



Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

May 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.

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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

Save *the* Date

MD Awards
11 May 2023

~

Minister Heather Humphreys
visit to a number of Meath Projects
24 May 2023

~

Presidential Visit to Trim Tidy Towns
03 June 2023

Dates are subject to change

Official opening of Nobber Fire Station after Upgrading Works



The newly upgraded Nobber Fire Station has been officially opened by Meath County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian.

The opening follows the completion of works to the station of €1,100,000 with the redevelopment being funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Upgrade works to the station feature an appliance bay that accommodates both vehicles attached to the station, a drill yard and tower, training rooms, canteen facilities and modern changing facilities. The Project Team included Doohamlet Construction Ltd and Node Design team.

The station, with its ten personnel, operates as part of Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service, along with brigades from six other stations. The station provides the base for immediate response to approximately 80 emergency incidents annually.

Meath County Council launch new shared Bike Scheme in Ashbourne



Citizens of Ashbourne now have a new way of getting around their local town. A total of 15 pedal bikes, 15 electric bikes and two electric cargo bikes are available to hire from an initial 10 bike parking locations throughout the town as Meath County Council launches a 12-month trial of the scheme.

The scheme will be managed by MOBY bikes who currently run similar schemes in Westmeath, Offaly and in Dublin City and County. This is one of the first shared bike scheme of this kind in a regional town and will be a great addition to the transport infrastructure of Ashbourne. Having the option to use a bike around the town is now available to everyone and should help reduce the number of cars seen on the streets.

Customers are invited to simply download the Moby Move App on their phone. Once customers register and select Ashbourne as their town, the app will then show you where the nearest bike is located.

Meath County Council host Dermot Gallagher Memorial Lecture



Meath County Council in association with Meath Peace Group recently hosted a lecture in Buvinda House, Navan in memory of Dermot Gallagher, a former Diplomat and Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the role he played in promoting and developing the peace process which led to the Good Friday Agreement.

The Dermot Gallagher Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr. Rory Montgomery, former Irish Diplomat, former Ambassador to the EU and France, and part of the Good Friday Agreement negotiating team. Mr. Montgomery was the lead official on Brexit in the Department of Foreign Affairs until his retirement. Now he is an honorary professor at Queen's University and recently appointed Chair of the Press Council of Ireland.

Julitta Clancy, President of the Meath Archaeological and Historical Society also addressed the gathering. One of the founding members of Meath Peace Group, Julitta was awarded an honorary MBE in 2004 for her work in promoting reconciliation in the peace process.

Visit by Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to Meath County Council



Meath County Council was delighted to welcome a delegation from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to discuss matters relating to local governance in Ireland and to share our experiences in Meath County Council.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities carries out regular visits to monitor the commitments undertaken by Council of Europe member states which have signed and ratified the European Charter for Local Self-Government, which Ireland committed to in 2002. The delegation was composed of two co-rapporteurs on local and regional democracy, Mr. Vladimir Prebilič, Slovenia and Ms. Gunn Marit Helgesen, Norway, they were assisted by Dr. Anders Lidström, Sweden, who is a member of the Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self Government and the Congress Secretariat, Ms. Stéphanie Poirel.

Meath Cares About Older People - Showcase Event for Older People in Fairyhouse Racecourse on Tuesday, May 16



The Meath Age Friendly Alliance is inviting older people in County Meath to attend a one-day event at Fairyhouse Racecourse on Tuesday, May 16 at 10.00am, where attendees will hear about the wide array of services and supports available for older people in the county.

Speaking about the event Meath County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian said “I was very aware of older people in Meath who experience loneliness and others who are living in rural areas and find it difficult to access services or participate in social opportunities. I wanted to organise this event to showcase all the supports available for older people in the county, and to let them know about the many types of help that are available. Older people should be included in all aspects of our community, whether that’s the arts, sports, community development or volunteering. Meath has a lot to offer, and this event is an opportunity to promote what’s available on our doorstep.”

The Fairyhouse event will feature exhibition stands, demonstrations and a variety of speakers on topics such as nutrition, mental health, and local services. The Buvinda Meath County Council Choir will perform on the day.

Kenlis Place Public Realm Improvement Works



Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mike Bray was joined in Kells recently by Deputy Thomas Byrne TD, Kells MD Elected Members and Meath County Council staff to acknowledge the completed works at John Street Gardens.

The aim of the works was to create a biodiverse area that is both picturesque and community friendly, encompassing all members of the community irrespective of age and / or ability. The aim was to ensure both spaces on John Street were serene in form in what is an existing busy junction. Great care was also taken to maintain all historic features and keep the existing reflective sentiment while providing a restful, enjoyable yet productive place for all who use it.

The new gardens, will be a welcoming and inviting view, which enhances the existing beautiful shop fronts and historic buildings of Kells that envelope them.

