



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

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

**Monthly Management Report**  
**December 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

#### Budget Meeting



Meath County Council's Budget Meeting 2023 took place in the Newgrange Hotel on Monday November 28, 2022. The Elected Members adopted the Revenue Budget which has a budget expenditure of over €186m, an increase of over €24m (or 14.8%) from Budget 2022.

#### Official launch of the Boyne River Display



On Sunday, November 27, An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian together with the Chief Executive Jackie Maguire officially launched the Boyne River Display, a spectacular waterscreen lighting display.

The water projections tell a winter tale of Imogen, imaginary daughter of the Celtic River goddess Boann. The Boyne River display will be available to view at Poolboy Bridge until Friday, January 6, running on half hour loops between 5.00pm and 10.00pm nightly.

#### OÍCHE EOLAIS – PRÓISEAS PLEANÁLA TEANGA/AN GHAEILGE SAN UAIMH

Ag tús mí na Samhna eagraíodh an tOífeagach Gaeilge Chomhairle Chontae na Mí oíche eolais i leabharlann na hUaimhe maidir leis an bpróiseas pleanála teanga san Uaimh; agus chun daoine áitiúla a spreagadh ón gceantar bheith páirteach sa phróiseas. Bhí ionadaithe ann ó Ghlór na Gael agus Foras na Gaeilge chun tacaíocht agus comhairle a thabhairt ó thaobh an tslí is fearr coiste a bhunú le haghaidh an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa cheantar. Bhí ochtar ann i láthair ón bpobal áitiúil agus bhí topaicí ar nós imeachtaí agus ranganna Gaeilge sa cheantar pléite acu.

### **CRUINNÍÚ – ÓSTÁN AN NEWGRANGE – AN GHAEILGE SAN UAIMH**

An tseachtain ina ndiaidh an oíche eolais sa leabharlann, tháinig an grúpa le chéile arís in óstán an Newgrange i mí na Samhna le haghaidh coiste a bhunú faoi threoir agus faoi thacaíocht Glór na nGael/Foras na Gaeilge agus an Oifigeach Gaeilge Chomhairle Chontae na Mí. Ainmníodh cathaoirleach an choiste agus oifigeach caidrimh phoiblí fosta. Beartaíodh tús a chur ar an bpróiseas chun imeachtaí trí Ghaeilge a eagrú sa cheantar gan mhoill, agus pléadh deiseanna ó thaobh preab-Ghaeltacht a chur chun cinn.

### **Renewed Call for Vacant Properties to House Ukrainian Refugees**

The Council is co-ordinating a renewed call for unoccupied properties to provide temporary accommodation to those fleeing war in Ukraine. A tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available. To offer a property, or to obtain further information go to [www.offerahome.ie](http://www.offerahome.ie)

### **Delivering Sustainability through Sport in County Meath**



Meath Local Sports Partnership has announced an initiative aimed at promoting sustainability through the county's grassroots sports clubs.

With Ireland committed to meeting climate action targets required by the United Nations

and Paris Agreement, Meath LSP will be the first Local Sports Partnership in Ireland to develop a county-wide sustainability programme.

As sport around the world feels the effects of increased carbon emissions, warming atmosphere and extreme weather, sport offers a unique platform to engage clubs and communities around the key environmental, social and economic issues.

### **Meath County Council awarded ISO 45001:2018.**



Meath County Council was recently awarded certification to the coveted safety management standard ISO 45001:2018.

Meath County Council is amongst a small number of local authorities who hold corporate accreditation across their entire operations; this would not be achievable without positive engagement and commitment from the entire

workforce.

Accepting the certification on behalf of Meath County Council, Chief Executive Jackie Maguire paid tribute to all Meath County Council employees who continue to contribute to further improving the overall standard of safety and health whilst maintaining a high standard of service delivery to the public.

### **Millrace Estate Contract Signing**



The contract was signed in November for the construction of 74 properties at the new Millrace estate, Castle Street, Ashbourne.

The site was previously used as a temporary school and was purchased by Meath County Council from the Department of Education in 2021.

The project will commence on November 14 with a construction programme of 18 months. The contractors are KM Lynskey, joined by O'Mahony Pike Architects and

quantity surveyors Mulcahy McDonagh and Partners.

The scheme consists of x13 two-bed ground-floor apartments – 3 of which will be specifically designed for people with limited or reduced mobility, x13 two-bed first-floor apartments, x36 two-bed houses, and x12 three-bed houses – two of which will have a ground-floor bedroom and bathroom to cater for families that include people of limited or reduced mobility.

The development will also include landscaping and play areas, and a pedestrian link from Castle Street into the new adjacent school campus currently under construction.

