



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

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

**Monthly Management Report**  
**February 2023**

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



#### Tour of EC Offices Kiltale

The December meeting of Meath County Council took place in the EC Offices in Kiltale on Monday December 5, 2022. The meeting was preceded by a presentation of the work undertaken by the European Commission Food and Veterinary Office and a tour of the building.

#### Cathaoirleach Christmas Message



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian shared a short Christmas video message on Meath County Council social media platforms on the week leading up to the holidays.

The Cathaoirleach reflected on the previous year with a particular focus on the impact of the increase in the cost of living on households but also the many reasons to celebrate 2022 such as the victorious Meath Ladies football team and the national recognition for Trim Tidy Towns.

The Cathaoirleach also used the opportunity to encourage Meath citizens to shop and support local during the festive period.

#### Meath County Council publishes Gender Pay Gap Report for 2022



On December 19, Meath County Council published its Gender Pay Gap Report for 2022. The gender pay gap is the difference in the average hourly wage of men and women across a workforce. Employers with more than 250 employees in Ireland are now required to publish their gender pay gap data.

The 2022 report shows a Mean Gender Pay Gap where, on average, males are paid 4.11% more than females. However, the Median Gender Pay Gap shows that the median rate for females is 0.67% higher than the median rate for males.

The full report can be viewed on [meath.ie](http://meath.ie), search for 'Gender Pay Gap Report'.

### **The Establishment of the Mid East Energy Unit**



The three local authorities of Meath County Council, Wicklow County Council and Kildare County Council have come together to address their combined climate mitigation ambitions through the formation of the Mid East Energy Unit.

The establishment of the Mid East Energy Unit will provide a platform for the three local authorities to work collaboratively to bring about measurable climate action mitigation, encourage a culture of energy saving and carbon reduction in the region and, with the SEAI, to provide support services for energy management, awareness, auditing, opportunity identification, and project development and delivery in the region.

Pictured at the launch in December was Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian with CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson and Director of Services Dara McGowan.

### Launch of Scéal Trail in Blackwater Park



Children from Oakleaves Preschool and Scoil Naomh Eoin, Navan, were the special guests for the launch of a Scéal Trail in Blackwater Park in early December. Meath County Library recently installed the Scéal Trail as a fun way to bring together the enjoyment of reading, a love of the outdoors and some physical activity.

'Socks for Mr Wolf' is a picture book written and illustrated by Trim-based author Tatyana Feeney; the story

follows Mr Wolf on a woolly adventure around Ireland as he tries to save his socks! Starting at the playground, children can follow the path to read the whole story. Each board features questions about the story and movement tips to do on the way to the next page.

Copies of 'Socks for Mr Wolf' are available to borrow from any Meath library.

Pictured at the launch of Scéal Trail with Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian and Mayor of Navan Cllr. Eddie Fennessy was author Tatyana Feeney, CE Jackie Maguire and Arya, Ian, Philip, Conor, Adelia and Joshua from Oakleaves Preschool and Scoil Naomh Eoin, Navan.

### Plaque unveiling ceremony held on Academy Street



Mellows Terrace, Navan, was built by Meath County Council in 1934 and named in honour of former TD for Meath North William (Liams) Mellows (1892-1922).

On December 8, a plaque unveiling ceremony was held on Academy Street, where the Mayor of Navan Cllr. Eddie Fennessy was joined by Mellows Terrace resident Johnny Cregan.

"William (Liams) Mellows (1892-1922), revolutionary, socialist, and TD for Meath North was executed during the Civil War on 8 December 1922".

## GoRemote Campaign Launch



Meath County Council launched its GoRemote campaign in early January as workers from across the county returned to their jobs after the Christmas break. The campaign seeks to highlight the opportunities for workers to do their jobs remotely either from their own homes or from a co-working hub.

The aim of this campaign is to encourage commuters to look at how they work, and if barriers such as low broadband or lack of facilities at home prevents remote working - they should explore the use of a co-working hub. For others the opportunity to seek a

remote first job might be attractive and we're encouraging people to check out the hundreds of remote working jobs available on the Grow Remote Jobs Board.

The campaign features a video sharing stories of workers who have transitioned to working remotely from home or from a co-working space in the County as well as signage, a radio campaign with LMFM and a dedicated webpage [meath.ie/GoRemote](http://meath.ie/GoRemote) directing residents to more information on Connected Hubs offering coworking desks and Grow Remote's Job's Board.

## 'My First Library Card' initiative launched



Meath County Library launched an initiative to get young children to join their local library!

'My First Library Card' aims to encourage parents of all newborns and children aged 0-5 to join the library. The card is free! All children can borrow up to 12 books at a time and libraries no longer charge fines.

'My First Library Card' is an eye-catching and colourful library card, designed by author and illustrator Tatyana Feeney.

Pictured at the launch of 'My First Library Card' are Arya, Ian, Philip, Conor, Adelia and Joshua from Oakleaves Pre School, CE Jackie Maguire, author and illustrator Tatyana Feeney, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian and Mayor of Navan Cllr. Edward Fennessy.

## Wellness Programme 2023



The Council was delighted to receive funding from the Department of Health in the sum of €28,500 to host a variety of events to introduce Ukrainian guests in the County, alongside host families and other friends, in a spirit of social inclusion opportunities to engage in activities aimed at improving and engaging all in wellness ventures.

There were 8 varying programmes chosen and these are provided by 6 suppliers ranging from children and adult cookery classes, art therapy, swimming and fitness to name a few. The activities are planned for all regions within

Meath, subject to demand.

What's unique? Meath County Council has an in-house Ukrainian translator who will attend all classes thereby breaking down any language barriers; allowing maximum benefit for all those involved. He will also be in a position to provide feedback from our guests in the community and to assist them as they integrate into our communities.

Bookings for the classes and brochures are available from [communityforum@meathcoco.ie](mailto:communityforum@meathcoco.ie) or please ring 046909700 and ask to speak to a member of the Ukrainian Team.

### **Advertisements – Live Reports – Official Languages Act**

January 2023 sees the start of the live reporting period of advertisements by public bodies for the Official Languages Act. As a public body, Meath County Council must ensure that going forward, 20% of their advertising spend is bilingual and 5% is in Irish language media only. This includes ads on the Council's website, social media, outdoor display or in a newspaper.

Cuireann Mí Eanáir 2023 tús leis an tréimhse tuairiscithe beo ar fógraí le comhlachtaí poiblí le haghaidh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Mar chomhlacht phoiblí caithfidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí a chinntiú as seo amach, go mbeidh 20% a gcaiteachais ar fógraí dátheangach agus go mbeidh 5% sa mheán Ghaeilge amháin. Tá fógraí ar an suíomh gréasáin, na meán shóisialta, taispeántais taobh amuigh nó in nuachtáin curtha san áireamh.

