



Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

June 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,

Fiona Lawless

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Save *the* Date

Ratoath MD AGM
14 June 2023 at 9.30am
~

Laytown/Bettystown MD AGM
15 June 2023 at 10.00am
~

Trim MD AGM
15 June 2023 at 2.30pm
~

Kells MD AGM
19 June 2023 at 4.00pm
~

Ashbourne MD AGM
20 June 2023 at 10.00am
~

Navan MD AGM
21 June 2023 at 10.00am

Dates are subject to change

May 2023

Farewell Event held for Chief Executive Jackie Maguire



On Friday, May 26 an event was held in Buvinda House to mark the retirement of Chief Executive Jackie Maguire.

It was with a heavy heart that Meath County Council staff bid a fond farewell to our Chief Executive, our colleague, and our dear friend Jackie Maguire. Jackie's inspirational leadership will leave an indelible mark on the organisation and on everyone that she has worked alongside over the last 42 years.

Retirement opens the door to a whole new world of enjoyment and adventure and we wish Jackie every health and happiness now and for the future.

Launch of the 3rd Meath Age Friendly Strategy



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian was joined by Chief Executive Jackie Maguire, Director of Services Barry Lynch and the Chair of the Age Friendly Alliance, Michael Finnegan, to launch the 3rd Meath Age Friendly Strategy.

The strategy is the culmination of a detailed consultation process that brought older people in Meath and the key service providers to identify how we can continue to make Meath a great place to live, work, enjoy life and grow older.

A special thanks to Michael Finnegan, members of the alliance and to the former Age Friendly Programme Manager, Ms Aine Bird, for their support in the publication of this strategy.

N51 Dunmoe



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian was pictured at Wiggers Cross on the N51 recently as we approach the substantial completion of the N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 Realignment with Cathaoirleach of Navan MD Cllr. Eddie Fennesy, Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown MD Cllr. Wayne Harding, elected members of Navan and Laytown/Bettystown MD and Meath County Council Chief Executive Ms. Jackie Maguire.

The Works are located along the N51 between Navan and Slane and comprised of the construction of 4.4km of Single Carriageway Road that consists of a 7.3m carriageway with 2.5m hard shoulders and 3m verges. The scheme links the two previously improved sections which completes the upgrade of the N51 between Navan and Slane.

Minister Humphreys visits and opens a range of Rural Development Projects across County Meath



Meath County Council recently welcomed Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, to Meath to officially open and visit a range of projects across the County which have received funding from her department.

Minister Humphreys began her trip in Ballivor to officially open **St. Kinneth's**, a once disused building which will now provide a much-needed community space for the area. The Minister then went to Enfield to officially open the new **Enfield Community & Enterprise Hub**. The hub will provide greatly needed facilities and deliver a range of cultural, educational, and social activities for the local community.

The Minister then travelled to **Bective GFC**, where she officially opened the Broadband Connection Point network in Meath. The 16 sites across the county all provide free outdoor WIFI for anyone visiting their grounds with many also able to facilitate indoor access.

The Minister's final stop on this visit to Meath was Trim to officially open the newly built **Trim Library & Cultural Centre**. The site of the historic Methodist Chapel on High Street has been transformed into a new library and major performance space.

Garlow Cross Park and Ride Facility



The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian pictured with Cathaoirleach of Ashbourne MD Cllr. Amanda Smith and Cormac Ross, Meath County Council Resident Engineer at the new Park and Ride facility at Garlow Cross.

The scheme is a 50-space park-and-ride upgrade which replaces the former 13-space car park on the west side of Garlow Cross. Demand for additional park and ride at this location south of Navan was evident from the numbers that typically park there during the working week, and the new car park will provide additional capacity.

The facility is surfaced and lit and provides parking for mobility-impaired people and cyclists. Ducting has also been laid to facilitate the possible installation of EV chargers at a future date.

The construction was funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA), and it is also understood that the NTA are looking at capacity upgrades for the NX bus service this summer to further strengthen public transport services in the County.