### **Meath County Council welcomes Minister Darragh O'Brien TD to Meath**



On Monday, November 7 a total of 62 new social houses, across three different housing developments in Co. Meath, were officially opened by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister Darragh O'Brien TD.

Minister O'Brien officially opened a new development at Collier's Place, Duleek. The scheme, which consists of 22 new homes, will be managed by North and East Housing Association. The Minister then visited one of

the Council's turnkey developments at the Brambles in Duleek to officially mark the opening of 18 new units within the scheme.

The Council then welcomed Minister Darragh O'Brien to Staleen Park in Donore. This scheme, which cost approximately €3.5m, consists of 22 new homes, which were designed for the Council



by Cooney Architects and constructed by CJ Callan Construction Ltd. under contract for the Council. It is envisaged that these new homes will be occupied in time for Christmas.

Pictured is tenant Amy Carolan who was presented with the key to her new home by Minister Darragh O'Brien with Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian and Laytown/Bettystown Cathaoirleach Cllr. Wayne Harding.

### St. Francis Park Contract Signing



In November, the contract was also signed for St. Francis Park, with works expected to commence on site on Monday, November 14 with a 52-week projected programme. The contractor is CJ Callan Construction Ltd., with Cooney Architects Ltd. as the project architect.

The development will consist of the demolition of 14 existing bay units and the existing caretaker's building, the construction of 10 dwellings with permanent caravan parking bays, the closure of the current St. Francis Park entrance and access road on Ratholdren Road and the provision of a new entrance and access road from Tailteann Drive, the redesign of landscaping within the site boundary and all associated site development and associated ancillary works.

The proposed housing units will comprise x1 two-bed single storey dwelling, x1 three-bed single storey dwelling, x2 four-bed single-storey dwellings and x6 four-bed two-storey dormer dwellings.

### Meath Fire and Rescue Long Service Awards



Congratulations to all Meath County Council Fire Service fire-fighters, driver mechanics, sub officers and station officers who received their Long Service Awards in Trim on Thursday, November 17. A total of 13 staff received 20 year medals and 3 staff received 30 year medals.

### **PREAB-GHAELTACHT – AMHARCLANN AN GRIANSTAD**

Eagraíodh Preab-Ghaeltacht do leanaí agus teaghlaigh sa cheantar in Amharclann an Grianstad. An sprioc den ócáid seo ná fáilte a chur roimh theaghlaigh sa cheantar a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus atá ag iarraidh a bpáistí a thógáil le Gaeilge. Ghlac baill ón gcoiste a bunaíodh le déanaí páirt chun maidin sóisialta a reáchtáil do theaghlaigh sa cheantar. Bhí slua maith i láthair ag an ócáid, agus bhí tacaíocht faighte ón tseirbhís leabharlainne Chomhairle Chontae na Mí tríd málaí leabhair Ghaeilge agus bréagáin curtha ar fáil do gach pháiste

### **POP UP GAELTACHT – SOLSTICE THEATRE**

*A pop up Gaeltacht for children was organised in the Solstice Theatre. The aim of the event was to welcome families in the district to practice their Irish and who are trying to rear their children in Irish. Members of the recently formed committee got involved to organise a social morning for families in the district. The event was well attended, and there was support received from the Meath Co Council library service in providing toys and Irish language book bags for each child.*

### **CUAIRT Ó SCÉALAÍ – CEANTAR GAELTACHTA**

Ar an 22 Samhain, bhí cuairt le scéalaí lán-Ghaeilge Róisín Murphy eagraithe do na daltaí ó rang 5 & rang 6 in Scoil Ultain Naofa i mBaile Ghib, mar chuid den chlár imeachtaí Oifig na Gaeilge i gComhairle Chontae na Mí agus chun tacaíocht a thabhairt an Ghaeilge a spreagadh sa cheantar Gaeltachta sa chontae i gcoimhoibriú leis an oifigeach pleanála teanga sa cheantar sin.

### **STORYTELLER VISIT - GAELTACHT DISTRICT**

*On 22 November, there was a visit by Irish language storyteller Róisín Murphy for the pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class in Scoil Ultain Naofa in Baile Ghib, as part of the Irish language office Meath Co Council programme of events and to give support to promoting Irish in the Gaeltacht district in the county in cooperation with the language planning officer in the district.*

## Climate Action and Environment



### **Report on Anti-Dumping Initiative.**

The anti -dumping initiative (ADI) was introduced in 2017 aimed at encouraging a collaborative approach between local authorities, communities, and other State Agencies to tackle the problems of localised illegal dumping. To date funding of over €12 million has been provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) under this initiative and which supported the delivery of almost 1300 projects across the 31 local authorities.

