



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report
October 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

The October and November council meetings will be held in hybrid format in the Solstice Theatre. The December meeting of the Council will take place at the EU Food and Veterinary Office in Kiltale on 5th December 2022.

MD meetings will continue to be held in hybrid format.

At the September meetings of the CPG and the Protocol Committee it was agreed that these meetings would remain in a hybrid format.

Excellence in Local Government Awards: Meath County Council has been shortlisted in the 19th annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 for the following project:

- Navan 2050 Vision in Enhancing the Urban Environment



Unfortunately, four other Meath County Council projects submitted were not shortlisted.

This year, the awards will be hosted at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood Park, Santry Demesne, Dublin 9 on Thursday 24th November 2022. The Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 (ELG Awards), supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by local authorities all over Ireland.

OÍCHE CHULTÚIR 2022



Tharla Oíche Chultuir timpeall na tíre ar an 23 Meán Fómhair seo caite agus bhí an béim ar an teanga Gaeilge i measc na himeachtaí a eagraíodh i gContae na Mí. Tháinig an Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Foireann na Leabharlainne le chéile chun oíche amhránaíochta, damhsa agus ceol a réachtáil don phobal áitiúil i nDún Seachlainn. Ba é an téama



den oíche ná Tráthnóna Amhránaíochta le Cumann Córúil Dhún Seachlainn agus Maria Ní Chumhaill. Bhí ár dteanga dhúchais agus ár gcultúr ar thaispeáint ar an oíche leis na himeachtaí

seo a leanas:- Cumann Córúil Dhún Seachlainn, amhránaí Maria Ní Chumhaill as Gaobh Dobhair a chan amhráin as Gaeilge, damhsóirí céilí agus ceoltóirí traidisiúnta. Bhí slua maith i láthair ag an imeacht, agus maoinithe á dhéanamh ar an ócáid ag An tOireachtas.

Communications and Events

AILG Conference

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian welcomed hundreds of Elected Representatives and delegates from across Ireland to Trim during September to attend the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Seminar.

The Knightsbrook Hotel Spa & Golf Resort was the setting for the Seminar, entitled “Celebrating Local Government”, which took place on Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15, September.

The event was officially opened by Minister Peter Burke TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and closed by Minister Thomas Byrne TD, Minister for European Affairs.

Bettystown Library Sod Turning



A sod turning ceremony to mark the start of the works on Bettystown Library took place on Thursday, September 8 led by An Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Nick Killian, Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne T.D., An Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown MD, Cllr. Wayne Harding and Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire.

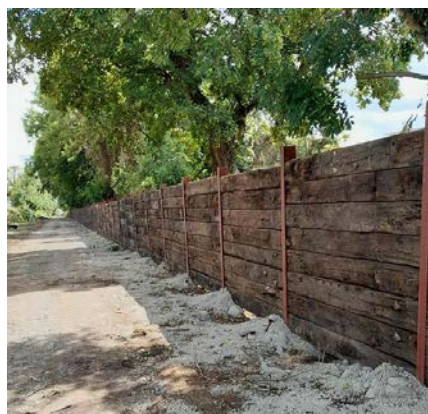
The much-anticipated library will be located in a landmark building with stunning views out over the sea and a major community meeting space overlooking a new plaza in the centre of the village. This state-of-the-art facility is designed with a variety of users in mind and features dedicated areas for children, teens and adults.

Meath JPC welcomes Superintendent John Dollard

A meeting of the Meath Joint Policing Committee took place in Buvinda House, Navan on Monday, September 19 and welcomed the New Chief Superintendent for the Meath/Westmeath Garda Division, John Dollard for his first meeting along with Members of An Garda Síochána.



Reused Material on display on Greenway



As part of the construction of the Navan to Kingscourt Greenway, rather than dispose of old rail sleepers the Council has utilised them to provide screen fencing to adjacent properties.

This construction method effectively reused a material which otherwise would have been categorised as waste.

This screen wall was constructed in July on the Navan to Wilkinstown section of the greenway.

Meath Style Awards



Meath County Council was delighted once again to support the Meath Style Awards 2022. The event, now in its 10th year, gives us an opportunity to recognise the commitment and hard work of a diverse range of local businesses striving to achieve business excellence, while delivering local employment.

The Style Awards is an inclusive event celebrating the achievements of local enterprise. It is a unique opportunity for business owners to network, to learn from each other and to share best practice in an enjoyable setting. We congratulate those who were nominated and wish all every success and innovation in our county.

Pictured receiving the overall excellence award was the team from Ambrose Clinton Hair Salon, Navan.

Climate Action and Environment



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL ENERGY EXPO



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22
10.00AM - 4.00PM | ARDBOYNE HOTEL, NAVAN

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meath county council

Meath County Council – Energy Expo Event

The Meath Energy Expo is taking place in The Ardboyne Hotel on October 22nd from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The event is being run by Meath County Council and will showcase the information and advice for the public to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient. Present on the day will be experts in several types of renewable technologies, showcasing products from local business within Meath and the North-East.

Meath County Council Climate Action Plan

Meath County Council is updating the Climate Action Plan. The following reports will be included as part of the document update:

- Climate Change Risk Assessment for County Meath
- Climate Mitigation Assessment County Wide
- Climate Mitigation Assessment Decarbonisation
- Carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment for Meath County Councils Climate Action plan.

Energy Audits

Audits have been undertaken on the energy use of five council buildings that are significant energy users. Surveys have been completed and reports prepared which recommend energy saving changes to the fabric and operations of the buildings. A series of projects will be developed from the outcome of the audits.

Trim Air Quality Project

Four air quality sensors will be installed on Market Street and Patrick Street on 26th September, 2022.

School SDG engagement workshop:

A series of workshops will be delivered in 28 Primary Schools throughout Co. Meath which aims to educate 4th – 6th class children on Sustainable Development Goals. The workshops will be delivered between September to December 2022.

SDG Children's Art Competition:

- A number of media drops are being undertaken promoting SDGs.
- The Climate Action Section is running a children's art competition to run in conjunction with SDG Week 22-26th September. Children aged 12 and under are invited to draw/paint a picture showing what the Sustainable Development Goals mean to them.

Swift Boxes:

Swift populations are reported to have significantly declined in the last decade. Swift boxes provide Swifts with a place to nest. Several swift boxes have been installed on the roof of Buvinda House, with the assistance of Bird Watch Ireland (Meath) and Wild About Navan group. It is proposed to expand this project and Navan Library and Town Hall are being considered as further sites for the installation of swift boxes.

Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022

The new solid fuel regulations will come into force on the 31st October 2022.

Responsibility for enforcement of the Regulations will continue to rest with the Local Authorities and the Department of Environment, Climate & 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.

Ahead of the introduction of new regulations on solid fuels for domestic heating, the Department have developed an online survey for householders, which may be used to gauge patterns and levels of solid fuel use in different areas.

The survey can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/Pc7mXDyJTjxtCzLa6> - The results for each county can be made available upon request and full results will be available in January 2023.

Environmental Education and Awareness

Green Schools

The annual Green Schools seminar for all Meath schools will take place on October 12th, all primary and secondary schools will be invited to a range of talks across all themes in the Green Schools Programme including Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship.

Louth, Meath & Wicklow Seminars: 12th October, 2022

- Litter & Waste: 5pm-6pm
- Water: 5pm-6pm
- Biodiversity: 5pm-6pm
- Global Citizenship Litter & Waste: 6pm-7pm
- Global Citizenship Energy: 6pm-7pm
- Global Citizenship Marine Environment: 6pm-7pm
- Global Citizenship Food & Biodiversity: 6pm-7pm

[Click here to book Louth, Meath and Wicklow Seminar place](#)

Rubbish Film Festival



Thirty workshop days at fifteen Meath schools commenced with Colaiste na hInse, Laytown on September 14th for the Rubbish Film Festival. The events in the other 14 Schools will be held on different dates running up to the 21st December

TY students will create a video with an environmental theme, with assistance from Createschool. The films will be shown and a winner announced at the Awards event in Solstice in Spring 2023.

Fast Fashion Workshop for ReLove Fashion Schools



Ten Fast Fashion Workshops are being rolled out across the county in support of the ReLove Fashion Competition.

The workshops will cover all aspects of Fast Fashion – Environmental Impacts of the Textile Industry – Sustainability – What can we do as consumers? – Circular Economy – Reuse and Repair

These events will help students with their entries to the ReLove Fashion Competition and to gain a deeper insight into the true cost of fast fashion.

Burial Grounds

Dunboyne

Works are now complete on the provision of an extension to the Rooske Road Burial Grounds. The extended area set over circa 3 acres has a capacity for single plot burials together with a Columbarium Wall containing 20 niches – there is also scope for the construction of a garden of remembrance for urns, remembrance stones, and additional columbarium walls.

The development includes ancillary works such as internal access roads and footpaths, pedestrian and vehicle linkage to Rooske Old Cemetery, a carpark for 32 no vehicles with public lighting and drainage works. It is proposed to construct a caretaker's office/ canteen and toilet facilities as well as an enhanced entrance area in early 2023.

Trim

The provision of a replacement burial ground at Loganstown Trim is currently the subject of a Part 8 Planning process and with Wed 19th Oct being the closing date for submissions or observations.

Housing Services



Capital Programme

▪ Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE			
New Lane, Abbeylands, Navan	4	Q3 2023	Q3 2024
Total	4		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS			
Kells Archdeaconary	22	Q3 2023	Q2 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
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q3 2023	Q1/2025
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Pitcher Lane, Kells	4	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q2 2023	Q1 2024
Ratholdren Court, Navan	26	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Totals	160		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q3 2022	Q1 2024
Farganstown	84	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Total	186		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Staleen Park, Donore	21	Q2 2021	Q4 2022

Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Total	63		
Overall Total	413		

Meath County Council Approved CAS, Part V & Turnkey

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Turnkey	7
Kells	Turnkey	12
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
Total		152

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
Total		12

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 19th of August 2022 for un-commenced residential developments & 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 and www.etenders.gov.ie

Refurbishment Projects

- **St Francis Park:** Appointment of Contractor ongoing.
- **Alverno Court Refurbishment:** Refurbishment works commenced on site on 3rd 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 have 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 351 applications to the value of €2,331,953 have been approved to date in 2022. The total value for the 443 applications that have been approved to date equates to €3,013,744.

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 19th September 2022. For the period from 12th August 2022 to 19th September 2022, works were completed on 8 vacant units, while 9 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	0	1	1	2	0
Kells	4	0	1	1	4
Laytown/Bettystown	0	0	1	1	0
Navan	9	5	1	12	3
Ratoath	3	0	2	4	1

Trim	9	0	0	4	5
TOTALS	25	6	**6	24	13

****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
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	2	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
Tubberclaire Meadows, Navan	8	Cluid CALF TURNKEY	Q4/2022
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q4/2023
Total Number of Approved Units	380		

Homelessness

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31 st July 2022	143	47	
(Previous Reported Figure)	(152 adults)	(80 adults 96 children)	190

Placements at 31st August 2022	143 (153 adults)	43 (74 adults 94 children)	186
<p>Of the households with children, 35 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.</p> <p>Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is Notice to Quit; unable to find a property to rent; followed by family / relationship breakdown; addiction; mental health; leaving Hospital / Treatment / Prison / Refuge; couch surfing; rough sleeping; young person leaving Tusla aftercare</p>			

There has been a total of 41 Place finder tenancies processed from 1st Jan- 31st August.

Exits from Emergency Accommodation	25
Prevention	16
Total 01/01/22- 31/07/22	41

Social Housing Supports

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	84
Approved Housing Bodies	91
RAS	0
HAP	265
Long term Leasing	20
MTR (AHBS)	4
TOTAL	464

Community Development



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for 23rd September. The committee will meet with the consultants and discuss the preparation details for the next Local Economic Community plan (LECP)

LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on 23rd September 2022.

Comhairle na n'Óg

Comhairle na n'Óg AGM will take place on Thursday 13th October, 2022 in O'Mahoney's GAA club. The Facilities App project that Comhairle members have been working on is due to launch in October 2022. Some Comhairle members participated in the recent AILG annual conference held in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim.

Age Friendly Meath

A number of events are organised for older persons. On 22nd September in Ashbourne library through Age Friendly and Creative Ireland there are free creative workshops and performances organised. On the 19th October an Age Friendly awareness event for Older persons is scheduled to take in the morning in the Ardboyne Hotel.

Joint Policing Committee

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on Monday 19th September. The date of the Public Meeting for 2022 has been set for 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 13th October in Ratoath Municipal District.

Broadband Connection Points

The BCP site managers and people from their communities were invited to a network meeting on the 7th September in Kilskyre Community Activity Centre. The network discussed issues that were affecting them, the activities that they were delivering including co-working facilities and opportunities for new opportunities. Kinia presented their Train the Trainer programme to deliver digital skills programmes to 5 to 18-year olds by community leaders within the BCPs.

Video's featuring the BCPs in Meath were screened at the Department of Rural & Community Development Tent at the National Ploughing Championships.

Broadband

The Broadband Officer met with each of the Municipal Districts to update them on local progress on the National Broadband Plan, WIFI4EU and the development of Hubs across the County.

Pride of Place Initiative

The following awards nights are scheduled to take place:

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

Public Participation Network

The nomination process for Secretariat is underway with elections to follow. An independent monitor will oversee same. A Facilitator is in place to hold inductions for new Secretariat members. 2 meetings with Environment and Social Inclusion pillar groups were held in September.

Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

Four initiatives to date have been approved for funding from the Healthy Ireland Round 4 2022 allocation including the Outcomers LGBT Flags Initiative, the Special Hands Summer Camp, St Ciarans Community School Breakfast Club and the Libraries Books for Dyslexia Project.

Joint Migrant Integration Forum

Next meeting is scheduled for 29th September which will be hosted by Louth County Council.

Town & Village Streetscape Enhancement Initiative

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the 26 towns and villages that will benefit from a €2.6 million fund to support the enhancement of streetscapes and shopfronts with **Trim nominated in Meath**.

Under the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative, retailers and property owners will be provided with grants that they can use to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies.

Applications for funding must be submitted to the Department by October 7th.

CLÁR

Successful applications under Tranche 2 of Measure 1 of the 2022 CLÁR programme were announced on the 13th of September, by Minister Humphreys with the following allocations:

Killallon Cemetery- Completion of public lighting installation at graveyard. **€22,500.00**

Castlekieran Graveyard Preservation Committee-Repair the walls surrounding the site of the graveyard. **€50,000**

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. The most recent meeting was held on 12th September.

Libraries Services



Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Data Working Group under the CCMA Corporate Committee has identified customer satisfaction as an area which they are prioritising this year. The Data Working Group has asked the library services to participate as one of the first local authority service areas in the rollout of a customer satisfaction survey, which will also be applied across other local authority services in due course.

This will involve a high-level user survey which can be taken by library users either online or in printed form being undertaken in one large, busy library in each of the 30 library authorities. The survey will be run in Navan library over 5 days in late September (**26th-30th September**).

The customer satisfaction survey includes nine questions relating to the following items:

- library membership
- age group
- gender
- level of satisfaction with ease of use of the library
- engagement with library staff
- satisfaction with the facilities, layout, and atmosphere of the library
- service/s used during the library visit (on day of survey)
- areas for which changes/improvements are desired
- likelihood of repeat use of the library service

Decade of Centenaries

Decade of Centenaries Conference, 22 October 2022

As the Decade of Centenaries draw to a close, the Meath History Workshop will host a conference in Buvinda House, Navan on Saturday, 22 October, presenting new research on the Revolution and its aftermath in County Meath and reflecting on how we have commemorated the seminal events of the period.

The opening paper by Dr Leeann Lane (Dublin City University) will explore the experience of women during the Revolution and in the new state. Local historians Michael, Nolan, Tracey Holsgrove and Jim Gilligan give papers, respectively, on war and lawlessness in 1922-23, violence against women and the role of sport during the revolutionary period.

In the afternoon session, Tom French, local studies librarian, and poet, will offer his perspective on commemoration. Dr Ciarán Wallace (TCD) will introduce the exciting Beyond 2022 project, which seeks to create a virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, destroyed on June 30th, 1922. Finally, Frank Cogan will reflect on how commemoration was conducted in Meath in the decades after 1922. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion, inviting attendees to contribute their own reflections on the Decade of Centenaries.

The conference is being hosted by the Meath History Workshop, a group of local historians who have been active for the past decade and more in researching the history of the county. The event is funded by the Meath County Council Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 Programme and supported by the Library Service.

Murray Photograph Collection

Cllr. Nick Killian, An Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council officiated at the launch of The Murray Photograph Collection in Dunshaughlin Library on Tuesday evening, 13 September. The photographs which are being exhibited form part of an extensive collection of images taken by Peadar Murray, founder of the Gaelic League in Dunshaughlin, businessman and husband of Margaret Murray, the first woman to serve on Meath County Council.

On behalf of Meath County Council, An Cathaoirleach thanked the Murray family, who were gathered in great number, for their public-spirited gesture in consigning Peadar Murray's glass-plate negatives to the care of Meath County Archive. He remarked that photographs are a crucial and neglected part of the heritage of County Meath. He congratulated the local studies department of the library service for their initiative in digitizing the images and welcomed the support the initiative received from the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-23. He concluded his remarks by making a presentation of a framed print, dated 1904 of a Gaelic League class in Dunshaughlin, to Ita Murray, daughter of Peadar Murray, who is hale and hearty at 94 years old.

Little Library Book Bags – Impact

As the gifting programme draws to a close very positive membership and issues figures have emerged detailing the impact of the initiative. Since the start of the programme there are 710 new library members aged 4-5 who signed up between the 1st April - 8th September. (This count only includes new members, not those who renewed their membership cards.) There were 12,792 issues on the cards of those new 4-5-year-old members in the same timeframe.

Children's Book Festival

CBF 2022 is due to commence on Wednesday 5th October. The festival returns with in-person events for the first time since 2019 along with a mix of the very popular zoom and pre-recorded events.

Festival highlights include *Greetings Heroes*, an interactive storytelling show from **Dave Rudden and Graham Tugwell** in the Solstice Arts Centre; **illustration**

workshops from **Alan Nolan** who'll show 1st and 2nd class how to draw some cool animals, Cllr. **Ronan Moore** will entertain 4th to 6th classes with exploration of **Irish myths, magic and monsters**. And thirty-five years after her first visit to Navan library **Marita Conlon-Mckenna** - the author of the ever-popular Children of the Famine series - will be Zooming in to some lucky classrooms.

Full festival details are included in the brochure which is available to download below

[Children's Book Festival 2022 | Meath.ie](https://www.meath.ie/childrens-book-festival-2022)

Archives – upcoming events

Manchán Magan, Meath County Council Writer-in-Residence will give a talk in Navan Library on the 18th of October at 7.30pm

The importance of Family Archives - A personal perspective

Dr. Arlene Crampsie, editor of Meath:History and Society will give a talk in Navan library on the 30th November 2022 to mark 'Know Your Archives Week' on the subject of the Rural District Councils 1898 -1925. The full title is

'A short-lived experiment in local democracy: the rural district councils of Meath, 1898-1925'

Transportation Services



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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is planned for the N51 to be reopened to traffic in October 2022. A temporary traffic management system will be in place to facilitate ongoing construction works along the route. Construction Works re Drainage, Utilities, Structures & Surfacing to online and offline sections of the mainline and side roads are ongoing
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design consultants reviewing Draft 1 EIAR comments and CPO documents to be reviewed by the Project Team.
N52 Grange to Clontail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting on feedback from An Bord Pleanála regarding objections to the CPO – closing date 5th October 2022.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of Acceptance expected to be issued to Ground Investigation Contractor in the coming weeks. Tender docs for Archaeology Geophysical survey being prepared. Tender competition expected to be ran in the coming weeks
National Road Resurfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N51 Ongenstown: Contractor appointed – works commencing end of September N3/R147 Roundabout Kells: Capital Maintenance Scheme - works complete N2 Kellystown to Glassallen: Contractor appointed – programme for works being finalised N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath and N51 Halltown overlay schemes – finalising tender assessment

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

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

Road Works Programme	<p>Phase 1 - Recycling Overlay and Surface Dressing : Works on site complete at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-7410-0 Summerhill Lower • L-5004-5 Edoxtown <p>Phase 2 - Surface Dressing - All works complete</p> <p>Phase 3 - Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing: Works complete at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-40081-11 Shambo • L-1002-37 Irishtown- Rathfeigh • L-5006-12 Painestown • L-56211-0 Mosney Road <p>Phase 4 - HRA942: Works complete at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-5615-14 Pilltown Road • L-4008 Dunderry Village • R-147 Carnaross L-1610-51 • L-1610-51 Donore Rd Drogheda <p>CIS schemes: Works complete at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-50121-0 Colvinstown Tara • L74153-0 Antylstown, Navan • L-40132 Newhaggard Lane • L-40052-0 Grange Bohermeen • L-62122-0 Clondoogan Summerhill • L-22054-0 Boycetown Milltown • L-50071-0 Yellowshar • L-74038-0 Rathloghan, Kingscourt <p>Works commenced at Red Bog, Dunshaughlin</p> <p>LIS schemes: Works commenced at Ballivor and Corraboggy</p>
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2. (b) Strategic Regional & Local Rds & Specific Improvement Grant

R162 Kilberry to Lisnagrew Safety Scheme	Section 38 Public Consultation underway re proposed safety works at R162/L3406 Mullins Cross junction and removal of concrete bollards on R162 near L74023 junction.
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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 – minor snagging to be finalised

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

2022 DoT Schemes	
Tremblestown Bridge (L-40131)	Contractor appointed
Seymourstown Culvert (L68291)	Contractor appointed
Donaghpatrick Bridge (L7413)	Contractor appointed
Monknewtown Church Bridge (L5606)	Contractor appointed
Tatestown Culvert (L3409)	Contractor appointed
Dardistown Bridge (R108)	Design complete – proceeding to tender
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Design complete – proceeding to tender
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	At tender assessment stage
2022 Own Resources Schemes	
Kiltale Culvert (L62033)	Contractor appointed
Millennium Bridge, Trim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC formally requested assistance from the Defence Forces to construct a temporary bridge, known as a Bailey Bridge, to traverse the River Boyne adjacent to the location of the previous bridge. The request was accepted -Defence Forces mobilised to site on 16th Sept - bridge building began 19th September (photo below). MD crew provided assistance. The build is modular, as it is built it is rolled out across the river, removing the requirement to enter the river. • Official handover to MCC on 23rd Sept. MD crew ‘civilianize’ the structure by placing anti-slip decking & fencing along both parapets. • Approaches to the bridge levelled off to a design gradient ensuring accessibility for all pedestrians. As the bridge is wider than the previous bridge, concrete blocks placed on both sides to prevent vehicular access. Bridge opening scheduled for 30th Sept 2022. • Work on a design brief for the permanent superstructure replacement has commenced.



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

L-34095 Silverlawns Estate	Contractor set to commence works at end of Quarter 3
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3. Active Travel Grants 2022 from NTA – €13,910,000 & Accessibility/Bus Shelter Programmes - €465,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to issues with the supply of granite paving materials, the contractor has made some reconfigurations to the planned construction programme for Contract 3. Works have now commenced in Kennedy Plaza to new retaining walls, with planter removed from the southern end of the car park. Extensive engagement with stakeholders was undertaken in advance of the plaza works. Paving works on Kennedy Road continued along the Navan Shopping Centre, with 70% of the granite kerbing installed to the new bus interchange facility. Paving continued to front of Ulster Bank. Watermain installation on Kennedy Road complete from Paddy O'Brien Street to Metges Road and tested.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Snagging works continuing
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	Continued peer review of tender documentation is taking place and comments are being collated. Delays to confirmation of final design - intention now to commence tender process in early October for Phase 1 - Construction Works from Solstice Roundabout to Beechmount Housing Estate.

Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown	Convent Road Scheme: Application for Part 8 Statutory process submitted on 13/09/2022. The Statutory display period shall run for a period of 4 weeks and time for submissions is due to close on 27/10/2022.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	Application for Part 8 planning permission for the scheme was submitted on 06/09/2022. The Statutory display period shall run for a period of 4 weeks and the time for submissions is due to close on 20/10/2022.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	The Phase 3 Preliminary Design process is continuing. A presentation on the ‘Emerging Preferred Option’ is to be delivered to Navan MD Members at their October meeting. It is envisaged that an application for Part 8 planning permission shall be submitted by mid-November 2022.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Consulting Engineering Services for design work. - appointment process for the successful tenderer has been finalised. Consultants are due to commence the Phase 2 option selection process on week beginning 26/10/2022
Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consultants/Designers are continuing the Options Selection Process for the scheme. • Project team continuing the non-statutory consultation with businesses and residents on Trimgate St in relation to gathering sentiment information to develop the concept designs further into the preliminary design stage. • It is envisaged that an application for Part 8 planning permission for the scheme shall be submitted in late October/early November 2022.
Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade	A Tender evaluation and assessment for Consulting Engineering Services for design work., Phases 2 - 7 has been completed. ‘Letter to Successful has been issued. We are awaiting the submission of the required information and documentation to finalise the appointment.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	Preferred Consultant identified from tender assessment. Pre-start meeting held with the preferred Consultants, awaiting NTA’s approval to appoint.
Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme	Contractor commencing Phase 2 works, which consist of extending the works from the filling station to the Nine Milestone Roundabout.
N51 Park & Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works to main car park area complete. Footpath, street furniture, and Public Lighting works continuing. • Works adjacent to the N51 forming the offline bus bay commencing. • Ducting installed for public lighting and EV chargers.
Bus Shelter Enabling Works	Construction completed. Snagging works underway
Accessible Bus Stops Works	Construction completed. Snagging works underway
Eastham Road Cycle facilities	Route options assessment ongoing, topographical surveys complete.

Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	Tender assessment report drafted. Pre-start meeting to be held with the preferred consultant and NTA approval to be sought for appointment of same.
Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway	Detailed design ongoing. Additional topographical and utility surveys completed. Service and utility diversion being designed.
Newtown Road, Trim	Tender for design contract issued to the NTA Consultant Framework on 09 th September - tender closes 6th October 2022

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

Athboy Town Centre Project	Site Investigation works completed on site. Detail design progressing.
R135 Cycle Network Design	Works continuing on Phase 1, between Tudor Grove entrance and Dunnes Stores and have commenced now on the Phase 2 section at the junction of Castle Street
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TH Moore nearing completion on construction work on the Greenway between Gibbstown & Wilkinstown – snagging remaining. • GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd working on the Castletown to Nobber section – works substantially complete • TII approval obtained to award contract for construction of the Nobber to Kingscourt section, works scheduled to commence at the end of October. • Tender documents for the Castletown to Wilkinstown Section being finalised
LDR4 - Kells Rd to Ratholdren Rd, Navan	Advanced Archaeology test trenching and site investigation re existing services underway. Detail design and tender preparation progressing.
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan to Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to peer review comments from TII currently being prepared by the Consultants. • Further modelling work required to satisfy TII requirements

5. Other Actions/ Projects

Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laytown/ Bettystown MD: Contract for Slane and Duleek has been awarded – works have commenced in Slane • Trim MD: Contract for Blackfriary Estate, Griffin Park & Dunderry Road awarded - works to commence in October • Kells MD: Works continuing in Mount Dutton Estate, Kells and Drumconrath
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratoath MD: Contractor for Dunshaughlin Main St has been appointed, works will commence before the end of the year. • Navan MD: Tender for Clonmaggaden Road, St. Mary's Park and Woodview awarded – awaiting Ontractor resources to commence the works Silverlawns Estate - Phase 2 due to commence
PLEEP Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Letter of Acceptance was issued to the Successful Tenderer Killaree Lighting Services (KLS)- ASD Lighting Plc Joint venture and the Contract was signed on the 17th August 2022. • The Contractor is preparing the first Contract Programme for acceptance by the Client. The Works are scheduled in the following sequence: Kilkenny, Carlow, Offaly, Tipperary, Wicklow, Kildare, Westmeath, Meath and Louth.
30 KPH Housing Estate Speed Limit Bye-Law	Special Speed Limit Bye-Law being updated to include 17 number additional eligible estates for which submissions have been received.
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	Pre-start meeting held with preferred consultants, appointment to be confirmed shortly, to take the public realm plan through detail design and construction stages.
Dunshaughlin Public Realm Scheme	Project Consultants appointment process being finalised. Pre-award meeting held.

Planning and Development



- Planning Applications

1262 planning applications were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 23/09/2022 compared to 1861 in the same period in 2021.

- Commencement Notices

468 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 23/09/2022. This is compared to 561 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	210
Multi-Units	838 (units)
Extensions	92
Other*	44

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

- Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts for the period January to August 2022 were €10,206,696. This is compared to €8,550,843 in the same period in 2021. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

- Planning Enforcement

155 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 27/09/2022.

	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	25
Warning Letter	72
Enforcement Notice	11
Referred for Legal Proceedings	3
Further Information Requested	0
Closed	44

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax

A presentation on the Residential Zoned Land Tax will be made at the November Council meeting. In the interim, a summary of the initiative is contained below.

Aim

The principal purpose of the residential zoned development land tax is to encourage the timely activation of zoned and serviced residential development land for housing.

Legislative Framework

The Residential Zoned Land Tax ("RZLT") was introduced by section 80 of Finance Act 2021 and is contained in Part 22A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA 1997). It is an annual tax which is calculated at 3% of the market value of land within its scope. Generally, the tax applies to land that, on or after 1 January 2022, is zoned as being suitable for residential development and is serviced. Each local authority will prepare and publish a map identifying land within the scope of the tax. These maps will be updated annually for any changes in the zoning and servicing status of the land.

See s. 80 in Finance Act 2021:

<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/act/45/section/80/enacted/en/html#sec80>

Intro

The first step in this process is to identify lands which fall within scope of the tax. Lands in scope will be zoned for residential development or a mixture of uses including residential; be serviced or have access to servicing by water, waste-water, road, footpath and public lighting; and not be affected by contamination or significant archaeological remains which would preclude development taking place.

The tax measure can be divided into two parts, the first of which is the development of mapping identifying the lands to be subject of the tax. The second part involves implementing and managing the tax, which will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners.

Guidance

Housing Policy Objective 15.2 of Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland proposed a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply. The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced by the Finance Act 2021 and will come into effect from 2024, managed by the Revenue Commissioners.

The tax and the associated guidelines are part of a suite of integrated measures and policy direction within Housing for All to:

- Engage lands in cities and towns;
- Create compact and integrated communities;
- Aid brownfield regeneration;

- Activate greenfield landbanks for housing; and
- Support place making and growth of sustainable communities.

Criteria for the inclusion of lands within the scope of the tax

- Land must be zoned residential use or for mixed uses which permit residential use including residential within the CDP/ LAP and Strategic Development Zone
- Land must be connected to, or have access to public infrastructure and facilities necessary for a dwelling to be developed and with sufficient service capacity available.
- All residential and mixed use zonings within each LPA, whether in cities, suburbs, towns and villages or other settlements should be considered for the purpose of the tax.
- Land which is zoned as residential and contains existing residential development such as estates or individual houses are also considered to be 'in scope' and must be included within the map but owners of existing properties will not be liable.

Residential Zoned Land Tax - Guidelines for Planning Authorities

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/fbc41-residential-zoned-land-tax-guidelines-for-planning-authorities/>

Serviced land definition

For the purpose of inclusion on the draft or supplemental, and final map, the land must have access to or be connected to relevant services. This includes lands which already have made connections to services, or where provision has been made in existing infrastructure for connection to the land. Information from stakeholders such as Irish Water will play a key role in identifying these lands and providing confirmation of existing capacity in wastewater treatment plants and water treatment plants along with data informing the date of connection or ability to connect to services, where this date was after 1 January 2022. A need for network upgrades is not considered to exclude lands, where sufficient treatment capacity is confirmed to exist. Further details are provided in Section 4 Implementation.

Exclusions from the map

- **Contamination:** Lands which are unable to be developed due to the need for significant remediation are to be excluded. These are sites with a degree of contamination which would preclude residential development and area on a verifiable register such as EPA site. Where lands are not identified as an EPA licensed sites, any submission requesting exclusion should submit evidence to enable the LPA to assess whether the land in questions should benefit from exclusion.
- **Significant archaeology:** where zoned serviced greenfield sites area known to contain archaeological remains, identified within the Record of Monuments and places (RMP) within CDP or LAPs, then the area comprising either the know extent of the archaeological remains of the zone of notification should be excluded for the purposes of mapping for the tax measure. Brownfield sites with a notification should be scoped in.
- **Zoning:** where residential is not 'permitted in principle', on a land use zoning matric, such zonings should not be included.

- **Derelict sites register:** Lands which are on the derelict sites register and a levy payable, the land is within scope and should not be placed on the map.
- **Land required for infrastructure and community services:** Land required for the provision of community services and infrastructure which will sustain existing and future residential communities. Where the land is zoned for residential development and specific objectives apply to provide such facilities but the extent of land required for such a use is not identified, the land will fall into scope until such time as it is developed and the relevant land will then fall out of scope. These uses include:
 - social, community or governmental infrastructure and facilities, including infrastructure and facilities used for the purposes of public administration or the provision of education or healthcare,
 - II. transport facilities and infrastructure,
 - III. energy infrastructure and facilities,
 - IV. telecommunications infrastructure and facilities,
 - V. water and wastewater infrastructure and facilities,
 - VI. waste management and disposal infrastructure, or
 - VII. recreational infrastructure, including sports facilities and playgrounds

Exclusions for existing operating uses on land:

zoned serviced lands identified as part of the mapping process may have existing uses which are specifically excluded under the legislation.

With regard to residential zoned land, and mixed use zoned land, sections 653B(c)(i) and (c)(ii) respectively identify where certain uses may be excluded from the tax measure:

Operating uses on residential zoned land

With reference to land that is included in a development plan or local area plan and is zoned solely or primarily for residential use such as 'Residential' or 'New Residential', existing uses to be excluded from the scope of mapping for the tax measure must provide a service to the existing or future residential community, must be an authorised use, must be considered a premises in use by a trade or profession and must be liable to commercial rates. Local Authorities should seek input from their Rates Offices in this regard.

For clarity, existing uses such as shops, cafes and similar commercial uses which would be utilised by a residential community on a day-to-day basis and support the sustainable development of the community are considered to be exempted from scope. Use of land for agricultural or horticultural purposes are not considered to be exempted from scope as they are not subject to rates.

Operating uses on Mixed use zoned lands

With reference to land that is included in a development plan or local area plan and is zoned for a mixture of uses, including residential such as TC-Town Centre, DC-District Centre, RERegeneration,

LC-Local Centre and RV-Rural Village, all land should be excluded from the map unless is it considered 'vacant or idle'.

Vacant or idle land' means land which, having regard only to development (within the meaning of the Act of 2000) which is not unauthorised development (within the meaning of the Act of 2000), is not required for, or integral to, the operation of a trade or profession being carried out on, or adjacent to, the land.

Temporary uses

Temporary uses of land should not result in land being excluded from the tax measure. Lands which are subject to a temporary planning permission which has been commenced should be considered for exclusion for the period of that permission and revisited during the annual map review process to ensure that the land is activated at a later stage.

Annual map review

- The process should focus firstly on removing 'vacant or idle' mixed use zoned land which has been developed through fully completing permitted residential or commercial development or residential zoned land which has been developed for non-residential uses, such as education for example.
- New lands which have been serviced or have come into scope since the previous year's final map should be identified and included in the map for each subsequent review thereafter.
- The revised final map must be published by 31 January of each year, with the draft map for the following year's final map to be published on 1 February and shall identify new lands which are considered to have come into scope, existing lands from previous final maps which remain in scope and lands from previous final maps which are now proposed for removal due to development having been fully completed within the relevant planning permission period.
- The publication of a newspaper notice in relation to the publication of the draft map shall be undertaken by the 1st February each year, commencing in 2024.
- Submissions may be made by landowners and other members of the public. Submissions must be received by the local authority by 1 April in each year.

Amendments to zonings

Landowners can make a request to rezone land. These requests can only be made by/on behalf of the owners of land affected and can only be made during the submission period for the very first draft and supplemental mapping process.

The ability to request a change in zoning is not provided for in later annual reviews of the maps as the taxation measure will at that stage have become established and the owner of any land subsequently falling into scope would be aware of such liability in advance.

Any requests for changes to zoning through a variation process should be considered by the local authority under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) utilising the same criteria applied to zoning requests during the making of a development plan or Section 20 of the 2000 Act facilitating amendment of local area plans.

Economic Development



Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	2
Trading Online Vouchers	3
Training Online Courses Attended	114
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	4
Craft and Creative Network	71

Following on the success of local students, Theo Staunton and Matthew Kealy from St. Patrick's Classical School in Navan, who won first prize in the Senior Category of the Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) in May, 2022, the Local Enterprise Office kick-started the 2022/2023 programme (see www.studententerprise.ie for full details) with three special Idea Generation Days in the Trim Castle Hotel during the second week of September. Second-level students from all over the county were introduced to the SEP and brought through a series of activities to help them generate a viable business idea which they can progress over the coming months. Over one thousand students took part in this kick-starter event which was widely enjoyed and appreciated by all the students.

Tourism



Marketing Activity:

County Meath was promoted at a Boyne Valley stand at the National Ploughing Championships at Ratheniska, County Laois from September 20th to 22nd.

An Autumn and Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival campaign is running throughout September and early October via 98FM and U105 radio and on social media. It included a press visit by U105 Presenter Cate Conway who spent 2 days September 12th and 13th in the Boyne Valley and reported live throughout her trip to the U105 studio. Video and blog content were produced and the video can be viewed at <https://www.discoverboynevalley.ie/u105-radios-cate-conway-visits-boyne-valley>

A new [Spirits of Meath Festival website](#) created by Meath County Council was launched for desktop and mobile. The site features all events taking place throughout the County.

The Boyne Valley brochure was upgraded and is on display at Terminals 1 and 2 at Dublin Airport.

Púca Festival:

The Púca Halloween Festival Programme was launched by Minister Catherine Martin TD at Dublin Castle on September 12th. The festival is a partnership of Fáilte Ireland and Meath County Council and takes place at two key hubs in Trim and Athboy from October 28th to 31st. The festival will position Ireland and Meath as the Home of Halloween and attract international and domestic visitors to the County. The line up is a mix of free and ticketed events throughout the weekend with key acts including Gavin James, Imelda May, Sharon Shannon and The Academic along with comedy in the form of Joanne McNally, Neil Delamere and Jason Byrne. A series of cultural events will take place and the line up can be viewed <https://pucafestival.com>

Finance Section



Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Loans Data 1st January 2022 to 15th September 2022		
Fully Completed Applications Received 2022	91	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	2	All relate to 2022 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	All relate to 2022 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	70	62 relate to 2022, 8 relate to 2021
Refused by Credit Committee	22	20 relate to 2022, 2 relate to 2021 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	1	All relate to 2022 applications
Returned to Customer	5	3 relate to 2022, 1 to 2021
Active Approvals	51	50 Relate to 2022, 1 relates to 2021,
Expired	27	26 relate to 2022 applications, 1 relates to 2022
Drawdown by Customer	30.12	11 relate to 2022, 19 relate to 2021 applications, .12 relates to 2020

Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2022 – 15^h September 2022 and in some cases relate to applications pre 2022.

Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases

Other Information: New online payments portal and payment app now live. This will not only enable Rents, Rates, Loans, Emergency Accommodation & RAS customers to make payments easier via mobile devices but also view statements of their accounts.