



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report
November 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 December meeting of the Council will take place in the European Commission premises in Kiltale. The meeting will be in-person only and registration will take place at 10.30am. The meeting will commence at 11.00am with a presentation and a tour of the premises. Lunch will be provided, and the Council meeting will take place at 1.30pm in the large meeting room.

The Budget meeting will take place in the Newgrange Hotel. The pre-budget meeting will take place at 11.00am in hybrid format, followed by lunch for those in attendance. The Budget Meeting will take place at 2.30pm in-person only in the Newgrange Hotel.

Trim – Winners of SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition for the 4th Time



Huge congratulations to Trim Tidy Towns and the people of Trim on winning this year's SuperValu Tidy Town competition. This is the 4th time that Trim has received this honour having previously held the title in 1972 and 1984 and they were joint winners in 1974.

The Tidy Towns Adjudicators commended the community of Trim for their hard work in improving the heritage and appearance of the town and in particular the two projects Trim

Educate Together and (SEC) Sustainable Energy Committee. They also acknowledged the pivotal relationship between the Tidy Towns Committee and the Council.

Well done to all of the Tidy Towns Groups in County Meath for their ongoing efforts in improving their local communities.

Corporate Governance



Meath County Council were recently successful in being awarded certification to the coveted safety management standard ISO 45001:2018. ISO 45001:2018 is the world's first international Occupational Health and Safety management accreditation award. The standard provides a framework to increase safety awareness, reduce workplace

risks and enhance health and wellbeing at work, enabling an organisation to continually improve its Occupational Health and Safety performance and to demonstrate a proactive approach to managing safety.

Audits took place over 12 audit days in June and July in numerous locations across the county. Various activities undertaken by the council were observed and examined by auditors. While always scope for continual improvement their findings were positive resulting in the award. Meath County Council are one of only a small number of local authorities who hold corporate accreditation across their entire operations, and this would not be achievable without positive engagement and commitment from the entire workforce. The internationally recognised occupational health and safety standard was presented to the Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire by Richard Barry of the nominated accreditation body, Certification Europe.

Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests

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 Q3 2022:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q3 - 2022	41	2	0

Link to FOI Disclosure Log: <https://www.meath.ie/council/your-council/your-data-and-access-to-information/freedom-of-information>

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q3 - 2022	4	0	1

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q3 - 2022	4

Staff Retirements

The following staff members have retired from the Council in Q3 of 2022:

- Gerry Dunne – Transport – Trim MD - Retired 03/07/2022
- Kevin Fitzsimons Jnr – Transport – Laytown/Bettystown MD – Retired 11/07/2022
- Gerry McCormack – Water Services – Retired 31/07/2022
- Theresa Russell – Corporate – Facilities – Retired 12/08/2022
- Fiona MacMahon – HR & People Management – Retired 01/09/2022

Próiseas Pleanála Teanga

I mí Mheán Fómhair thosaigh cruinnithe faoi na Bailte Seirbhíse Gaeltachta. Tá Comhairle Chontae na Mí ag tacú le Foras na Gaeilge agus Glór na nGael tús láidir a chuir leis an phróiseas pleanála teanga sna bailte seirbhíse atá luaite le Gaeltacht na Mí – An Uaimh agus Baile Átha Buí. D’fhreastail ionadaithe ó Fhoras na Gaeilge ar na cruinnithe seo a tharla san Óstán Newgrange san Uaimh agus Darnley Lodge in Áth Buí. Bhi baill den phobail áitiúil agus an Oifigeach Gaeilge Chomhairle Chontae na Mí i láthair ag na cruinnithe seo; agus bhí cur i láthair faighte ag an bpobal ó Fhoras na Gaeilge ar na hachtanna éagsúla, tionscnaimh, srl. a mbaineann leis an Ghaeilge sa tír agus sna Bailte seirbhíse Gaeltachta. Faoi láthair tá coiste bunaithe i mBaile Átha Buí faoi stiúir Foras na Gaeilge agus Glór na nGael agus tacú le Comhairle Chontae na Mí. Tá pleananna fós i bhfeidhm chun coiste a chur ar bun san Uaimh. Is é an aidhm a bheadh ag na gcoistí ná seirbhísí feabhsaithe trí Ghaeilge don phobal áitiúil a chur ar fáil sna bailte seirbhíse Gaeltachta An Uaimh agus Áth Buí.

Communications and Events

Meath History Workshop



On Saturday, October 22, Meath History Workshop hosted a Decade of Centenaries Conference in Buvinda House.

Attendees were presented with new research on the Revolution and its aftermath in County Meath and reflected on how we commemorated the period's seminal events.