The following table sets out Meath's participation in the scheme including the clean up and securing of Illegal Dumping Blackspots, the Green Kilometre Scheme, Community Clean Ups, Bikes for Africa Project, Mattresses Amnesties, Bulky Household Waste Collections and localised multimedia awareness campaigns.

Year	Number of Projects	Funding Received
2017	4	34,219
2018	5	71,466
2019	5	92,158
2020	11	170,713
2021	16	108,491
2022	8	80,170 (due)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>€557,217</b>

The Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WEARLAs) who co-ordinate the ADI scheme have published a comprehensive report on all activities nationwide in 2021 and have listed examples of projects which might be replicated in other Local Authorities. The report can be accessed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e27ac-anti-dumping-initiative/>

### **New Solid Fuel Regulations introduced on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.**

The Department of the Environment, Climate Action and Communications has developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the new Solid Fuel Regulations, to assist media companies in understanding the Regulations and specifically the prohibition on the sale of turf or other unapproved fuels via the internet or other media. The Department has been working with



DoneDeal and [Adverts.ie](https://www.adverts.ie) in this area, and this document has been prepared with their input. The FAQ can be accessed at [www.gov.ie/cleanair](https://www.gov.ie/cleanair)

## **CLIMATE ACTION**

### **Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF)**

The Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) will accept expressions of interest in December, 2022. The objective of the CCAF is to support and empower communities, in partnership with their Local Authority, to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets.

There are 2 strands:

1. Strand 1 - “Action: Building Low Carbon Communities” for €24 million (national total)
  - Meath has been allocated €811,000
2. Strand 1a - “Shared Island Community Climate Action” for €3 million (national total)
  - The €3 million Shared Island Fund resourcing is not pre-allocated to individual LAs.
  - All LAs in Ireland can assess an application received under strand 1(a) and make a recommendation to the Minister.
  - LAs will be the Lead Partners for strand 1a projects.

### **Key Dates:**

Milestone	Date
Information webinar for Community Climate Action Officers	Online December 2022
Expressions of interest accepted	8 – 10 weeks opening December
Evaluation	8 weeks
Assessment by Department	8 – 12 weeks
Results announced	June – July 2023

### **Climate Action Presentation Leaving Cert Applied Students Navan Youthreach**

A presentation on Climate Action was delivered to Leaving Cert Applied Students in Navan Youthreach.

### **Primary Schools SDG Presentations**

The SDG primary schools’ presentations will continue through to January 2023.

### **Display Energy Certificates**

Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are required for all publicly accessed Council buildings over 250m<sup>2</sup>. This project was completed in November and involved the analysis of the energy use in the buildings commensurate with their floor area. All certificates have been issued and are valid for 12 months.

## Housing Services



### Capital Programme

#### ▪ Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE</b>			
New Lane, Abbeylands, Navan	4	Q3 2023	Q3 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS</b>			
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>160</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Farganstown	84	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>			
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q3 2022	Q4 2024

<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>		
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>392</b>		

<b>CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE 2022</b>			
<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>NO. OF UNITS</b>	<b>ESTIMATED START DATE</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</b>
Staleen Park, Donore	21	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Buy & Renew Unit - Enfield	1		
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>22</b>		

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

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	<b>NO. OF UNITS</b>
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
Carlanstown	Tuath – CAS Construction Turnkey	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>154</b>

## Funding Requests - CAS, Part V & Turnkey

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

## Call for Expressions of Interest for Purchase of Lands and/or Turnkey Houses – Social & Affordable Housing

A call for Expressions of Interest was re-advertised on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 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](http://www.Meath.ie/news) and [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie)

## Refurbishment Projects

- **St Francis Park:** Contractor has been appointed and works have commenced on site on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- **Alverno Court Refurbishment:** Refurbishment works commenced on site on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 and will be completed across five phases. Phase 2 & 3 of the works are ongoing.

## 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 361 applications to the value of €2,359,939.80 have been approved to 31<sup>st</sup> October. The total value for the 453 applications that have been approved to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 equates to €3,041,730.82.