Gradaim Lama

Ar an Satharn 15 Aibreán tharla na gradaim Lama san Óstán Minella i gCluain Meala i dTriobáid Árann. Bhí an Oifigeach Gaeilge Chomhairle Chontae na Mí ar an ngearrliosta sa chatagóir ghradaim - an tionscnamh is fearr i nGaeilge; agus ainmníodh an tionscnamh preab-Ghaeltacht do leanaí a d'éirigh amach as cainteanna idir an tOifigeach Gaeilge leis an bpobal áitiúil ar chén chaoi is féidir leis an gComhairle Chontae agus an pobal áitiúil comhoibriú lena chéile le haghaidh an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa cheantar. Tá an Oifigeach Gaeilge ag eagrú preab Ghaeltachtaí ar bhonn rialta in Amharclann an Grianstad an Uaimh, agus tugann sé seo tacaíocht don phobal áitiúil agus do mhuintir na Gaeltachta in Ráth Chairn agus Baile Ghib atá ag tógáil teaghlaigh trí Ghaeilge.



Irish Language Officer & Councillors at Lama Awards – Clonmel

Cuairt ar an leabharlann Seanchaisleán

Mar chuid den chlár maidir le cuairteanna ar scoileanna ar fud an chontae chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ag Oifig na Gaeilge Chomhairle Chontae na Mí, thug an Oifigeach Gaeilge cuairt ar leabharlann Seanchaisleán chun seisiún biongó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge le rang 3 ón scoil áitiúil sa cheantar.

Visit to the Library in Oldcastle

As part of the programme regarding visits to schools throughout the county by the Meath County Council Irish Language office to promote Irish, the Irish officer visited Oldcastle Library to do a bingo session with 3rd class from the local school in the area.

Lama Awards

On Saturday April 15, the Lama Awards took place in the Minella hotel in Clonmel in Tipperary. There were three nominees from County Meath.

Best Irish Festival – Púca Festival

Best Mental Health Initiative - Feel Good Project

Best Irish Language Initiative - Pop Up Gaeltacht

Unfortunately, there was no overall winner on the night, but well done to all involved.

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 Q1 2023:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q1 - 2023	47	0	1

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

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q1 - 2023	18	1	0

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q1 - 2023	5

Climate Action and Environment



Big Boyne Clean Up April 2023

Meath County Council in collaboration with the Local Authorities Water Community Office (LAWPRO) supported volunteers with the Boyne Rivers Trust, Trim and Drogheda Tidy Towns, Wild About Navan, the Gaelic Woodland Project, Sonairte, and local Councillors in this community run initiative held at 6 no. locations in Drogheda, Mornington, Oldbridge, Slane, Navan and Trim throughout the River Boyne catchment.

Despite the inclement weather, over 100 volunteers partook in this initiative which saw the collection of over 200 bags of rubbish. Meath County Council provided the clean-up equipment and waste collection services and with LAWPRO coordinating the event and provided funding to the organisers. The next Big Boyne Clean-Up Day is planned for Sunday 27th August 2023 for Water Heritage Day as part of National Heritage Week.



Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) (No2) Regulations 2023

The Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) (No2) Regulations 2023 will come into effect on the 1st July 2023 and follow on from a commitment contained in the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020, which seeks to address a situation identified in an EPA report whereby 70% of the material placed in commercial black bins could instead be put in recycling or organic bins.

The regulations provide for incentivised charging for waste collection in the commercial sector, and improved waste segregation in this sector which can make a significant contribution to achieving our EU recycling targets which under the EU Waste Framework Directive will present challenging targets for recycling municipal solid waste of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The most recent figures from the EPA show that we achieved a rate of 41% in 2020.

The Regulations also impose obligations on waste collection companies with regard to the provision of residual mixed dry recyclable and bio waste bins, the weighing of waste collected and communication to customers , pricing plans which ensure that the cost to the customer for mixed dry recyclable or bio-waste is less than the cost of disposal for municipal waste, and customer charters for commercial and households.

Deposit Return Scheme for Ireland

The new Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles and drink cans as provided for in the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2022 will commence 1st February 2024. In Ireland the scheme will be operated by Return.

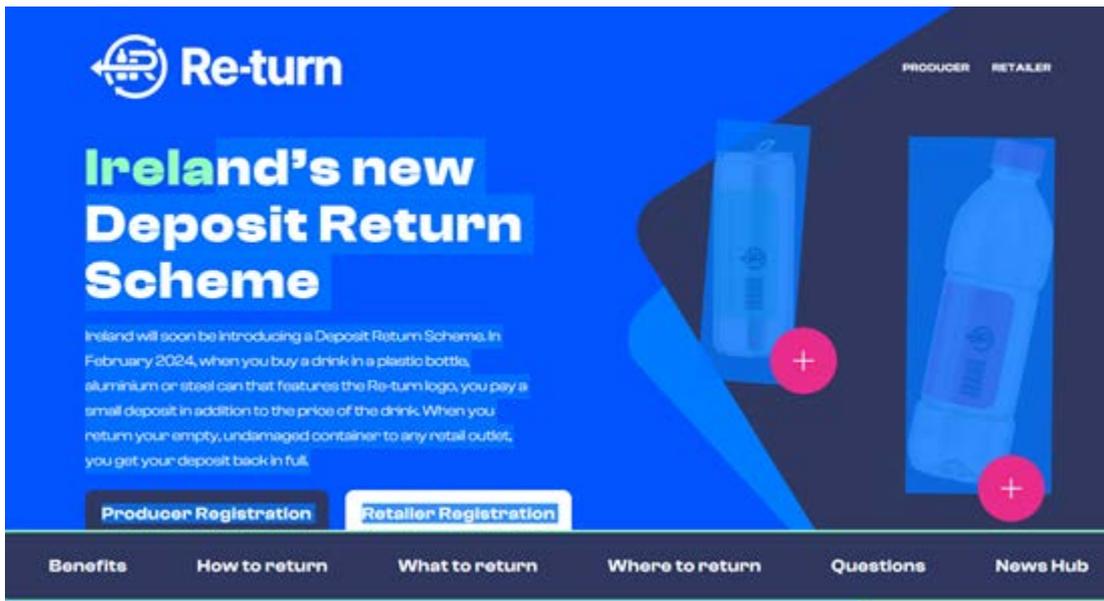
It is expected that 90% of cans and plastic bottles placed on the Irish market will be recycled through this scheme when it is fully established.