Meath History workshop is a group of local historians who have been active for the past decade and more in researching the history of

the county.

The event received support from Meath County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023.

Publication of the North East Region Emergency Leaflet



Meath County Council, in partnership with Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council and Louth County Council, published a guide that can help members of the public prepare for emergencies such as severe weather, gorse fires, flooding or a flu epidemic.

This is not about doing the job of the emergency services; it is about supporting individuals and their family by making sensible preparations now to be self-sufficient during an emergency or evacuation.

The guide is available in both English and Irish on www.meath.ie/council/news/preparing-for-the-unexpected.

The Elder Project



The Elder Project” is an ambitious Trim Tidy Towns led project that aims to help plant over 10,000 native trees and shrubs in Trim and its environs, one for every member of Trim's population over the next 10 years.

In achieving this ambition Trim Tidy Towns will work with a range of stakeholders including the Municipal District, landowners and residents’ associations to identify sites for the planting of a new population of living things.

Pictured are Tomas Novak planting an Oak tree along with Trim MD's executive engineer Maura Daly.

Meath Comhairle na nÓg AGM

The Meath Comhairle na nÓg AGM that took place in Navan O'Mahony's GAA club on Thursday, October 13 2022.

The event was well attended by schools across the County. An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian opened the day with an address to the young people and Minister Helen McEntee popped in mid-morning to chat to the students and listen to issues that they face.

The new Comhairle was elected and the topics they chose to work on over the next two years is mental health and substance abuse.



Road Safety Workshop



Meath County Council held a road safety workshop in October with our Road Safety Working Together Group with members from Meath Fire Service, Road Safety Authority Ireland, An Garda Síochána, HSE Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland / Meath and council staff.

Sharing expertise and experience, the new Road Safety Plan was developed and inventive ways to create greater awareness of road safety in County Meath and beyond were discussed.

Scribhneoir Conaithe – Manchán Magan - Arán & Im Seó



Ar an 29 Meán Fómhair thug Scribhneoir Cónaithe le Comhairle Chontae na Mí – Manchán Magan cuairt ar Chnoghba i mBrúgh na Bóinne agus chuir sé an seó Arán & Im i láthair. Bhí an seó seo dírithe ar fhoireann na Gaelscoileanna sa cheantar. Bhí fiche duine i láthair.

On 29 September Writer in Residence with Meath County Council Manchán Magan visited Knowth in Brúgh na Bóinne and presented his show Arán & Im. This show was aimed at the staff of Gaelscoils in the district. There were 20 in attendance.

Féile Leabhar na bPáistí – Amharclann Solstice – Manchán

Magan

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair mar chuid den Fhéile Leabhar na bPáistí thug Scríbhneoir Cónaithe Manchán Magan cuairt ar Amharclann an Ghrianstad san Uaimh chun cur i láthair a dhéanamh ar a leabhar *Tree Dogs, Banshee Fingers and Other Irish Words For Nature*.

Bhí an seó seo dírithe ar pháistí a fhreastalaíonn ar scoileanna lán Ghaeilge sa Chontae. Bhí sé eagraithe ag an Oifigeach Gaeilge i gcomhoibriú leis an tseirbhís leabharlainne. D'fhreastail 253 dalta ar an ócáid agus bhí siad an sásta leis.



In October as part of the Children's Book Festival Writer in Residence Manchán Magan visited the Solstice Theatre in Navan for a presentation on his book Tree Dogs, Banshee Fingers and Other Irish Words for Nature. This show was aimed at children who attend all Irish language schools in the County. It was organised by the Irish Language Officer in cooperation with the library service. 253 pupils attended the event and it was well received by them.

Scannán Róise & Frank – Amharclann an Ghrianstad

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair craoladh an scannán as Gaeilge *Róise agus Frank* san Amharclann an Ghrianstad; bhí an taispeántú seo páirtmhaoinithe ón mbuiséad an Oifigigh Gaeilge agus mar chuid den sraith scannáin as Gaeilge atá á thaispeántú san Amharclann faoi láthair. Bhí 140 duine i láthair ar an scannán seo.

In October the Irish language film *Róise agus Frank* was screened in the Solstice Theatre; this screening was partly funded from the Irish language Officers budget and as part of the series of films as Gaeilge currently being shown in the Theatre. There were 140 people in attendance at this film.

Climate Action and Environment



Meath County Council – Energy Expo Event

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL ENERGY EXPO



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



The Meath Energy Expo which was held in the The Ardboyne Hotel on the 22nd October proved to be an outstanding success and with over 450 people turning up on the day. The event which got extensive publicity on LMFM and other media outlets saw many local businesses showcasing products and providing advices on the most modern types of renewable technologies which will serve to make homes and businesses more energy efficient. The feedback from these businesses was extremely positive and leading to potential projects which help secure jobs at local level.

