

# Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Mid-Term Review  
August 2022



comhairle chontae na mí  
*meath county council*

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## 1. Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 as amended by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, local authorities are required to prepare a Traveller Accommodation Programme to ensure that the housing needs of the Travellers normally resident in the administrative area are met accordingly. The programme is prepared by the local authority and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Section 17 (1) (a) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, provides that a relevant housing authority shall review its accommodation programme at least once in each three-year period, or at such time as directed by the Minister. Circular 28/2022 requires local authorities to commence a mid-term review of the current TAPs to be carried out no later than 31 August 2022.

The form a review should take is a matter for each local authority, having regard to Section 21(3) of the 1998 Act.

## 2. Consultation

As recommended under Circular 28/2022, Meath County Council published its intention to commence a mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and seek submissions from the public.

The Draft Mid Term Review is available for public inspection during opening hours 9.00am to 5.00pm from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at the following Civic Offices;

- Meath County Council Civic Offices, Buvinda House, Navan, C15 Y291.
- Kells Municipal District, Kells Civic Office, Headfort Place, Kells, A82 W2R3.
- Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, Duleek Civic Office, Main Street, Duleek, A92 R9KW.
- Ratoath Municipal District, Dunshauglin Civic Office, Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin A85 XK20.
- Trim Municipal District, Trim Civic Office, Mornington House, Summerhill Road, Trim C15 P2HE.
- Ashbourne Municipal District, Ashbourne Civic Office, 1 -2 Killegland Square Upper, Ashbourne, A84 NY73.

A copy of the Draft Mid Term Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is also available on the Meath County Council website [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie).

Submissions to the Draft Mid Term Review Traveller Accommodation Programme are invited and should be made:

- in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291
- emailed to [customerservice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@meathcoco.ie) Subject: Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme or

The latest date for submissions is 16.00hrs on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

A copy of the Draft review was circulated to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and Meath Traveller Workshop, who also made the Mid Term Review available for inspection at their offices.

### **3. Report on Submissions**

To be entered after the closing date for receipt of submissions

### **4. Traveller Accommodation in Meath County Council Development Plan 2021-2027**

The Meath County Development Plan came into effect on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 and contains a specific objective to implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

**To implement the 'Meath County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024' and any subsequent programme adopted during the lifetime of the Development Plan**

Under section 3.8.8.2 (Traveller Accommodation) the County Development Plan states:

"The Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 outlines the Council Policy regarding the provision of Traveller Accommodation. It sets out the range of social housing supports for Travellers including standard Local Authority Housing, Approved Housing Body Housing, Group Housing and Halting Site Bays.

Provision has been made for two Group Housing Schemes in Navan consisting of eight and six-unit schemes and one Group Housing Scheme in Trim consisting of six units.

The Programme also identifies that the existing Halting Site at St. Francis Park in Navan is under-utilised. The Council is presently seeking funding from the DHPLG for the refurbishment of this site which will allow for full occupancy."

## 5. Review of Meath County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2022

The current programme for Meath covers the period from the 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2024 and was adopted by the Elected Members on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

On the 30th November 2018, an Annual Count of Traveller families and their accommodation position was undertaken. In terms of Accommodation Type, 343 families were in a form of tenancy (social/private), while 76 households were deemed to be sharing with families, and a further 24 households were recorded as residing on unauthorised sites.

Meath County Council assessed the accommodation requirements of the Traveller Community and prepared the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 based on this assessment. The programme is predominantly driven by standard social housing provision, either through new units or casual vacancies as they arise during the delivery period, in line with Meath County Council's Allocation Scheme. Standard social housing includes housing provided by either the Local Authority or AHBs directly, or through long term leasing arrangements. Meath County Council provides a range of social housing supports/options for Travellers including:

- Standard Local Authority/AHB Housing
- Group Housing
- Halting Site Bays
- Housing First Tenancies
- Local Authority Adaptation Works
- Improvement Works in Lieu of Housing
- HAP
- RAS
- Long Term Leasing
- Mobility Aid Housing Grant Scheme
- Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
- Housing Aid for Older People