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Preparations are being made in January for the Council's Seachtain na Gaeilge programme. The Irish Language Officer will work in cooperation with the library service, schools & the local community to deliver a varied programme of events.

Tá ullmhúcháin á ndéanamh i mí Eanáir don chlár Sheachtain na Gaeilge an Chomhairle. Oibreoidh an Oifigeach Gaeilge i gcomhoibriú leis an tseirbhís leabharlainne, na scoileanna agus an pobal áitiúil le haghaidh clár éagsúil imeachtaí a dhéanamh.

### **Creative Ireland - Irish Language Poetry**

*Lampa Ar Lasadh*, an Irish Language poetry book was published in December 2022 and featured the works of five poets who were chosen from the 2022 Máire Mhac an tSaoi Irish language poetry competition run under Meath County Council Cultural Services &

funded under the Creative Ireland Programme. The shortlisted candidates took part in a masterclass with Irish language poet Louis de Paor and *Lampa Ar Lasadh* was produced as a result of the work undertaken during this workshop.

### **Éire Ildánach – Filíocht Ghaeilge**

D'fhoilsigh an Leabhar le Filíocht Ghaeilge i mí na Nollag 2022 agus bhí saothar de chúigear filí ann a roghnaíodh sa Ghradam Fhilíocht na Gaeilge – Máire Mhac an tSaoi faoi Sheirbhísí Cultúir Chomhairle Chontae na Mí agus maoinithe faoi chlár Éire Ildánach. Ghlac na hiarrthóirí ar an ngearrliosta páirt i máistir-rang le File Louis de Paor agus tháinig *Lampa Ar Lasadh* amach de thoradh obair a rinneadh le linn na ceardlainne

### **Corporate Governance**

#### **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 Q4 2022:

<b>FOI</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OIC</b>
Q4 - 2022	42	2	0

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

<b>AIE</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OCEI</b>
Q4 - 2022	12	2	1

<b>Subject Access Requests</b>	<b>SAR's</b>
Q4 - 2022	6

#### **Staff Retirements**

The following staff members have retired from the Council in Q4 of 2022:

- Declan Brennan – Transport Trim MD – Retired 18/10/2022
- Caroline McLoughlin – Library – Retired 31/12/2022

## Climate Action and Environment



### Free Bulky Waste Events 2023

**Free Drop Off Days 2023**  
Navan, Trim, Kells, Thorntons Dunboyne & Panda Beauparc,  
Recycling Centres

Couches - March, 6th to 11th  
Mattresses - April, 11th to 15th  
Garden Equipment - May 8th to 13th  
Cots, Prams, Nursery - June, 5th to 10th  
Halloween Bulky Waste - October 23rd to 28th  
Toys - November, 6th to 11th

These events are for Householders Only - No Commercial customers  
Gate Fee of €2 is payable per vehicle per visit  
Enquiries to [environment@meathcoco.ie](mailto:environment@meathcoco.ie)

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### Burial Grounds

#### Trim

The planning process for the provision of a new burial ground at Loganstown, Trim has been completed and work is currently ongoing on the preparation of contractor tender documents which it is hoped will be issued in quarter one 2023.

#### Stamullen

The acquisition of a suitable site has now been completed and work has now commenced on the preparation of the necessary planning documentation.

#### Rooske Road Dunboyne

Tender documents being prepared in respect of the provision of a Caretakers Building and Toilets and a new entrance area.

#### Burial Gardens /Columbarium Walls

Tender documents currently being prepared for contractors to construct burial gardens and Columbarium Walls within the five burial grounds which are fully administered by the Council.

### Climate Action

### **GAA Green Clubs Programme**

- The Climate Action Section will act as a point of contact for GAA Clubs participating in the Green Clubs Programme. A staff member from the section has been selected to co-ordinate the programme.
- Phase 2 of this programme was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022
- The purpose of the GAA Green Clubs is to support and facilitate GAA Clubs in implementing simple and effective sustainability actions around 5 themes:
  - Energy
  - Water
  - Waste
  - Biodiversity
  - Travel
- The programme includes a GAA Green Clubs Toolkit which contains resources, advice and guidance, tailored especially for GAA clubs and members.

### **Environment Department Electric Van**

A new Electric Vehicle Van has been sourced and is due to arrive in January for use by the Environmental Section.

### **Mid-East Energy Unit**

The new Mid-East Energy Unit was formally signed on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, for a period of 3 years, between Meath, Kildare and Wicklow County Councils. The new energy unit will collectively work with SEAI to progress sustainable public sector energy projects and enhance the low carbon economy in the sub region to meet our 2030 and 2050 targets.

### **URBACT Project**

The final Integrated Action Plan for the URBACT Project has been completed. This plan was produced in partnership with the URBACT Local Group, which was chaired by Cllr. Ronan Moore and supported by URBACT, Global Goals for Cities. The aim of this plan is to integrate the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at a local level. This Integrated Action Plan is the first locally developed plan in County Meath that links actions that are being undertaken within the community and the Council to the SDGs. A formal launch of the new plan will take place in early February. The next phase will be for the Urbact Local Group to commence actions identified in the plan.

### **Sustainability through Sport – Project Long Game**

Meath Sports Partnership together with Meath County Council are hosting a launch event *Working Together for Sustainability through Sport – Project Long Game*. This is an ambitious project created to promote sustainability through sports clubs. The event will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January (9.30 – 13.00) in Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Co. Meath County Council. Registration @ [www.projectlonggame.ie](http://www.projectlonggame.ie)

## Housing Services



### Capital Programme

#### Summary of Housing For All 2022 Delivery

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL 2022		
Delivery Mechanism	No. of Units	€
MCC Direct Construction	21	3,999,445
Buy & Renew Properties completed in 2022	3	475,594
MCC Turnkey	26	6,774,500
MCC Acquisitions not including Buy and Renew	18	4,794,500
MCC Part V	122	31,392,233
AHB CAS	2	€412,164
AHB Turnkey	172	€9,963,823
AHB Turnkey Part V	5	€317,892
AHB CALF Construction	88	€6,710,269
AHB CALF Construction Part V	8	€610,024
AHB Acquisitions (Housing Agency)	0	0
AHB Mortgage to Rent	6	€331,238
Private Mortgage to Rent	15	0
LA Long-Term Leasing	3	0
AHB Long term Leasing	0	0
<b>TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED 2022</b>	<b>489</b>	

Units Delivered						
Year	2022					Total
Units Delivered	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Total	
⊕ Build	16	63	71	297	447	447
⊕ Leasing	3				3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>450</b>

Social Housing Build Targets 2022-2026						
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Target	413	323	249	267	273	1,527
Affordable Targets 2022-2026						
Target	10	28	41	36	36	151



**Meath County Council Site Direct construction – Staleen Park, Donore (€4m)**

There were 103 potential sites and/or turnkey opportunities investigated during 2022. Each was subjected to a planning & engineering assessment to determine suitability for development or acquisition. A number of Turnkey deliveries were identified and agreed upon with developers. A significant investment was made in the purchase of a site in Ashbourne (€3.3million) which will provide an estimated 75 units by 2026. Working with the Environment Section, Compulsory Purchase Orders were obtained on properties in Laytown, Navan, Bettystown, and Kells which we feed into the Housing delivery as they are brought back up to standard.

During the year a Design Team Tender competitions were held for the Ashbourne scheme and New Lane, Navan.

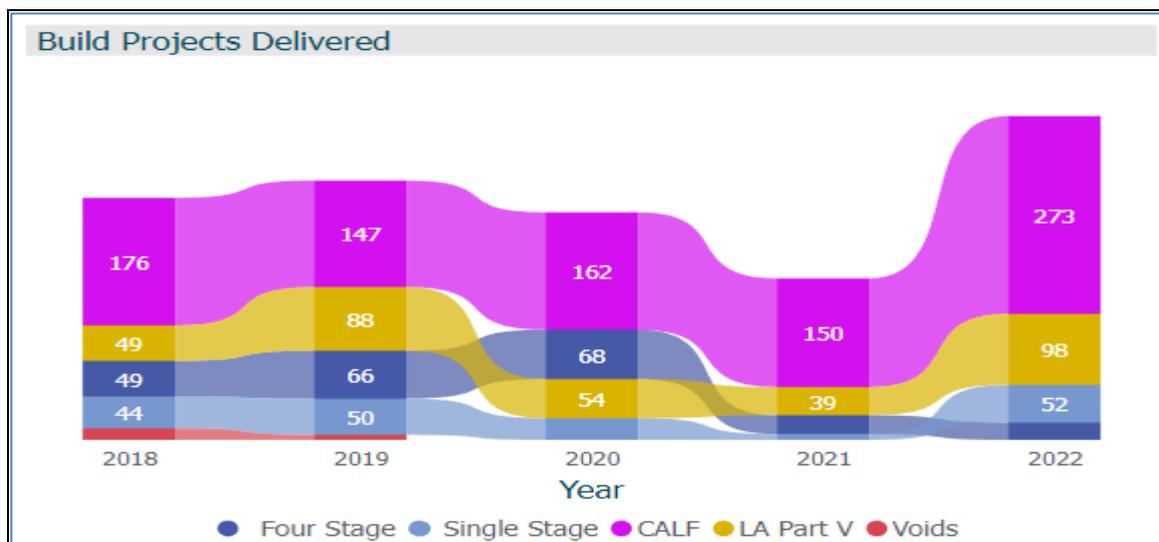
Detailed Designs were progressed with Design Teams for schemes at Nangle Court, Navan; and Haggard Street, Trim.

Planning applications were prepared and submitted for schemes at Newtown; Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells; Carrick Street, Kells; Kildalkey Road, Athboy; Churchview, Rathmolyon; Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney; Swan Lane, Navan; Pitcher Lane, Kells; Ratholdren Court, Navan; and Brews Hill, Navan.

Tender competitions were held to appoint contractors on the following schemes: Castle Street, Ashbourne; Gort na Glaise, Farganstown; St Francis Park, Navan; and Kildalkey Road, Athboy.

Works onsite commenced in Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin; and Alverno Court, Laytown. Works were completed in Staleen Park, Donore.

Build Units Delivered By Year						
SchemeTypeDescription	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Four Stage	49	66	68	26	24	233
Single Stage	44	50	30	8	52	184
CALF	176	147	162	150	273	908
LA Part V	49	88	54	39	98	328
Voids	16	7				23
<b>Total</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>1,676</b>



## Build Projected Units Pipeline

Targets				
Year	2023			
LA Description	Target	Deliv.	Proj.	+ / -
Meath	243	0	305	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>62</b>

Yearly Breakdown			LA / AHB / Part V	
SchemeDescription	Meath	Total		
AHB CALF Construction	29	<b>29</b>		
AHB CALF Turnkey	138	<b>138</b>		
CALF Part V	2	<b>2</b>		
LA Part V	68	<b>68</b>		
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	52	<b>52</b>		
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	16	<b>16</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>305</b>		

LA / AHB / Part V	
68 (22.3%)	70 (22.95%)
167 (54.75%)	
<p>● AHB BUILD ● PART V ● LA BUILD</p>	

### Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects at 31/12/2022

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	Q1 2023	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	Q1 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>START DATE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
Staleen Park, Donore	21	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Buy & Renew Unit - Enfield	1	Q1 2022	Q4 2022
Buy & Renew Unit - Kells	1	Q3/2021	Q3/2022
Buy & Renew Unit - Laytown	1	Q1/2021	Q4/2022
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>24</b>		

### Housing Capital Expenditure

- Claims in the amount of €64,511,548 were made for Housing capital expenditure during 2022 to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under the following headings: Acquisitions, Buy & Renew, Construction, Traveller Accommodation, Part V, LAAWS, Turnkey, Voids, Turnkey Admin Costs, EERP, NTW – Wages, EERP Project Management Fees.

### Refurbishment Projects

- St Francis Park (€3,771,374) – Construction works have commenced on site in November 2022 with a projected construction programme of 12 months.
- Alverno Court Refurbishment (€4,150,329) - Refurbishment works commenced on site on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 and will be completed across five phases.

### Affordability Measures

- Nine low-cost private sites as incorporated in the Phase 1 of Lagore Lawns, Dunshaughlin were disposed of through the Section 183 of The Local Government Act 2001 process in 2022.

## Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability

- 485 Households received Grant aid under the various Grants schemes in 2022 to the value of €3,056,152.

## Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- In 2022, 63 projects were completed to existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €528,908.11.

## Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

- 80 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2022
- In respect of vacant units, a total of € 1,424,794.32 funding was secured in 2022 from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (pre let repairs - €514,447.32 & energy efficiency works - €910,347.00).
- 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 13th January 2023. For the period from 22nd November 2022 to 13th January 2023, works were completed on 14 vacant units, while 9 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
<b>Ashbourne</b>	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Kells</b>	2	4	0	6	0
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	2	0	0	2	0
<b>Navan</b>	6	2	5	12	1
<b>Ratoath</b>	2	0	0	2	0
<b>Trim</b>	7	4	1	11	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	20	10	**6	33	3

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

## Response Maintenance

- 6,265 response maintenance cases were logged in 2022 and subsequently dealt with by Housing Operations.

### Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects At 31/12/2022

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Narrowways, Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Complete Q2/2022
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Complete Q2/2022
Royal Oaks, Enfield	16	Cluid Housing	Q2/2022 Complete
Abbey Road, Commons, Duleek	22	North and East	Complete Q3/2022
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	15	Tuath Housing	Complete Q3/2022
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	2	Tuath Housing	Complete Q3/2022
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Complete Q4/2022
Carlanstown	8	Tuath CALF Turnkey	Complete Q4 2022
Baker Hall Phase1, Navan	49	Tuath Housing	Complete Q4/2022
Knightsbrook, Trim	22	Tuath Housing	Completed Q4/2022
Maudlin Vale Phase 1	8	Tuath Housing	Complete Q4/2022
Tubberclaire Meadows, Navan	8	Cluid CALF TURNKEY	Completed Q4/2022
Applewood Court, Beaufort Place, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Q1/2023
Swanbrook, Trim Road Navan	48	Tuath Housing	Q1/2023
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Q1/2023
The Arches, Dunshloughlin	6	Tuath	Q2 2023
Maudlin Vale, Trim	31	Tuath Housing	Q4/2023
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q4/2023
Tailteann, Navan	8	Meath Women's Refuge	Q3/2024
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>455</b>		

## Homeless Service

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31 <sup>th</sup> October 2022  (Previous Reported Figure)	144  (154)	48  (78 Adults, 102 Children)	192
Placements at 31 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	136  (142)	50  (81 Adults, 94 Children)	186
<p>Of the households with children, 42 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.</p> <p><b>Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:</b> Primary reason is Notice to Quit &amp; unable to find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare.</p>			

- 82 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022
- 499 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council in 2022 (280 individual/couples and 170 families).

### The reasons for presentations were:

- NTQ – 136;
- Family Circumstances - 204 (family breakdown 90; relationship breakdown 43; domestic violence 34; addiction 13; mental health 7; ASB victim 6; family home sold 5; does not qualify for housing list 4; HAP transfer request 1; wants to join partner in emergency accommodation 1)
- Aftercare – 7
- Leaving Hospital / Treatment / Prison – 10
- 91 (couch surfing 29; unsuitable living conditions / overcrowding 29; rent arrears 12; unable to afford rent 9; evicted 8; unable to source property 4)
- Financial assistance / placefinder assistance requested – 23
- Rough sleeping – 7
- Barring / Protection Order – 7
- Other – 14 (came to Ireland 5; illegal occupiers of MCC property 4; returning from abroad 2; house fire 2; family reunification 1)

264 households exited emergency accommodation in 2022 with 26.5% of households exiting into private rented / local authority / approved housing body tenancies.

## Private Rental Inspections

- 1,560 Inspections of private rental accommodation properties were carried out for the period January-December 2022. 1,286 Improvement Letters and 16 Improvement Notices were issued.

## Tenant Purchase Scheme

Fourteen (14) units were acquired by tenants of Meath County Council in 2022 under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2022, at a cumulative discount of €1,063,500.

## Traveller Accommodation

- Progress was made in delivering the 5 Year Traveller Accommodation Programme. Year three of the programme saw
  - 15 no social housing allocations to housing applicants from the Traveller community (target 9)
  - 5 no. LAAWS applications completed for Housing People with a Disability (target 3)
  - Commencement of the Refurbishment of St Francis' Park preceded by decanting of residents to temporary housing accommodation
- Completion of the Mid Term Review of the Meath Traveller Accommodation 2019-2024. No change was recommended to the Programme.
- The LTACC (Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee) met on in May and October 2022.
- Funding of €17,400 was secured under the 2022 Dormant Accounts Fund to commission a report on enhancing the awareness of and engagement with the LTACC. Implementation of the reports recommendations will be progressed during 2023.

## Estate Management: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

ASB Complaints	Totals
ASB Complaints received	976
<b>ASB complaints received per MD</b>	
Ashbourne	37
Kells	134
Laytown / Bettystown	121
Navan	390
Ratoath	141
Trim	153

ASB Investigation Cases (One case can include multiple complaints)	Totals
ASB investigation on going	79
ASB investigation completed	897

Action Taken (one case can receive multiple actions)	Totals
No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	81
Advice / Instruction given	762
Verbal warning issued	18
First breach of Tenancy Notice	20
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	4
Statutory warning issued	1
Notice to Quit served	1
Referrals to other agencies	57
Illegal occupation due to break ins (1 outstanding)	7
Exclusion Orders Sought	0
House taken back into possession (No legal fees nor security fees were used in these cases)	46
<b>Total Action Taken</b>	<b>990</b>

Tenancy Outcomes	Totals
Repossession commenced (due to ASB & other reasons)	46
Repossession completed	46
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	0
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	9

<b>Number of pre- tenancies conducted</b>	320
<b>Rightsizing</b>	
No. of Tenants identified: 10	Achieved: 7

### Tenant Liaison

- In excess of 350 tenants completed pre-tenancy training during 2022, obtaining a variety of information concerning their tenancy with Meath County Council.
- Tenant liaison team are playing an active part in the Alverno refurbishment project. Tenant Liaison Officers are providing support for the decanting of tenants and assisting return to properties, liaising with housing maintenance team.
- Tenant liaison team were proactive in the decanting of Saint Francis Park €3,771,374 capital project helping to rehouse 11 traveller families to houses throughout Navan.
- A new Meath CC information video has been developed for all new tenants representing an additional resource to reinforce information in the tenant handbook.

### Estate Management Policy

The Estate Management Policy was implemented to provide an overall framework to promote and achieve better estate management outcomes within Meath County Council's estates. The policy was presented to and approved by the housing SPC in December 2022.

The Tenant Liaison team encourage all new tenants to participate in existing resident's association or set up new resident's association for new estates. The Tenant Liaison Team outline what supports are available from the Public Participation Network (PPN). The Tenant Liaison Team assist and attend resident's association meetings throughout the year and encourage estate management initiatives and explain what funding is available.

Reaching out to older tenants (ROOT) is an initiative offering support to tenants in the over 70's category. The Tenant liaison team have reached out to 260 tenants in 2022.

Examples of Estate management funding was used for refurbishment works at Willie Black Crescent Kells and Lagore Crescent Dunshaughlin.



***Willie Black Crescent, Kells***



***Lagore Crescent, Dunshaughlin - Pilot Estate Management Initiative (Before & After)***

## **Disability**

- Meath County Council's 'Strategy for Housing People with a Disability' was reviewed in under the auspices of the Housing Disability Steering Group following the publication of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. A National Implementation Plan will be published in early 2023 from which local actions will be identified and progressed.
- In 2022 the Housing Disability Steering Group progressed the establishment of a Disability Housing Action Team Housing Disability Steering Group which will focus on the specific needs of applicants. The Disability Housing Action Team convened its first meeting in October and met twice in 2022.

- A total of 35 level access units were delivered across 5 sites in 2022, in order to cater for applicants with mobility issues. These units emanated from Part V delivery negotiated by Meath County Council and Approved Housing Body activity.



The Arches



Some of the new homes at Collier's Place, Duleek.

***Level access units delivered through Part V and AHB Delivery***

***(The Arches Dunshaughlin and Colliers Place, Duleek)***

**Social Housing Supports**

- 1,083 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 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> December 2022.

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
MCC Direct Allocations	242
Approved Housing Bodies	213
RAS	0
HAP	419
Long term Leasing	25
MTR (AHBS)	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>904</b>

The introduction of the Choice based letting system has significantly reduced the number of refusals as per the table below

<b>REFUSALS PER MD</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Ashbourne	2	13	12	0
Kells	4	75	35	10
Laytown - Bettystown	0	6	4	19
Navan	29	43	21	11
Ratoath	13	52	29	4
Trim	14	22	15	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>44</b>
Suspensions for Refusing 2 offers ending in the year	28	18	27	38

## Community Development



### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 when details of the SICAP 2022 end of year report, SICAP annual plan 2023, Healthy Ireland Meath Implementation plan and a progress update on the Joint Louth Meath Migrant integration strategy will be presented.

Consultation for the next Meath LECP continued throughout December including a workshop held with the LCDC members. The consultant will continue with the next stage of the plan development including review of all the feedback received and developing actions under each of the high-level goals.

### LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### Comhairle na n'Óg

The first Comhairle na n'Óg meeting of 2023 will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January. The previous work topic (Facilities App) will be reviewed and any learnings will be taken on board before work begins on their new topics (mental health & substance abuse).

### Joint Policing Committee

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The dates for the 2023 meetings were approved for 20<sup>th</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> September (Public Meeting) and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### Pride of Place Initiative

The Co-operation Ireland awards took place on the night of 21<sup>st</sup> January in Dublin with 3 groups entered under different categories - Dunshaughlin Tidy Towns, Kilbride Tidy Towns and Old Balreask resident's association. Congratulations to Dunshaughlin who were crowned the winners of the national Pride of Place Awards.

### Public Participation Network

The Secretariat held their second meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December. A tender process took place to select an independent facilitator to work with and support the development of the Secretariat. Tenders are currently being assessed. An in-person plenary meeting will be held in March/April.

Fortnightly newsletters are now going out to all members advising of grants available, events and support. Environment Pillar will meet with the Irish Environmental Network stakeholders to seek ways to develop and strengthen the pillar in Meath. 508 groups are now registered with Meath PPN.

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

Six Focus Groups meetings took place to support the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) 2023-2025 application in December 2022. The two outcome Indicators selected for County Meath for the HIF 2023-2025 are:

- Increase in Individuals level of positive mental health as per energy and vitality index
- Decrease in unconditional probability of dying (aged 30-70) from cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases

These were approved at the December LCDC meeting. A workshop took place on 11<sup>th</sup> January to select target groups, activities and potential partners for the HIF 2023-2025 plan which has to be submitted to Pobal on January 27<sup>th</sup> for approval.

### **Joint Migrant Integration Forum**

Due to no quorum for meeting in December the meeting is re-scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> January which will be hosted by Meath County Council.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

The results of the 2022 Town & Village Renewal Scheme were announced in late December. The successful projects in Meath were Kilcloon, Drumconrath and Longwood. Funding was also announced for Trim under the Streetscape Enhancement scheme. Works will commence on the projects in the coming months.

### **BCPs & Hubs**

Meath County Council has secured €49,500 under the Town and Village Marketing Scheme Measure to encourage the development of remote working as a sustainable working practice in the county. A marketing campaign commenced on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January featuring advertising on LMF, Social Media and Signage on access routes in strategic locations in the county. The focus of the campaign is to encourage people to pursue remote working, make use of hubs and co-working spaces and consider remote first jobs that will enable them to sustain a better quality of life and spend more time in their communities.

A new webpage [meath.ie/GoRemote](https://meath.ie/GoRemote) will provide links to the live Connected Hubs offering co-working spaces and links to Grow Remote who support remote workers to secure jobs, skills and networks of like-minded workers.

### **TikTok4Teens**

Two groups of teens were awarded videography equipment and one4all vouchers as prizes for their participation in the Tiktok4Teens training and competition that ran in 2022. The winners produced videos that were developed using the skills they learned during the programme that was delivered by Fiona Sherlock. It is anticipated that the programme will run again in 2023.

### **National Broadband Plan**

NBI continue to complete works in Drogheda Deployment Area (DA) encompassing parts of Ashbourne and Laytown Bettystown Municipal Districts with an anticipated completion date at the end of March 2023. Open air has applied for licences to commence works in Dunboyne, and Navan DA's. Work has already commenced with tree trimming taking place in 2022 and will continue over the next few weeks.

### **The Community Support Fund**

The Community Support Fund is open for applications until 10<sup>th</sup> February and 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

### **Carranstown Grant Scheme**

The scheme is now open to receive applications with a closing date scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## Libraries Services



### Archives

#### Heritage Stewardship Grant 2023

An application has been submitted by the archivist to the Heritage Stewardship Grant Scheme 2023 to fund the conservation and digitisation of a major map collection – the Farrell Collection - which was purchased by the library service in 2015.

The Farrells were a highly successful Catholic family of brewers and moneylenders in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Dublin. The founder, John Farrell of Fingal, established himself in Merrion Square and ran the firm until his death in 1767, when he was succeeded by his son James. After the lifting of restrictions on Catholics acquiring land, James bought Moynalty and other lands in co. Meath from Lord Farnham in 1790. On his death in 1823 Moynalty passed to his elder son John, who built Moynalty House in 1825 and did much to develop the village and estate. The younger son Thomas inherited the house in Merrion Square and lands at Robertstown. Moynalty House was sold in 1928.

Their parish church, St Andrew's in Westland Row, contains several monuments to the family (whose burial place is in a vault beneath the church), including a fine piece of sculpture by John Hogan commemorating Jeannette Mary Farrell, a daughter of Thomas, who died in 1838 at the age of eighteen of fever contracted while teaching the poor children of the parish. The Farrell archive includes a remarkably fine collection of manuscript maps; a complete run of business letter-books containing from 1765 to 1804; a series of cash books containing records of accounts between 1757 and 1838.

The collection includes a significant number of large maps, dating from 1709 to 1896. The maps are early examples of estate maps in Ireland and chart a change in land development over two centuries in North-West Meath.

Conservation of these maps would ensure stability of a collection that is of unique value to the County of Meath. Scanning of the collection would ensure that they would be opened to the public and used for publications and exhibitions.

#### ***STEAM backpacks – Update***

The first service in the country offering STEAM backpacks has been adjudged to be a runaway success with young children and families based on the following loans and issues

- 862 loans with 459 current reservations

*The service was launched at an event in Dunboyne library in summer 2022 and is funded by META.*

### **Visually Impaired**

**The Fact Factory Audio Magazine**, the world's first audio magazine for visually impaired children is now available through the library service.

This innovative audio magazine is ideal for children with visual impairments, dyslexia and those who struggle to read. The GTalk3 pen combined with the print version of The Fact Factory magazine create a truly accessible and immersive reading experience.

For a short demo, watch [this video](#):

Individuals can reserve the magazine box set in person, via email or [online via our library catalogue](#).

#### **1.1 Schools/Teachers\***

*\*There are dedicated sets of the magazine available for primary school teachers to borrow through our [Primary School's Service](#). Please contact [primaryschools@meathcoco.ie](mailto:primaryschools@meathcoco.ie) to reserve the magazine.*

### **Digital Magazines**

Borrowers are continuing to discover the Digital Magazines on offer through the service, with 9,000 issues recorded in 2022.

The five most popular magazines in 2022 were

- Real Simple Organizing Basics: Declutter Now!
- Birdwatch
- RCM&E ( Radio Control Models and Electronics)
- Real Simple Decorating Basics
- Air-Fryer

### **eAudio Books**

eAudio books continue to grow in popularity with borrowers. 42,000 issues were recorded in 2022.

The ratio of loans between eAudio and eBooks is 65/35 in favour of eAudio.

Borrowers may not always have as much time to read, but they are clearly making time to listen.

## Transportation Services



### 1. National Roads - Funding from TII - €9,996,967 – Awaiting 2023 confirmation of Grant Allocation

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 the ongoing construction works along the route.</li> </ul>
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation made to the Laytown Bettystown MD Members at their January meeting on the preliminary design for the proposed bypass and public realm enhancement scheme.</li> <li>• Public information evening held for residents and interested parties on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in the Conyngham Arms Hotel, Slane</li> <li>• All directly affected property owners and landowners given the opportunity to attend private meetings with the Project Team in advance of the public information evening.</li> </ul>
N52 Grange to Clontail	<p>An Bord Pleanála issued the CPO Submissions to Meath County Council – 19 received in total. These have been reviewed and responses are being drafted – expected to issue in Q1 2023.</p>
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground Investigation Contractor due to commence works in Quarter 1 2023. Liaison with affected Landowners regarding access ongoing</li> <li>• Tenders for Archaeology Geophysical survey received. Tender assessment is ongoing. Expected to commence surveys Q1 2023.</li> </ul>
National Road Resurfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N2 Kellystown to Glassallen: Contractor appointed – works substantially complete</li> <li>• N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath including Pump Cross– works commenced 05/12/2022, scheduled to be back on site from 23/01/2023</li> <li>• N51 Halltown/Mullaghmore overlay scheme – works substantially complete</li> </ul>

**2. Non- National Roads - Funding from DoT – Awaiting 2023 confirmation of Grant Allocation**

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

Road Works Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently awaiting confirmation of funding from the Department of Transport towards the Roadworks Programme for 2023</li> <li>• The Draft Roadworks Programme for each Municipal District will be brought to the Members as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works at the February MD meetings. (This will be based on the 2022 Grant Allocation)</li> </ul>
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**2. (b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant**

R162 Kilberry to Lisnagrew Safety Scheme	Safety works at R162/L3406 Mullins Cross and warning signage on R162 from Kilberry to Lisnagrew expected to be completed in this quarter, Q1 2023.
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**2. (c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads –Awaiting allocation & schemes for 2023**

2022 Schemes	Road	
Ratoath Road, Baltrasna	R125	Works substantially complete
Rathbran Junction	L5602	Works substantially complete
Platin	R152	Junction works being progressed and alternatives being considered
Kilmore Junction	R156/L62161	Works ongoing
Faughanhill Junction	L4025/L8001	Works ongoing
Oberstown Cross, Skryne	L1003/L1005	Works substantially complete

**2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads - Awaiting Allocation & schemes for 2023**

2022 DoT Schemes	
Tremblestown Bridge (L-40131)	Works complete
Seymourstown Culvert (L68291)	Works complete
Donaghpatrick Bridge (L7413)	Works scheduled for completion by end of January
Tatestown Culvert (L3409)	Works complete
Dardistown Bridge (R108)	Works complete
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Works 90% complete, to be finalised during Summer 2023
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	At tender assessment stage
Kiltale Culvert (L62033)	Works scheduled for completion by end of January

**2. (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – awaiting allocation & schemes for 2023**

L-6219 Newtownmoyaghy	Topo survey completed on site. Ground Investigation contract awarded and due to commence Q1 2023. Draft Options Selection report being prepared.
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**3. Active Travel Grants from NTA – Awaiting 2023 allocation**

<p><b>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Granite kerbing installed on Kennedy Rd along Kennedy Plaza &amp; tree ‘pits’ installed in Kennedy Plaza.</li> <li>• New reinforced concrete wall (Wall 4) constructed &amp; works commenced installing new railings to concrete walls to plaza area</li> <li>• Ducting works completed behind the fencing on Plaza area.</li> <li>• Art sculpture relocated to Plaza area and installed on new concrete plinth.</li> <li>• Ducting from Metges laneway to Paddy O’Brien Street on the western side of Kennedy Road commenced.</li> <li>• Cladding work to the flowerbeds commenced.</li> <li>• Pavement works at the Market Square/Trimgate St/Kennedy Road junction commenced at AIB Bank.</li> <li>• Ongoing consultation with business owners on Kennedy Road continuing</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tender for Construction of Phase 1 Works; Solstice to Beechmount Est placed on E-Tenders on 16/12/2022, closing date is 30/01/2023. Tender Evaluation process to take place in February.</li> </ul>

<b>Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with affected landowners/solicitors is ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</b>	<p>Convent Road Scheme: Part 8 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chief Executive Report delivered to Members prior to the December meeting of Navan MD. Consideration of CE Report to take place before the end of January 2023</li> </ul>
<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 accepted by the Navan MD members at Nov meeting of Navan MD.</li> <li>The 6-week consideration period for the CE Report expired on 22/12/2022 and AO Order confirming planning permission was issued on 23/12/2022.</li> <li>Gateway 4 approval received from NTA on 16/01/2023.</li> <li>A Tender competition for Phase 5-7 Consultant/Designer services has been completed the appointment process underway. Contract is anticipated to commence on 23/01/2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part 8 planning public consultation process for this scheme has been completed. The latest date for submissions was 13/01/2023.</li> <li>Awaiting completion of the Part 8 Planning Submission Report by the designers which shall inform the development of the CE Report. It is currently envisaged that the CE Report shall be brought to the Members of Navan MD prior to the February District Meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle &amp; Pedestrian Scheme</b>	<p>Consultants appointed and continuing design work associated with Phase 2 - Concept Development &amp; Option Selection which will deliver preliminary options for discussion and development.</p>
<b>Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing consultation and engagement with Trimgate St Traders, St Marys Parish and the Meath Chamber.</li> <li>Continuation of Phase 3, Preliminary Design process - development of options ongoing. The aim to is make a Part 8 Planning Permission Application in February/March 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 2 Concept Development Stage is ongoing. The Designers have produced the Constraints Study Report in early January 2023.</li> <li>This report is currently being considered by Active Travel Section pending approval to proceed to the next Phase of scheme development.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Convent Road to Metges Road &amp; Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Travel has combined these 2 schemes for the purpose of delivering preliminary designs for achieving Statutory consent.</li> <li>• A Tender Competition for the delivery of Phase 2 to Phase 4 Design Services for this combined scheme project has been issued to the NTA Framework for Consulting Engineers on 12/01/2023. Deadline for submission of Tenders set as 02/02/2023.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ratoath Pedestrian &amp; Cycling Scheme</b></p>	<p>Kick off meeting held with Consultants Atkins before Christmas, with Atkins to commence works immediately.</p>
<p><b>Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme</b></p>	<p>Phase 2, which consists of extending the works from the filling station to the Nine Milestone Roundabout – progressing well with works due to be completed by end of Jan/early Feb 2023</p>
<p><b>Kilcloon Traffic Calming Scheme</b></p>	<p>Works consisting of the installation of 2 no. raised pedestrian crossings, associated ramps, public lighting upgrade and footpath upgrade at Kilcloon National School progressing well on site, due to be completed early February 2023.</p>
<p><b>Millbrook to Beech Drive, Johnstown Pedestrian Link</b></p>	<p>Contractor currently being appointed. Works due to commence February 2023</p>
<p><b>Jim Brunnock Road Kells, Safe Routes to School</b></p>	<p>Works now complete, lighting was commissioned in December 2022.</p>
<p><b>N51 Park &amp; Ride</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surfacing works to both the car park area and the N51 offline bus bay were delayed due to temperature being outside the acceptable range for undertaking this form of work.</li> <li>• Bus shelters, big belly bins, and entrance barrier installed.</li> <li>• Preparation works for road widening and drainage works on the N51 undertaken.</li> <li>• Fencing and access gates substantially installed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bus Shelter Enabling Works</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of initial project elements completed.</li> <li>• Design of two additional locations in Ratoath advanced.</li> <li>• Surveying and service information being undertaken</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accessible Bus Stops Works</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of initial project elements completed.</li> <li>• Design of four bus stop locations in Trim being advanced, two of which will include bus shelters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network</b></p>	<p>Kick off meeting held with Consultants Atkins before Christmas, with Atkins to commence works immediately.</p>

<b>Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed design of road and drainage, and preparation of the specification and bill of quantities ongoing.</li> <li>• Works continuing on Site Investigation works.</li> <li>• Landowner agreements continuing to be finalised</li> </ul>
<b>Safe Routes to School</b>	Options selection for each school site underway. Conceptual design received from the Consultants - further consultation planned with An Taisce and the schools

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

<b>LDR4, Kells road to Ratholdren road, Navan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1 of main construction contract tender completed</li> <li>• Preconstruction ecological studies completed on site.</li> <li>• Contract for advanced hedge clearance awarded and works to be completed before the end of February</li> <li>• Detail design and stage 2 tender preparation being finalised</li> </ul>
<b>R135 Cycle Network Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works substantially complete in Phase 1, between Tudor Grove entrance and Dunnes Stores.</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 working on the Nobber to Kilmainhamwood section of the Nobber to Kingscourt Greenway. Works progressing well with site clearance completed and tracks 60% removed between Nobber &amp; Kilmainhamwood.</li> <li>• Constructive meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 with CIE, in relation to construction issues on the project to date</li> <li>• Follow up meeting held with the owners of Newcastle Lough following concerns raised regarding the proximity of the works to their Nature Reserve. Ecological Surveys carried out on 09/01/2023</li> <li>• Tender for the Castletown to Wilkinstown closed– Letter of Intent issued to the preferred contractor.</li> </ul>

	
<b>Boyne Greenway &amp; Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)</b>	Additional flood data requested from the OPW and further flood modelling work ongoing to satisfy TII requirements before progressing to the next stage.

#### 5. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Footpath Improvement Works</b>	Programme of Footpath Improvement Works for 2023 for each MD being devised , this will be communicated to Members in due course.
<b>Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme</b>	Meeting held with Tobins & MCC Planning Department before Christmas. Initial parking survey completed, with a following survey being carried out in January 2023.

## Planning and Development



- Planning Applications (Section 34)

1744 planning applications were received in 2022. This is compared to 2434 in 2021. 2021 saw an unprecedented rise in planning applications and this rise can be attributed to the proposed change to the Rural Policy which was subsequently not adopted as part of the Meath County Development Plan review.

Comparison Table showing applications in neighbouring local authorities

County	Number of Applications Received in 2022
Meath	1744
Kildare	1540
Wicklow	1428
Louth	1030
Westmeath	593

- Large-scale Residential Developments (LRD) (Section 32)

The Council issued three LRD opinions in 2022. 1 application was subsequently lodged and granted by the Council for 138 units. This application is currently on appeal to An Bord Pleanála. A further seven other applications were assessed by the LRD Team. These were as a result of amendments required to a granted Strategic Housing Development (SHD) and the LRD Team will determine whether they can be dealt with as a standard planning application (Section 34) or whether they need to be assessed under the LRD regulations.

- Part 8 Applications (Section 179)

A total of 23 Part 8 applications were lodged with the Planning Department in 2022 compared to 5 applications in 2021. A further 2 applications were made directly to An Bord Pleanála due to the requirement for a Natura Impact Statement – Buvinda House Extension and Spicers/Andy Brennan Park.

- Pre-Planning Consultations (Section 247)

The Council facilitated a total of 509 pre-planning meetings held under Section 247 of the Planning & Development Acts. Approximately 45% of the meetings were held in person, with the remaining 55% being held online or over the phone. Please note that the same advice and level of service is provided regardless of the method of communication offered to the proposed applicant.

- ePlanning

The Planning Department sat on a number of meetings of the working group responsible for the introduction of ePlanning. It is anticipated that ePlanning will be rolled-out in Meath County Council in Q1 2023. A presentation on same will be made to the full Council at a later date.

- Commencement Notices

580 valid commencement notices were received in 2022. This is compared to 771 in 2021. The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

<b>Development Type</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>
One-Off House	255
Multi-Units	1099
Extensions	108
Other*	56

\* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

On foot of the commencement notice being received 871 first time inspections were carried out.

16,038 repeat inspections of under construction units were also carried out in 2022. Each unit is inspected approximately 20 times throughout the build to ensure it is complying with Building Control Regulations and the conditions of planning.

- Development Contributions (Section 48)

Pre-Audited Development Contribution receipts for 2022 show a collection of €14,029,439 an increase on 2021 where €13,145,262 was collected. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

- Planning Enforcement (Sections 152,154 and 160)

193 planning enforcement cases were opened in 2022. This is compared to 303 cases in 2021.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Number</b>
New Cases to be Investigated	24
Warning Letter (Section 152)	87
Enforcement Notice (Section 154)	13
Referred for Legal Proceedings (Section 160)	5
Closed	64

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

- Residential Zoned Land Tax  
A total of 33 submissions were received during the public consultation period which ran from 1 November 2022 to 31 December 2022. The submissions are now being assessed.
- Public Consultation  
The Planning Department made submissions on 38 external public consultation processes on behalf of the Council in 2022. These included development plan processes, proposed government guidelines etc.
- Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID)  
The Council made detailed submissions on a number of SID projects including Dart Plus North, Dart Plus West and various windfarm/off-shore wind projects.
- Joint Local/Urban Area Plans  
The Strategic Issues Paper (SIP) relating to the Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth was published by Meath and Kildare County Councils in Q4 2022. A total of 65 submissions were received and the Chief Executive Report on same is being prepared

Meath County Council continues to engage with our colleagues in Louth County Council with respect to the publication of the SIP relating to the Drogheda Area Plan.

- Annual Monitoring Report  
The Planning Department presented its first monitoring report as required by the Development Plan Guidelines on the performance of the Core Strategy and commercial activity in the new plan.
- Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027  
Members of the Planning Department attended approximately 18 days of court hearings relating to the 5 judicial reviews taken against the Council following the adoption of the County Development Plan. It is estimated that twice this number of days were dedicated to preparing the Council's defence and to brief the Council's legal team. The current status of each of the cases is set out below;

<b>Case</b>	<b>Status</b>
JR KILLEGLAND ESTATES LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Leave to appeal judgment in favour of Meath County Council refused by Judge Humphreys. Applicant now seeking to 'leap frog' to Supreme Court
JR MC GARRELL REILLY HOMES LTD & ALCOVE IRELAND EIGHT LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Leave to appeal judgment in favour of Meath County Council refused by Judge Humphreys. Applicant now seeking to 'leap frog' to Supreme Court
JR HICKWELL LTD & ANOR -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Distributor road adopted in the CDP quashed by the Court.
JR PROTECT EAST MEATH LTD -V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL & ORS	Written judgement awaited however Judge Humphreys has indicated that the decision to make the post-2019 residential zoned lands from the previous plan, A2 new residential under

	the new plan, is to be quashed and revisited by way of a variation or the Drogheda Joint Urban Area Plan.
JR DOLENT PROPERTIES LTD - V- MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL	Case deferred on foot of an agreement between both parties with liberty to re-enter.

- Projects

The Planning Projects Team also commenced work, continued to advance work on or provided assistance on the following projects in 2022;

- Public Realm

- Slane Public Realm and Implementation Strategy
- Bettystown & Laytown Public Realm
- Kells Public Realm
- Oldcastle Public Realm
- Athboy Public Realm
- Ashbourne Public Realm Strategy
- Dunshaughlin Courthouse and Public Realm

- Other

- Enfield Town Centre First
- Streetscape Enhancement Scheme – Market Street, Trim
- Amenity & Recreation Plan for Tower of Llyod
- Flowerhill and Abbeyland Urban Design Plan
- Renovation of St. Patrick’s Classical School
- County Hall Site Redevelopment Plan

## Economic Development



### Local Enterprise Office Meath

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	15
Trading Online Vouchers	11
Training Online Courses Attended	71
Digital Marketing Clinics Attended	9
LEO Fund	2

### Meath Craft 'Network'



Last summer, almost 200 members of the craft, design maker community of Meath attended two public meetings facilitated by Francis Verling of Verling Consultants and hosted by LEO Meath. The aim of the meetings was to bring the creative community together. Following the public meetings, it was unanimously decided to create a 'network'.

An interim steering committee was established, and the criteria of the "network" was agreed. A public campaign was launched encouraging applications from the sector in Meath to apply to become a member. An independent judging panel reviewed the applications against the interim steering committees' criteria and subsequently 41 Craft, Design, Makers were invited to

apply for membership. In November a formal committee was elected at a public meeting with Clare O'Connor elected as Chairperson.

Mentoring will be provided to the network as they work on becoming established, work will also begin around official branding and a network launch. The network will also receive ongoing support by the LEO office.

This new 'network' will be the newest collective to launch in Ireland and will aim to raise the profile of the Craft, Design Maker community in Meath. It is planned to launch the network in late Spring.

*Pictured is Tom King, of An Gobha and a member of Meath Craft Collective who won the Overall Product Award at Showcase Ireland in January this year.*

## Tourism



**Royal Canal Greenway:** Meath County Council is working with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and the three Local Authorities along the Royal Canal Greenway to activate the tourism industry to raise the standard of the tourism product and develop new experiences. The first step in this process is the launch of the Royal Canal Greenway Activation Plan on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at the Mullingar Park Hotel.

**Promotion:** Boyne Valley Tourism has prepared a promotional plan for 2023. This plan includes a Boyne Valley stand in January at the Belfast and Dublin Holiday World Shows. These two shows combined attract 70,000 people interested in booking a holiday.

**Collaboration:** A visit is organized for the local tourism industry in January to familiarize themselves with local tourism product which includes Drogheda and Listoke Gin School, a visit to the new Bective Tea rooms and The Zone Navan.

**Winter Solstice:** The public were invited back into Newgrange for Winter Solstice in December 2022, the first time since 2019. 12 members of the public won out of a lottery of 6000 people and the Solstice was live streamed by TG4.

## Finance Section



### Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Loans Data 1st January 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022		
<b>Fully Completed Applications Received 2022</b>	<b>124</b>	
<b>Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)</b>	<b>5</b>	Relates to 2022 application
<b>Awaiting Further Information from applicants</b>	<b>5</b>	All relate to 2022 applications
<b>Approved by Credit Committee</b>	<b>77</b>	69 relate to 2022, 8 relate to 2021
<b>Refused by Credit Committee</b>	<b>28</b>	26 relate to 2022, 2 relate to 2021 applications
<b>Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee</b>	<b>15</b>	All relate to 2022 applications
<b>Returned to Customer</b>	<b>5</b>	4 relate to 2022, 1 to 2021
<b>Active Approvals</b>	<b>34.52</b>	33.86 Relate to 2022, .66 relates to 2021,
<b>Expired</b>	<b>42</b>	22 relate to 2021 applications, 20 relate to 2022
<b>Drawdown by Customer</b>	<b>46.6</b>	31.14 relate to 2022, 15.34 relate to 2021 applications, .12 relate to 2020

Figures above relate to activity from 1st January 2022 – 31st December 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 fully operational for Rates, Rents, RAS, Emergency Accommodation & Loans customers. This portal enables customers to make payments via mobile devices and also view statements of their accounts.