## 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 21st November 2022. For the period from 27th October 2022 to 21st November 2022, works were completed on 6 vacant units, while 4 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	6	2	0	3	5
Laytown/Bettystown	2	0	1	3	0
Navan	4	4	1	7	2
Ratoath	3	2	0	4	1
Trim	11	3	0	12	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>**4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>

\*\*Note: Three 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	Q1/2023
Bryanstown Wood, Drogheda	28	Tuath Housing	Q4/2023
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 Phase 1	8	Tuath Housing	Q4/2022
Maudlin Vale, Trim	31	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
Baker Hall Phase1, Navan	49	Tuath Housing	Q4/2022
Swanbrook, Trim Road Navan	48	Tuath Housing	Q1/2023
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>477</b>		

## Homelessness

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 (Previous Reported Figure)	144 (153 adults)	44 (76 adults 93 children)	188
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	144 ( 154 adults)	48 (78 adults 102 children)	192
<p>Of the households with children, 40 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment/B&amp;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 64 Place finder tenancies processed from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Total	64
EA	35
Prevention	29

## Standards in rented Accommodation

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

## Social Housing Supports

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

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
MCC Direct Allocations	188
Approved Housing Bodies	189
RAS	0
HAP	339
Long term Leasing	23
MTR (AHBS)	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>743</b>

## Community Development



### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and will receive details of the new Healthy Ireland round 4 programme and the audit report of SICAP 2021.

Consultation for the next Meath LECP continued throughout November with a social media campaign pop-ups/pop-ins taking place in the municipal districts along with several focus group meetings and a zoom consultation session. A workshop was also held with some 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils of Scoil Mhuire NS Navan whom the Community section is working with under the Yellow Flag programme. Consultation continues until 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 where 3 projects will be presented for approval by the LAG.

### Comhairle na nÓg

Youth Work Ireland's contract has been extended by one year to continue to operate Meath Comhairle na nÓg until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The last steering group meeting of the year is scheduled to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The group will welcome the new nominated Comhairle members to the group.

### Joint Policing Committee

The next JPC meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### Pride of Place Initiative

The County Awards night took place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November in the Solstice Arts Centre with 220 people in attendance. An Cathaoirleach, together with the Chief Executive congratulated all groups and volunteers and thanked them for their continued work throughout the year. Special congratulations were extended to Trim Tidy Towns who won the overall SuperValu Tidy Towns award for the tidiest town in Ireland.

### Public Participation Network

The first meeting of the new Secretariat took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> with 10 of the 12 places having been filled. Work is continuing to fill the 2 Environment Pillar seats.

The next meeting takes place December 7<sup>th</sup> and an independent facilitator will complete inductions. The Social Inclusion Pillar met to discuss 2023 strategy and develop a group submission for the LECP consultation. 504 groups are now registered with Meath PPN.

### Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

The Healthy Meath Public Consultation Survey closed with a total of 551 responses received from members of the public and organisations involved in health and wellbeing activities across Meath.

The survey responses are being analysed and will be used to support the next phase of consultation, several focus groups are scheduled for early December.

### **Joint Migrant Integration Forum**

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

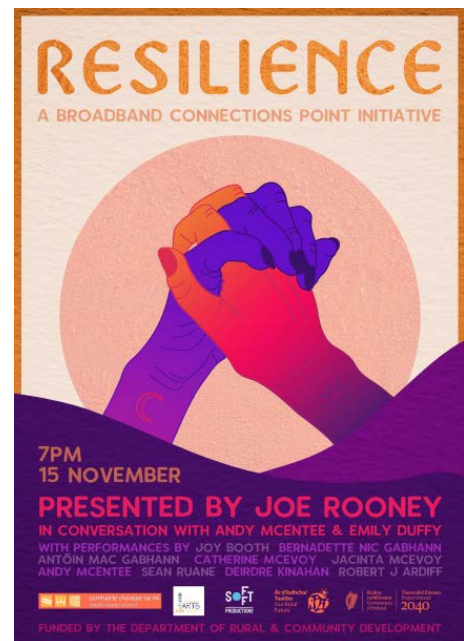
### **Community Response Forum Ukrainian refugees**

The response forum, which is coordinated by the Community Section, continues to meet on a regular basis to ensure there is a co-ordinated response to assist with the needs of Ukrainian families entering the county with a meeting held recently on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Broadband Connection Points**

A special screening of Resilience: Revel once Again was available for BCPs on the 15<sup>th</sup> November. Delivered by SoFFt Production it presented an evening of music and voice. Recorded in July 2021 this evocative evening considers the role of community and connection in all our lives. Presented by Joe Rooney, the evening had conversation with Andy McEntee and Emily Duffy and performers from across traditional Irish genres. Music performances included Joy Booth, Bernadette Ni Gabhann And Antoin Mac Gabhann, Catherine and Jacinta McEvoy, and Robert J Ardiffe were complemented with performances from playwright Deirdre Kenahan and poet Sean Ruane. Funding for this event was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The event will be available for wider screening in other venues or personal viewing in the coming weeks.