Works under the Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme (LAAWS) have been included in the Programme's projected output as an important means to facilitate Traveller families in their existing Local Authority homes, and when a household member has a disability, and specific requirements to the property are required as a result.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme sets out annual targets as follows:

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	TOTALS
Standard Social Housing Casual Vacancies / New Build/Acquisition/AHB	9	9	9	9	9	45
Group Housing Schemes Navan (2021 & 2024) Trim (2023)	0	0	8	6	6	20
Halting Sites						

St Francis Park Refurbishment* Casual Vacancies	6*	0	1	1	1	9
Housing First Tenancies Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan	1	0	1	0	1	3
LAAWs MCC Housing People with a Disability Strategy	3	3	3	3	3	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>92</b>

This midterm review focuses on the first three years of the 2019-2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme. The table below sets out annual targets and actual delivery per year under the Programme.

**Summary Year 1 -3 PROGRESS REPORT (1<sup>ST</sup> July 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022)**

	YEAR 1 TARGET	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 PROGRESS	YEAR 3 TARGET	YEAR 3 PROGRESS	3 YEAR TARGET	3 YEAR PROGRESS
Standard Social Housing Casual Vacancies/ New build/ Acquisition/ AHB	9	14	9	37	9	15	27	66
Group Housing Schemes Navan (2021 & 2024) Trim (2023)	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	0
Halting Sites St Francis Park Refurbishment* Casual Vacancies	6	2	0	8	1	0	7	10
Housing First Tenancies Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2
LAAWs MCC Housing People with a Disability Strategy	3	4	3	4	3	5	9	13
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>92</b>

## **Standard Social Housing**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme is predominantly driven by standard social housing provision either through new units or casual vacancies as they arise. Standard local authority housing may be either houses provided directly by Meath County Council, by an Approved Housing Body (AHB) or through long term leasing.

## **Group Housing Schemes**

Meath County Council is actively seeking to identify suitable sites in Navan and Trim for potential group housing schemes.

## **Halting Sites**

### *Refurbishment of St. Francis Park*

Meath County Council has progressed the development of St. Francis Park, Navan in consultation with the Traveller families residing there. In March 2022, Meath County Council received Stage 3 Approval for the refurbishment programme. In June 2022, tenders were sought for the scheme and at time of commencement of this Mid-Term Review tenders are being assessed. It is intended works on site will commence in Q3 2022.

On completion, the development will consist of the following:

- a) demolition of 14 no. existing bay units and existing caretaker's building
- b) construction of 10 no. dwellings with permanent caravan parking bays
- c) closure of the existing St. Francis Park entrance and access road on Ratholdren Road and provision of a new entrance and access road from Tailteann Drive
- d) redesign of landscaping within the site boundary
- e) all associated site development and associated ancillary works. The proposed housing units will comprise of 1 no. 2-bed single storey dwelling, 1 no. 3-bed single storey dwelling, 2 no. 4 bed-single storey dwellings and 6 no. 4-bed two storey dormer dwellings.

During the construction phase, it has been agreed with the families currently resident in St. Francis Park that they will be temporarily accommodated off site by Meath County Council.

## **Housing First Tenancies**

Housing First tenancies were included in the Traveller Accommodation Programme in recognition of the need to end the cycle of long-term homelessness for Travellers through the provision of appropriate health and welfare supports in tandem with accommodation. In partnership with Peter McVerry Trust housing first tenancies have been successfully secured by members of the Traveller community.

Under Housing for All Meath County Council has an annual target for Housing First tenancies and the designation of clients for Housing First through the Council's Homeless Action Team will continue to support members of the Traveller Community who fall into homelessness and require the wrap around supports delivered through the Housing First Model.



## LAAWs

Works under the *Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme* (LAAWS) were included in Traveller Accommodation Programme's projected output as an important means to facilitate Traveller families in their existing Local Authority homes, and when a household member has a disability, and specific alterations to the property are required as a result.