MD Awards



On Thursday, May 11, Meath County Council hosted a Civic Recognition event for each Municipal District in Buvinda House, Navan.

The event honours and recognises the achievements of individuals and groups across County Meath. Recipients were nominated by the elected members in Ashbourne, Kells, Laytown/Bettystown, Navan, Ratoath and Trim Municipal Districts.

The full list of those recognised can be found on meath.ie.

Tripartie Meeting Held



Cathaoirelach Cllr. Nick Killian pictured with Stephen Kent (Bus Eireann CEO), Anne Graham (NTA Chief Executive), Jim Meade (Irish Rail Chief Executive) and Jackie Maguire (Meath County Council Chief Executive) before a meeting on Monday, May 8 discussing transport issues affecting commuters and passengers across the county.

Plans announced for the Thomas Ryan PRHA, 1929-2021, Ashbourne Collection



Meath County Council is delighted to announce plans for the recently acquired Thomas Ryan PRHA, 1929 – 2021, Ashbourne Collection.

The collection consisting of 19 individual water colour and pen works depicts various Ashbourne buildings and streets, many of which no longer exist. As an historical record of the town and recent changes to its landscape, it is an important body of work. A long-term exhibition with accompanying information on the works and the artist will be held in the Toradh Gallery, Ashbourne early in 2024.

Gradaim na Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

Tharla Gradaim na Scoláireachta Gaeltachta Chomhairle Chontae na Mí i dteach Buvinda ar an Déardaoin 25 Bealtaine. Bhí Manchán Magan scríbhneoir cónaithe na Mí faoi Éire Ildánach i láthair le haghaidh bualadh agus labhairt leis na scoláirí. Bhí fiche a ceathair deontas Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh ar a bhfuil luach €150.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna dara leibhéal sa chontae. Bhí ocht deontas eile Máthair Columba Gibbons, ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal; agus sé deontas eile Máire Ní Raghallaigh ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal fosta. Tá na deontais forchúiteamh in aghaidh táillí a íoctar do choláistí samhraidh cónaithe atá aitheanta i rith an tsamhraidh 2023.

Tá an Scéim Scoláireachta Gaeltachta á tacú ag Comhairle Contae na Mí, cláir Ghaeilge agus Éire Chruthaitheach.



The Meath County Council Gaeltacht Scholarship Awards Night took place in Buvinda House on Thursday 25th May. Manchán Magan, Meath Creative Ireland writer in residence was present to meet and speak with the students. Twenty-four Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh grants of €150.00 each were made available to students attending second level schools in the county. Eight Mother Columba Gibbons grants of €300.00 each were made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools; and a further 6 Máire Ní Raghallaigh grants of €300.00 each were also made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools. The grants are recoupable against fees paid at recognised residential Irish colleges during the summer of 2023. The Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme is supported by the Meath County Council, Irish Language and Creative Ireland programmes.

Climate Action and Environment



Green Coast Award Scheme

At a recent ceremony Bettystown and Mornington Beaches were granted Green Coast Awards in the International Blue Flag and National Green Coast Awards Scheme for 2023. The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence and has been established to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of beaches in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The award is for beaches and inland bathing waters which have excellent water quality, but which are also prized for their natural, unspoilt character. The Green Coast Award is objective-led and encourages 'best practice' in the management of rural beaches. The award encourages community involvement through the setting up of Clean Coasts Groups, which actively participate in the management of the site in cooperation with the Local Authority.

While Mornington retained its Green Coast Flag this is the first time such an award has been granted for Bettystown Beach and recognising the sterling efforts of Tidy Towns and other groups and individuals working with the Council in keeping both beaches in pristine condition.

Green Schools - Water Awards

Congratulations to Gaelscoil na Bóinne, Trim who were recently selected as the Primary Schools Regional Water School of the Year winner, for the East and Midlands region in the An Taisce organised event.

The Green-Schools Water theme focuses on water conservation and raising awareness about the importance of protecting our drinking water and our freshwater ecosystems. Each year, schools applying for their Green Flag for the Water theme are assessed, and the best primary and secondary schools across the country are selected for four regions (Dublin, East & Midlands, South, North & West).. The Water theme is sponsored by Uisce Éireann (formerly known as Irish Water).