### **The Community Support Fund**

Ministers Heather Humphreys and Joe O'Brien announced €10 million Fund to support parish halls and community centres with energy bills. Support available for Parish Halls, Community Centres, Local Development Associations, Social Clubs, ICA Groups, Senior Citizen Groups, Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and more.

The Community Support Fund will provide small grants to a wide and diverse range of local community groups to assist with their running costs and who may not have been deemed eligible under previous Government schemes.

Groups can also use the funding to carry out small upgrade works and to purchase equipment to support their activities such as laptops and printers, lawnmowers, training equipment, etc

The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). **Meath has been allocated €314,415.**

## Libraries Services



### Family Time at your Library

Family events and activities take place in all libraries during the month of December this year to support the involvement of the whole family in children's reading.

*Family Time at your Library* activities are provided to engage family members in the enjoyment of reading and sharing stories. The whole family are also introduced to collections of children's books, e-books, and e-audio books.

The *Family Time at your Library* events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children.

Some Meath highlights include

The **Scéal Trail** is a fun way to bring together the enjoyment of reading, a love of the outdoors and some physical activity. The first trail is now installed in Blackwater Park in Navan featuring *Socks for Mr Wolf* by Trim-based author / illustrator Tatyana Feeney. The story includes literacy tips and movement tips on each board. For more info: <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/sceal-trail>

Paintings from Noreen Walshe's book *The Christmas Parcel* will be exhibited in Navan library during December. '**The Christmas Parcel**' is a sensory package of memories, stamped with love, nostalgia and the essence of that certain time and place. Visitors to the exhibition are guaranteed to recall the sparks of magic from childhood when 'the world was young' and everything seemed possible.

**Reindeer Down**-a Christmas event for families. Storytime and Draw-Along with author and illustrator duo, Natasha Mac a'Bhaird and Audrey Dowling, based on their book *Reindeer Down: An Irish Christmas tale*. Navan and Kells Libraries on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Storytimes** and **Christmas Arts and Crafts** events for children & families in all Meath libraries during December.

### Decade of Centenaries

**Alice Stopford Green (1847-1929)**



Meath County Council has commissioned a portrait of Alice Stopford Green, historian, and nationalist. A native of Kells, she also served in the first Senate in 1922, being one of only 5 women represented on the new body. The Senate, which had sixty members, held its first proceedings on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1922, and the commissioning of the portrait is scheduled to mark this very important centenary. The artist, Bríd Fanning, from Oldcastle has already completed portraits of other important but largely forgotten local revolutionary figures Kathleen Napoli McKenna and Máire Ní Raghallaigh.

Alice Stopford Green lived from 1847 to 1929, from The Great Famine to The Wall Street Crash; she lived in London for most of her young adult life, but her family had strong connections with Kells and she was born in the old Archdeaconry just outside Kells, what is now Blackwater House. Her father was an important figure at the time of the Famine, who played a leading role in famine relief efforts in Meath, and later in the period around 1870 when he was a major negotiator for the Church of Ireland in the political construction of the Church Disestablishment Act.

Against the conventions of her time, Alice Stopford Green transformed herself from the conventional wife of a British academic into an advocate for justice in the African colonies through her leading role in the Africa Society. She made common cause with Roger Casement and, later, was a passionate supporter of the Irish cultural renaissance. In order to correct the imbalance in respect of Irish history, she wrote *The Making of Ireland and its Undoing* (1908), which set out to describe the history of Ireland in the medieval period in terms favourable to the Irish cultural viewpoint.

She strongly supported Home Rule and the rise of the Irish volunteers. After the Rising of 1916 she supported the cause of Irish self-determination, moved back to Dublin in 1919 and came to be recognised as a distinguished historian in her own right, becoming a senator in the new Irish Free State in 1922. The first Senate was "representative of all classes", though it has also been described as, "the most curious political grouping in the history of the Irish state".

## Transportation Services



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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction Works re Drainage, Utilities, Surfacing and Landscaping are ongoing.</li> <li>A temporary traffic management system continues in place to facilitate ongoing construction works along the route.</li> </ul>
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents were completed on the 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022. These draft documents are currently under review by the Project Team
N52 Grange to Clontail	An Bord Pleanála issued the CPO Submissions to Meath County Council on 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022. These are currently being reviewed.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Investigation Contractor due to commence works in December 2022. Liaison with affected Landowners regarding access is ongoing.</li> <li>Preparation of tender docs for Archaeology Geophysical survey is ongoing. Tender competition expected to commence in December 2022.</li> </ul>
National Road Resurfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N51 Ongenstown: Contractor appointed – works complete</li> <li>N2 Kellystown to Glassallen: Contractor appointed – works ongoing</li> <li>N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath – Contractor appointed – works scheduled to commence 05/12/2022</li> <li>N51 Halltown/Mullaghmore overlay scheme – Contractor appointed – works ongoing</li> </ul>