Deposits on items will range from 15c to 25c.

Anyone purchasing a can, plastic bottle or multipack will pay a deposit on each item, and when they have finished their drink, they will return the can or bottle to a Reverse Vending Unit whereby they will be issued with a voucher which they can cash in at the till.

If an outlet doesn't wish to have a reverse vending machine in their premises, they can accept bottles and cans manually and store securely for collection by Return.

From the perspective of the retailer, all retailers selling drink cans and plastic bottles will be obliged to accept the return of these items from consumers. They will receive a payment for the provision of this scheme from Return.



ANTI DUMPING INITIATIVE 2023

Meath County Council has submitted 9 applications for funding under the ADI 2023.

Applications include Bulky Waste Events, Food Waste Digester for Trim, Tolka River Amenity Project and other Clean Up Projects throughout the County.

ReLove Fashion

Beth Brady from Mercy Secondary School Navan won the Overall National Award at ReLove Fashion 2023.

She received her award from Sustainable Fashion Expert and Competition Judge Lorraine Keane at an Awards event in the Rediscovery Centre.

Meath schools submitted 28 entries to the Competition which encourages applicants to take a deeper look at how their clothing is made and challenges them to explore creative reuse options such as upcycling, repairs, alterations and mending.



Composting for Schools

Nine Meath secondary schools are taking part in the 2022 Pakman Award winning 'Compost for Schools' programme, co-ordinated by the Clean Technology Centre.

The aim of the programme is to help you schools set up, start or improve composting at their school. The programme makes it easy for teachers to access a variety of fun, participatory and interactive activities for school children to learn about ecology, biology and biodiversity. This project will support the Green Schools programme and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Ashbourne Community School
Athboy Community School
Colaiste de Lacy
Colaiste na hIinse
Colaiste Pobail Rathcain
Dunshaughlin Community College
Loreto Secondary School Navan
St. Ciaran's Community School
St. Patrick's Classical School



Programme Benefits

- Access to an online platform with everything they need
- Free expert advice and guidance from technical specialists
- Free composting systems and tools sponsored by Meath County Council
- Participation in and support from an online community of people from other schools
- Reducing waste to save money on waste collection costs, money that can be better used to improve their school instead of being thrown away
- Producing their own compost to enrich the school garden, wild flower area, orchard, mini forest or landscape
- Satisfaction that they are taking action to become part of the solution in all of our efforts to address climate change.



Housing Services



Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE			
Ashewood View, Ashbourne, Co. Meath	75	Q1 2024	Q4 2025
New Lane, Abbeylands, Navan	4	Q3 2023	Q1 2025
Total	79		
PLANNING LODGED WITH AN BORD PLEANALA			
Kells Archdeaconary	22	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q3 2023	Q2 2025
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS & DETAILED DESIGN			
Nangle Court, Navan	15	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q3 2023	Q2 2024

Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Pitcher Lane, Kells	4	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q2 2023	Q4 2024
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q4 2023	Q1 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Combined Planning Stage Total	161		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Convent Lands Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Total	28		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Lagore Lawn, Phase 2, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Total	200		
OVERALL TOTAL	468		

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	6
Donacarney	Part V	2
Drogheda	Part V	18
Dunshaughlin	Part V	13

Enfield	Part V	7
Kells	Part V	5
Kilcock	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Navan	Part V	14
Slane	Part V	7
Stamullen	Part V	2
Trim	Part V	21
Kells	Turnkey	12
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		116

Affordable Housing

The Online application process for 20 Affordable Houses in the Willows, Dunshaughlin opened on March 20th 2023 and closed on April 11th, 2023. 304 Applicants registered for the Scheme, however only 48 applicants completed their applications. Staff in the Affordable Housing Section are working to prepare a list of eligible applicants to be forwarded to the Developer by the 2nd of May 2023.

Negotiations continue with developers to identify other Affordable Turnkey opportunities.

Expressions of interest

The Housing Department continue to work with Developers and Landowners to purchase land and or properties for the provision of social and Affordable Housing.

Refurbishment Projects

St. Francis Park Scheme

Scheme is progressing within the programme and estimated for completion in Q4 2023.