## 6. Monitoring and Implementation

Targets under the Traveller Accommodation Programme are monitored on an annual basis with progress report presented to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Progress Reports were presented to the LTACC for:

- YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT (1<sup>ST</sup> July 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020)
- YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT (1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

The Draft Year 3 Progress Report (01<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022) is used to inform this Mid Term review and will be formally presented to the LTACC in Q3 2022.

The LTACC met as follows:

- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020
- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the number of scheduled meetings was reduced.

## 7. Conclusion

Progress has been made during the first 3 years in delivering Meath County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme. In overall terms, the target for years 1-3 of the Traveller Accommodation Programme have been exceeded with a 173% achieved.

Further analysis shows:

- Standard Local Authority Housing 3-year target has been exceeded (244%). With a significant increase in local authority allocations completed in Year 2. In 2022, Meath County Council introduced Choice Based Lettings and members of the Traveller Community on the approved housing list for standard local authority housing have access to the Choice Based Letting system. It is anticipated the overall 5 Year target will be met.
- Housing First 3-year target has been achieved and it is anticipated the overall 5 Year target will be met.
- LAAWS 3-year target has been exceeded (144%) and it is anticipated the overall 5 Year target will be met.
- Casual vacancies 3 - year target achieved (143%). This target is dependent on casual vacancies arising. Where casual vacancies arise on halting sites or group housing schemes, they will be retained for Traveller applicants. It is anticipated the overall 5 Year target will be met.
- The redevelopment of St. Francis Park had been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is expected to commence on site in Q3 2022. It is anticipated the redevelopment works will be completed in time of the current TAP.

The development of new group housing schemes in Navan and Trim remains a challenge. The identification of sites is ongoing, and the Council will continue to pursue suitable sites in the next two years of the Plan. Land availability and increasing costs are factors and any sites identified will be subject to the Four Stage Approval process by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Meath County Council is committed to the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and will continue to work with all stakeholders in meeting the identified accommodation needs of the Traveller Community in the County. The Council has and will continue to engage with Travellers in relation to their accommodation requirements through the Council's Social Worker and Housing Officers who assess Traveller's accommodation needs as social housing applications are received.

The Mid Term Review of the Meath County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 will be presented to the Meath LTACC and notified to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Circular 28/2022.

**Annual Progress Reports**

- Year 1 2019-2020
- Year 2 2020-2021
- Year 3 2021-2022 (draft)

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**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019-2024**

**YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT (1<sup>ST</sup> July 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020)**

**1. EXTRACT FROM TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019-2024 (ANNUAL TARGETS)**

	<b>YEAR 1 TARGET</b>	<b>YEAR 1 PROGRESS</b>	<b>COMMENTRY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standard Social Housing</li><li>• Casual Vacancies/New Build/Acquisition/AHB</li></ul>	9	14	The figure comprises of 9 Meath Council and 5 Approved Housing Body allocations. In addition to direct allocations, 13 applicants from the Traveller community had their accommodation needs fulfilled through HAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group Housing Schemes</li><li>• Navan (2021 &amp; 2024)</li><li>• Trim (2023)</li></ul>	0	0	Site identification ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Halting Sites</li><li>• St Francis Park Refurbishment*</li><li>• Casual Vacancies</li></ul>	6*	2	Two bays refurbished in St Patrick's Park St Francis Park design plans revised during the period to reflect expressed wishes of residents and requirements of Department. As a consequence, project timelines continue to be extended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing First Tenancies</li><li>• Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan</li></ul>	1	1	Housing First tenancy commenced March 2020. A further 2 clients from the Traveller Community have been designated by the Homeless Action Team as Housing First Clients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LAAWs</li><li>• MCC Housing People with a Disability Strategy</li></ul>	3	4	Four projects completed to a combined value of €19,640, comprising shower room conversions, ramps and installation of stair lift
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	

**2. FURTHER ACTIVITY FOR REPORTING PERIOD**

**COVID-19**

An Isolation Plan was devised and subsequently implemented, in response to Covid-19, and the designation of homeless persons and members of the Traveller Community as vulnerable persons. A number of units within stock have been set aside, and fully furnished, for the purposes of isolation, as and when the need arises.

In addition, the Housing Section reviewed its Traveller specific accommodation and identified St Patrick's Park Halting site, Navan, as a priority site that required certain additional measures to lessen

the risk of Covid-19 infection. Eight temporary WC (toilet and wash hand basin) were installed for the unauthorised households currently located on the green area, who did not have direct access to sanitary facilities. Funding was secured for this measure (€51,199) from the Traveller Accommodation Unit, Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

### **St Patrick's Park Unauthorised Encampments (15 Families)**

There has been a concerted effort on behalf of the Housing Section in 2020 to identify a strategy to deal with the overcrowding situation and bring the matter to an amenable resolution for all parties concerned.

An internal committee was established, comprised of the relevant senior staff, so as to ensure a resolute focus was maintained. This committee has met on a monthly basis since January 2020, with a clear strategy identified, and preparations well advanced for implementation in the latter half of 2020

### **Social Work Interventions**

Regular social work interventions has continued throughout the period, including advocating on behalf of clients, collaborating with various agencies, referrals in and out, attending meetings with various stakeholders, home visits and liaising with internal staff regarding HAP, emergency accommodation, RAS, and rents. Unfortunately, a number of young suicides occurred, with support provided to families in their grief journey.

High priority cases assisted included immediate accommodation concerns, familial interpersonal relationships, addiction, homeless, feuding, suicidal clients, mental health interventions and elderly clients experiencing child-to-parent abuse.

Considerable time has naturally been dedicated to the current pandemic. Since March 2020, all families residing in caravans / mobile homes who may be advised to self-isolate by their GP due to COVID-19, were contacted by phone and informed of MCC's Isolation Plan. All residents (both legal and illegal) on St. Patrick's Park and St. Francis Park Halting Sites, along with families residing in caravans within group housing schemes were contacted by phone. Additionally, liaising frequently with the public health nurse for Travellers ensured outreach services and plans were in place.

Working in collaboration with Meath Travellers Workshop, Pavee Point, Irish Traveller Movement, Exchange House, Community Gardai and HSE proved essential in ensuring a wraparound service was provided to families in the high-risk category. 100% of families or individuals identified with either having contracted COVID-19 or advised to self-isolate due to being a close contact were offered alternative temporary accommodation, however all expressed a preference to remain at home, mainly due to fear of rejection within their community.

### **Maintenance Expenditure**

Including routine maintenance and waste removal to the value of €18,438 was expended in 2019 in the upkeep of Meath County Council's two halting sites

### **Equality & Action Plan**

A number of actions within this Plan were considered and advanced under the headings of Data Capture, Participation & Engagement and Policy Review

### **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

The committee met twice during the period of Year 1. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, , scheduled meetings for March and June 2020 were postponed.

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**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019-2024**

**YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT (1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021)**

**1. Extract from Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 (Annual Targets):**

	<b>YEAR 2 TARGET</b>	<b>YEAR 2 PROGRESS</b>	<b>COMMENTARY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Standard Social Housing</li> <li>▪ Casual Vacancies / New Build / Acquisition / AHB</li> </ul>	9	37	This figure comprises of Meath County Council & Approved Housing Body units. Three units were acquired directly by Meath County Council as a homeless preventative measure for three separate Traveller households (total cost of 3 units - €741,551)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Housing Schemes</li> <li>• Navan (2021 &amp; 2024) Trim (2023)</li> </ul>	0	0	Two potential sites identified (Navan)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Halting Sites</li> <li>▪ St Francis Park Refurbishment*</li> <li>▪ Casual Vacancies</li> </ul>	0	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ *Approval received from Department of Housing to proceed to Part 8 Planning Process (Dec. 2020) (€3,771,374). Part 8 published during the period 6<sup>th</sup> April-21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. CE Planning Report presented to Navan Municipal District on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021</li> <li>▪ 8 casual vacancies on St Patrick's Park Halting Site were filled</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing First Tenancies</li> <li>▪ Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan</li> </ul>	0	1	One client from the Traveller Community was accommodated through Housing First
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAWs</li> <li>• MCC Housing People with a Disability Strategy</li> </ul>	3	4	Four projects completed to a combined value of €39,950 comprising of shower room conversions, stair lift and stair rails
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	

**2. Further Activity for Reporting Period**

**Covid 19**

Meath County Council's Isolation Plan, in response to Covid-19, and the designation of homeless persons and members of the Traveller community as vulnerable persons, continued to be in operation during Year 2. A number of units within stock remained set aside and fully furnished for the purposes of isolation, as and when the need arose.

Isolation Units were not availed of within the relevant timeframe of this report by members of the Traveller community.

## St. Patrick's Park Unauthorised Encampments

The identified strategy to resolve the unauthorized encampments on St Patrick's Park halting site involved two aspects, as follows:

- I. The transfer of a number of families currently in bays to standard social housing (which they have requested), and backfill their bays with families who are currently on the green area. 'Double Up' facility utilised where appropriate, and in agreement with families concerned.
- II. Measures to be put in place to safeguard the residents of St Patrick's Park from any further unauthorised encampments within the site, in order to prevent the overcrowding that has happened, and the impact on quality of life as a result.

The identified strategy became operational in October 2020, with the first transfers taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> October, and periodically thereafter up to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

In total, 21 families on site were subject to the strategy that was implemented, with a summary of same detailed below:

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
1. Families Transferred from Bays to Standard Housing	8
2. Families Transferred from Green Area to Bays	8
3. Families on Green Area allocated Standard Housing	3
4. Families on Green Area placed in Emergency Accommodation	2
<b>TOTAL FAMILIES</b>	<b>21</b>

The composite cost associated with the resolution of the unauthorised encampments in St Patrick's Park was €310,608. A breakdown of same is provided below:

DESCRIPTION	EXPENDITURE €
1. Pre-Let Repairs on Bays (x2)	30,441.00
2. Pre-Let Repairs on Casual Vacancies (x7)	163,558.00
3. Security/Movement of Mobile Homes	83,059.00
4. Provision and Installation of Boulders	15,000.00
5. Provision and installation of automatic Bollards at Site Entrance	18,550.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>310,608.00</b>



## **Social Work Interventions**

Regular social work interventions have continued throughout the period, including advocating on behalf of clients, collaborating with various agencies, referrals in and out, attending meetings with various stakeholders, home visits and liaising with internal staff regarding HAP, emergency accommodation, RAS, and rents. Interventions have also extended to virtual communications with many assessments and meetings with clients moving to Zoom, Teams etc. which has empowered clients in their own journeys.

High priority cases assisted included immediate accommodation concerns, familial interpersonal relationships, addiction, homeless, feuding, suicidal clients, mental health interventions and elderly clients experiencing child-to-parent abuse.

Considerable time has naturally been dedicated to the current pandemic. Since March 2020, all families residing in caravans / mobile homes who may be advised to self-isolate by their GP due to COVID-19, were contacted by phone and informed of MCC's Isolation Plan. All residents (both legal and illegal) on St. Patrick's Park and St. Francis Park Halting Sites, along with families residing in caravans within group housing schemes were contacted by phone. Additionally, liaising frequently with the public health nurse for Travellers ensured outreach services and plans were in place.

Working in collaboration with Meath Travellers Workshop, Pavee Point, Irish Traveller Movement, Exchange House, Community Gardaí and HSE proved essential in ensuring a wraparound service was provided to families in the high-risk category. 100% of families or individuals identified with either having contracted COVID-19 or advised to self-isolate due to being a close contact were offered alternative temporary accommodation, however all expressed a preference to remain at home, mainly due to fear of rejection within their community.