Green Schools Awards 2023

Twenty Seven Meath schools received their Green Flags at an awards ceremony in City North Hotel on Wednesday 24th May and in respect of a range of themes including Litter and Waste, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and 'Global Citizenship and Energy. Green Schools is an immersive 7 step action programme tackling an environmental theme over a two year period. On completion of the steps schools can apply for a Green Flag which will be valid for 2 years. The school then move onto the next theme whilst maintaining the work completed in their previous project. 'Green Schools is a difficult but rewarding programme' commented Joanne Scott, An Taisce Green Schools Manager, 'and it is really encouraging to see the high level of involvement and commitment from teachers, students, caretakers and principals in Meath year on year'.

The Green School Programme is operated by 15 million students in 70 countries. 85% of Irish Schools are currently or have participated in the initiative making Ireland one of the most successful Green Schools Project in the world. The students and teachers were delighted to get their flags and many school parties and flag raising events are due to take place in the coming weeks.

Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI)

Meath County Council have been awarded the sum of €90,000 under the ADI scheme for 2023 and in respect of the holding of bulky waste collection days at Navan, Kells and Trim Recycling Centres

Regional Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy – Public Consultation

The draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy together with the associated Environmental Report which were the subject of a presentation at the May Meeting of the Council are now out on public display and with the 5th July being the closing date for submissions or observations. The draft plan and the Environmental Report can be viewed and downloaded from www.mywaste.ie

Development of a Burial Ground, Playground and Woodland Walk in Stamullen

Notice under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2022 was recently published in a local newspaper and on consultmeath.ie and stating that submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development be emailed to planning@meathcoco.ie on or before Thursday 6th July 2023. The plans and particulars can be inspected in the Planning Office and the Ashbourne Municipal District Office.

Meath County Council were recently awarded grant funding of €207,000 under the Community Recognition Fund for the installation of playground equipment and safety surfacing for the proposed playground facility.

Rooske Burial Ground Dunboyne

Tenders have been submitted for the caretaker building and entrance works at New Rooske Burial Ground, Dunboyne. It is envisaged that a contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks to commence the project.

Loganstown Burial Ground Trim

The tender submission deadline for the new Burial Ground at Loganstown, Trim was the 26th May 2023. The tenders are being assessed and it is hope that the project will commence in the coming months.

Northlands Flood Relief Scheme

While the scheme has been substantially completed for some time now the outstanding Eastham Road Culvert works will be carried out under a road closure between the 17th July and the 27th August 2023. Road closure notices with details of alternative routes are being published in Local Newspapers and on our social media sites as well as signage at various approach roads

Climate Action Update

Air Quality Workshops



Meath County Council completed a series of air quality workshops in primary & secondary schools within Trim town in April. The workshops form part of a community outreach programme within the Trim Air Quality Project which aims to develop the community's understanding of air pollution and the project. Delivered by Dr. Ruairaidh Dobson, Senior Research Analyst with our project partners Trilateral Research, the workshop events focused sharing information about the air quality project, the environmental consequences of CO₂ and the need to control carbon emissions, as well as the health effects of air pollution. Students had the opportunity to build sensor equipment (both CO₂ and PM_{2.5}).



The Trim Air Quality Project is monitoring the air quality in two locations in the town of Trim. It will provide an online dashboard which the public can view and look at the air quality. As air quality is currently recorded at a macro scale around Ireland the benefit of this project will be the analysis of air quality at a micro scale within Trim Town. This project is funded through the Digital Innovation Programme from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

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	6	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Total	81		
PLANNING LODGED WITH AN BORD PLEANALA			
Kells, Archdeaconry	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	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Combined Planning Stage & Detailed Design Total	139		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Pitcher Lane, Kells	4	Q4 2023	Q3 2024
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Total	22		

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
Convent Lands Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Total	228		
OVERALL TOTAL	470		

****Construction dates for Archdeaconry and Carrick St. Kells will be updated when ABP issue decision.**

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	14
Dunshaughlin	Part V	22
Enfield	Part V	7
Kells	Part V	8
Kilcock	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Navan	Part V	21
Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	7
Stamullen	Part V	2
Trim	Part V	20
Kells	Turnkey	6
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		127

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at May 2023.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Drogheda	Part V	4
Dunshaughlin	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	5
Kells	Turnkey	6
Navan	Turnkey	2
Donacarney	Turnkey	12
Total		31

Affordable Housing

12 applicants for the Affordable Housing Scheme in the Willows in Dunshaughlin, have started the conveyancing process.

It is envisaged that 26 Affordable Housing units in the will be advertised in the County in June 2023, subject to contract. Advance advertising has been taking place to ensure that applicants have all the required documentation to make their applications quickly one the online portal opens.

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 Phase 2 & 3 were completed and handed over to the tenants at the beginning of May 2023. The last two units in these two Phases are presently being snagged with planned tenant handover at the end of May.
- Work 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)

- LAAWS grant funding of €580,970 including VAT has been approved for 2023 by the Department. This is based on our application for funding for 54nr. LAAWS units.
- To date for 2023, 23nr. LAAWS are complete. Another 20nr. LAAWS are awarded to Contractors. A number of other LAAWS have received initial technical inspection and will be awarded to contractors in order of their medical priority.

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

319 applications to the value of €2,334,666 have been approved to date in 2023.

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 May 2023. For the period from 24th April 2023 to 24th May 2023, works were completed on 4 vacant units, while 12 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	2	0	4	0
Kells	9	1	4	10	4
Laytown/Bettystown	1	3	1	4	1
Navan	15	2	2	14	5
Ratoath	3	0	0	2	1
Trim	6	2	1	5	4
TOTALS	36	10	**8	39	15

**Note: All eight 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	29	Respond	Q2 2023
Swanbrook, Trim Road, Navan	26	Tuath Housing	Q3 2023
Maudlin Vale, Trim	27	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
Effernock, Trim	20	Cluid Housing	Q3 2023
Cois Glaisin, Johnstown, Navan	5	Cluid Housing	Q3 2023
Glenn Boann, Donacarney Little	11	Cluid Housing	Q2 2023
Total Number of Approved Units	158		

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects Delivered in 2023 Year to date

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Delivered
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	34	Respond	Q2 2023
Swanbrook, Trim Road, Navan	22	Tuath Housing	Q2 2023
The Arches, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Q2 2023
Maudlin Vale, Trim	4	Tuath Housing	Q1 2023
Total Number of Approved Units	66		

Leasing

Project Name	No. of Units	Entity	Estimated Completion
Aylsebury, Clonee	73	Meath County Council	Q4 2023
Metges Road, Navan	42	Tuath Housing	Q4 2023
Dunville, Navan	45	Tuath Housing	Q4 2023
Total Number of Approved Units	160		

Homelessness April 2023

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31 st of March (Previous Reported Figure)	140 (149 adults)	48 (90 adults 93 children)	188
Placements at 30 th April	142 (153 adults)	54 (92 adults 94 children)	196

Of the households with children, 45 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment/B&B) through Settlement Team's intervention and 9 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is family / relationship breakdown; notice to quit; overcrowding; addiction; mental health; domestic violence; couch surfing; rough sleeping; unsuitable accommodation.

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation April 2023

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	92	-	-	-	23	44	23	2
Couples	22	-	-	-	7	6	9	-
Singles	131	-	-	-	12	47	64	8
Children	94	22	41	31	-	-	-	-
Total	339	22	41	31	42	97	96	10

Families - 92 Adults includes 18 adult children

Adult children range from 18 - 25

Place finder 01/04/2023 -30/04/2023

Total	6
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	2
Homeless Prevention	4

Tenant Liaison Team April 2023

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	54	21
Occupancy of Dwelling	42	30
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	23	20
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	2	2
Total Received 01/03/2023-31/03/2023	121	73

Standards in rented Accommodation

1,437 Inspections were scheduled for rented properties in Meath up to the end of April 2023. Of these 1,437 properties 197 properties passed the minimum standards. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

Meath are represented on a National Workshop to improve, standardise and regulate the inspection process across all 31 Local Authorities.

Social Housing Supports

- 223 successful new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 30th April 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 30th April 2023

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	113
Transfers	7
Approved Housing Bodies	88
Rental Accommodation Scheme	3
Housing Assistance Payment	100
Long term Leasing	1
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	1
AHB CALF Acquisition	1
TOTAL	314

Choice Based Lettings Advertised April 2023

No. of Bedrooms	Ashbourne MD	Laytown/Bettystown MD	Kells MD	Navan MD	Ratoath MD	Trim MD
1						
2		4 No. Bryanstown Wood, Drogheda Allocations being finalised.	1 No. Willmount View Allocation being finalised.		2 No. The Willows Dunshaughlin. 1 No. The Court Dunboyne 1 No. Lagore Lawn Dunshaughlin	2 No. Mill Stream Kilcock. 1 No. Manorlands Close Trim 1 No. Manorlands Trim

					Allocations being finalised	Allocations being finalised
3	1No. Killelland Ashbourne 1No. Churchfield Ashbourne Allocations being finalised.		1 No. Stoney Road, Oldcastle 1 No. Magdalene Court 1 No. Willmount View Allocations being finalised.	1 No. Dunville Wood Navan 1 No. Ros na Ri Navan Allocations being finalised.	1 No. Willows Dunshaughlin Allocation being finalised.	1 No. Cherryvalley Avenue Trim 16 No. Maudlin Vale Trim Allocations being finalised.
4				1 No. Claremont Navan Allocation being finalised.		1 No. Knightsbrook Crescent Trim Allocation being finalised.
Total	2	4	4	3	5	22

Community Development



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last LCDC meeting was held on Friday 26th May 2023. The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, 30th June 2023.

LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The May LAG meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday 26th May 2023 with the June meeting to take place on Friday, 30th June 2023.

CLÁR 2023 Scheme

The CLÁR Scheme expressions of interest are currently being assessed with applications to be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development by 6th June 2023.

Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

The Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 2022-2025 was approved by the Department of Health and Póbal with a total of €198,122.42 awarded to Meath County Council (€78,122.42 for 2023 activities). Work is underway to deliver the 2023 activities once the grant agreement is received from Póbal. A positive mental health workshop was delivered to representatives from community groups in conjunction with Mental Health Ireland and Pride of Place on the 2nd of May in Buvinda House Navan. The HI Coordinator attended Place Standard training in Athlone on the 11th of May, The Meath Cares About Older People event on the 16th of May and the Healthy Ireland Fund information session on the 30th of May. The Healthy Meath Newsletter for May/June was published on the Healthy Meath website.

Age Friendly Meath

The *Meath Cares About Older People* event was held in Fairyhouse Racecourse on the 16th May, and was very well attended. Over 200 older people and representatives for older people turned up on the day and received information from one of the 21 support/service providers in attendance on the day. The event was launched by Cllr. Nick Killian, Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council and talks were given by Chief Executive Jackie Maguire, chairperson of the Meath Age Friendly Alliance, Michael Finnegan, chairperson of the Older Person's Council, Ita Healy and special guest speaker, Seán Boylan, Age Friendly Ambassador to Meath. Presentations were given by some of the service providers and the event was rounded up by Meath Local Sports Partnership providing an energising session of chair yoga.

National Network of Older Person's Councils (NNOPC) Convention

The NNOPC convention was held in the Rose Hotel in Tralee, Co. Kerry on 11th and 12th May. The theme for this year was "Reconnection". The 31 National Programme Managers and representatives

of each Older Person's Council (OPC) attended talks, workshops and special events targeted towards the benefit of older people.

Meath Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2028

The 3rd Meath Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2028 was launched on 17th May by Chief Executive Jackie Maguire, Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr. Nick Killian, Chairperson of the Age Friendly Alliance, Michael Finnegan and Director of Services, Barry Lynch. The Age Friendly Programme Manager, Valerie Mc Hugh will oversee the implementation of the actions from the new strategy.

The Community Grant Scheme

Community Grant Scheme claims are being processed as they are received. Completed claim forms are to be submitted by Friday 29th September 2023.

Joint Policing Committee

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on Monday 15th May.

Pride of Place Initiative

The Pride of Place Initiative is open for applications until 7th June. Information evenings on the application process were held in each MD in May. Judging is due to take place during June and July.

Public Participation Network

The Plenary Meeting took place on 20th May at which the Secretariat presented final drafts of the Constitution and Workplan for Meath PPN. These were ratified at the Plenary. A number of presentations from grant agencies were given on the day as well as showcase and networking opportunities in the afternoon, all were very well received.

Laytown Bettystown MD groups held a meet and greet with their representative on Wednesday May 10th. This will be used as a pilot meeting to determine standing orders for similar meetings in other MD's.

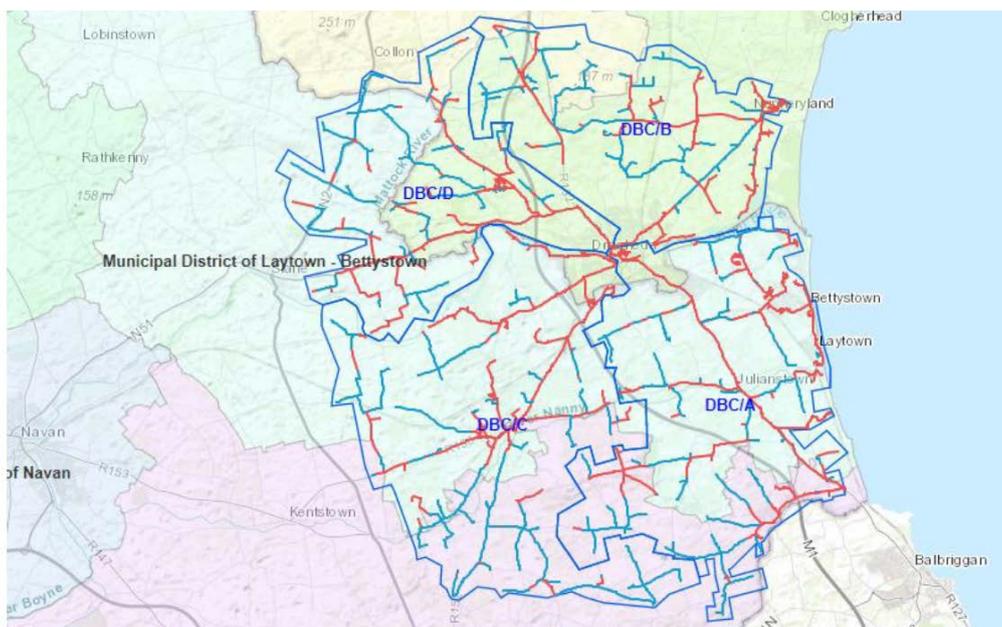
Climate Action training was delivered in Carlanstown to Tidy Towns and Pride of Place groups with further training days scheduled.

Meath will also host the next gathering of the Midlands Regional PPN working group in Enfield on June 28th.

558 groups are now registered with Meath PPN.

National Broadband Plan

Residents living within the Drogheda Deployment Area of Meath are now able to place orders for connections to NBI's fibre broadband networks from one of their retail partners. Detail are available on nbi.ie.



Work is at various stages of progression in Navan, Dunboyne, Donadea, Delvin, Hill of Down and Kilnaleck which cover sections of Co. Meath in their Deployment Areas.

Broadband Connection Points

The OurKidsCode programme in Meath was launched in Bective GAA and is open for more families to get involved in the programme. OurKidsCode (www.ourkidscode.ie) is a special family based programme from Trinity College Dublin to encourage children and their parents to work together with other families to develop their digital skills in a fun learning environment as they build pieces of technology and develop new ideas for projects that they can complete. The hope is that several OurKidsCode clubs will form over the county for families to meet to develop new skills.

OurKidsCode are also working with Microsoft DreamSpace to offer a wider range of programmes, project ideas and skills development opportunities. A try-it-out day was organised for the 25th May in Cormeen Sports Complex for local schools and members of the public.

Libraries Services



Meath Operation Rainbow

Meath County Council Library Service introduced a series of one-hour public information evenings in Meath libraries as an expression of visible support and solidarity with LGBTQ+ citizens of Meath.

Each event is facilitated by Outcomers LGBTQ+ support group and a guest speaker. The next event is in Navan Library on Tuesday, June 13 at 7.30pm. All welcome, no booking required.

The event will provide a safe and supportive space to educate and inform, and where a shared understanding and solidarity can grow.

LGBTQ+ families, friends, allies, peers, colleagues, schoolmates, teachers, youth leaders, sports groups, youth groups and others interested in learning are invited to attend the event.

The event is organised in collaboration with Youthwork Ireland Navan branch, Outcomers Dundalk, Navan Pride, Dublin Pride, and Solstice Arts Centre.

The Meath Operation Rainbow Initiative is funded and supported by the Government of Ireland through the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF)

Cruinniú na nÓg

A National Day of Creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on Saturday 10th June 2023.

Cruinniú na nÓg is a national initiative that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings, special events and much more.

The events in Meath are programmed by the Library and Arts Service on behalf of the Meath County Council Culture Team. The programme is funded by Creative Ireland.

It is about giving children and young people the opportunity to express themselves through a specially curated programme of cultural and creative activities where they can share their ideas, learn new skills, and have fun!

All events are free of charge, child-centred and activity-based. It's a day for lot of doing, making, and creating!

Meath's programme of events will centre around East Meath, Drogheda, and Navan, with outreach events at Féile na Gealaí in Leabharlann Ráth Chairn, a strong schools programme and a selection of online events.

Bookings opened on Friday May 26th.

Meath/Louth County Councils are delighted to collaborate on this year's Cruinniú na nÓg and deliver a range of projects and events for the East Meath and Drogheda borough area. This collaborative initiative is funded by Creative Ireland in response to the Drogheda Report and Implementation Plan.

Full details are available <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/cruinniu-na-nog-2023>

2023 World Cup

Following on from the success of the Football Association of Ireland pilot project to produce a football themed activity book for schoolchildren aged 10-14 years old, the FAI announced plans for the nationwide distribution of activity books through the public library network.

The activity book project is aligned to the national **Right to Read Programme** to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. By utilising the popularity of football and the upcoming 2023 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, the activity book has been developed to assist teachers in the classroom and provide an educational resource for parents and guardians at home.

The activity book contains many different activities that covers a range of subjects including English, Irish, Mathematics, History, and Geography which are all delivered via the game of football. The cross-curricular nature of the activity book was a key aim of the project to assist teachers in the classroom and align to the desired learning outcomes of the targeted age group.

Meath County Library service is currently preparing a Meath GAA Football themed activity book, and this will be available later in the year.

Reading & Literacy

Little Libraries – The Department of Children has made additional funding available for the continuation of the very popular **Little Library Book Bag initiative**.

The book bag is targeted at all 4- and 5-year-olds in the last year of ECCE, with books to support the transition to school, library membership cards and a social story card on the library. The bags are processed at library hq and distributed to ECCE centres across the county from the branch libraries.

Transportation Services



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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor has completed wearing course and line marking to mainline. • Construction Works to mainline re Accommodation Works and Landscaping are ongoing. • Construction Works to side roads re Utilities, surfacing and Accommodation Works are ongoing. • A temporary traffic management system continues in place to facilitate ongoing construction works along the route. • Contract is expected to be substantially complete in Q3 2023
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents are being finalised.
N52 Grange to Clontail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Bord Pleanála have extended the timeframe for decision on this CPO to Quarter 2 2023.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with AECOM to discuss project Friday the 26th of May • Steering Group meeting to be programmed for early next Month
National Road Resurfacing

- N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath including Pump Cross – re-surfacing work ongoing. Works expected to be substantially complete June 2023.
- N52/ R154 Johnsbrook Cross Safety Improvement - works substantially complete.

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 contract awarded.
Phase 2 Surface Dressing 2023 contract awarded.
Phase 3 Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing 2023 contract in process of being awarded.
Phase 5 HRA & 942 2023 contract in process of being awarded.
CIS schemes 2023 contract awarded and works commenced at Johnstown, Kilskyre.
LIS schemes 2023 contract 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

2023 Schemes Road
2023 schemes – discussions and designs works ongoing

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

2022 DoT Schemes	
Oldbridge Bridge (R161)	Works 90% complete, to be finalised during Summer 2023
2023 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works completed
Mellifont Bridge (L5606)	Scheduled to commence June 2023
Clonguiffin Bridge (L4020)	Scheduled to commence June 2023
Springhall Culvert (R195)	Design currently underway
Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	Design being reviewed with a view to proceed to tender in June 2023
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2023	Complete
BAMS Surveys and Inspections	Consultant appointed

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –	<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 Kennedy Road implemented to facilitate works on Paddy O’Brien Street.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1	<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.

<p>Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Newtown Trim Walking Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design development in progress and preparing to commence Statutory Approval processes.

Planning and Development



- Planning Applications (Section 34)

643 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2023 to 31.05.2023. This is compared to 713 in the same period in 2022.

- Commencement Notices

256 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2023 to 31/05/2023. This is compared to 261 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	111
Multi-Units	462 (units)
Extensions	42
Other*	25

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

- Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31 May 2023 show a collection of €3,642,764. This is compared to €5,922,831 collected in the same period last year. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

- Planning Enforcement (Sections 152,154 and 160)

47 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 31.05.2023.

	Number
New Cases to be Investigated	19
Warning Letter	21
Enforcement Notice	2
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	5

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

- 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 Perfected Order has yet to issue on this case however in the Final Orders issued on 3 May 2023, Justice Humphries quashed the residential zoning on the lands in question and ordered that the lands be zoned WL - White Lands.

- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)
2 submissions were received in relation to the public consultation on Phase 2 of the RZLT - Supplemental Map. These submissions did not relate to the parcels of land identified on the Supplemental Map and are therefore invalid.

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Measure 1 Grant Approvals	2
Trading Online Voucher Approval	1
Mentoring Assignments Approved	16
Attended Online Training Courses	57
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	6
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	3
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3
LEAN for Micro Applications	2

Tourism



May 2023

Boyne Valley represented in Northern Ireland

Discover Boyne Valley hosted a stand at the Balmoral Agricultural show from 10th – 13th May. Balmoral is Northern Ireland's largest agricultural show with 110,000 people in attendance over 4 days. The tourism team fielded queries on short breaks, walking, cycling, heritage sites and festivals.

The Púca Festival preparations kick off

The Púca Festival held its first events to signal the start of the planning towards this year's festival. The festival will run over the bank holiday weekend from Friday 27th October to Tuesday 31st October and will take place in the two hub towns of Athboy and Trim. Two community events were held on Wednesday May 24th in Athboy and Thursday May 25th in Trim to garner views and the support of the business community and local people towards this year's programme for the festival.

First Tourism Trade Ezine

Boyne Valley Tourism released its first trade ezine in May. This comes in response to a request from the tourism industry to create an information sharing platform to keep the industry up to date on all activities within the Boyne Valley. The Tourism Trade Ezine will be released monthly and include information and updates from the tourism industry itself.

Finance



Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1st January 2023 to 31st May 2023		
Fully Completed Applications Received	19	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	2	Relates to 2023 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	Relates to 2023 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	24	13 relate to 2023, 11 relate to 2022 (3 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	9	6 relate to 2023, 3 relate to 2022 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	23.58	11 relate to 2023, 12.50 Relate to 2022, 0.08 relates to 2021,
Expired	18	18 relate to 2022 applications
Drawdown by Customer	15.42	6 relates to 2023, 8.50 relate to 2022 applications, 0.92 relate to 2021 applications,

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2023 to 31st May 2023 and in some cases relate to applications from 2022.

Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.