Alverno Court Refurbishment:

- 4nr. units from the joint Phases 2 and 3 are now practically complete and scheduled for tenant hand over at the start of May 2023. The last two units in these two Phases are scheduled for handover later in May.
- Works is progressing on the new build units No. 79 & 80 Alverno Heights, with the contractor aiming to have them available for 1st snag inspection at the end of May 2023.
- Once Phase 2 & 3 is complete work will progress to Phase 4 (6nr. units).

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

To date for 2023, 17nr. LAAWS, which were assigned to a Contractor at the end of 2022, are now complete. Another 9nr. LAAWS are awarded to a Contractor and works commenced on 24th April 2023. A second batch of 17nr. LAAWS were tendered and Contractor appointment is expected in May.

There are 2nr. LAAWS extensions, which commenced in 2022. One is now substantially completed and the other is approximately 80% complete.

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

85 applications for Grant funding to the value of €731,095.75 were approved at the end of 2022 which were carried forward into this year's budget as works will not be completed until 2023. A further 169 applications to the value of €1,190,816.59 have been approved to date in 2023. Total of 254 applications which equates to €1,921,912.34 of Grant Allocation for 2023 when announced.

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 24th April 2023. For the period from 14th March 2023 to 24th April 2023, works were completed on 10 vacant units, while 21 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 yet with Contractors
Ashbourne	2	1	0	2	1
Kells	10	2	2	7	7
Laytown/Bettystown	3	1	0	4	0
Navan	13	1	1	9	6
Ratoath	3	1	0	2	2
Trim	5	1	1	5	2
TOTALS	36	7	**4	29	18

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

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Applewood Court, Beaufort Place, Navan	19	Tuath Housing	Q3/2023
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Q2/2023
Swanbrook, Trim Road Navan	48	Tuath Housing	Q3/2023
The Arches, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Q2/2023
Maudlin Vale, Trim	31	Tuath Housing	Q4/2023

Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q4/2024
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q3/2024
St. Loman Street, Trim	4	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q1/2025
Total Number of Approved Units	188		

Leasing

Project Name	No. of Units	Entity	Estimated Completion
Aylsebury, Clonee	73	Meath County Council	Q4/2023
Metges Road, Navan	43	Tuath Housing	Q4/2023
Total Number of Approved Units	116		

Homelessness March 2023

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 28 th February 2023 (Previous Reported Figure)	138 (147 adults)	48 (81 adults 85 children)	186
Placements at 31 st of March 2023	140 (149 adults)	53 (90 adults 93 children)	193

Of the households with children, 7 Families in Peter McVerry Trust Family Hubs. 41 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment/B&B) through Settlement Team's intervention.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:

Primary reason is family / relationship breakdown; domestic violence; notice to quit; couch surfing; addiction; mental health; rough sleeping; overcrowding; unsuitable accommodation.

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation March 2023

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	90	-	-	-	24	42	22	2
Couples	18	-	-	-	7	6	5	-
Singles	131	-	-	-	14	50	59	8
Children	93	21	41	31	-	-	-	-
Total	332	21	41	31	45	98	86	10

Place finder 01/03/2023 to 31/03/2023

Total	7
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	2
Homeless Prevention	5

Tenant Liaison Team March 2023

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	50	31
Occupancy of Dwelling	23	22

Garden upkeep/Maintenance	22	18
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	2	2
Total Received 01/03/2023-31/03/2023	97	73

Standards in rented Accommodation

1066 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath in Q1 2023. Of these 1066 properties 134 properties passed the minimum standards. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

Social Housing Supports

- 181 successful new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st March 2023.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January 1st to 31st March 2023

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	78
Transfers	7
Approved Housing Bodies	77
Rental Accommodation Scheme	1
Housing Assistance Payment	64
Long term Leasing	1
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
TOTAL	228

Choice Based Lettings Advertised March 2023

No. of Bedrooms	Ashbourne MD	Laytown/Bettystown MD	Kells MD	Navan MD	Ratoath MD	Trim MD
1						
2					1 No. St. Marys, Dunboyne	

					Single Unit, allocation being finalised	
3			2 No. Willmount View, Kells, allocations being finalised			1 No. The Belfry, Trim Single Unit, allocation being finalised.
4			5 No. Lynfield Estate, Kells, allocations being finalised			
	0	0	7	0	1	1

Community Development



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last LCDC meeting was held on Friday 28th April 2023. The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, 26th May 2023.

LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The last LAG meeting was held on Friday 28th April 2023. The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, 26th May 2023.

CLÁR 2023 Scheme

The CLÁR Scheme was launched by Minister Humphreys and Meath County Council sought expressions of interest for projects from groups in CLÁR areas within the county. Expressions of interest are currently being assessed with applications to be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development by 6th June 2023.

Comhairle na nÓg

The National Showcase for Comhairle na nÓg took place in Croke Park on Tuesday 4th April. Meath Comhairle showcased their chosen work projects for the year and got an opportunity to meet other Comhairlí and chat to them about their projects. The Taoiseach was in attendance and gave an address to the young people. Meath Comhairle members had a wonderful day at the event.

Age Friendly Meath

The *Meath Cares About Older People* event will be held in Fairyhouse on the 16th May, from 10.30am to 2pm and will showcase a broad range of supports and services available to older people in Meath. The event will be launched by Cllr. Nick Killian, Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council and some of the local service providers present on the day will be Meath Local Sports Partnership, Citizen's Information, an Garda Síochána, Meath's Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator and ALONE to name a few, with a special guest appearance by Sean Boylan. Light refreshments will be provided and booking is recommended as spaces are limited.

The Community Grant Scheme

The closing date for the Community Grant Scheme was extended by four weeks and closed on Friday 14th April. A report was presented to the SPC meeting on 25th April who recommended the report be forwarded to the Full Council for approval on May 8th.

Joint Policing Committee

The next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for 15th May 2023.

Pride of Place Initiative

The Pride of Place Initiative was launched the week ending 28th April, closing date for applications is 6th June. Categories have been updated resulting in a strong focus on community groups and volunteers. Judging is due to take place during June & July.

Play & Recreation Capital Grant

Under the Play and Recreation Capital Grant administered by the DCEDIY, Meath County Council has been awarded a grant of €15,193 for the installation of a wheelchair accessible swing in Blackwater Park playground. It is expected that these works will be carried out over the coming months.

Africa Day Grant

Meath County Council in partnership with Cultur Migrant Centre have been awarded a grant of €7,500 to hold an event to celebrate Africa Day. The event will take place on Saturday 28th May 2023 in Claremont Stadium, Navan.

Public Participation Network

The Secretariat have selected a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for a period of 6 months to allow for continuity of work. A Constitution is being drafted with the independent facilitator and PPN staff for presentation and ratification at the Plenary on May 20th.

A number of workshops and capacity building programmes for groups are being scheduled over the coming months. Meath will also host the next gathering of the Midlands Regional PPN working group in Enfield in June. 550 groups are now registered with Meath PPN.

The Community Support Fund

The report for the Community Support Fund allocations was approved by the LCDC at their March meeting. Groups will be notified in the coming days regarding their applications.

Libraries Services



Dormant Accounts Fund 2023

An application has been made to purchase **additional** equipment for the Toys, Technology and Training Library - a specialised toy lending service for children and families with additional needs. This very popular initiative was supported under a previous round of DAF funding.

The toys are aimed at children with a diagnosis such as Autism, Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, Sensory needs etc and are **not for general lending** and not for loan outside the county . The equipment can be borrowed free of charge by parents or teachers (2 items at a time). The collection is fully catalogued on the Library Management System.

The 2023 funding application is targeted at increasing the range and availability of items suitable for children 0-2 years. Equipment for this age cohort was underrepresented in the collection according to feedback from parents and professionals working in the area.

Climate Action

The **Climate Action Collection** was officially launched in Ashbourne library. It consists of one hundred highly recommended titles covering all topics of Climate Action, which are suitable for project use by senior primary school classes (4th to 6th). These books are available for block loan to interested schools and are available for classroom use only. The collection is being piloted in schools in the Ashbourne area and will be offered to all schools through the Primary Schools Library Service later in the year.

Dunboyne Library has started a **seed borrowing scheme** for library members.

Dunboyne Tidy Towns has kindly donated and packaged 5,000 organic sunflower seeds as part of the initiative. The seeds are now available for lending from the local branch. A catalogue card unit has been repurposed to house the seeds and the collection is attracting widespread attention among visitors to the branch. The scheme is being delivered in partnership with the Climate Action Team and the Heritage Office.

Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy Collaboration & Innovation Fund 2023

Meath County Council Library service has partnered with Trim Family Resource Centre CLG to apply for funding to develop a Digital Skills Café for older persons in the community and Embodied English classes for foreign nationals.

The project will create a space for senior community members to benefit from mentoring at a Digital Skills Café so that navigating digital information becomes a positive experience. The Digital Skills Café will be open for members of the community who lack confidence in their digital literacy. In an informal and relaxed environment, participants will learn how to use age friendly tablets that are available for loan at their local library. They will be able to work at their own pace and complete exercises while receiving help and support from the mentor. The participants will be encouraged and supported to use the library to help them build on skills acquired in formal classes.

The application also proposes a series of workshops for both tutors and students, which will be based on teaching and learning English through drama. These workshops will create a playful and creative environment for tutors who will explore alternative teaching methods and discover their own creativity in teaching, and for students who will explore learning English through voice work and movement, engaging brain, body, senses, and emotions at the same time.

Transportation Services



1. National Roads 2023 - Funding from TII - Grant Allocation €9,139,967 (including Greenways €1,364,000)

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2

- **Construction Works re Utilities, Surfacing, Accommodation Works and Landscaping are ongoing. Works to online sections of road have recommenced.**
- **A temporary traffic management system continues in place to facilitate ongoing construction works along the route.**
- **Contract is expected to be substantially complete in Q2 2023**
- **Contractor has commenced wearing course on carriageway on Eastern side(Slane) week starting the17th of April.**

N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme

- **Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents are being finalised.**

N52 Grange to Clontail

- **An Bord Pleanála have extended the timeframe for decision on this CPO to Quarter 2 2023.**
- **MCC and Athkins met with Landowners/ Agents on March the 31st in relation to submissions received.**

N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon

- **Workshop with MCC/ TII and Aecom took place on Tuesday the 18th of April.**
- **Steering Group meeting to be programmed for early next Month**

National Road Resurfacing

- **No change since March Report**
- **N52/ R154 Johnsbrook Cross Safety Improvement works commenced on site 7th February. Contract is expected to be substantially complete 31st March 2023.**

2. Non- National Roads 2023 - Funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €26,053,080

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

Road Works Programme

Phase 1 **Recycle Overlay & Surface Dressing 2023** tender in process of being awarded.

Phase 2 **Surface Dressing 2023** tender in process of being awarded.

Phase 3 **Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing 2023** tender being evaluated

Phase 4 **HRA & 942 2022** – works on R147 at Dalgan complete.

Phase 4 **HRA & 942 2023** tender being evaluated

CIS schemes 2023 tender in process of being awarded.

LIS schemes 2023 tender in process of being awarded.

2. (b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road

Land acquisition progressing re scheme Compulsory Purchase Order.

R132 Julianstown

Strategic Assessment Report submitted to the Department of Transport requesting approval to proceed to the next Phase of the scheme which will involve preparation of an Options Appraisal Report (which includes possible bypass options) and initial Preliminary Business Case. – awaiting approval to proceed.

L-6210 Newtownmoyaghy – 2023 DOT allocation €250,000

Ground Investigations works 90% complete. Hydrological study progressing. Options Selection report to be finalised once GI and Hydro study completed.

2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads –Allocation for 2023 schemes - €390,500

2022 Schemes Road

Platin R152

Junction works being progressed and alternatives being considered

Kilmore Junction R156/L62161

Phase 1 complete, phase 2 being considered.

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads - Allocation for 2023 schemes - €670,000

2022 DoT Schemes	
Donaghpatrick Bridge (L7413)	Works complete
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Works 90% complete, to be finalised during Summer 2023
2023 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works completed
Mellifont Bridge (L5606)	At tender assessment stage
Clonguiffin Bridge (L4020)	At tender assessment stage

Springhall Culvert (R195)	Consultants appointed
Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	Consultants appointed, Topographical survey complete

2. (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – Allocation for 2023 schemes - €532,500 – 7 schemes funded : L-80045 Church Street Athboy, R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall, L-7411 Oristown, R-160 Flood Alleviation, L-3405 Drumconrath Flood Works, L-6814 Fennor, R-941 Mullingar Rd, Kells

3. Active Travel Grants 2023 from NTA – €14,135,000

<p>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition to paving, concrete slab over the existing ESB substation and the steps in front of Supermacs commenced. • Paving works to centre of plaza area completed, and also around new location of art sculpture. • Works commenced on erection of black granite cladding to walls approx. 90% complete. • Bus shelter erected on plaza side of bus interchange. • ESB cabling and jointing works at Metges laneway and Paddy O’Brien Street commenced. • New kerbing and pavement works at the Market Square from AIB to Metges lane completed. • New ESB sub-station plinth constructed in plaza adjacent to SuperMacs, including earthing cable installation. • Consultation with business owners on Kennedy Road continuing. • New services ducting installed from plaza car park entrance to Credit Union. • New raised pedestrian crossings on Paddy O’Brien Street 50% complete. • Temporary diversion of traffic to Paddy O’Brien Street and relocation of bus stop to Kenendy Road implemented to facilitate works on Paddy O’Brien Street.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender award process for construction of Phase 1 Works; Solstice to Beechmount Est. to be complete by the end of April. • Construction works on Phase 1 Works; Solstice to Beechmount Est. are envisaged to commence by mid-May 2023. • Engagement with affected landowners is ongoing. • Consultants appointed for Option Selection/Preliminary Design/Statutory Process design services for section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor. • Pre-commencement meeting with Consultant to take place 21/04/2023. • Phase 2 Design works to commence in early May.

<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants appointed for Option Selection/Preliminary Design/Statutory Process design services for section from Convent Road to Metges Road, Johnstown.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants working on Phase 5 Detailed Design process. • Communications have commenced with affected landowners with respect to land acquisition. • Advanced GPR survey works complete and deliverables received. • Additional topo surveys to be carried out. • Tender process for Site Investigation, Ground Investigation, CCTV Sewer Survey and Pavement Inv Survey contracts is ongoing.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Members of Navan MD have accepted the CE Report for the Part 8 planning process. The scheme has been confirmed by Approved Officers Order. Full Statutory consent has been finalised finalised.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants continuing design work associated with Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection. Option Selection workshops have taken place. • Results of Traffic/Pedestrian movement and parking surveys received and being processed by the designers.
<p>Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing consultation and engagement with Trimgate St Traders, St Marys Parish and the Meath Chamber. • Continuation of Phase 3, Preliminary Design process - development of options ongoing
<p>Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 2 Concept Development Stage is complete. • Rapid Build Infrastructure assessment report has been submitted to NTA • Phase 2 deliverables have been submitted to the NTA. • Awaiting consent from NTA to proceed to Phase 3 preliminary design process
<p>Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants appointed for Option Selection/Preliminary Design/Statutory Process design services for section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor and for section from Convent Road to Kentstown Road to Metges Road, Johnstown. • Pre-commencement meeting with Consultant to take place 21/04/2023. • Phase 2 Design works to commence in early May.

Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPR contractor commenced on site 12th April. Atkins finalising general arrangement drawings and preparing tender documentation. Proposed phasing of works altered to facilitate works in Ratoath by Irish Water.
Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works substantially complete. Additional controlled crossing being installed to assist pedestrian movement in the area.
Kilcloon Traffic Calming Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works substantially complete, pedestrian link is open and being well utilised. Snagging works remain and public lighting has to be commissioned
Millbrook to Beech Drive, Johnstown Pedestrian Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian link substantially complete. Awaiting commissioning of new public lighting and erection of additional security fencing.
N51 Park & Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting commission the final elements (cctv system, parking meters) and installation of signage. Works to N51/L3416 junction continuing, with temporary traffic management plan implemented.
Bus Shelter Enabling Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor currently pricing two additional locations in Ratoath
Accessible Bus Stops Works	Contractor currently pricing four bus stop locations in Trim, including two with bus shelters
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd party surveys tender process complete, with surveys to commence on site May 2023. Surveys include topographical and traffic surveys. Atkins progressing works on Phase 2 deliverables and Rapid Build Options Report.
Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed design of road and drainage and preparation of the specification and bill of quantities ongoing. Additional Site Investigation works being undertaken Landowner agreements continuing to be finalised
Safe Routes to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Design ongoing Presentation to all Municipal Districts on Safe Routes to Schools, all locations. Progressing Section 38 <i>Traffic Calming</i> public consultations.
Bettystown Eastham Road Cycle Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary design undertaken, and route option being considered Additional Site Investigation works being undertaken Additional Topographical survey work being undertaken Landowner agreements continuing to be finalised

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes 2023 - Funding other than primarily DoT & NTA

LDR4, Kells road to Ratholdren road, Navan –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 2 tender documents being checked in advance of sending out to tender by short listed contractors. • Formal Notices to Treat have issued.
Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor progressing on site, drainage, PL ducting and other utilities currently being installed between Castle Street and St. Johnswood. • Plans to improve the public realm at the Ballybin Road being developed and funding being sought form the NTA.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navan to Gibbstown Work now substantially complete and Road Safety Audit complete. Minor snagging required before opening to the public week commencing 17th April 2023. • Wilinstown to Castletown Site clearance now complete. 80% of the capping layer now installed. Works to commence on fencing and drainage late April. Agreements continue to be finalised in relation to the provision of screening for private dwelling adjacent to the greenway. • Nobber to Kingscourt Capping layer, drainage, farm crossings and boundary fencing currently being installed between Nobber and Kilmainhamwood. Design for 1No. bridge structure south of Kilmainhamwood complete. Provisional completion date for this section June 2023, subject to bridge delivery.
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional flood data requested from the OPW and further flood modelling work ongoing to satisfy TII requirements before progressing to the next stage.
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor progressing on site, drainage, PL ducting and other utilities currently being installed between Castle Street and St. Johnswood. • Plans to improve the public realm at the Ballybin Road being developed and funding being sought form the NTA.

5. Other Actions/ Projects

Footpath Improvement Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of Footpath Improvement Works for 2023 for each MD being devised, this will be communicated to Members in due course. • Works currently ongoing on R147 South Dunshaughlin, and Frayne Road Athboy.
Housing Estate Road Surfacing	Navan MD

	<p>Contractor commenced works on the following estates- Athlumney Village, Columbus Crescent and St. Brigids Villas.</p> <p>Trim MD</p> <p>Tenders assessed and Contractor appointed for works.</p>
<p>Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortnightly meetings being held with the consultant engineers as they advance documents for Part 8 submission.

Planning and Development



Planning Applications (Section 34)

429 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2023 to 18.04.2023. This is compared to 509 in the same period in 2022.

Commencement Notices

151 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2023 to 14/04/2023. This is compared to 186 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	64
Multi-Units	273(units)
Extensions	29
Other*	15

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts for Quarter 1 2023 show a collection of €1,969,571. This is compared to €3,984,866 collected in the same period last year. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

Planning Enforcement (Sections 152,154 and 160)

30 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 12.04.2023.

	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	9
Warning Letter	17
Enforcement Notice	0
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	4

*please note these figures relate to cases opened in 2023 only

Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) (Section 37E(4))

In accordance with Section 37E(4) of the Planning and Development Acts, the Council has been notified of a Strategic Infrastructure Development applicant made to An Bord Pleanála, reference ABP-316212-23 for proposed development of 26 wind turbines and associated works at the Ballivor Bog Group, County Meath and County Westmeath.

The Council is required to submit a Chief Executive's Report on 14th June 2023.

e-Planning

Meath County Council's e-Planning portal is now live and accepting planning applications online. The Council has spent some months preparing for the launch of the new system which went live in March.

The new portal ***www.planning.localgov.ie*** allows agents, developers and members of the public to lodge their applications and make submissions electronically and will run as an alternative option to the existing paper-based system.

Meath is one of thirteen planning authorities live on the national e-Planning portal with the remainder of the Planning Authorities coming on board by the end of Quarter 3, 2023. The portal was successfully pilot tested in Tipperary and Galway County Councils where online applications currently represent 52% of all planning applications made and is proving popular with agents.

The e-Planning system offers improved efficiency in the statutory planning process and delivers on the Government strategy to move more public services online. Benefits of the new system include: Greater availability of information for the public and faster uploading of e- files for viewing and cost and environmental savings for applicants, from reduced use of paper and ink.

Agents are encouraged to register on the e-planning portal where an information video, and user guide are available at the following link <https://planning.localgov.ie/what-online-planning>

Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027

Protect East Meath Ltd. versus Meath County Council and Trailford Ltd., Shannon Homes (Dundalk) Ltd., Rockmill Ltd., Glenveagh Home Ltd., Neemats Ltd., and J. Murphy (Developments) Ltd. [2023 IEHC 69] written judgement issued on 17 February.

The case was heard again on 24 April and Final Orders have still not issued. The Judge is to consider what, if any, zoning status the lands may have consequent to his judgement.

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Measure 1 Grant Approvals	2
Trading Online Voucher Approvals	7
Mentoring Assignments Approved	16
Attended Online Training Courses	126
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	6
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	3
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3

The Student Enterprise Programme Meath Final took place on 28th March in Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim. An estimated 200 students from eleven schools took part in the annual programme locally. Special guests at the Meath Final included Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Nick Killian, Des Foley, Director of Services with Meath County Council and Mary Kate Lynch and Stacey Grimes, Meath Ladies Football team.

Teenage entrepreneurs from Colaiste Pobail Rathcairn, St. Patrick's Classical School Navan and Eureka Secondary School, Kells will represent Meath at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals on Friday 5th May. The Finals make a return to Croke Park for the first time since 2019.

In the Junior Category, the student representing Meath at the National Finals is Sadie Mc Garry from "Happiness is Handmade" at Eureka Secondary School, Kells.

In the Intermediate Category, Eoghan Mc Gouran, Niall Seery, Caelan O'Brien and Liam Donohoe from "St. Pat's Mystery Kits", St. Patrick's Classical School, Navan will be representing the county at the Finals.

In the Senior Category of the competition, Meath will be represented by "A Girl's Guide to Confidence" from Grace O'Donnell and Jada O'Connor, Colaiste Pobail Rathcairn.

Tourism



Group Press Visit

A group press visit was organized by the tourism section to visit the Boyne Valley for 3 journalists on 27th and 28th March with the purpose of gaining positive press coverage of the destination. The journalists experienced kayaking on the Boyne Blueway, Bective Tearooms, an overnight in the Conyngham Arms Hotel, a hike to the Loughcrew Cairns, a visit to the yurts and tearooms at Loughcrew Megalithic Centre and to the Loughcrew Estate, while finishing up with lunch at the Headfort Arms and the Downton Abbey experience at Rockfield House in Kells.

The journalists hailed from the Irish Times, Independent.ie and Belfast Live and the Star. The resulting articles can be read at Belfast Live and Star Chic.



Industry collaboration:

2 industry workshops entitled *Innovate and Mingle* were held for the tourism industry in February and in April to encourage the industry to refer business to each other. A 'Referral Document' was created which lists all the attractions, activities and experiences across the Boyne Valley. This document will be sent to all customers who book with a hotel or accommodation provider in the Boyne Valley with the aim of keeping business within County Meath and the Boyne Valley Tourism Network.

Two educational familiarization visits were held for the local tourism industry in January and March. The visits are useful in upskilling front of house staff on the activities, attractions and experiences across the Boyne Valley to equip them with the knowledge to advise their customers on what there is to do in the local area. The purpose is to increase dwell time in the Boyne Valley Destination and to maximise the return for the local economy.

New Video Content Released:

3 new videos [#MyBoyneValley](#) Trim, Kells and Drogheda were released during the month of March highlighting the Boyne Valley as a destination to visit by its locals. They reached 110k people via the social media campaign.

Finance



Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2023 to 20 th April 2023		
Fully Completed Applications Received	14	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	1	Relates to 2023 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	All relate to 2023 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	16	5 relate to 2023, 11 relate to 2022 (2 x 2022 applications were reassessed for the increase in house price limit as per Circular 07/2023 effective 1 st March 2023)
Refused by Credit Committee	7	4 relate to 2023, 3 relate to 2022 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	5	All relate to 2023 applications
Returned to Customer	6	3 relate to 2023, 3 relate to 2022 applications
Active Approvals	25.95	4 relate to 2023, 21.68 Relate to 2022, 0.27 relates to 2021,
Expired	12	12 relate to 2022 applications
Drawdown by Customer	10.37	1 relates to 2023, 9.17 relate to 2022 applications, 0.20 relate to 2021 applications,

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2023 to 20th April 2023 and in some cases relate to applications from 2022.

Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.