The Home Energy Kits proved to be very popular with attendees.



School SDG Engagement Workshop:

A series of workshops are being delivered to Primary Schools throughout Co. Meath. These workshops aim to educate 4th – 6th class children on Sustainable Development Goals.

Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022

The Solid Fuel Regulations came into effect on the 31st October 2022. The primary focus of the Regulations is to improve Air Quality as well as people’s health chances and outcomes by restricting the retail, online and commercial sale of smoky fuels including smoky coal, turf and wet wood. Theses fuels are proven to be a major contributor to air pollution in Ireland

Local Authorities who will continue to be responsible for enforcement of the Regulations and we have been asked to support the Department's information campaign in respect of the introduction of the Regulations and including publication of the national press release and FAQs at local level.

While the Regulations do not make any changes relating to turf cutting rights, they do include prohibitions on the sale of turf via the intranet or other media or from premises selling food, fuel or other goods.

Halloween Amnesty for Meath Households

The Halloween Amnesty held at the five recycling centres in the county on the 28th and 29th October resulted in the collection of very large volumes of combustible household items, some of which would have ended up being dumped in high amenity areas or on Halloween bonfires and generating air quality and other safety difficulties. This new initiative which received both local and national publicity saw in excess of 2,000 people attend at the 5 centres over the two days, and depositing in particular large amounts of beds, mattresses, headboards, couches, tables and chairs and all for just the gate access fee of €2.



Consultation on draft regulations to introduce an environmental levy on single-use disposable cups

The National Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy sets out our commitment to introduce new environmental levies to encourage more responsible behaviour and phase out single-use products in the same way as we have done so successfully before through the Plastic Bag Levy. With the enactment of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 in July, the first of these environmental levies can be implemented. The Minister of State for the Circular Economy is introducing an environmental levy on single-use cups for hot drinks to incentivise people to choose to re-use and to help reduce single-use waste. The levy will also encourage more people to think about other steps they can take in their daily lives to reduce waste and contribute to climate action.

The proposal is currently the subject of public consultation, retailer consultation and other stakeholder engagement, submissions to be made by the 25th November 2022 to SingleUse@decc.gov.ie or by post to Circular Economy - Materials Management Division, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Government Buildings, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90.

Smart Ring Buoys Project



Meath County Council is one of 8 Local Authorities participating in the SMART Ringbuoy project which was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys at the Civic Offices in Wood Quay on the 26th October. This new digital initiative project which is being rolled out to save lives in Ireland's waters will see the deployment of 643 ring buoy sensors which are designed to alert water safety officers when ring buoys are tampered with or go missing. The sensors are paired with a mobile, map-based platform that has real-time monitoring, to ensure ring buoys are replaced as quickly as possible. The roll out of this scheme will be complete by Christmas.

Shared Island Development Project:

Meath County Council and our partners Louth County Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council have been awarded Shared Island funding for a coastal erosion study in the East Border Region. The study will concentrate on nature based solutions to combat coastal erosion and will take 12 months to complete.

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	Q4 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 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 re-advertised 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:** Contractor has been appointed and these works are due to commence on site on 14th November 2022.
- **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.

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. All applications have been allocated out to contractors to undertake the works, most of which have been completed to date. One of the extensions is due for completion in November and a second extension has recently commenced on site.

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 342 applications to the value of €2,249,016 have been approved to 30th September, 2022. The total value for the 434 applications that have been approved to 30th September, 2022 equates to €2,930, 807

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 26th October 2022. For the

period from 20th September 2022 to 26th October 2022, works were completed on 9 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	0	2	2	0
Kells	8	0	0	2	6
Laytown/Bettystown	1	0	1	2	0
Navan	5	6	1	10	2
Ratoath	5	0	0	2	3
Trim	12	2	0	8	6
TOTALS	31	8	**4	26	17

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

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Narrowways, Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Q2/2022 Complete.
Abbey Road, Commons, Duleek	22	North and East	Q3/2022 Complete
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Q2/2022 Complete.
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Q3/2022 Complete
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	2	Tuath Housing	Q3/2022 complete
Applewood Court, Beaufort Place, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Q4/2022
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	Q4/ 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 August 2022 (Previous Reported Figure)	143 (153 adults)	43 (74 adults 94 children)	186
Placements at 30th September 2022	144 (153 adults)	44 (76 adults 93 children)	188
<p>Of the households with children, 36 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 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 56 Place finder tenancies processed from 1st Jan- 30th September 2022

Total	56
Exiting emergency accommodation	33
Prevention	23

Standards in rented Accommodation

350 inspections of rented accommodation were undertaken for Q3. (July to September 2022). 295 improvement Letters were issued as well as 3 improvement Notices. 55 rented accommodation units were deemed compliant in the period.

Social Housing Supports

- 701 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 30th September 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 30th September 2022.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	89
Approved Housing Bodies	115
RAS	0
HAP	304
Long term Leasing	23
MTR (AHBS)	4
TOTAL	535

Community Development



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC meeting took place on 21st October 2022 and received details of the new Healthy Ireland round 4 programme and the audit report of SICAP 2021. Consultation for the next Meath LECP has commenced with a social media campaign, pop-ups/pop-ins took place in the municipal districts in early November. Consultation is open until 9th December.

LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The LAG meeting took place on 21st October 2022 where 1No. project was approved. LAG members were advised that the Transitional LEADER programme will be fully committed by the deadline of 31st December 2022.

Comhairle na n'Óg

The Comhairle na nOg AGM took place in Navan O'Mahony's GAA club on Thursday 13th October. The event was well attended by schools across the County. Cathaoirleach Cllr Nick Killian opened the event with an address to the young people and Minister Helen McEntee visited to meet students and listen to issues that they face. The new Comhairle was elected and the topics they chose to work on over the next two years are mental health and substance abuse.

Age Friendly Meath

The Meath Age Friendly programme manager co-ordinated an awareness event for Older persons that took place on 19th October in the Ardboyne with over 120 older persons in attendance. The event was opened by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Nick Killian with speakers on Dementia awareness, Crime Prevention and Legal issues/Wills and planning for the future. The event finished with chair yoga delivered by Meath Local Sports Partnership.



Joint Policing Committee

The annual public meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on Thursday 13th October in the Venue Theatre, Ratoath which saw a good turnout. The next JPC meeting will take place on Monday 12th December 2022.

Pride of Place Initiative

All 6 MD awards nights have taken place with the County Awards scheduled to take place in the Solstice Arts Centre, Navan on Thursday 17th November.

Public Participation Network

Municipal District elections are completed, with the first 6 people of the new Secretariat having been declared. Elections for Pillar members was completed on 24th October with 10 of the 12 Secretariat positions now filled. The first full in person secretariat meeting will take place on 9th November. An independent facilitator will be in place to carry out inductions for the new Secretariat members. 499 groups are now registered with Meath PPN. The Resource Worker and 1 Secretariat member attended the PPN National Conference in Laois, 21st & 22nd October.

Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

The 'Not Around Us' campaign was promoted again and a further 11 organisations were signed up. The first edition of the Healthy Meath Newsletter was published online. The Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 was launched nationally, and planning is underway to select the priorities for Meath to focus on for the next three years. This includes the Healthy Meath Public Consultation Survey which has been promoted online, via the PPN and other community-based organisations, in local newspapers and in person across the County. There have been 230 responses to the survey so far, and it will remain open until the 6th November.

Joint Migrant Integration Forum

Next meeting is scheduled for 15th December which will be hosted by Meath County Council.

Knockharley Community Grant Scheme

A meeting of the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee took place on Monday 10th October 2022.

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



Dyslexia-friendly book gifting scheme

Meath County Council launched a unique dyslexia-friendly book gifting initiative for primary schools. The initiative aims to support reading for pleasure in schools by making classrooms and schools libraries even more accessible and dyslexia friendly.



The initiative seeks to help break down the barriers that can stop children getting into reading. These dyslexia-friendly short reads published by Barrington Stoke and written by popular authors have more accessible layouts, dyslexia-friendly fonts, and off-white pages to help make reading easier for children. The books are hi low (high interest, low ability) so the content is age-appropriate, but the text is carefully edited to suit a lower reading age.

To learn more about the Primary School Service and other literacy supports for children and families, please visit <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/services-for-schools-teachers-and-parents>

To learn more about the publisher Barrington Stoke, please check out their website here: <https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/>

The book gifting initiative is funded by Meath County Council Library Service through the Right to Read programme & The Healthy Ireland fund supported by the Department of Health and Meath County Council.

Scéal Trail/Story Trail

Meath County Council Library service has completed the development of a 'Scéal Trail /Story Trail' in 2022. The proposal involved the creation of a free, self-guided outdoor reading experience for families with young children, combining literacy, and exercise in a fun and interactive manner. The Scéal Trail/Story Trail is essentially a picture book mounted on individual lecterns on a short walking loop in a public park. The library service worked with authors and publishers to develop the proposal. The 'Scéal Trail' is developed to complement the work of the library service 'Right to Read' programme and other national programmes such as Healthy Ireland etc.

The '**Scéal Trail**' initiative for children and young families will be launched shortly as part of the Right to Read programme. 'Socks for Mr. Wolf' by Tatyana Feeney and published by the O'Brien Press is the featured story and it will be 'trailed' in a loop across Blackwater Park in Navan.

Science Week

Science Week 2022 runs from November 13th to 20th and the STEAM team at Meath County Council Library Service has organised some great free workshops for primary schools.

This year there is a mix of in-house and online programming with visits from returning favourites Mark the Science Guy and The Rediscovery Centre. The programme also features some Mind Reading Maths from Anyone for Science, and an opportunity to explore the universe with Seamus Yore. The ever-popular Grace Haynes will teach about the biodiversity in Ireland's wetlands in some great online drawing workshops.

Decade of Centenaries

Kathleen Napoli McKenna

“Kathleen” is a unique and inventive new artwork which will be exhibited on Dublin’s Luas service from the 6th to the 20th of November.

“Kathleen” celebrates the largely unknown story of the brave Irish journalist and activist, Kathleen Napoli McKenna (1897-1988) from Oldcastle, Co Meath.

It is a digital print of a bespoke textile work, with a QR code which links to a video spoken word piece. “Kathleen” introduces a key character in the Irish Bulletin to new audiences. The Irish Bulletin (1919-1921), published by the Propaganda Department of the first Dáil, functioned as a weapon, such was its ability to circulate vital war information. Witness and contributor to one of the most significant times in Ireland’s history, in her work producing the Irish Bulletin, she showed bravery, resourcefulness and dexterity. During the War of Independence, the London treaty negotiations, and the Civil War, she had confidential and volatile information at her fingertips. She was twenty-two. Such was the level of secrecy around the production, the production location moved around Dublin inner city more than a dozen times in the 20 months it existed. Placing the artwork on the Luas straplines on both green and red lines connects the dots of locations of the Irish Bulletin hideouts. The strapline is a detailed scan of a textile banner, which contains motifs relating to the story of Kathleen McKenna and which was developed over the course of research as part of the Kathleen McKenna award. There is also QR code which allows the audience to access a video on their phones. This video is a 90 second spoken word piece with imagery generated from a camera moving across the banner revealing details.

“Kathleen” is an original. This artwork was commissioned as part of the Kathleen McKenna award supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012 - 2023 initiative, with Solstice Arts Centre and Meath County Council Cultural Services. “Kathleen” on the Luas is funded by Meath County Council with the support of the Creative Ireland programme.

Máire Ní Raghallaigh

Drumconrath cemented its place as a ‘cradle of culture’ in North Meath as the local community recently honoured the memory of Máire Ní Raghallaigh (1867-1941), a patriot and language

enthusiast. The Drumconrath Cultural and Heritage Society with financial support from the Meath Decade of Centenaries 2012 -23 programme organised a festival which culminated in the unveiling of a portrait of Máire Ní Raghallaigh by the Meath artist Bríd Fanning. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Nick Killian unveiled the portrait which was commissioned by Meath County Council. The portrait was presented to the local community at a special event in Drumconrath Parish Centre. The portrait will remain on permanent display in the centre in recognition of Máire's contribution to the revival of the Irish language in the early years of the state.

Recent and forthcoming talks

27th October, Ashbourne Library at 7.30pm - Dr. Liam McNiffe – A History of An Garda Síochana

2nd November, The Venue , Ratoath, at 8.30 pm - Dr. Myles Dungan – The Irish Civil War: A Reflection

30th November, Navan Library - at 7.30pm – Dr. Arlene Crampsie - - The Rural District Councils of Meath 1898 -1925 – A short-lived experiment in local democracy.

Transportation Services



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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N51 reopened to traffic on 1st of October 2022. A temporary traffic management system is in place to facilitate ongoing construction works along the route. Construction Works re Earthworks, Drainage, Utilities, 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 preparing Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents. Issue date is expected to be mid-November, for final review by the Project Team
N52 Grange to Clontail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Bord Pleanála to issue CPO Submissions to Meath County Council, this is expected during November 2022.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of Acceptance issued to Ground Investigation Contractor. Commencement on site expected December 2022. Affected Landowners to be notified in coming weeks. Preparation of tender docs for Archaeology Geophysical survey are ongoing. Tender competition expected to run in November 2022.
National Road Resurfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N51 Ongenstown: Contractor appointed – works complete N2 Kellystown to Glassallen: Contractor appointed – works to commence 07/11/2022 N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath – Contractor appointed – works scheduled to commence 05/12/2022 N51 Halltown/Mullaghmore overlay scheme : 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 3 - Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing Accommodation works being carried out</p> <p>Phase 4 - HRA942: Works complete at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R147-Cooksland/ Dunshaughlin roundabout • R157-1 Tom Mulreid/Castlefarm roundabout • R160 Carberrystown • R160 Newtown Moynagh • R152 Riverstown <p>CIS schemes: Works complete at Red Bog, Dunshaughlin</p> <p>LIS schemes: Works carried out at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killyon, Longwood • Somerville, Kentstown • Losset, Moynalty • Butlerstown, Castletown • Hopkinstown, Lobinstown • Killagriff, Tierworker • Screebog, Moynalty • Corraboggy • Ballivor
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2. (b) Strategic Regional & Local Rds & Specific Improvement Grant

R162 Kilberry to Lisnagrew Safety Scheme	Section 38 Public Consultation completed re proposed safety works at R162/L3406 Mullins Cross. Finalising procurement of contractor. Works expected to commence mid November.
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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)	Works scheduled to commence Monday 7 th November
Seymourstown Culvert (L68291)	Works scheduled to commence Monday 7 th November
Donaghpatrick Bridge (L7413)	Works scheduled to commence Monday 7 th November

Monknewtown Church Bridge (L5606)	Works scheduled to commence Monday 7 th November
Tatestown Culvert (L3409)	Works scheduled to commence mid November
Dardistown Bridge (R108)	Works scheduled to commence mid November
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Works scheduled to commence 30 th November (delayed due to IW road closure)
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	At tender assessment stage
Kiltale Culvert (L62033)	Contractor appointed

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

L-34095 Silverlawns Estate	Works will be completed 1 st week in November
L-5055 Metges Rd	Drainage works to be complete by mid November
R-153 Kentstown Rd – Railway Bridge	Re-surfacing works & Footpath works being carried out during the November mid-term break

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

<p>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The art sculpture, “Becoming” by Betty Newman Maguire relocated from Kennedy Rd to the plaza area, and the reinforced concrete foundations and wall (Wall 1) were constructed in the car park area from SuperMacs to a location directly opposite to Dunnes Stores. • Construction commenced on the reinforced concrete foundations and wall (Wall 2) in the car park directly opposite Flame restaurant. • New granite paving and flower beds constructed to the new bus bay and loading bay adjacent to Ulster Bank. • Landscaping commenced to the new flowerbeds on Paddy O’Brien St • Granite paving works from Ulster Bank to the Post Office are now 85% complete. • ESB MV ducting installation works completed from Paddy O’Brien Street to Metges Laneway. Civil works commenced - ducting for services, watermains and pavement foundations. • New granite kerbing and paving commenced adjacent to the Permanent TSB building.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public lighting, Broadband and CCTV ducting installation works were completed on Kennedy Road from the Kennedy Rd/Trimgate St/Market Square junction to Metges laneway. Topographical and drainage CCTV surveys commenced for the detailed design stage for the next construction phase of the overall project (Contract 5: Preston laneway, Bakery laneway, Cornmarket laneway, Fairgreen, Church Hill, Fairgreen car park).
Navan Town Bus Stops	Abbey Road Bus Stops: a temporary passenger platform has been constructed at the Abbey Road Bus stop to cater for the increasing number of customers using the bus services.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final interrogation of Tender Documents for the Phase 1 Construction element. Amendments/alterations made to traffic signals design + consequential to BOQ. Peer review completed. Commence Tender process for Construction of Phase 1 Works: Solstice to Beechmount Est. Continued engagement with affected landowners/solicitors.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convent Road Scheme: Part 8 Statutory display period ran for a period of 4 weeks and time for submissions closed on 27/10/2022. The interpretation of submissions in order to deliver report to Planning Section ongoing. The Chief Executive Report to be completed, and aim is for the delivery of same to Members at December meeting of Navan MD.
Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission period for the Part closed on 20/10/2022. A total of 9 submissions received, all of them positively disposed to the proposed scheme. Submission analysis report completed and submitted to Planning Section. It is planned to deliver CE Report to the Navan MD members for the November MD meeting. Progressing with a Tender competition to the NTA Framework for Phase 5-7 Consultant/Designer services in anticipation of Part 8 permission

<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued receipt and interrogation of design reports and Phase 3 deliverables. Presentation on 'Emerging Preferred Option' delivered to Navan MD Members at Oct MD meeting - received positively. Envisaged that an application for Part 8 planning permission shall be submitted by mid-November 2022. Public display/submission period will run to the end of 2022.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme</p>	<p>Route Option Selection Process commenced by Consultant Designers. Workshop Meeting No. 1 held. Continuing with Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection which will deliver preliminary options for discussion and development.</p>
<p>Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultants continuing the Options Selection & Preliminary Design Processes. Continuation of Phase 3, Preliminary Design process & continued consultation with businesses/traders. Development of options ongoing. Aim to is make a Part 8 Planning Permission Application by late Nov/early Dec.
<p>Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment process of Consultant complete. Pre-commencement meeting has taken place. Route Option Selection Process by Consultants has commenced. Continuation of Phase 2, Concept Development & Option Selection process shall continue into November and December leading to the delivery of preliminary options for discussion.
<p>Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme</p>	<p>The NTA have approved the appointment of the preferred Consultant, Atkins for the Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme. Appointment process being finalised and commencement meeting will be held in November.</p>
<p>Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme</p>	<p>Contractor has returned to site to commence Phase 2 works, which consist of extending the works from the filling station to the Nine Milestone Roundabout. Duration approx. 8 weeks</p>
<p>Kilcloon Traffic Calming Scheme</p>	<p>Davis Civil Contractors Ltd. appointed to complete the traffic calming works at Kilcloon NS and Kilcloon Church. Works consist of the installation of 2no. raised pedestrian crossing, associated ramps, public lighting upgrade and footpath upgrade at Kilcloon NS.</p>
<p>Millbrook to Beech Drive, Johnstown, Pedestrian Link,</p>	<p>Tender documentation being finalised, tender to be published in early November 2022</p>

Jim Brunnock Road Kells, Safe Routes to School	Civil works completed. Public lighting delivery delayed. Awaiting confirmation of delivery date.
N51 Park & Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory works for taring under way. Footpath, street furniture, and Public Lighting works continuing. • Works adjacent to the N51, forming the offline bus bay, underway • Public lighting adjacent to N51 installed and operational.
Bus Shelter Enabling Works	Construction completed, commencing project close out
Accessible Bus Stops Works	Construction completed, commencing project close out
Eastham Road Cycle facilities	Route options assessment ongoing, topographical surveys and traffic surveys complete. Design workshop to be arranged with the NTA to agree the preferred option.
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	Approval to proceed with appointment of Consultant was received on 24 th Oct 2022. Pre-start meeting to be held with the preferred consultant.
Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed design ongoing. Services and utility diversion being designed, and agreement with utility companies being finalised. • Site Investigation Works tender undertaken, and tender assessment report being drafted. • Landowner agreements being finalised
Newtown Road, Trim	Tender for design contract closed on 6th October 2022. No responses received. Alternative restricted tender process currently underway.
Safe Routes to School	Design contract awarded to Jacobs and pre-commencement meeting held

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

Dunboyne Industrial Estate Link road to R157	Option Selection and Environmental Studies completed. Part 8 document preparation nearing completion.
R135 Cycle Network Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works continuing on Phase 1, between Tudor Grove entrance and Dunnes Stores. • Phase 2 section at the junction of Castle Street to St Johnswood has also commenced.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TH Moore section (Gibbstown to Wilkinstown) completed on 28th Oct 2022.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd section (Castletown to Nobber) completed 7th October 2022. Davis Civil to be appointed imminently to start works on the Nobber to Kingscourt section, works scheduled to commence in early November. Ongoing discussions with Gyproc in terms of boundary/security and landscaping requirements along their boundary. Tender documents for the Castletown to Wilkinstown Section being finalised, to be issued in early November 2022.
LDR4 - Kells Rd to Ratholdren Rd, Navan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Archaeology test trenching and site investigation re existing services completed. Stage 1 procurement for main contractor commenced. Detail design and stage 2 tender document preparation progressing.
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	Flood data received from the OPW. Flood modelling work currently underway to satisfy TII requirements

5. Other Actions/ Projects

Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laytown/ Bettystown MD: Works ongoing in Slane Trim MD: Works about to commence for Blackfriary Estate, Griffin Park & Dunderry Road Kells MD: Works completed in Drumconrath and ongoing in Kells Ratoath MD: Contractor for Dunshaughlin Main St has been appointed, works no unlikely to commence before the end of the year. Navan MD: Tender for Clonmaggaden Road, St. Mary's Park and Woodview awarded – likely to be early 2023 before the works commence. Silverlawns Estate - Phase 2 due to commence end of November
Housing Estate Road Surfacing Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laytown-Bettystown MD - Main works complete at Fairways Park & Lawn, St. Anthony's Villas, Coney Hall (pictured below), Ard Rí Estate, Fr. Ryan Park and Goose

Tail Avenue.



- **Kells MD** Contractor appointed for works.
- **Navan MD** Contractor appointed for works. Preparatory works carried out.
- **Ashbourne MD** Contractor appointed for works. Works commenced at Garden City
- **Ratoath MD** Contractor appointed for works.
- **Trim MD** Contractor appointed for works.

County Wide Speed Limit Bye-Law review	Detailed assessment re submissions received progressing. Initial consultation with MDs regarding preliminary recommendations expected to take place late Q4 2022 or early Q4 2023 in advance of commencing formal statutory process.
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tobin Consultants appointed and have started working on the scheme.• Meeting held on site with TD J. Guirke and representatives of the local committees to discuss the scheme and the proposed outcomes
Dunshaughlin Public Realm Scheme	Design contract awarded to Tobin Consulting Engineers. Tender for Topo survey currently being assessed.

Planning and Development



- **Planning Applications**

1439 planning applications were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 03/11/2022 compared to 2116 in the same period in 2021.

- **Commencement Notices**

521 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 03/11/2022. This is compared to 636 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	237
Multi-Units	913 (units)
Extensions	103
Other*	48

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

- **Development Contributions**

Development Contribution receipts for the period January to October 2022 were €11,851,022. This is compared to €10,623,708 in the same period in 2021. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

- **Planning Enforcement**

174 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 04/11/2022.

	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	27
Warning Letter	79
Enforcement Notice	11
Referred for Legal Proceedings	4
Closed	53

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

- **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**

Public Consultation Process is on going from 1 November 2022 to 1 January 2023 on <https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/residential-zoned-land-tax-consultation>

Economic Development



Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	5
Trading Online Vouchers	8
Training Online Courses Attended	87
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	10
Trading Online Voucher Seminars Attended	28
LEO Grants Approved	1

Tourism



The Púca Festival took place during the bank holiday weekend from 28th October to 31st October at key festival hubs of Trim and Athboy supported by Fáilte Ireland and Meath County Council. It featured a number of musical acts including the Academic, Gavin James, Imelda May and many more, along with comedy acts and cultural events. The festival commenced with the opening procession through Trim winding around the streets

from OPW HQ and finishing up at Trim Castle with the street markets. The festival finished with the closing ceremony at the Hill of Ward where Samhain has its origins.

For many weeks, the Púca team has been on the ground engaging with local traders and this proved successful with many businesses decorating their windows in both Trim and Athboy and remaining open during the weekend. Final figures for ticket sales were 14,000 with additional visitors to the opening and closing ceremonies, providing a total of up to 35,000 visitors over the weekend to both towns. There were 12 International tour operators visiting County Meath over the 4 days of Púca and a further 38 international media visited Púca and took in further sites right across the Boyne Valley to stimulate demand to visit the destination for future. There was a live broadcast by US Reporter Gabe Saglie who broadcast to 30 US stations on Fox News from Trim Castle Hotel relating the story of the origins of Samhain. In total, for Púca there were 244 pieces of media coverage and 717 social mentions, reaching 101,793,627.

Additional family events took place throughout the month of October which was promoted under the **Spirits of Meath Festival** through its dedicated website and social media supported by Boyne Valley Tourism and Meath County Council www.spiritsofmeath.ie.

The Samhain Food Festival is fast becoming a renowned food festival and took place in Kells from 4th to 6th November organized by Boyne Valley Flavours with many events taking place at Meath County Council's Kells Courthouse. Inspiring food speakers including Darina Allen, Chef JP McMahon, John and Sally McKenna of the Bridgestone Guide, Kevin Sheridan were keynote speakers in Kells throughout the weekend drawing large crowds. Rinaldo Giacomo Rava from Pollenzo University in Italy attended Friday's Symposium to launch the new Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture.

Finance Section



Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Loans Data 1st January 2022 to 16th October 2022		
Fully Completed Applications Received 2022	104	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	7	All relate to 2022 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	77	69 relate to 2022, 8 relate to 2021
Refused by Credit Committee	23	21 relate to 2022, 2 relate to 2021 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	3	All relate to 2022 applications
Returned to Customer	5	4 relate to 2022, 1 to 2021
Active Approvals	51	50 Relate to 2022, 1 relates to 2021,
Expired	29	26 relate to 2021 applications, 3 relates to 2022
Drawdown by Customer	35.12	16 relate to 2022, 19 relate to 2021 applications, .12 relates to 2020

Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2022 – 16th October 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 and being targeted initially to Rent customers. It will be expanded in the coming weeks to include Rates, Loans, Emergency Accommodation and RAS customers. This portal enables customers to make payments via mobile devices and also view statements of their accounts.