## **Halting Site Maintenance Expenditure**

A total of €34,870.17 was spend on routine maintenance and skips on St Patricks Park, Navan & St Francis Park, Navan from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

In addition to the routine maintenance and expenditure a further €85,751.33 was spent as follows:

- €14,805.15 on pre-let works to 14 St Patricks Park
- €19,746.28 on pre-let works to 15 St Patricks Park
- €51,199.87 on the installation of toilets and all associated site works at St Patricks Park

A submission for funding was made to the Traveller Accommodation Unit for the refurbishment of the remaining 13 bays on St Patrick's Park, Navan (April 2021) to the value of €130,738.

## **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)**

The LTACC met twice during Year 2, on the following dates:

- 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019-2024**

**YEAR 3 PROGRESS REPORT (1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022)**

**1. Extract from Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 (Annual Targets):**

	<b>YEAR 3 TARGET</b>	<b>YEAR 3 PROGRESS</b>	<b>COMMENTARY</b>
<b>Standard Social Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Casual Vacancies / New Build / Acquisition / AHB</li> </ul>	9	15	MCC 7  AHB 8
<b>Group Housing Schemes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navan (2021 &amp; 2024)</li> <li>Trim (2023)</li> </ul>	8	0	Identification of suitable sites ongoing in Navan and Trim
<b>Halting Sites</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Francis Park Refurbishment</li> <li>Casual Vacancies</li> </ul>	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Francis Park Refurbishment at tender stage</li> </ul>
<b>Housing First Tenancies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan</li> </ul>	1	0	0
<b>LAAWs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCC Housing People with a Disability Strategy</li> </ul>	3	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 Ashbrook, Navan, €11,718.42</li> <li>11 Tailteann Close, Windtown, Navan, €10,257.73</li> <li>38 Ashbrook, Clogherboy, Navan, €11,848.89</li> <li>1 Claremount Avenue, Navan, €5,496.49</li> <li>5 St Patrick's Park, Navan, €9,067.95</li> </ul> Total Cost €48,389.48  All prices are including VAT.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	

## **2. Further Activity for Reporting Period**

### **Covid 19**

Meath County Council's Isolation Plan, in response to Covid-19, and the designation of homeless persons and members of the Traveller community as vulnerable persons, continued to be in operation during Year 2. A number of units within stock remained set aside and fully furnished for the purposes of isolation, as and when the need arose.

Isolation Units were not availed of within the relevant timeframe of this report by members of the Traveller community.

### **Social Work Interventions**

Regular social work interventions have continued throughout the period, including advocating on behalf of clients, collaborating with various agencies, referrals in and out, attending meetings with various stakeholders, home visits and liaising with internal staff regarding HAP, emergency accommodation, RAS, and rents. Interventions have also extended to virtual communications with many assessments and meetings with clients moving to Zoom, Teams etc. which has empowered clients in their own journeys.

High priority cases assisted included immediate accommodation concerns, familial interpersonal relationships, addiction, homeless, feuding, suicidal clients, mental health interventions and elderly clients experiencing child-to-parent abuse.

Considerable time has naturally been dedicated to the current pandemic. Since March 2020, all families residing in caravans / mobile homes who may be advised to self-isolate by their GP due to COVID-19, were contacted by phone and informed of MCC's Isolation Plan. All residents (both legal and illegal) on St. Patrick's Park and St. Francis Park Halting Sites, along with families residing in caravans within group housing schemes were contacted by phone. Additionally, liaising frequently with the public health nurse for Travellers ensured outreach services and plans were in place.

Working in collaboration with Meath Travellers Workshop, Pavee Point, Irish Traveller Movement, Exchange House, Community Gardai and HSE proved essential in ensuring a wraparound service was provided to families in the high-risk category. 100% of families or individuals identified with either having contracted COVID-19 or advised to self-isolate due to being a close contact were offered alternative temporary accommodation, however all expressed a preference to remain at home, mainly due to fear of rejection within their community.

143 presentations for direct social work assistance occurred in the period 01/07/2021 – 30/06/2022. Presentations are categorised as Priority 1, 2 and 3. Priority 1's accounted for 80% of cases, 15% were Priority 2 and the remaining 5% were Priority 3.

Priority	Presentations	%
Priority 1	114	80%
Priority 2	22	15%
Priority 3	7	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100%</b>

Below is a breakdown of presentation categories. Initial presentations are recorded in the first instance; however, it is important to note that most social work interventions expand beyond the realm of the initial presentation.

Category	Sum of No.	Sum of %
Accommodation	41	28.7
Domestic Abuse	29	20.3
Mental Health	11	7.7
Other	11	7.7
Sexual Assault	8	5.6
Social, emotional and economic wellbeing	28	19.6
TAP Consultations	15	10.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100</b>

### Halting Site Maintenance Expenditure

A total of €24,534.61\* was spend on routine maintenance and skips on St Patricks Park, Navan & St Francis Park, Navan from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

In addition to the routine maintenance and expenditure a further €85,751.33 was spent as follows

A submission for funding was made to the Traveller Accommodation Unit for the refurbishment of the remaining 13 bays on St Patrick's Park, Navan (April 2021) to the value of €130,738.

\* does not include Q2 costs for the plumber or contractor who have yet to submit their invoices for Q2

### Redevelopment of St Francis Park, Navan

Meath County Council has progressed the development of St. Francis Park, Navan in consultation with the Traveller families residing there. In March 2022, Meath County Council received Stage 3 Approval for the refurbishment programme. In June 2022, tenders were sought for the scheme and at time of commencement of this Mid-Term Review tenders are being assessed. It is intended works on site will commence in Q3 2022.

On completion, the development will consist of the following:

- demolition of 14 no. existing bay units and existing caretaker's building.
- construction of 10 no. dwellings with permanent caravan parking bays.
- closure of the existing St. Francis Park entrance and access road on Ratholdren Road and provision.
- of a new entrance and access road from Tailteann Drive.
- redesign of landscaping within the site boundary.

- f) all associated site development and associated ancillary works. The proposed housing units will comprise of 1 no. 2-bed single storey dwelling, 1 no. 3-bed single storey dwelling, 2 no. 4 bed-single storey dwellings and 6 no. 4-bed two storey dormer dwellings.

During the construction phase, it has been agreed with the families currently resident in St. Francis Park that they will be temporarily accommodated off site by Meath County Council .

**Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)**

The LTACC met twice during Year 2, on the following dates:

- 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998**

**Notice of Mid-term Review of the**

**Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024**

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, Meath County Council, being the relevant Housing Authority specified under the 1998 Act, adopted a Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 for the functional area of Meath County Council on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

In accordance with Section 17(1)(a) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Meath County Council is required to review its Traveller Accommodation Programme at least once in each three-year period.

Notice is hereby given of Meath County Council intention to commence a mid-term review of the current Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

The Draft Mid Term Review is available for public inspection during opening hours 9.00am – 1pm and 2pm to 5.00pm from Monday 8th August 2022 at the following Civic Offices;

- Meath County Council Civic Offices, Buvinda House, Navan, C15 Y291.
- Kells Municipal District, Kells Civic Office, Headfort Place, Kells, A82 W2R3.
- Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, Duleek Civic Office, Main Street, Duleek, A92 R9KW.
- Ratoath Municipal District, Dunshaughlin Civic Office, Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin A85 XK20.
- Trim Municipal District, Trim Civic Office, Mornington House, Summerhill Road, Trim C15 P2HE.
- Ashbourne Municipal District, Ashbourne Civic Office, 1 -2 Killegland Square Upper, Ashbourne, A84 NY73.

A copy of the Draft Mid Term Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is also available on the Meath County Council website [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie).

Submissions to the Draft Mid Term Review Traveller Accommodation Programme are invited and should be made:

- in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291
- emailed to [customerservice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@meathcoco.ie) Subject: Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme.

The latest date for submissions is 16.00hrs on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

## **Appendix 3**

Submission of Draft Review (to be inserted)



comhairle chontae na mí  
*meath county council*

[www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