### 2. Non- National Roads 2022 funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €24,992,217 in total 2.(a) Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing)

Road Works Programme	<p><b>Phase 4 - HRA942:</b> Works complete at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R161 Hospital/ St. Patrick's Classical School</li> <li>L-5055 Johnstown Roundabout</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aura Swimming Pool Car Park</li> <li>• R-153 Kentstown Road Navan</li> <li>• L-2814-0 Suffolk Street</li> <li>• R-163-40 New Market Street/Cannon Street</li> <li>• L-3400-0 Boyne Road</li> </ul>
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## **2.(b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant**

R162 Kilberry to Lisnagrew Safety Scheme	Contract awarded for safety works at R162/L3406 Mullins Cross and warning signage on R162 from Kilberry to Lisnagrew. Works expected to be completed Q1 2023.
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## **2. (c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Allocation for 2022 €337,000 – 9 schemes**

<b>2021 Schemes</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Status</b>
Newgate	R147	Works complete – minor snagging to be finalised
<b>2022 Schemes</b>	<b>Road</b>	
Ratoath Road, Baltrasna	R125	Works commenced
Rathbran Junction	L5602	Tenders being assessed
Platin	R152	Junction works being progressed
Castlerickard	R161	Signs and lines complete
Kilmore Junction	R156/L62161	Contractor appointed
Faughanhill Junction	L4025/L8001	Works ongoing
Oberstown Cross, Skryne	L1003/L1005	Works ongoing

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

<b>2022 DoT Schemes</b>	
Tremblestown Bridge (L-40131)	Works commenced – scheduled to be complete by year end
Seymourstown Culvert (L68291)	Works 70% complete
Donaghpatrick Bridge (L7413)	Works commenced – scheduled to be complete by year end
Monknewtown Church Bridge (L5606)	Works complete
Tatestown Culvert (L3409)	Works scheduled to commence 7 <sup>th</sup> December – expected duration 2 weeks
Dardistown Bridge (R108)	Works commenced 22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Works commenced 27 <sup>th</sup> November
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 complete
L-6219 Newtownmoyaghy	Topographical survey completed on site. Ground Investigation contract awarded and expected to commence on site in December. Consultants reviewing potential list of options.
L-5055 Metges Rd	Drainage works complete
R-153 Kentstown Rd – Railway Bridge	Re-surfacing works & Footpath works complete

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

<b>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granite kerbing installed on Kennedy Rd on approach to the Market Sq/Trimgate St junction.</li> <li>Granite kerbing &amp; paving installed along shop fronts from PTSB (Paddy O'Brien St) to Insomnia (Metges Lane), new ESB ducting installed for upgrading mini-pillars. Watermain upgrades completed.</li> <li>New reinforced concrete wall (Wall 3) constructed. Construction commenced on the reinforced concrete foundations and wall (Wall 4) in the car park opposite Flame restaurant.</li> <li>Granite paving completed from Ulster Bank to the Shopping Centre 'Green' car park entrance &amp; landscaping completed to the new flowerbeds on Kennedy Rd from Ulster Bank to Paddy O'Brien St.</li> <li>Temporary traffic restriction from Trimgate St to Kennedy Rd removed 18<sup>th</sup> Nov, no further traffic restrictions until January 2023.</li> <li>Works in December focused behind the fencing on Plaza to install new services, backfill and construct new paved surface areas.</li> <li>New temporary pedestrian crossing installed on Kennedy Rd linking Plaza to the Shopping Centre.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender documents prepared, tender process for Construction of Phase 1 Works: Solstice to Beechmount Est commencing early December.</li> <li>Engagement with affected landowners/solicitors ongoing.</li> </ul>

<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</b>	Convent Road Scheme: Part 8 - submission analysis report has been completed and submitted to Planning Authority. The Chief Executive Report due to be delivered to Members prior to the December meeting of Navan MD.
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Part 8 CE Report was delivered to the Navan MD members on 09/11/2022 and considered at Nov meeting of Navan MD.</li> <li>• Active Travel Section are progressing with a Tender competition to the NTA Framework for Phase 5-7 Consultant/Designer services.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preliminary design for this scheme has been completed and approved for going forward to the Statutory Consent phase.</li> <li>• An application for Part 8 planning permission was submitted on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2022 - Public display/submission period will run to 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle &amp; Pedestrian Scheme</b>	Continuing with Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection which will deliver preliminary options for discussion and development.
<b>Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing consultation with Trimgate St traders and Meath Chamber.</li> <li>• Continuation of Phase 3, Preliminary Design process - development of options ongoing. Aim to is make a Part 8 Planning Permission Application in December 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic/parking surveys to be completed in early December.</li> <li>• Delivery of preliminary options anticipated for discussion purposes by the end of November.</li> </ul>
<b>Ratoath Pedestrian &amp; Cycling Scheme</b>	Atkins Consultants have been appointed as PSDP and Designer for the Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme.
<b>Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme</b>	Contractor on site for Phase 2, which consists of extending the works from the filling station to the Nine Milestone Roundabout – works progressing well
<b>Kilcloon Traffic Calming Scheme</b>	Davis Civil Contractors Ltd commenced works on site. Works consist of the installation of 2 no. raised pedestrian crossings, associated ramps, public lighting upgrade and footpath upgrade at Kilcloon National School.




<b>Millbrook to Beech Drive, Johnstown Pedestrian Link</b>	Tenders received and currently being assessed. Works anticipated to commence early in the new year.
<b>Jim Brunnock Road Kells, Safe Routes to School</b>	Civil works completed. Public lighting installed, awaiting ESB connection.
<b>N51 Park &amp; Ride</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base course and Binder course tarring complete to the car park area.</li> <li>• The offline bus bays and shared surface substantially complete.</li> <li>• Bus shelters installed.</li> <li>• Public lighting installed to car park.</li> <li>• Road widening and drainage works on the N51 commenced.</li> <li>• Fencing installation commenced</li> </ul>
<b>Bus Shelter Enabling Works</b>	Construction of initial project elements completed. Design review of two locations in Ratoath being undertaken
<b>Accessible Bus Stops Works</b>	Construction of initial project elements completed. Design review of three locations in Trim being undertaken
<b>Eastham Road Cycle facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Draft</u> Route options assessment report received from Jacobs.</li> <li>• Design workshop with the NTA to agree the preferred option held on 23/11/22.</li> <li>• Consultation with potentially affected property owners has commenced.</li> </ul>
<b>Dunboyne to Clonree Pedestrian and Cycle Network</b>	Atkins Consultants are currently being appointed as PSDP and Designer for the scheme.
<b>Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed design of road and drainage ongoing.</li> <li>• Site Investigation Works tender completed, and Site investigation company appointed. Works programmed to commence in early Dec.</li> <li>• Landowner agreements continuing to be finalised</li> </ul>
<b>Newtown Road, Trim</b>	Alternative restricted tender process now completed. Only one tender received. Tender assessment underway.
<b>Safe Routes to School</b>	Options selection for each school site underway. Design workshop with the NTA being held on 28/11/2022.

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

<b>Dunboyne Industrial Estate Link road to R157</b>	Part 8 formal planning process commenced 28 <sup>th</sup> November and will conclude mid April 2023.
<b>LDR4, Kells road to Ratholdren road, Navan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1 of main construction contract tender due to be returned mid Dec</li> <li>• Preconstruction ecological studies underway.</li> <li>• Procurement for advanced hedge clearance contract underway.</li> <li>• Detail design and stage 2 tender preparation progressing.</li> </ul>
<b>R135 Cycle Network Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works continuing in Phase 1, between Tudor Grove entrance and Dunnes Stores. This section being resurfaced via night works between 28<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. The works are then substantially complete in this area, providing free flow for retail trading in December.</li> <li>• Works in Phase 2 section (junction of Castle St to St Johnswood) ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davis Civil starting the Nobber to Kilmainhamwood section of the Nobber to Kingscourt Greenway on Mon 21st Nov 2022.</li> <li>• Discussions ongoing with Gyproc in terms of boundary/security &amp; landscaping requirements.</li> <li>• Meeting held with the owners of Newcastle Lough following concerns raised by them in relation to the proximity of the works to their Nature Reserve.</li> <li>• Tender for the Castletown to Wilkinstown section closed on 21/11/2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Boyne Greenway &amp; Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)</b>	Flood data received from the OPW. Flood modelling work ongoing to satisfy TII requirements before progressing to the next stage.

#### 5. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Laytown/ Bettystown MD:</b> Works progressing in Slane. Millrace in Duleek to commence in early 2023</li> <li>• <b>Trim MD:</b> Works ongoing in Griffin Park</li> <li>• <b>Kells MD:</b> Works ongoing in Kells and Athboy</li> <li>• <b>Navan MD:</b> Silverlawns Estate - Phase 2 due to commence in early December. Contract for Clonmaggaden Road, St. Mary's Park and Woodview awarded – likely to be early 2023 before the works commence</li> </ul>
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<b>Housing Estate Road Surfacing Works</b>	<p><b>Navan MD:</b> Works complete at Abbeygrove, Parnell Park, St. Brigids Estate &amp; Proudstown Rd.</p> <p><b>Ashbourne MD:</b> Works complete at Garden City, Milltown Est, Mountain View &amp; Mill Way. Works commenced in Tudor Grove and Killegland.</p> <p><b>Ratoath MD:</b> Works complete at College Park, Bridge View and Mill Farm.</p> <p><b>Trim MD:</b> Works complete at Tower Court and St. Columbus Terrace in Ballivor, Knightsfield Park in Dunsany and Beechcroft Summerhill (pictured below).</p> 
<b>Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme</b>	<p>Traffic surveys completed in November</p>
<b>Dunshaughlin Public Realm Scheme</b>	<p>Contracts for Topographical survey and traffic surveys have been awarded.</p>

## Planning and Development



- Planning Applications

1504 planning applications were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 17/11/2022 compared to 2188 in the same period in 2021.

- Commencement Notices

539 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2022 to 17/11/2022. This is compared to 660 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	242
Multi-Units	940 (units)
Extensions	104
Other*	50

\* 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

183 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 17/11/2022.

	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	29
Warning Letter	82
Enforcement Notice	11
Referred for Legal Proceedings	5
Closed	56

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

- Forward Planning

The public consultation on the Strategic Issues Paper relating to the Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth ended on 11 November. A total of 65 submissions were received. Kildare and Meath County Council are now in the process of preparing the Chief Executive's Report.



## Economic Development



### Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	10
Trading Online Vouchers	1
Training Online Courses Attended	150
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	10
Trading Online Voucher Seminars Attended	40
Business Advice Clinics	8

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Minister English launched Ireland's largest Student Enterprise Programme for 2023. The Student Enterprise Programme relaunches for its 21<sup>st</sup> year. The Student Enterprise Programme has seen over 325,000 secondary school students take part in the programme since it first began, with over 25,000 participants expected this year. Participating students will compete across three categories, Junior (1<sup>st</sup> year), Intermediate (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year) and Senior (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year, LVA, LCA and Youth Outreach). Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show viable sales of their service or product. Following county and regional finals Student Enterprises from across the country will take part in the Final at Croke Park on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May

## Tourism



### The Meath Business and Tourism Awards 2022

The Meath business and Tourism Awards organised by the Meath Chronicle and supported by Meath County Council took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November at Knightsbrook Hotel. 32 innovative businesses were shortlisted from right across County Meath and presented their business at the Pitch Night held at AIB Navan on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Overall Business of the Year Award was presented to McCormack Family Farms and overall tourism business of the year award was presented to Killeen Castle.

### Rising to the Upcoming Challenges and Opportunities in Tourism Training

12 tourism businesses from across the Boyne Valley took part in a session on Rising to the Upcoming Challenges and Opportunities in Tourism at City North Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> November. The event also included an induction training session for the new Board of Directors of Boyne Valley Tourism. The training covered the many current challenges including sustainability and rising energy costs.

### PR

Two press visits were organized for journalists to visit the Boyne Valley in October and November respectively including Stellar Magazine and the Sunday Independent. Linda Maher from the Irish Daily Mail was invited to experience Halloween and a piece was published on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### Mid Term Myths

Community events were held in the tourist offices during the midterm break as part of the Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival. Storytelling for children on the Home of Halloween in Meath took place each day in Trim Visitor Centre and Kells Courthouse attracting 74 children and 30 adults over the 3 days.

### Centre of Food Culture Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture Boyne Valley was launched at the Samhain Food Festival in Kells on 4<sup>th</sup> November. This Centre will facilitate education, discussion, enterprise and advocacy of food culture for current and future generations. Meath and Louth County Councils are supporting this initiative.

## Finance Section



### Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Loans Data 1st January 2022 to 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022		
Fully Completed Applications Received 2022	113	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	1	Relates to 2022 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	6	All relate to 2022 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	77	69 relate to 2022, 8 relate to 2021
Refused by Credit Committee	27	25 relate to 2022, 2 relate to 2021 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	8	All relate to 2022 applications
Returned to Customer	5	4 relate to 2022, 1 to 2021
Active Approvals	42	41 Relate to 2022, 1 relates to 2021,
Expired	33	26 relate to 2021 applications, 7 relate to 2022
Drawdown by Customer	40.12	21 relate to 2022, 19 relate to 2021 applications, .12 relate to 2020

Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2022 – 21st November 2022 and in some cases relate to applications pre-2022.

Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases