county.

As part of this initiative Meath County Council library service appointed author / illustrator Tatyana Feeney as Writer-in-Residence for the Early Years sector. All preschools in Meath were gifted a copy of her picture book '*Eva and the perfect rain*' and they were invited to take part in a Meath Monster Doodle for Ireland Reads Day. Tatyana has been working with 20 pre-schools bringing stories alive and creating wonderful art with the children. Tatyana will also be working with young children and their families to design Meath's 'My first library card'.

Tatyana Feeney is an author / illustrator originally from North Carolina but now living in Trim, Co. Meath. Her books have been shortlisted for several awards and '*Little Owl's Orange Scarf*' was the winner of the Rotherham Children's Book Award in the Picture Book Category in 2014. Her artwork has been exhibited in Dublin, Belfast, Vienna, Bologna, London and The Hague.

Cruinniú na nÓg

A National Day of Creativity for children and young people, *Cruinniú na nÓg* will take place on Saturday 11th June 2022.

Cruinniú na nÓg is a national initiative that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings, special events and much more.

It is about giving children and young people the opportunity to express themselves through a specially curated programme of cultural and creative activities where they can share their ideas, learn new skills, and have fun!

All events are free of charge, child-centred and activity based. It's a day for lots of doing, making and creating!

Children and young people are invited to take part in a range of events and workshops delivered by Meath's Culture Team.

Meath's programme of events will centre around Ashbourne Library and Cultural Centre with outreach events at *Féile na Gealaí* in *Leabharlann Ráth Chairn*, a strong schools programme and a selection of online events.

Festival highlights include StrongWomen Science - a circus/science show and workshop; Garageland Galaxy- a music festival featuring a live stage, busking stage, online broadcast, and music industry workshops ; Polcaphonc-ceoil, amhráin agus damhsa do dhaoine óga.

Bookings open on Friday May 27th

Library Supports to Schools

The Minister for Education Norma Foley recently announced that €20 million will be provided to recognised primary and post-primary schools for the purchase of books, audio books and other media for the purposes of improving their existing literacy resource banks.

Public libraries already provide a range of supports for school under the Public Library Supports for Schools jointly agreed by the Department of Education and the Department of Rural and Community Development. Public libraries will support the roll-out of the School Library Book Grant through the provision of additional measures and resources, in two steps:

Step one will consist of webinars open to representatives of primary and post-primary schools.

The initial webinars will be held in May and will focus on the practical process of selecting a meaningful book collection for each school, including reading lists developed by libraries and Children's Books Ireland and a section on library services supporting schools, emphasising the benefits of class visits, the range of services available, including classroom sets, teachers' resources, and online resources.

A second set of webinars will take place at the start of the next school year, focusing on maximising the new collection, again linking into library services and the much broader range of resources libraries can offer to support.

In step two, each library service will communicate with the schools within its area, outlining the levels of supports that the individual library service can provide locally, based on local resources. This will begin in the coming school year.

The funding is going directly to the schools, but the initiative recognises that

“Public libraries have a long tradition of providing a wide range of resources, activities and expertise which strongly support primary and post primary schools in developing children's literacy, numeracy, creativity and communication skills. To ensure that this grant funding delivers the best possible reading and personal development outcomes for the students, the public library service is now making additional, specifically tailored support measures and resources available to schools.”

Bealtaine Festival – Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity as we age

The following events are scheduled in libraries for Bealtaine 2022 as libraries welcome borrowers back for in-person and online events.

- Irish Nature Drawing Workshops with artist Grace Haynes (4 part course) **ONLINE** on the following Fridays from 10.30 - 11.30am. Fridays 6th/ 13th/ 20th and 27th. 30 spaces available. Person should be available for the 4 week in total if at all possible. Bookings to ymorrisson@meathcoco.ie.
- Irish Singer/Songwriter Michael Brunnock performs in **Dunshaughlin Library** on Thursday 12th May from 7 – 8.30pm and in **Ashbourne Library** on Wednesday 18th May from 11am

– 12.30pm. Bookings will be taken by the hosting libraries via their branch emails and phone numbers.

- Big Book Quiz – the annual ‘get together’ for library book clubs and book clubs that use library stock will be held in Buvinda on Wed 18th May from 7pm to 8.30pm.
- An **ONLINE** interview with sports commentator George Hamilton on his recently published book *The Nation Holds Its Breath* suitably titled owing to those fabulous weeks in June 1990 when Ireland’s greatest football team almost got into the semi-finals of the World Cup! Tuesday 24th May 7.30pm.
- Willow Basket Making with Helena Golden. **Navan Library** on Monday 30th May from 1.30pm – 5.00pm. **Oldcastle Library** on Tuesday 31st May from 1.30pm to 4.45pm. 8 places per event.

Decade of Centenaries

Visual artist Leah Hilliard was one of the recipients awarded the ‘Meath County Council Cultural Services Kathleen McKenna Award’ in 2021. This award is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012 - 2023 initiative.

Leah Hilliard now announces the premiere of ‘KATHLEEN’ celebrating the remarkable story of Meath-born activist and journalist Kathleen Napoli McKenna

Kathleen Napoli McKenna (1897-1988) born in Oldcastle, Co. Meath, was a witness and a contributor to one of the most significant times in Ireland’s history. In her work producing the Irish Bulletin for the Propaganda Department of the first Dáil, she showed bravery, resourcefulness, and dexterity. During the War of Independence, the London treaty negotiations, and the Civil War, she had confidential and volatile information at her fingertips. She was twenty-two.

‘KATHLEEN’ by award-winning Irish artist and educator [Leah Hilliard](#) celebrates her remarkable story. A bespoke textile work is realised on a billboard located at the roundabout on Railway Street, Navan, with a QR code linking to a video spoken-word piece. Digitisation of the original textile work draws attention to the evidence of the human hand; ‘KATHLEEN’ is an individual act of making, just as the Irish Bulletin was.

“The Irish Bulletin was about to carry to the world authentic news of our country. With an air of self-satisfaction [Arthur] Griffith said I was to be its godmother. During the twenty terror-filled months in which, on point of honour, its publication never once failed. I guarded my godchild with jealous affection.” - Kathleen Napoli McKenna

Leah Hilliard said, “I was particularly struck by the references to the skill and dexterity of Kathleen Napoli McKenna in laying out type. So much of the labour and success of campaigning involves intense and repetitive tasks that not only reinforce the bonds of the cause but also foster the comradeship needed to sustain commitment. The back of a piece of embroidery can be as revealing as the front; symbolising the way in which history often doesn’t give the full story of a campaign.”

Leah Hilliard’s work is based in performance, engaging with public space, and involves spoken word, fabric, and installation. With a background in event management and public art commissioning, her

practice explores her long-standing interests in technology and society, particularly in relation to the lives of women and the ways in which women create formal and informal networks for the transfer of information.

The billboard on Railway Street will be displayed between 28 April - 19 May 2022.

Transportation Services

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Construction Works re Earthworks, Drainage, & Utilities to offline sections of the mainline and side roads ongoing. Online construction works on the Slane end of the scheme are ongoing.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	RPS progressing the Phase 3 design documents, EIAR documents
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	Topographical, LiDAR and Utility Services Survey Contractor expected to be mobilised on site in the coming weeks. Ground investigation competition to be ran in the coming months. Awaiting TII approval to proceed to Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation
N52 Grange to Clontail	Approval of Phase 3 deliverables is ongoing. On receipt of necessary approvals from TII, MCC will commence Phase 4 (statutory processes).
National Road Resurfacing	Capital Maintenance Schemes - TII approval of N51 Ongenstown and N3/R147 Roundabout Kells maintenance scheme received. N51 Higginstown to Crowinstown – Scheme now substantially complete N2 Balrath Cross, N2 Curtis X and N52 Stokes X resurfacing complete. N2 Kilmoon resurfacing postponed pending resurfacing requirements review N2 Kellystown to Glassallen, N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath and N51 Halltown overlay schemes at design stage

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

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

Road Works Programme	<p>Phase 1 - Recycling Overlay and Surface Dressing - Tenders received & Tender Report approved. Process of awarding Tender commenced.</p> <p>Phase 2 - Surface Dressing Tenders received and Tender Report being prepared.</p> <p>Phase 3 - Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing Tenders received and Tender Report issued.</p> <p>Phase 4 - HRA942 - Tenders received and Tender Report being prepared.</p> <p>Verge Cutting - Tenders received and Tender Report approved.</p> <p>FWD - Tenders received and Tender Report approved. Tender award commenced.</p> <p>CIS schemes - Schemes measured, assessed and cost estimates prepared.</p> <p>LIS schemes - Funding allocation received (DRCD). Schemes measured, assessed and cost estimates prepared.</p>
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2.(b) Strategic Regional & Local Rds & Specific Improvement Grant

R156 Jenkinstown to Mullagh	Review of previous 2012 Part 8 design underway re current design standards and environmental requirements.
R162 Kilberry Phase 2	Progressing detailed design for next Phase of works.

2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Allocation for 2022 €337,000 – 9 schemes

2021 Schemes	Road	Status
Newgate	R147	Works ongoing

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads - Allocation for 2022 €675,000 – 9 schemes

2021 Schemes	Status
Julianstown Bridge (R132)	Works complete
Gibber Bridge (L-7400)	Works complete
Breakey Bridge (L-2805)	Works complete
Ballymacarney Culvert (L-5043)	Works complete
Ashfield Bridge (L-8029)	Works complete
2022 DoT Schemes	
Tremblestown Bridge (L-40131)	Consultant appointed
Seymourstown Culvert (L68291)	Consultant appointed
Donaghpatrick Bridge (L7413)	Consultant appointed
Monknewtown Church Bridge (L5606)	Consultant appointed
Tatestown Culvert (L3409)	Consultant appointed
Dardistown Bridge (R108)	Consultant appointed
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Consultant appointed
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Details of the required works are being finalised
Rath Bridge (L62151)	Contractor in the process of being appointed
2022 Own Resources Schemes	
Mullaghmore Bridge (L34031)	Contractor in the process of being appointed
Kiltale Culvert (L62033)	Consultant appointed

2.(e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – Allocation for 2022 €535,000 – 6 schemes

L-6219 Newtownmoyaghy road edge	Procurement of Consultant to review options and complete environmental reports being finalised
R195 - Oldcastle	Flood alleviation works – substantially complete

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	First delivery of pavement materials arrived on-site. Contractor appointed for Contract 3 (Abbey Rd taxi rank, Paddy O'Brien St, Kennedy Rd, Market Sq, Trimgate St/ Kennedy Rd junction & Kennedy Plaza and bus interchange.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Final snagging works elements being undertaken. Stage 3 Road Safety Audit to be undertaken. Project close-out and final account documentation being prepared.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Meeting held with Irish Rail re level crossing and agreement reached for temporary solution, Irish Rail to grant licence to MCC to enable works. Final designs for ESB ducting, traffic signals and public lighting complete. Meeting arranged with Eir to agree arrangements for dealing with

	existing network. Designers have commenced final drafts of Tender Pack for Phase 1 of scheme. Negotiation process for agreement on replacement extension works on Station House is ongoing.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - Fairgreen to Johnstown	Convent Road cycle and pedestrian trial ongoing. Traffic (pedestrian and cycle counts) scheduled to be undertaken next month.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1-R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	Consultant (Atkins) has provided all deliverables with respect to Phase 2 of the design works, Feasibility Study & Options Selection Report. Awaiting confirmation from NTA to progress to Phase 3.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1-R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	Appointment process for Consulting Engineering Services for Phases 2 to 4, Route Option Selection, Preliminary Design and Statutory Processes almost complete. Commencement meeting to take place with the appointed Consultant during 1 st week of May. Phase 2 design works to commence immediately after.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	The process of issuing a Tender competition for Consultancy Engineering Services for Phases 2 to 4 is anticipated for early May.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	Part 8 Planning process is on ongoing, submissions and observations can be made on or before 10 th May 2022.
Boyne Greenway -Drogheda to Mornington	Statutory Public Consultation on Significant Further Information underway.
Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme	Construction works progressing on site
N51 Park & Ride	Contractor appointed, and currently mobilising to site. Construction to commence 26 th April, and to take circa 8 months
Bus Shelter Enabling Works	Shelters erected in Kells, Martry, and Navan (R147 southbound). Investigative works of an existing gas main undertaken in Carnaross. Proposed boundary wall adjustment agreed with landowner, Deed of dedication being drafted.
Accessible Bus Stops Works	Works in Kells town (R147 southbound) complete. Works commencing at Navan Hospital and Sion Road. Being carried out in conjunction with the Bus Shelter Enabling Works
Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	The appointed Consulting Engineers, CSEA, for Phases 2 to 4, commenced works in early April. It is envisaged that a number of surveys shall take place in May and consultations with stakeholders to follow soon after.
Eastham Road Cycle facilities	Jacobs Engineering appointed for the Design Contract. Route option assessment to commence immediately.
Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway	Part 8 process ongoing. Ground penetration radar and topographical survey companies undertaking site works. This information will assist in advancing the detailed design stage.

4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes 2022 - Funding other than primarily DoT & NTA

Athboy Town Centre Project	Part 8 Report to be brought to the MD in May 2022.
R135 Cycle Network Design	Public Liaison meeting held with interested residents/stakeholders. Pre-start meeting held with Contractor 27 th April, works starting on site week commencing 3 rd May 2022.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	Construction works continuing on the Greenway between Gibbstown & Wilkinstown. GLAS Civil Engineering Limited appointed to construct the Castletown to Nobber section, commenced week of 11 th April 2022. Tender documentation being prepared for construction of two further Greenway sections, Nobber to Kilmainhamwood and Castletown to Wilkinstown.

LDR1b Trim Rd to Kilcarn M3 Link Rd, Navan	2019 Part 8 route being reviewed with regard to amended zoning in the area, following the adoption of the new CDP 2021-2027.
Dunboyne Industrial Estate Link to R157	Consultants assessing options and carrying out environmental reports in advance of expected Part 8 later this year.

5. Other Actions/ Projects

Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	<p>Ashbourne MD –Works in Maple Drive & Deerpark Phase 2 complete. Tenders for Deerpark Phase 3 and Clonalvy have been assessed and contracts about to be awarded.</p> <p>Laytown/ Bettystown MD –works on Ballygarth Rd, Julianstown complete. Works in Millrace about to commence.</p> <p>Trim MD –Tender for Blackfriary Estate, Griffin Park & Dunderry Road issued on 22 April.</p> <p>Kells MD – Works in Priory Gate Athboy complete. Tenders for Mount Dutton Estate Kells currently being assessed</p> <p>Ratoath MD –Contractor for Dunshaughlin Main St has been appointed. Works due to commence in early May</p> <p>Navan MD – Tender for Clonmaggaden Road and Woodview to be issued in May.</p>
PLEEP Project	<p>Letters have issued to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers for the Works Contract and the anticipated date for award of the Tender is May 2022. Arup RPS JV have been appointed for the role of Consultant for stages (iv) – (v). The duration of the Works contract is 30 months with a 24 month maintenance period. The overall project value is €50m.</p>

Planning and Development

Planning Applications

531 planning applications were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 25/04/2022 compared to 784 in the same period in 2021.

Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts for March 2022 were €3,939,421. This is compared to €3,680,7431 in March 2021. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Planning Enforcement

79 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 22/04/2022.

	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	21
Warning Letter	17
Enforcement Notice	22
Referred for Legal Proceedings	8
Further Information Requested	0
Closed	19

Economic Development

Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	18
Trading Online Vouchers	7
Training Online Courses Attended	140
Meath Business Owners Network	16
MFI Webinar	30
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	10

Finance Section

Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Loans Data 1st January 2022 to 25th April 2022		
Fully Completed Applications Received 2022	36	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	7	all relate to 2022 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	all relate to 2022 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	23	15 relates to 2022, 8 relate to 2021 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	5	3 relates to 2022, 2 relate to 2021 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	9	all relate to 2022 applications
Returned to Customer	2	1 relates to 2022, 1 to 2021
Active Approvals	37.12	22 Relate to 2021, 0.12 relate to 2020
Expired	17	all relate to 2021 applications
Drawdown by Customer	6	1 relates to 2022, 5 relate to 2021 applications

Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2022 - 25th April 2022 and in some cases relate to applications pre 2022.

Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases