



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

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

**Monthly Management Report**  
**September 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

#### Council Meetings

Electrical and decorative refurbishment works are due to commence shortly on the temporary council chamber and meeting room in Buvinda. However, the September and October council meetings will be held in hybrid format in the Solstice Theatre.

MD meeting will continue to be held in hybrid format.

#### 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 Q2 2022:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q2 - 2022	39	5	3

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 Q2 2022 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q2 - 2022	6	0	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 Q2 2022 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q2 - 2022	3

### **Irish Language Training Classes for Councillors**

Ghlac comhaltaí tofa den Chomhairle Chontae páirt i ranganna gaeilge leis an eagraíocht Gaelchultúr le gairid; bhí na ranganna seo á reáchtáil ar líne trí zoom agus a bhí eagraithe ag an Oifigeach Gaeilge i gcomhoibriú leis na comhairleoirí agus Gaelchultúr. Baineann rolladh amach na ranganna seo le halt 3.6 – cruinnithe agus imeachtaí den Scéim Teanga Chomhairle .As seo amach táthar ag súil go mbeidh na comhairleoirí ábalta Gaeilge a úsáid ag cruinnithe agus imeachtaí nuair is gá.

Bhain na comhairleoirí an-tairbhe as na ranganna agus fuarthas tuairisc dearfach ar ais ón teagascóir an chúrsa á rá:

*Bhí na comhairleoirí ar fad an-díograiseach, bhí ceisteanna maithe acu maidir leis an bhfoghraíocht, srl., agus chuir siad go leor iarrachta isteach leis na tascanna uilig. D'éist siad leis na rudaí a mhínigh mé, agus bhain siad úsáid astu, agus iad ag cleachtadh. Chomh maith leis sin, d'iarr siad orm rudaí faoi leith a aistriú chun go mbeidís in ann iad a úsáid sa phost.*

Fuair an tOifigeach Gaeilge aiseolas ar ais óna gcomhaltaí tofa ina dhiaidh ó thaobh na bealaí a dhéanamh le haghaidh Gaeilge a chur chun cinn laistigh den Chomhairle, agus as seo amach déanfar iarracht chun na smaointe seo a chur i bhfeidhm san eagraíocht.

Elected members of the County Council recently participated in Irish language classes online with the organisation Gaelchultúr; these classes were conducted via zoom and organised by the Irish language officer in cooperation with the councillors and Gaelchultúr. The roll out of these classes to councillors is in line with section 3.6 – Council Meetings & Events of the Council's language scheme. Going forward it is hoped that councillors will be able to use Irish at meetings and events when required.

The elected members got much benefit from the classes and a positive report was received from the course tutor saying:

*The councillors were all very enthusiastic, they had good questions regarding phonetics, etc. and they put in a lot of effort for all tasks. They listened to the things I explained, and as they practiced, they got use out of them. As well as that, they asked me to translate specific things so that they could use them in their posts*

The Irish language officer also received some feedback afterwards from councillors as to more ways to promote Irish within the council and going forward an effort will be made to use these ideas to promote Irish in the organisation.

## Communications and Events

### Meath County Council host homecoming for Meath All-Ireland Senior Champions



Meath County Council, in association with Meath Ladies Gaelic Football Association, hosted a Homecoming for the victorious Meath Senior Ladies team and management at the Fairgreen Car Park, Navan on Monday, August 1.

Approximately 5,000 supporters joined the celebrations where together we honoured and celebrated the team's contribution to a fantastic season and thanked them for the significant contribution to the LGFA sporting year and to clubs and communities across the county.

MC for the event was Rory O'Connor, known widely as Rory's Stories.

## Screening of 'Olga' to celebrate Ukraine Independence Day



Meath County Council was pleased to host a special screening of the film 'Olga' on the eve of Ukrainian Independence Day. Almost 200 Ukrainians from across the county gathered at Solstice Theatre in Navan for the event.

It is noted that the Community Response Forum (which had previously dealt with the Covid Pandemic) has been re-established to co-ordinate the community-led response by

providing a co-ordination point for the community and voluntary sector. This forum has been very active in linking people with services and is made up of representatives from various state, private, community and voluntary organisations. All of these agencies are working together to welcome the Ukrainian people into our communities and to provide them with the necessary supports.

Details of many of the services available can be accessed through the Council's home page [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) which has a dedicated information section that has been translated for people from Ukraine. The forum can also be contacted directly by email by using the address [communityforum@meathcoco.ie](mailto:communityforum@meathcoco.ie)

## Launch of Meath Style Awards

Meath County Council is delighted to once again sponsor the Meath Style Awards.

The awards honour the best of the best in business under the umbrella of style and will take place in the Headfort Arms, Kells on Friday, September 23rd.

The 10 award categories are - Best Fashion Boutique; Best in Resilience and Innovation; Best in Health and Fitness; Best in Interiors; Best in Hair; Best Beauty Salon; Best Wedding Supplier; Best Customer Experience; Best Digital Presence and Overall Excellence in Style Award.

## Dog Fouling Campaign Launched - Help Scally be a good boy!

To highlight the issue of dog fouling Meath County Council has developed a new campaign to remind dog owners to pick up after their pup wherever they are.

The campaign features the adorable “Scally” the dog in a series of videos which highlight the consequences of not picking up the poop. Whether under the cover of darkness, in a field or on the beach remember “Your dog’s poop could end up anywhere! Always Pick it up!”

The campaign was rolled out throughout the month of July and August across our social media channels.

Pictured launching the campaign was Deputy Mayor of Navan, Cllr. Francis Deane, community warden Alan Nolan with Holly and her owner Jim.



## Sod Turned on Boyne Valley Food Hub



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD, Gary O'Meara CEO Meath Enterprise and Meath County Council Chief Executive Jackie Maguire recently turned the sod at the Boyne Valley Food Hub, a flagship project of the Boyne Valley Food Innovation District.

The project will transform almost 800m<sup>2</sup> of enterprise space at its Navan site into an innovative food hub with nine food grade units available for start-up and scaling food businesses.

## Recruitment Campaign Launched for Community First Responders



In July, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian attended Dunboyne Castle to help launch a new nationwide campaign for additional volunteer Community First Responders to support the work of the Emergency Services in local communities.

The campaign, which features a new promotional video and website, [www.becomeacfr.ie](http://www.becomeacfr.ie) was launched by Cathal O'Donnell, Medical Director of the National Ambulance Service (NAS). The campaign is also being supported by Emma Doyle, a mother of two in her thirties from Meath, who suffered a cardiac arrest two years ago in her home while feeding her newborn child.

Speaking at the launch Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian said "This campaign aims to strengthen the chain of survival in our communities. Volunteering as a community first responder is a great opportunity to help your local community and really make a difference. If you would like to train and volunteer as a community first responder this is now the time".

## Sod Tuned on Linear Park and Walkway Dunboyne



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian, Minister of Gaeltacht and Sport, Jack Chambers, Minister for Justice, Helen Mc Entee and Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire turned the sod to officially mark the commencement of work on the €4 million Linear Walkway and Playing Fields Rooske Road, Dunboyne in July.

Members of the public will be able to walk or cycle on the walkway which

will link up Dunboyne Park and the skatepark. Three juvenile sports playing fields will also be provided, to be used by the junior GAA players and will also be available to Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg during the school term for school blitzes and other sporting activities. There will also be a new all-weather pitch, as well as changing rooms and an all weather warm up area.

Improving and supporting the health and wellbeing of the people of Meath is central to the work of Meath County Council.

## Trim celebrates Twinning with Étrépagny

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian with Cllr. Joe Fox, Cathaoirleach Trim MD, Cllr. Noel French and Des Foley, Director of Service met with Ann and Bob Carney and dancers from the Carney School of Irish Dancing and from Étrépagny, France to celebrate Trim's twinning with Étrépagny since 1989.



In 2007, Étrépagny set up a dance school and Ann Carney School of Irish Dancing have been invited every Easter to teach the students Irish Dance, the students then travel to Trim each summer for camp with their Irish dance partners.

Meath County Council Town twinning are delighted to contribute and support this exchange.

## Publication of Curraghtown, July 1922



Curraghtown, July 1922 is published on the centenary of the battle of Curraghtown which took place on 5 and 6 July 1922, and is a companion to Trim, September 1920.

This programme of publication forms an important part of Meath's Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 Programme which aims, in keeping with the principles of the national

programme, to be broad and inclusive, to highlight the economic and social conditions of the period, and the shifts in cultural norms.

The book can be purchased from Navan Library, Solstice Arts Centre and Antonia's Bookstore, Trim.

## Gradam Filíochta Mháire Mac an tSaoi as Gaeilge

Buaiteoirí Ghradam Filíochta i nGaeilge Mháire Mhac an tSaoi sa phictiúr i leabharlann Cheannais le déanaí ag glacadh páirt i máistir rang filíochta le file Louis de Paor. Faoi stiúir Seirbhísí Cultúrtha Comhairle Chontae na Mí agus tacaíthe faoi chlár Éire Ildánach.

Sa phictiúr tá: Cllr Mike Bray (Leas Chathaoirleach), Louis de Paor (File), Ciarán Mangan (Leabharlannaí Contae), Frances Tallon (Leabharlannaí Sinsearach Feidhmiúcháin), Barry Lynch (Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse) Nóirín Murphy (Oifigeach Gaeilge) agus buaiteoirí – Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha, Brian Ó Tiomáin, HK Ní Shioradáin, Gormfhlaith Ní Shíocháin, Joanne McCarthy.



## Climate Action and Environment

### **Air Pollution Act 1987. (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022**

The Government in July 2022 agreed on new solid fuel regulations to come into force on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 subject to European Commission approval under the Technical Standards Directive (2015/1535)

Responsibility for enforcement of the regulations will continue to rest with local authorities and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications are arranging for the development of guidance manuals, training and grant funding in respect of same. The main changes being introduced under these regulations relate to technical requirements for fuels including smoke emission rates arising from coal products and manufactured solid fuels, and moisture contents of such fuels. While the regulations do not make any changes relating to turf cutting rights, they do include prohibitions on the sale of turf via the internet or other media, or from premises selling food, fuel or other goods.

### **Water Re-fill Stations**

A water refill station has been installed and is operational in Ashbourne – outside Ashbourne Court Hotel. A water refill station is due to be installed later this week outside Trim Court House, Trim.

### **Display Energy Certificates**

To comply with Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2012, any building with a floor area greater than 250m<sup>2</sup> which is frequently visited by the public is required to display a DEC. A tender process was completed for all council stock within this requirement, and the assessments are currently in progress.

### **Energy Audits**

To improve the energy efficiency and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of our building stock, energy audits are currently being undertaken on a select number of our major energy users in the county. A tender process was completed, and a consultant appointed for the works.

### **Council Webpage**

The climate change webpage has been updated and can be viewed here <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/environment/climate-action>

### **Sustainable Development Goals – Take Part in SDG**

Ireland's first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) week is taking place this year from 20-26 September. It forms part of the wider European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) which last year saw 5,440 activities taking place across 28 countries. The SDGs belong to everyone and SDG week is open to all individuals, groups, schools and colleges, businesses and institutions. To take part, ideas can be uploaded on the ESDW website [www.esdw.eu](http://www.esdw.eu)

### **School Garden and Outdoor Spaces Projects**

In the absence of The Community Environment Action Fund (CEAF) (on hold due to Covid) Meath County Council has continued to provide funding for schools who are undertaking environmental action projects including food production, tree planting, sensory garden projects, outdoor classrooms.

While it is expected that CEAF will return in 2023, there are projects underway in 5 Meath schools at present.

## Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign



Meath County Council together with 11 other local authorities are initiating an Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign and seeking to address an issue that plagues all our counties.

The campaign which reminds dog owners to pick up after their dog, wherever they are, contains a series of videos which highlight the consequences of not picking up this waste

The campaign began in July across social media platforms, radio and press, and is being replicated across all the participating counties.

## Housing Services

### Capital Programme

- Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>DESIGN PHASE</b>			
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
Ratholdren Court, Navan	26	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>		
<b>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</b>			
Kells Archdeaconary	22	Q3 2023	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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>93</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q3 2022	Q1 2024
Farganstown	84	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>			
Staleen Park, Donore	21	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>		
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>413</b>		

### Meath County Council Approved CAS, Part V & Turnkey

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Turnkey	7
Kells	Turnkey	12
Navan	Turnkey	6
Duleek	Turnkey	16
Bettystown	Part V	2
Donacarney	Part V	12
Drogheda	Part V	10
Duleek	Part V	11
Dunboyne	Part V	14
Dunshaughlin	Part V	13
Kells	Part V	6
Kilcock	Part V	12
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Stamullen	Part V	15
Trim	Part V	10
Ratoath	Part V	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>152</b>

### 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
Carlanstown	Tuath – CAS Construction Turnkey	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</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 the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 for un-commenced 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 for a period of 6 weeks and will be readvertised on an ongoing basis. 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)** –A total of 5nr. tenders have been received for the proposed works, currently awaiting the tender recommendation report from the Design Team which will identify the successful contractor for the works.
- **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 2 & 3 of the works are ongoing and it is expected Stage 4 of the scheme will commence in November 2022.

### Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme

The Department has provided €629,301.09 funding for 2022. There are 74 applications in total that have received approval in 2022 – 2nr. extensions and 72nr. adaptations. 51 applications have been allocated out to contractors to undertake works, most of which have been completed to date. The remaining 21 applications are being issued out to contractors to complete over the coming weeks and months. One of the extensions commenced in July and a second extension is due to start in the coming 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 were approved at the end of 2021. These approvals were carried forward into this year’s budget as works will not be completed until 2022. A further 318 applications to the value of €2,129,406.0 have been approved to date in 2022. The total value for the 410 applications that have been approved to date equates to €2,811,197.

### 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 11th August 2022. For the period from 16th June 2022 to 11th August 2022, works were completed on 13 vacant units, while 15 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	0	1	1	2	0
Kells	2	2	1	3	2
Laytown/Bettystown	0	0	1	1	0
Navan	12	3	1	14	2
Ratoath	3	1	2	5	1
Trim	6	0	0	4	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>**6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>

\*\*Note: All six 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 Complete.
Abbey Road, Commons, Duleek	22	North and East	Q3/2022
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Q2/2022 Complete.
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Q3/2022
Applewood Court, Beaufort Place, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Q3/2022
Bryanstown Wood, Drogheda	28	Tuath Housing	Q4/2022
Tailteann, Navan	8	Meath Women's Refuge	Q3/2024
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Q1/2023
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Q1/2023
Knightsbrook, Trim	22	Tuath Housing	Q4/2022
Maudlin Vale, Trim	39	Tuath Housing	Q4/2023
Royal Oaks, Enfield	16	Cluid Housing	Q2/2022 Complete.
Carlanstown	8	Tuath CALF Turnkey	Q3/ 2022
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2/2023
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>370</b>		

### Homelessness

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2022 (Previous Reported Figure)	132 (143 adults)	41 (73 adults 97 children)	173
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	143 (152 adults)	47 (80 adults 96 children)	190
Of the households with children, 39 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment/b&b) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.			

**Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is Notice to Quit; unable to find property to rent; followed by family / relationship breakdown; addiction; mental health; leaving Hospital / Treatment / Prison / Refuge; couch surfing; rough sleeping; young person leaving Tusla aftercare**

34 Placefinder tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1st to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

### **Traveller Accommodation**

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 Traveller Accommodation Programme to be carried out no later than 31 August 2022. On completion of the review, a report will be presented to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Funding of €17,400 was secured from the Dormant Accounts fund via the traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The funding will be used to commission research to address the recommendation of the 2021 Equality Review completed by the Council which will (1) identify measures to raise awareness of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee amongst the Traveller Community; (2) explore traveller representation on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee that reflects the diversity of the community and (3) identify measures to support Traveller representatives.

### **Social Housing Supports**

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

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
MCC Direct Allocations	63
Approved Housing Bodies	90
RAS	0
HAP	230
MTR	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>659</b>

## Community Development

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

A meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July where the committee approved the mid-year review of the SICAP programme and agreed proposed actions for the extra funding received towards the Ukrainian crisis. Next meeting is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

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

A LAG meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July with the next one scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> where new projects and EOI's will be discussed.

### **Comhairle na n'Óg**

The Steering Committee meeting for Comhairle na n'Óg took place in July where details of the AGM scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> were discussed.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

The next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The date and location of the Public Meeting for 2022 has yet to be confirmed.

### **Broadband Connection Points**

Idesk Cormeen and Kilskyre Community Activity Centre has been onboarded on to the ConnectedHubs.ie portal and is now taking bookings for their remote/co working facilities. People can register on the portal to book into these sites and during August could avail of Connected Hubs Vouchers to get up to three days access for free. The sites and vouchers were promoted through August on the Meath County Council social media channels.

### **The Community Grant Scheme**

Community Grant Scheme claims are being processed as they are received. Completed claim forms are to be submitted by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### **Pride of Place Initiative**

Adjudication for the 2022 Pride of Place Scheme took place during July and August. Awards nights have been arranged as follows;

- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept - Ashbourne MD - Ashbourne Library
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept - Laytown/Bettystown MD – Conyngham Arms, Slane
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct – Kells MD – Headfort Arms, Kells
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct – Navan MD – Buvinda House
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct – Trim MD – Trim Castle Hotel, Trim
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct – Ratoath MD – Pastoral Centre, Dunshaughlin
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov – County Awards – Solstice Arts Centre, Navan

### Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place awards

Dunshaughlin Tidy Towns, Kilbride Tidy Towns and Old Balreask Woods Community Garden were adjudicated in July. The date and location for this year's awards is yet to be finalised.

### Carranstown Grant Scheme

24 applications were approved for funding under the scheme and all applicants have been notified of the outcome.

The annual Indaver Awards night took place in Duleek on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

### ORIS scheme

Details of **Oris Measure 1** and project development measures were announced recently with Meath being approved funding for 3 projects namely:

Bettystown	develop 3 swimming changing facilities	€30,000
Lough Bracken	To prepare planning application to develop Lough Bracken as a centre for tourism to include development of walkways/cycleways, angling stands (include accessible stand), playground, safe swimming area and carparking area.	€43,911
Hill of Lloyd, Kells	It is proposed to carry out a geophysical survey of a number of areas at Lloyd which will form the basis of a land use plan to improve the tourist facilities around the National Monument of Lloyd.	€14,490
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€88,401</b>

### CLÁR

Details of **Clár Measure 1** were announced recently with Meath approved for funding for the following:

St. Fiachs National School	Astro pitch area to create a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for use by the whole community	€50,000
Kilskyre Parish Hall Committee	Safety upgrade works in the community hall	€34,728
Newcastle Community Hall	Refurbishment of the existing parish hall	€39,870
Ballinlough GFC	Tarmac surfacing of the carpark	€36,600
Moylagh GAA Club	Lighting and associated works for community walking track	€50,000
St. Brigids GFC	Widening and surfacing the driveway to St Brigids clubhouse to allow for a greater access to all the facilities such as the running	€45,000

	track, walking track and gym	
Maoi Well Restoration Project	Reinstall Cowtail Pump known locally as “Mc Cabes Well” and the restoration of a surrounding wall	€15,170
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€271,368</b>

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022**

Seven projects were submitted to the department for assessment and approval. Await details of the successful projects.

### **Public Participation Network**

Nicky McDonnell recently started in the role of the PPN coordinator. Work on developing a new constitution for PPN is ongoing. Nominations for those wishing to be part of a new Secretariat will begin late August with elections to follow. Information sessions on the PPN have been held in each MD.

### **Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath**

Aisling O’Donnell has commenced in the role as Healthy Ireland Meath Coordinator and will be progressing with the next round of HI funding allocated for 2022-2025

### **Joint Migrant Integration Forum**

The joint forum meets quarterly to discuss progress and oversee the delivery of actions within the Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Strategy. A facilitator is in place to assist the forum to collaborate and to deliver on actions. Next meeting is 29<sup>th</sup> September which will be hosted by Louth County Council.

### **Community Response Forum Ukrainian refugees**

The response forum, which is coordinated by the Community Section, continues to meet on a regular basis to ensure there is a co-ordinated response to assist with the needs of Ukrainian families entering the county.

## Libraries Services

### **My Open Library**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development has approved funding of €194,679 based on the proposal submitted for the provision of My Open Library service in Ashbourne. The works will involve some reorientation of the branch layout and will enable controlled access to the branch from 8.00am to 10.00pm in line with the service offered in Trim prior to the temporary move of the branch. The My Open Library technology has already been installed in Kells, Nobber and Slane and the services will be opened on a phased basis in the autumn.

### **Dormant Accounts Funding**

Meath County Council Library service has received Dormant Accounts funding to provide Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities in line with the actions under the public library strategy 'Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities'. A Dormant Accounts Fund contribution of up to €26,386.21 has been approved for the provision of the following programmes:

#### **Measure 1**

##### **Programming**

##### **Traveller Roots and Routes**

The project lead and library co-ordinator will work with Meath Travellers Workshop to identify a small group of young Travellers who will be trained in oral history recording and transcription. They will undertake recorded interviews with the 2 elderly Travellers. A mapping technician from Spatial Services will teach how OS maps work and will incorporate the folkloric aspects of Travellers routes onto the OS maps. An artist will lead an illustration workshop as suggested by the participants to show significant information such as Holy Wells, locations of Traveller midwives, family assembly points, farms where seasonal work was available etc. The map will be professionally designed and printed for use in Traveller educational and cultural centres and as a record for posterity.

The programme builds on the successful Genealogy programme of 2019 and continues the successful practice of expert led training between Meath Libraries, Meath County Council, and Meath Travellers Workshop. It demonstrates the potential and value of sharing resources and expertise. The project will foster social and cultural development and Traveller sense of identity in an atmosphere where dignity, respect, autonomy, and inclusion underpin the process. It will improve educational, ICT and social skills and preserve a unique and hidden part of Traveller culture for future generations.

##### **Meath Operation Rainbow**

The National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021, which involves all government departments, has 4 main goals: Visibility, Equality, Health, and Safety. The Strategy acknowledges that members

of these communities continue to feel unsafe in public spaces and continue to experience unacceptable levels of harassment and discrimination in some workplaces.

The Strategy clearly states that “In addition to an internal environment of inclusion, public and private sector service providers need explicitly to signal where they seek to be welcoming and inclusive. Mainstream services will need to adapt to ensure that they are inclusive of LGBTI+ service users and that LGBTI+ people are confident that their needs will be addressed by these services” (p.11). Specific reference is made in this regard to the role of libraries, stating that “There are actions to build on existing good practice in areas such as libraries, which can provide a focal point for visibility, information and support” (p.11).

The library branch network is well placed in its geographical spread across rural and urban centres to reach out to LGBTQI people across Meath and to roll out support initiatives which are aligned with the 4 main goals outlined in the Strategy.

The DAF 2022 proposal, under the programme title *Meath Operation Rainbow*, will focus on the following:

- 1) increasing visibility
- 2) involving staff to encourage greater awareness and understanding
- 3) public informative/educational/awareness raising sessions
- 4) providing space for LGBTQI themed creativity

## **Measure 2**

### **Digital Equality Social Inclusion Programme**

- Sensory Room - Oldcastle Library

Working with the resident support group ( A-Team Autism Support Group) the library service proposes to add several fittings ( blackout blinds, mats, sensory lamps , ceiling mounted fittings etc) to a room which currently accommodates the ‘Magic Table’ in order to create a dedicated Sensory Space. The group currently support children aged 4 – 15 and have capacity for 15 children. The group is run by two volunteers, both primary school teachers. The group meet on a Saturday morning in the events space upstairs in Oldcastle Library. The branch already has a ‘Magic Table’ and a ‘Sensory Pod’, in addition to a range of Sensory Toys for use in-branch and for lending.

## **Measure 3**

### **Digital Skills Licenses**

TTRS – Touch/Type/Read/Spell TTRS – purchase of a further 1,000 licenses on an annual subscription. TTRS is a dedicated software programme which helps children and adults improve

their reading and spelling and also helps students to learn touch-typing. This builds on existing offer funded under previous DAF programmes. Many of the licenses will be offered directly to teachers to support pupils in participating schools. This offer will be managed by the school's library service. The project will be promoted through the local Education Centre and championed by education partners on the Right to Read forum. A percentage of licenses will be reserved for library use while the balance will be targeted at disability support groups e.g Prosper Meath, ARCH clubs, and special schools in the catchment area. All the above groups are active library users and regular users of the Tovertaffel Magic Tables. Licenses will also be offered to partners e.g in Meath Travellers Workshop (DAF 2019 project) and Mosney Integration Centre to ensure that users of their various after school clubs and services may access the resources. The additional 1,000 licenses will double the 'live' complement of licenses and will allow scope to target the newly designated DEIS schools in the county.

### **LOTE (Languages other than English)**

An annual subscription which provides public access to digital picture books, stories, and activities in Ukrainian (as well as 40 other languages) for borrowers to read, with multiple read along audio options as well.

The three options are:

- Read aloud in English
- Read aloud in selected language
- Bi-Lingual option - reads text in both languages.

### **STEAM – Backpacks**

Parents and guardians can now borrow a backpack filled with hands-on activities for children aged 3-6 years. The STEAM backpacks contain age-appropriate, hands-on resources and books for children and parents/carers learning together about Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. With 15 backpacks to choose from, there is plenty to explore. STEAM Backpacks are available for check-out at the Library Desk. It is also possible to reserve a pack and patrons will be informed as soon as it becomes available.

\*Irish language books available for most backpacks, on request\*

The aim of the project is to engage and inspire young children and their carers to engage with STEAM, and to promote awareness and understanding of the importance and relevance of STEAM to everyday life. It is hoped that the contents of the backpacks will inspire early scientific exploration, discovery and learning which are key to developing critical thinking, problem solving and innovation in children.

Library staff are encouraging adults to join in with their child learning, exploring, and discovering together.

This family-friendly library initiative is fully funded by Meta, and their Clonee Data Centre, as part of their commitment to supporting STEM learning in County Meath.

<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/steam-backpacks>

### **Summer Programme**

Almost 2,000 children participated in the 'Summer Stars' reading programme across the branch network. The programme aims to support reading for fun over the long summer holidays and is complemented by an extensive range of events and activities. The popularity of the annual programme has been instrumental in the return of patrons to regular borrowing after the disruption of the epidemic.

### **My Little Library Book Bag**

Library staff managed the distribution of many thousands of books over recent months as the 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative was rolled out across the whole county. The bags are specifically intended to be given directly to the 4–5-year-olds about to start school and for Ukrainian children up to 7/8 years old. The project which is now entering the final phase aims to empower children and encourage their reading and introduce them to the library if they are not already members.

## Transportation Services

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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A road closure is in place on the existing N51 until the end of September which allows for Construction works on the online sections of the existing N51.</li> <li>Construction Works re Earthworks, Drainage, &amp; Utilities to offline sections of the mainline and side roads are ongoing.</li> </ul>
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft 1 of the EIAR documents is being continued to be reviewed by the Project Team.</li> </ul>
N52 Grange to Clontail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compulsory Purchase order issued to affected landowners and application made to An Bord Pleanala on Wed the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022</li> </ul>
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topographical Survey Contractor complete on site</li> <li>Letter of Intent issued to Ground Investigation Contractor and subject to tax and insurance clearance will be appointed in the coming weeks</li> </ul>
National Road Resurfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N51 Ongenstown: Capital Maintenance Schemes Tender assessment stage.</li> <li>N3/R147 Roundabout Kells: Capital Maintenance Scheme - works commenced 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022</li> <li>N2 Kilmoon resurfacing - works completed 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022</li> <li>N2 Kellystown to Glassallen, N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath and N51 Halltown overlay schemes - all 3 schemes at tender assessment stage</li> </ul>

### 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><b>Phase 1 - Recycling Overlay and Surface Dressing:</b> All 31 schemes in this phase are now completed. Since the last report the following schemes were completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L-62131-0 Ballygortagh</li> <li>L-6214-0 Clonlyon</li> <li>L-5600-27 Howthstown</li> <li>L-3414-4 Commons Rd</li> <li>R-156-27 Portlester</li> <li>R-156-52 Batterstown</li> <li>L-2205-28 Milltown</li> <li>L-4000-10 Jamestown</li> </ul>
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- L-40161-21 Clonycavan
- L-4016-15 Glack
- L-40131-0 Tremblestown
- L-80052-0 Pluckstown
- L-6836-0 Volvenstown
- L-68241-17 Feegat

**Phase 2 - Surface Dressing**

78 of the 80 schemes in this phase of the roadworks programme are now completed, with approx 638,434m<sup>2</sup> of surface dressing carried out to date.

**Phase 3 - Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing:** 17 of the 21 schemes in this phase are now completed with the remaining to be completed by 9<sup>th</sup> September. Since the last report the following schemes were completed:

- L-2218-0 Grange/Castlefarm
- L-2207-25 Dunsany
- L-1005-0 Skryne
- L-5006-0 Edoxstown
- L-56022-0 Loughrins Road Rathban
- L-56211-0 Rathban Church
- R-154-23 Oldcastle
- L-3402-26 Spiddal
- L-8033-0 Retaine
- L-8035-0 Curraghtown
- L-80142-47 Cullentra
- L-4023-11 Ardgreagh
- L-80323 Ballyclare

**Phase 4 - HRA942:** Works complete at

- R-147-43 Carnaross
- R-165-65 Drumcondrath
- R-162-52 Nobber
- L-2813 Gardenrath Rd
- L-1613 Knockcommon
- L-3414-0 Commons Rd
- L-4006-0 Dan Shaw Rd
- R-147-7 Clonee/Loughsallagh
- R-155-45 Ratoath

**CIS schemes:** Contracts awarded and awaiting availability of contractors to commence works.

**LIS schemes:** Contract awarded and works commenced

- Killyon, Longwood,
- Somerville, Kentstown (photo below)
- Losset, Moynalty
- Butlerstown, Castletown

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hopkinstown, Lobinstown and</li> <li>• Killagriff, Tierworker</li> </ul> 
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**2. (b) Strategic Regional & Local Rds & Specific Improvement Grant**

Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme	Approval received from the Department of Transport for the appointment of Systra Ltd., Consulting Engineers, to prepare a Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) as part of an initial phase of the R132 Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme, which will identify potential options for further consideration in relation to relieving traffic issues in Julianstown, including potential Bypass options.
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**2. (c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Allocation for 2022 €337,000 – 9 schemes**

2021 Schemes	Road	Status
Newgate	R147	Works substantially complete

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

2022 DoT Schemes	
Tremblestown Bridge (L-40131)	Tender closed 19 <sup>th</sup> August – currently being assessed
Seymourstown Culvert (L68291)	Tender closed 19 <sup>th</sup> August – currently being assessed
Donaghpatrick Bridge (L7413)	Tender closed 19 <sup>th</sup> August – currently being assessed
Monknewtown Church Bridge (L5606)	Tender closed 19 <sup>th</sup> August – currently being assessed
Tatestown Culvert (L3409)	Design being finalised
Dardistown Bridge (R108)	Design being finalised
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Design being finalised
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	At tender assessment stage

<b>2022 Own Resources Schemes</b>	
Kiltale Culvert (L62033)	Design being finalised
Millennium Bridge, Trim	Timber pedestrian bridge over River Boyne at Trim Castle was removed due to structural failure of the bridge. Replacement options being investigated

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

L-6219 Newtownmoyaghy road edge	Topographical Survey procured and expected to commence on site in September. Ground Investigation procurement underway.
L-5055 Metges Rd	Surveys completed. Civils works commenced in August
L-34095 Silverlawns Estate	Surveys completed - Contractor to start works in September

**3. Active Travel Grants 2022 from NTA – €13,910,000 & Accessibility/Bus Shelter Programmes - €465,000**

<b>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roadworks on Abbey Rd complete, including surfacing and line marking.</li> <li>• New taxi rank and pull in bay constructed to the rear of the Shopping Centre and taxi rank relocated from Kennedy Rd to Abbey Rd.</li> <li>• Paving works to the main Shopping Centre entrance on Paddy O’Brien St complete, with paving works to the corner with Kennedy Rd also complete. 4m deep surface water sewer crossing on Kennedy Rd complete.</li> <li>• Works commenced on Kennedy Rd to construct the bus pull in area and taxi rank adjacent to the Shopping Centre.</li> <li>• Watermain upgrade works at the junction of Trimgate St and Kennedy Rd completed. Watermain upgrade works on Kennedy Rd adjacent to Metges Laneway commenced.</li> <li>• Meeting held with ESB in relation to the ESB sub-station on Kennedy Plaza.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan Town Bus Stops</b>	Snagging works ongoing.
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1</b>	Continued interrogation and peer review of tender documentation is taking place. Intention is to commence the tender process in early

<b>Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</b>	September for Phase 1 Construction Works from Solstice Roundabout to Beechmount Housing Estate.
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</b>	The Cycle Design Office are continuing with final drafts of documentation for the Part 8 Statutory process for the Convent Road element of this scheme. Subject to checking and peer review, the intention is to commence the process in early September 2022. A Presentation to Navan MD Elected Members on progress of scheme was delivered at July meeting.
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</b>	Phase 3 Preliminary Design for the scheme has been completed and NTA approval has been received for progression to the Statutory approvals phase. All documentation and reports for the Phase 4 Statutory process are at final draft stage. The intention is to make a Part 8 application for the scheme by the end of week 1 of September 2022. A presentation to Elected Members of Navan MD on progress of scheme was delivered at July meeting.
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</b>	Our Consultants/Designers have completed the Options Selection Process for the scheme. All preliminary 3 <sup>rd</sup> party surveys completed, and deliverables received. Gateway 2 report submitted to NTA. Phase 3 Preliminary Design phase has commenced and is being advanced.
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle &amp; Pedestrian Scheme</b>	Tender competition for Consulting Engineering Services for design work for Phases 2 - 4 has been completed and the ‘Letter of Intent’ has been issued to the successful tenderer. It is envisaged that the appointment process for the selected Consultant/Designer shall be complete by the end of August 2022 and Phase 2 Option Selection Process shall commence in week 1 of September.
<b>Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Consultants/Designers are in the process of completing the Options Selection Process for the scheme.</li> <li>• Traffic/Parking survey and User Sentiment Survey have been completed.</li> <li>• The next planned phase is to commence a non-statutory consultation with businesses and residents on Trimgate St in relation to gathering sentiment information in order to develop concepts further.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade</b>	<p>A competition for the appointment of Consulting/Design Engineers was placed on the NTA Framework in mid-July. The closing date for expressions of interest in last week of August 2022.</p> <p>Tender Evaluation process to take place in early September, subject to the receipt of valid tenders, with a view to appointing a Consultant before end Sept</p>

<b>Ratoath Pedestrian &amp; Cycling Scheme</b>	Tenders for consultancy services returned and assessed. Tender report sent to NTA for approval to appoint preferred consultant.
<b>Boyne Greenway -Drogheda to Mornington</b>	An Bord Pleanála is currently reviewing submissions on the Significant Further Information.
<b>Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works completed on Phase 1.</li> <li>• Phase 2 works to commence in early September. Phase 2 is from the filling station to the Nine Milestone Roundabout.</li> </ul>
<b>N51 Park &amp; Ride</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works to main car park area including excavation, kerbing and capping complete</li> <li>• Ducting installed for public lighting and EV chargers is also complete.</li> <li>• Works commenced on the N51, with temporary traffic management at the Moatview junction for a period of two weeks commencing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August to facilitate footpath and cycleway construction</li> </ul>
<b>Bus Shelter Enabling Works</b>	Works completed on R147 Rathbeggan, R125 Ratoath, two on the R147 in Dunshaughlin, and Bothar Sion in Navan. Works predominately completed on two stops in Mornington and at Deepford, Drogheda.
<b>Accessible Bus Stops Works</b>	Snagging works underway
<b>Eastham Road Cycle facilities</b>	Jacobs Engineering appointed for Design Contract. Route options assessment, topographical surveys and traffic surveys ongoing
<b>Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network</b>	Tender documents for the procurement of a consultant have been issued to the NTA framework of consultants, closed - 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2022.
<b>Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway</b>	Detailed design ongoing. Accommodation works discussions with landowners progressing.

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

<b>Athboy Town Centre Project</b>	AO confirming the Part 8 for the Bus Stop Facility signed on 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022. Site Investigation contract awarded and expected to commence in the coming weeks. Detail design progressing.
<b>R135 Cycle Network Design</b>	Works continuing on Phase 1 of the scheme, between Tudor Grove entrance and Dunnes Stores.
<b>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TH Moore continuing construction work on the Greenway between Gibbstown &amp; Wilkinstown – nearing completion – surfacing 50% completed – snagging remaining to be done.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLAS Civil Engineering Limited working on the Castletown to Nobber section – works substantially completed. N52 pedestrian bridge lifted into place on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2022.</li> <li>Tender documents returned for the Nobber to Kingscourt section of the Greenway. Tender assessment complete, letters of notification being issued to the relevant contractors.</li> <li>Tender documents for the Castletown to Wilkinstown Section being finalised for issuing</li> </ul>
<b>LDR4, Kells road to Ratholdren road, Navan</b>	Ground Investigation completed on site – awaiting reports. Archaeology test trenching tenders being assessed. Detail design and tender preparation progressing.
<b>Boyne Greenway &amp; Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan to Oldbridge)</b>	Project team met with TII for Peer review of route options. Response to peer review comments from TII currently being prepared by the Consultants.

## 5. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ashbourne MD:</b> Works on Deerpark Phase 3 complete.</li> <li><b>Laytown/ Bettystown MD:</b> Contract for Slane and Duleek has been awarded and is due to commence shortly</li> <li><b>Trim MD:</b> Contract for Blackfriary Estate, Griffin Park &amp; Dunderry Road has been awarded, works to commence in September.</li> <li><b>Kells MD:</b> Works ongoing in Mount Dutton Estate, Kells and Drumconrath</li> <li><b>Ratoath MD:</b> Contractor for Dunshaughlin Main St has been appointed, works will commence when Irish Water have completed their works</li> <li><b>Navan MD:</b> Tender for Clonmaggaden Road, St. Mary’s Park and Woodview has been awarded. Works to commence in Q3. Silverlawns Estate - Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 (funding sourced) to commence in September</li> </ul>
<b>Housing Estate Road Surfacing Works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Kells MD:</b> Awaiting documentation from contractor to make award of contract</li> <li><b>Ashbourne MD.</b> Awaiting documentation from contractor to make award of contract for works at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GardenCity, Ashbourne</li> <li>Millway, Stamullen</li> <li>St. Oliver Plunketts, Kentstown</li> <li>Killegland, Ashbourne</li> <li>Mountain View, Stamullen</li> <li>Tudor Grove, Ashbourne</li> <li>Milltown, Ashbourne</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

<b>PLEEP Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Contractor KLS ASD JV was appointed for the Works Contract on 17<sup>th</sup> August.</li> <li>• The Consultant Contract was awarded to Arup.</li> </ul>
<b>County Speed Limit Review</b>	260+ number submissions received identifying locations for review. Speed surveys and assessments currently underway. It is currently expected that the results of preliminary reviews will be discussed with each MD in Q4 2022 / Q1 2023.
<b>Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme</b>	Tender submissions have been assessed for the procurement of a consult to take the public realm plan through detail design and construction stages.

## Planning and Development

- Planning Applications  
1092 planning applications were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 19/08/2022 compared to 1611 in the same period in 2021.
- Commencement Notices  
404 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 19/08/2022. This is compared to 482 in the same period last year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	184
Multi-Units	756 (units)
Extensions	86
Other*	38

\* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

- Development Contributions  
Development Contribution receipts the period January to July 2022 were €9,084,685. This is compared to €7,833,014 in the same period in 2021. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts).
- Planning Enforcement

141 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 19/08/2022.

	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	27
Warning Letter	68
Enforcement Notice	10
Referred for Legal Proceedings	2
Further Information Requested	0
Closed	34

\*please note these figures relate to cases opened in 2022 only

- Meath County Development Contribution Scheme

The Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC approved the additional one-year extension of the Scheme to 2023, with a view that a new scheme would be put on public display in the first half of 2023. While it was hoped that a new scheme would come into effect in January 2023, the judicial review challenges to the Meath County Development Plan meant that resources had to be directed elsewhere.

- Meath County Development Plan – Judicial Reviews

Case	Status	Listed for Court
JR KILLEGLAND ESTATES LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Applicant seeking leave to appeal judgement which favoured Meath County Council	N/A
JR MC GARRELL REILLY HOMES LTD & ALCOVE IRELAND EIGHT LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Applicant seeking leave to appeal judgement which favoured Meath County Council	N/A
JR HICKWELL LTD & ANOR - V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Third party landowners invited to participate in proceedings to allow for judgement to issue	3 October 2022
JR PROTECT EAST MEATH LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL & ORS	Third party landowners invited to participate in proceedings to allow for judgement to issue	3 October 2022
JR DOLENT PROPERTIES LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Case adjourned on foot of an agreement between both parties with liberty to re-enter	N/A

## Economic Development

### Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Grant Approvals	5
Mentoring Assignments	10
Trading Online Vouchers	6
Training Online Courses Attended	138
Meath Business Owners Network Event Attended	14
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	5
Craft and Creative Network Consultation	107

- Shop Front Scheme 2022  
23 applications have been received to date following the launch of the scheme on the 01<sup>st</sup> of June. Closing date November 01<sup>st</sup> 2022 with all works to be complete by year end.
- Friendliest Town  
Nominations were received by elected members for Ashbourne and Moynalty for the friendliest town award 2022. Economic Development work with the elected members in nominating 5 individual nominees within each town.

We are delighted to confirm that Ashbourne and Moynalty achieved high scores and have both made it to the Top 5 towns Nationally alongside Ennis, Carrick on Shannon and Monaghan.

A public vote will decide upon the winner when combined with mystery shopper scores. The awards ceremony will be held in Galway in November.

## Tourism

### **Marketing Activity:**

The Boyne Valley will be promoted at a dedicated stand at the National Ploughing Championships from September 20<sup>th</sup>. An Autumn radio and social media campaign will commence from August 29<sup>th</sup> and run throughout September and early October on 98FM and U105 in Northern Ireland. It will highlight the Boyne Valley for Autumn breaks and the Spirits of Meath month long Halloween Festival.

### **Púca Festival:**

The Púca Halloween Festival will take place from October 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> developed by Fáilte Ireland in partnership with Meath County Council. Meath County Council is supporting the festival in order to create an international festival and support the tourism economy in the shoulder season. The festival takes place at two key hubs this year, Trim and Athboy and is based on the story of the origins of Samhain at the Hill of Ward (Tlachtga). The line-up includes music, storytelling events, treasure hunts and town tours. More information at [www.pucafestival.com](http://www.pucafestival.com).

## Finance Section

### Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Loans Data 1st January 2022 to 10th August 2022		
<b>Fully Completed Applications Received 2022</b>	<b>76</b>	
<b>Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)</b>	<b>5</b>	All relate to 2022 applications
<b>Awaiting Further Information from applicants</b>	<b>4</b>	All relate to 2022 applications
<b>Approved by Credit Committee</b>	<b>54</b>	46 relate to 2022, 8 relate to 2021 applications
<b>Refused by Credit Committee</b>	<b>17</b>	15 relate to 2022, 2 relate to 2021 applications
<b>Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee</b>	<b>3</b>	All relate to 2022 applications
<b>Returned to Customer</b>	<b>4</b>	3 relate to 2022, 1 to 2021
<b>Active Approvals</b>	<b>47.12</b>	42 Relate to 2022, 5 relate to 2021, 0.12 relate to 2020
<b>Expired</b>	<b>25</b>	All relate to 2021 applications
<b>Drawdown by Customer</b>	<b>20</b>	4 relate to 2022, 16 relate to 2021 applications

Figures above relate to activity from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and in some cases relate to applications pre 2022.

Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases