



Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

July 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



At the council's Annual General Meeting, held in Buvinda on June 12, 2023, Councillor Tommy Reilly was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Paul McCabe was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Council.

Municipal Districts AGMs: All six Municipal Districts held their Annual General Meetings between June 14-21. All six agreed their schedule of meetings for 2023-2024 and elected the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach, as follows:

MD	Cathaoirleach	Leas-Chathaoirleach
Ashbourne	Cllr. Alan Tobin	Cllr. Conor Tormey
Kells	Cllr. Paul McCabe	Cllr. Mike Bray
Laytown-Bettystown	Cllr. Stephen McKee	Cllr. Geraldine Keogan
Navan	Cllr. Edward Fennessy	Cllr. Padraig Fitzsimons
Ratoath	Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald
Trim	Cllr. Noel French	Cllr. Niamh Souhan

Official Opening of the Linear Walkway, Dunboyne



In his last official function as Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Nick Killian was joined by Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education, Thomas Byrne TD and Minister for Justice Helen Mc Entee TD for the official opening of the Linear Walkway, Rooske Road, Dunboyne.

The linear pedestrian walkway links Rooske Road with Dunboyne Main Street / Maynooth Road via the existing public park located on Maynooth Road. Members of the public can now walk or cycle on the walkway which links up Dunboyne Park and skatepark with the Rooske Road. Work is continuing on the provision of three juvenile sports playing fields.

President Michael D Higgins visits Trim



Meath County Council was delighted to welcome President Michael D Higgins, accompanied by his wife, Sabina to Trim Library & Cultural Centre to unveil the town's plaque to recognise its win in the National Tidy Town's competition in 2022.

President Higgins paid tribute to all in the civic and business communities who had supported the Tidy Towns volunteer in their successful endeavours.

Flag Raising Ceremony held in Bettystown



Bettystown and Mornington Beaches have been awarded the Green Coast Award in recognition of excellent water quality and the efforts made by the local community to protect their natural, unspoilt environment. Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Cllr. Stephen McKee was

recently joined by volunteers from the local community at a flag raising ceremony to mark this significant achievement.

The aim of the Green Coast Award is to recognise beaches of high environmental quality. To achieve the award, beaches must have excellent water quality and have effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment. The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence and has been established to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of our beaches.

Official Opening of Castletown Trail



Cathaoirleach of Kells Municipal District Cllr. Eugene Cassidy was joined by Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, recently to officially open Castletown Trail.

The looped trail secured grant funding of €200,000 under the 2019 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure scheme (ORIS) and includes the construction of a footpath from the graveyard to the existing railway crossing to link the village to the Castletown end of the Greenway. Another section of footpath was constructed at the northern end of the greenway to connect back to the village, completing the loop of the Castletown trail.

A further allocation of €19,811 under the 2021 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure scheme allowed development of amenity areas including planting, fencing, seating and the installation of a footfall counter to measure usage.

Members of the public can now use the existing car park at Castletown as the start and end point of their walk, run or cycle journey.

Climate Action and Environment



Meath County Climate Action Plan Statutory Process

Climate Action Plan Development Stages – statutory process

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Initiation	Draft Climate Action Plan Development	Draft Climate Action Plan Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Baseline Emissions Inventory; Climate Change Risk Assessment; Decarbonisation Zones (x 9No.) Baseline Emissions Inventories <p>Engaging stakeholders Pre-draft Public Consultation open for submissions</p>	<p>Draft CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision Strategic Priorities Actions KPIs <p>Public Consultation on Draft Climate Action Plan (2-month period) Collate and log submissions</p>	<p>Climate Action Plan finalised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the submissions Provide responses and recommendations <p>Adoption of CAP – resolution by elected members Publication of final adopted Climate Action Plan</p>

HVO Trial



A trial using HVO (Hydrated Vegetable Oil) has commenced and is now two months into implementation. The trial incorporated 10 vehicles from our Transportation, Environment and Civil Defence sections. It is a direct replacement fuel for diesel engines with a 90% reduction in CO2

generated. Its use is generating an average 3.5 tonne reduction in CO₂ emissions from these vehicles with no ill effects on vehicles.

Staff Energy Awareness



The Climate Action section held a staff awareness day for energy use on site in Buvinda House. An energy expert was present on May 31st, meeting with staff in one-to-one clinics to discuss energy saving techniques and renewable technologies for their own home. Energy tips and information was also dispersed in the canteen to staff.

Buvinda Solar Project

A solar PV array has been designed for Buvinda House to help supplement our electricity demand from the grid by generating on site. A contractor has been appointed to carry out the install in July, which will significantly reduce the CO₂ associated with the building's electricity use.

.IE Digital Town Awards 2023



The Awards recognise and reward projects with a digital element that have been created by town groups and local communities.

Trim Air Quality Project was shortlisted as finalists in the Sustainability category of the .IE Digital Town Awards 2023.

Trim Air Quality Workshop for Wider Community



Trim Air Quality Community Workshop took place on 6th June, 2023. This event provided information on the Trim Air Quality Project that is monitoring air quality in Trim over an 18-month period.

Smartmicro traffic monitors have been installed on Market Street and Patrick Street. The monitors will capture traffic data across several vehicle classes. This data will then be ingested into the Trim Air Quality Dashboard and analysed by data scientists to establish the links between ICE vehicles and air quality. Additionally, these sensors will count bicycle and pedestrian numbers.

Community Engagement Events



Climate Action Section made presentations and hosted stands at the following community engagement events:

- Slane Community Forum
- PPN Plenary
- Sonairte Community Hub
- Kilskyre Global Community Conversations

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

Burial Grounds

Stamullen

The provision of a Playground, Woodland walk, and Burial Ground is currently the subject of a Part 8 Planning Process with the closing date for submissions or observations being Thursday 6th July. The plans and particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection at the Planning Department, Buvinda House, the Ashbourne MD Offices and at <https://consult.meath.ie>, (Inspection only)

Loganstown Burial Grounds Trim

Contractors for the development of a replacement burial ground for Trim are being appointed and are scheduled to be on site in mid-July and to complete the development in a 40 week period.

Burial Gardens/Columbarium Walls

Tenders have been invited from competent contractors to develop burial gardens and Columbarium Walls in each of the five Burial Grounds which are under the direct control of the Council and namely St Finians Navan, Derrockstown Dunshaughlin, Good Sheppard Duleek, St Declans Ashbourne and Rooske Road Extension Dunboyne.

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	12	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	136		
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	467		

****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, are going through the conveyancing process.

It is envisaged that 26 Affordable Housing units in the will be advertised in the County in July 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

The site consists of 10nr. residential units. Scheme is progressing within the programme and estimated for completion in Q4 2023.

Alverno Court Refurbishment:

- Joint Phases 2 & 3 are now complete, with the final two properties (No. 2 Alverno Court and No. 77 Alverno Heights) completed on 30th May.
- Phase 4 commenced on 16th June and includes 7nr. properties (one property from Phase 5 was moved forward to Phase 4).
- The new build units No. 79 & 80 Alverno Heights are near substantial completion and are planned for 1st snag inspection on 23rd June 2023.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €580,970 including VAT has been approved for 2023 by the Department.
- To date for 2023, 28nr. LAAWS are complete. Another 15nr. LAAWS are awarded to Contractors. There are also 6nr. LAAWS out to tender and another 5nr. LAAWS due to be awarded shortly. There are additional LAAWS, which will be awarded in order of their medical priority, based on the funding available.

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

354 applications to the value of €2,521,090.26 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 20th June 2023. For the period from 24th May 2023 to 20th June 2023, works were completed on 7 vacant units, while 9 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractors
Ashbourne	2	1	1	4	0
Kells	8	1	3	8	4
Laytown/Bettystown	2	3	1	5	1
Navan	19	1	1	12	9
Ratoath	3	0	0	2	1
Trim	6	3	1	4	6
TOTALS	40	9	**7	35	21

**Note: Six 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 May 2023

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 30 th of April (Previous Reported Figure)	142 (153 adults)	54 (92 adults 94 children)	196
Placements at 31 st May	144 (155 adults)	58 (99 adults 101 children)	202

Of the households with children, 49 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	99	-	-	-	30	40	27	2
Couples	22	-	-	-	5	8	9	-
Singles	133	-	-	-	10	46	71	6
Children	101	24	45	32	-	-	-	-
Total	355	24	45	32	45	94	107	8

Families – 99 Adults includes 19 adult children

Adult children range from 18 - 25

Place finder 01/05/2023-31/05/2023

Total	15
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	7
Homeless Prevention	8

Tenant Liaison Team May 2023

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	124	38
Occupancy of Dwelling	30	26
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	18	16
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	0	0
Total Received 01/05/2023- 31/05/2023	172	80

Standards in Rented Accommodation

1907 Inspections were scheduled for rented properties in Meath up to the end of May 2023. Of these 1907 properties 280 properties passed the minimum standards.

Of these 280 properties 35 properties passed on first inspection, 120 on second inspection, 87 on third inspection and the remaining 38 on fourth inspection. 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. The Pilot for the new ICT System to begin in July 2023.

Social Housing Supports

- 251 successful new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st May 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 May 2023

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	138
Transfers	10
Approved Housing Bodies	114
Rental Accommodation Scheme	3
Housing Assistance Payment	141
Long term Leasing	1
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	1
AHB CALF Acquisition	1
TOTAL	409

Choice Based Lettings Advertised May 2023

No. of Bedrooms	Ashbourne MD	Laytown/Bettystown MD	Kells MD	Navan MD	Ratoath MD	Trim MD
1						0
2		2 No. Glen Boann Mornington	1 No. Willmount View		1 No. Oak Drive The Willows Dunshaughlin.	0

		1 No. Balsaran Drive Duleek 5 No. Glen Boann Mornington				
3		1 No. Ardmore Close Bettystown 1 No. Ryan Park Duleek 1 No. Cearnach Close Donacarney		1 No. Claremont Estate 13 No. Swanbrook Trim Road	2 No. Willows Dunshaughlin	0
4			2 No. Willmount Estate			0
Total		11	3	14	3	0

Community Development



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last LCDC meeting was held on Friday, 30th June 2023. The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, 28th July 2023.

LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The last LAG meeting was held on Friday, 30th June 2023 with the next meeting to take place on Friday, 28th July 2023. There were 2 projects presented and approved by the LAG.

Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

The first Meath LCDC Health and Wellbeing Subgroup meeting took place on the 20th of June in Buvinda House with representatives from MCC, the HSE, Meath LSP, Meath Partnership, Elected Members and Youth Work Ireland.

Partners for HIF Round 4 2023 have commenced delivery of actions including The Irish Heart Foundation, Meath Travellers Workshop and Foroige. The July / August edition of the Healthy Meath Newsletter was published and is available to read on the Healthy Meath section of the MCC website.

Pride of Place Initiative

195 applications were received for the Pride of Place initiative, and these are currently being assessed and categorised for judging which will commence in July.

Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme

47 schools took part in the schools gardening scheme, judging took place in person for the first time since 2019. Certificates and prize monies have been issued to the schools.

Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place awards

Three groups have been chosen to represent Meath in the 2023 IPB Pride of Place awards. These are Summerhill Tidy Town's, Kells Community Allotments and Solas Glan Community Garden. Judging will take place later in the year.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

A meeting of the Indaver Community Liaison Committee took place on 8th June and grants to the value of €279,920 were recommended under the 2022 Scheme. These recommendations were endorsed at the Laytown-Bettystown MD June meeting and will proceed to the July Full Council Meeting for approval. Successful groups will then be notified of their allocations.

Age Friendly Alliance

The last Age Friendly Alliance meeting was held in Buvinda House on Thursday 22nd June 2023 and the next meeting is due to be held in September 2023.

Meath Older Person's Council (OPC)

The latest Meath OPC meeting was held in Buvinda House on 16th June 2023 and the next meeting is scheduled to be held in July 2023.

Joint Migrant Integration Forum

The latest Joint Migrant Integration Forum meeting was held remotely on 29th June 2023 and the next meeting is due to be held in September 2023.

Joint Policing Committee

The next meeting of the Meath Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for 21st September.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Scheme was launched on 1st June 2023 seeking applications for projects that encourage participation in outdoor recreation.

As in previous years there are 4 measures under the scheme:

- Project development – grant amount up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large scale projects
- Measure 1 – grant amount up to €30,000 for small scale repair/development/promotion and marketing
- Measure 2 – grant amount up to €200,00 for medium scale repair/upgrade and new trail/amenity development
- Measure 3 – grant amount up to €500,000 for strategic large scale repair/upgrade and new strategic trail/amenity development

The Council is currently seeking expressions of interests for projects under all the categories above. Please note that the closing dates for the receipt of details of expressions of interest are as follows:

- Project Development – must be submitted to MCC by **Friday 14th July 2023**
- Measures 1/2/3 – must be submitted to MCC by **Friday 25th August 2023**

Further information is available on the Meath County Council website.

Public Participation Network

Following the Plenary on May 20th, the decision was taken to hold a vote online to ratify the Constitution so as to allow more groups to participate than were on this foundational document. In total 175 groups took part, representing 31% of total membership. The constitution was passed by 91.52% of the tallied votes.

Meath PPN hosted the Midlands Regional PPN group for the first time, in Enfield on June 28th. The 6 PPN had a networking dinner before discussing issues from increasing participation, climate action involvement from groups and active participation of reps on the various SPCs.

570 groups are registered with Meath PPN.

Meath PPN Constitution

May 22, 2023 at 4:00pm – May 29, 2023 at 4:00pm
(GMT+01:00) DUBLIN

Actions ▾

Completed

175 ballots submitted of 564 eligible voters (22 opened) – 31%
564 emails sent - 0 notices queued

Results Graphed Results Vote by Vote Voter Audit Admin Audit

Export Results ▾

Do you approve the Constitution for Meath PPN as presented to the Plenary on
May 20th 2023? PLURALITY

Yes - I approve the Constitution of Meath PPN **151 votes 91.52%**

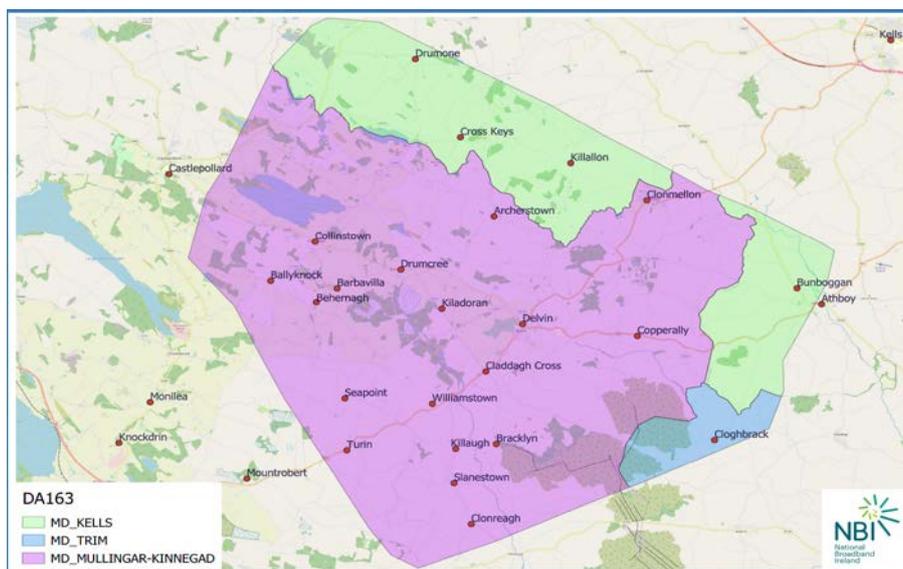
No - I reject the Constitution of Meath PPN **14 votes 8.48%**

Yes - I approve the Constitution of Meath PPN wins with 91.52% of the vote.

165 votes tallied and 10 abstentions

National Broadband Plan

384 premises within the Delvin Deployment Area of Meath are now able to place pre-orders for connections to NBI's fibre broadband networks from one of their retail partners. Detail are available on nbi.ie.



Overall there are 3,021 (14% of 21,737 total premises) that have been passed already by NBI and work continues on a further 6,420 (30%) across the County.

NBI Orders:

Deployment Area (# of Premises)	Active Connections with	Connections Pending	Pre-Orders
Drogheda (2,745)	459	170	326
Skerries (41)	11	2	
Delvin (696)	30	26	88

GoRemote Campaign

Meath's campaign to encourage commuters to find out more about remote working, the hub network in Co. Meath and how to strike a better balance in their lives continued in June with the running of its second advertising video which will be shared on social media channels. This will be accompanied with news paper advertising and will be followed up with more content in September.

Libraries Services



Summer Stars Reading Programme

Meath County Council Library service is delighted to announce the Summer Stars Reading Programme for 2023. This free nationwide children’s reading programme takes place in all the public libraries and online each summer from the 12th of June to 26th of August.

Children throughout the county are invited to join the reading adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who signs up receives a reader’s registration pack and will be awarded a certificate of participation at the end of the programme. The programme is completely free.

Each child on returning their books and their card for stamping will get a Golden Ticket on their second and subsequent visits. All the tickets will be entered into a fantastic prize draw on 31st August. There are generous prize bundles for every library. Included in the prize bundles for younger and older children are Kindle Fires, reading buddies, books, games, book tokens and mini-craft sets. There is also a lucky dip box for a surprise treat on the second and subsequent library visits, to encourage children to continue reading over the summer holidays.

Registrations will continue throughout the summer months.

2,000 Meath children participated in 2022 and this year staff are expecting even greater numbers of children to register for the programme through their local library.

Further details of this and the associated Summer Events Programme can be found at www.meathlibraries.ie

Decade of Centenaries

Hindsight Festival

Meath County Council has proudly supported the annual Hindsight @ Hinterland Festival throughout the Decade of Centenaries. This support has been delivered through the generous funding of the Community Strand of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media’s, Decade of Centenaries Programme.

The Hindsight History Festival is programmed annually within the major nationally acclaimed Hinterland Festival of Literature and Arts in Kells. This year’s event runs from Thursday 22nd June to Friday 23rd June.

The programme is curated by Dr. Myles Dungan, RTE History Show and curator of the Hinterland Festival. The lecturers include Dr. Dungan and leading local, national, and international speakers.

By supporting the festival Meath County Council acknowledges the quality programme and the ability of the speakers to successfully address the national themes, particularly the requirement to

- To promote a deeper understanding of the significant historical events of this period, which recognizes that the shared historical experiences of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories.
- To respond with sensitivity to the local historical context, acknowledging that there was no uniform experience within counties or across the island of Ireland.

Hindsight @Hinterland has received significant annual support under the Meath County Council Decade of Centenaries programme and the event forms an important part of the calendar of events for 2023.

The collaborative approach between the State, local authorities, and local communities, has resulted in a range of high quality and diverse programmes. The collaborative approach has ensured that the challenging and sensitive events in our shared history are remembered in an inclusive, measured, and balanced manner.

Archives

Very Rev Gerry Rice – Bequest to Meath County Council Library Service

Some of Fr Rice's personal papers were accessioned into the Meath County Archive following his death in 2020. An English and History teacher in St Patrick's Classical School, Navan, for 18 years; Fr Rice was principal of St Mary's Diocesan School, Drogheda, for 8 years and Editor of *Riocht na Midhe*, the journal of the Meath Archaeological & Historical Society, for 21 years.

The collection includes letters and photographs, legal papers relating to the parochial house in Navan and a series of pamphlets and notebooks relating to his interests and academic writing.

Among the papers, two letters dated to the year 1938 were discovered, both of which were addressed to Father Rice's mother, Marie. The letters were sent from Fr Hugh O'Flaherty, and they provide a glimpse into the life of an extraordinary individual who would later earn the title of *The Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican*. Hugh O'Flaherty's words and experiences captured within the letters reveal the essence of his character and the unique circumstances he encountered during his time in Rome.

The collection is now fully catalogued and available for research at Meath County Archive.

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

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

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"> • Construction Works to mainline re Accommodation Works are ongoing. • Construction Works to side roads re landscaping Works, surfacing and Accommodation works are ongoing. • A temporary traffic management system will continue 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"> • Preliminary design work is ongoing to refine the preferred option corridor for the scheme at the tie in junction locations • To inform this work the Ground Site Investigations are planned to commence mid July. The consultants on behalf of MCC will be contacting the landowners in the coming weeks to arrange access for the Investigation works.
National Road Resurfacing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiterrath including Pump Cross – Works are substantially complete.

- 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

Works carried out on the following:

- L-1000-14 Clonarden
- L-10071-0 Priesttown
- L-10061-0 Crackenstown
- L-500-72-0 Irishtown
- L-5013-11 Red Bog
- L-56023-0 Slieve Breagh

Phase 2 Surface Dressing 2023 Works carried out on

- L-2205-3 Kilcarty /Curtistown Upper
- L-2208-0 Leshamstown/Clowanstown linemarking to be dov
- L-5029-3 Dunshaughlin/Lagore Big
- L-5017-26 Powderlough/Wilkinstown
- L-6222-0 Quarryland
- L-2219-0 Castlefarm/Milestown to be swept 14 June
- L-2220-0 Cappaghgreen/Walterstown to be swept 14 June
- L-62220-38 Butlerstown/Ballymacoll to be swept
- L-6222-35 Ballymacoll to be swept
- L-2214-16 Killeany/Kilgrague to be swept
- L-2212-0 Mulhussey/Barrockstown
- L-2213-0 Pagestown

Phase 4 HRA & 942 2023 contract awarded.

Phase 5 Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing 2023 contract awarded.

CIS Works complete at Johnstown, Kilskyre; Annagh, Clonard and Fearnmore.
Works commenced at Halltown, Navan.

LIS Works commenced at Fosterfields, Athboy and Boddington, Naul.

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

R162 Kilberry Phase 2B

Tender documents issued for construction works which involve road drainage, road repair and footpath upgrade from Meath Farm Machinery to the GAA club on the R162.

R156 Mullagh Cross

Atkins Consulting Engineers appointed and have commenced base line assessments required for options review for realignment of the R156/R125 junction at Mullagh and associated safety improvement works. Vehicle Activated Warning Signage to be installed as an interim measure.

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, final 10% to be complete commencing Monday June 19th
2023 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works completed, bar watermain replacement
Mellifont Bridge (L5606)	Scheduled to commence June 26 th 2023
Clonguiffin Bridge (L4020)	Works complete bar resurfacing
Springhall Culvert (R195)	At Tender Stage
Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	At Tender Stage
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2023	Complete
BAMS Surveys and Inspections	Surveys and Inspections underway

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"> • New ESB substation installed at the plaza and new steps and railings in front of Supermacs constructed.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New spot lighting ordered and stone cladding for the base of the art sculpture ordered. • Works commenced on erection of black granite cladding to walls approx. 95% complete. • Paving works to entrance to Metges laneway commenced. • New kerbing and pavement works at the Market Square from site of old St Laurance Hotel to Eddie Rockets commenced. • Consultation with business owners on Kennedy Road continuing. • New raised pedestrian crossings on Paddy O'Brien Street 100% complete. • Watermain installation works at corner of Kennedy Road/Trimgate Street adjacent to Little Chislars completed. • Paving works at corner of Kennedy Road/Trimgate Street adjacent to Little Chislars commenced. • Surfacing works (planning, surfacing and line marking) on Kennedy Road/Paddy O'Brien Street commenced 19th of June to the 22nd of June.
<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"> • Contractor, John Cradock Ltd appointed • Pre-Commencement meeting held on 29th March 2023. • Letter of Acceptance issued on 22nd May 2023. • Contractor mobilised to site and set up compound on Trim Road approx. midway on scheme route. • Meeting held with Irish Rail on 29th May 2023 to discuss proposed works at rail crossing. • Contractor commence works on Tuesday 6th of June 2023. • On-street parking temporarily removed from Railway Street and site clearance commenced. • Existing retaining wall demolished at the Solstic Arts Centre. • Engagement with affected landowners is ongoing.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site meeting and walk-through between MCC & Consultant completed. • AF1 submitted. • Traffic survey procured and sub-consultant IDASO appointed. • Data collection commenced.
<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. • Contractor appointed for G.I. services works. • Contractors procured for Pavement Investigation, Sewer CCTV and Site Investigations works. • Consultants working on Phase 5 Detailed Design process. Communications have commenced with affected landowners with respect to potential land acquisition.

Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft tender documents prepared for Consultancy Services Phases 5 – 7 (Detailed Design, Tender, Construction Stage, and Close Out)
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants continuing design work associated with Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection.
Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design work continuing in relation to St Marys Parish accommodation works.
Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTA confirmation received to proceed to Phase 3 preliminary design process. Design work commenced on Phase 3.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants advancing with Option Selection/Preliminary Design/Statutory Process design services for the section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor Convent Road to Metges Road.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First draft of general arrangement drawings and tender documents received and currently under review.
Kilcloon Traffic Calming Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESB connection complete, all lighting now fully commissioned. Snagging works remain.
Newtown Trim Walking Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing design development in progress and preparing to commence Statutory Approval processes.
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 programmed to commence bus stop works at Ratoath in July.
Accessible Bus Stops Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor programmed to commence bus stop works at Trim in June.
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atkins progressing work on the Route Option Selection Report, report due to be issued to MCC in July. Topo survey to completed in July.
Donacarney Footpath/Cycleway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender for Main Construction Contract has closed and tenders submitted are under review. Proposing appointment in June and contractor to commence in July.

Safe Routes to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenders for construction for Round 1 schools (Donacarney, Ashbourne and Drumconrath) closing in June with appointment and commencement proposed for July. • School 'C' St Stephen's Navan will require a 'Part 8' process and will not complete this year. Further Liaison required to develop final design and progress. • An Taisce have commenced SRTS Round 2 with selected schools and MCC assisting in the process.
Bettystown Eastham Road Cycle Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues raised by various stakeholders on emerging preferred route being assessed and worked through. • Landowner agreements continuing to be finalised
Greenogue Bus Stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender process completed and now appointing technical consultant for Detailed Design and Statutory Process.

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

Millennium Pedestrian Bridge - Trim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalising the appointment of Consulting Engineers to commence base line assessments required for options review for replacment pedestrian bridge near Trim Castle.
Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor progressing works on the eastern carriageway and footpaths between Castle Street and St. Johnswood. Contractor completing lighting in Phase 1 and snagging in order to reduce the overall all works area.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilkinstown to Castletown Works progressing well, contractor to commence final paving installation in July and continue with the installation of screening walls. • Nobber to Kingscourt Nobber to Kilmainhamwood section 90% complete. Bridge for this section is due for delivery in July, preparatory works ongoing for bridge delivery. Greenway construction 60% complete between Kilmainhamwood and Poles Cross, capping complete and crossings under construction, fencing to commence in July. Rail and sleeper removal 80% complete between Poles Cross and Carrickleck.
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional flooding assessment and modelling as identified by TII requirements completed now, and completing final draft of the Feasibility Study and Options Assessment report.
Dunshaughlin Public Realm Main Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original design revised substantially in consultation with elected representatives. Revised design development to progress to Part 8 statutory approval stage. Note this project is coupled with the Dunshaughlin Court House community building regeneration.

5. Other Actions/ Projects

<p>Footpath Improvement Works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial progress on Programme of Footpath Improvement Works for 2023 including works in Navan, Trim, Slane, Dunshaughlin, Duleek, Athboy, Summerhill and Kilbride. • Further works procured and to commence this year including Kells, Drumconrath, Nobber, Kilmainhamwood, Ballinlough, Dunboyne and Ratoath. • Further works in preparation or out to tender including Kilberry, Colpe, Beamore, Trim and Enfield.
<p>Housing Estate Road Surfacing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navan MD: Contractor completed works on Ashbrook, Clogherboy. Works commenced in Moatville and St. Brigid's Villas.
<p>Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 8 application being finalised. Scheme presented to Kells MD Meeting on the 19th June 2023, agreed to proceed to lodging Part 8 application.
<p>Bective Crossing Kells</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme now substantially complete
<p>Traffic Calming Ramps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor commencing on site 26th June. Ramps will be installed at the following sites during the school summer holidays. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boyerstown National School ○ Dangan National School Summerhill ○ Ardcah National School ○ Bellewstown National School ○ Scoil Muire Trim. ○ R156 Summerhill (Meals on Wheels).

Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

718 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2023 to 16.06.2023. This is compared to 797 in the same period in 2022.

2. Commencement Notices

304 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2023 to 16/06/2023. This is compared to 289 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	123
Multi-Units	508** (units)
Extensions	55
Other*	38

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

**This includes a resubmission of a commencement notice for which the initial valid commencement notice for which the initial valid commencement notice has since been withered.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 16th June 2023 show a collection of €4,251,582. This is compared to €7,558,553 collected in the same period last year. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

It is important to note that any development contributions covered by the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver Circular introduced in April, have still to be recouped from the DHLGH.

4. Planning Enforcement (Sections 152,154 and 160)

53 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 16.06.2023

New Cases to be Investigated	15
Warning Letter	28
Enforcement Notice	3
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	7

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

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Measure 1 Grant Approvals	1
Trading Online Voucher Approval	7
Mentoring Assignments Approved	5
Attended Online Training Courses	70
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	3
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	5
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3
LEAN for Micro Applications	1
Green for Micro Applications	2

Tourism



Boyne Valley at Bloom

Discover Boyne Valley hosted a stand at Bord Bia Bloom in the Phoenix Park. Ireland's favourite festival of flowers, food and fun took place on the June Bank Holiday Weekend from June 1st to 5th with showgardens, local food and interactive entertainment. Discover Boyne Valley had a stand in the retail area with support from the members of the network who attended to showcase their own businesses and the destination.

PR Coverage of the Boyne Valley

Following a visit organised by the Boyne Valley Tourism Team in March, Irish Times Journalist Conor Capplis published a lovely article on Sunday May 28th on the Boyne Valley: 'Stone Age cairns, Ireland's oldest bridge and a gin school: A tour of the Boyne Valley'. [Irish Times Article](#).

This article was the result of a group press visit held in March which generated 3 further great articles about the Boyne Valley in national press:

- [Belfast Live](#) and Star Chic
- [Irish Independent](#)

New Trim Brochure and Boyne Valley Holiday Guide 2023-2024 published

The Trim Tourism Committee and Trim Tidy Towns in association with Boyne Valley Tourism printed a new Trim brochure which is available now at tourist offices and in local business or by emailing info@discoverboynevalley.ie.

The Boyne Valley Holiday Guide for 2023-2024 featuring itineraries for visitors, festivals, accommodation, places to eat and drink, the Boyne Valley Drive, Boyne Valley Flavours, Boyne Valley Garden Trail and information about each of our towns. Copies are available from members of the network, by emailing Discover Boyne Valley or to download at this [link](#).

Navan Racing Festival

Navan Racecourse held a business breakfast on June 14th to inform local businesses about their first Navan Racing Festival which will take place on November 18th and 19th. They would like to establish a committee of local businesses to support the new Festival.

Finance



Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2023 to 19th June 2023		
Fully Completed Applications Received	24	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	3	Relates to 2023 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	3	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	1	2023 application
Active Approvals	23.58	11 relate to 2023, 12.50 Relate to 2022, 0.08 relates to 2021,
Expired	17	17 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 19th June 2023 and in some cases relate to applications from 2022. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Circular Letter 24/2023 issued 15th June 2023 - Local Authority Home Loans Scheme (LAHL) and expedited application process for applicants who have received a Notice of Termination

As set in the Quarter 1 2023 Housing for All update, the Government has given a commitment to expedite the application process for the Local Authority Home Loan for tenants who have received a Notice of Termination from their current accommodation. The intention of this measure is to give this cohort of renters a timely decision on whether the LAHL is a viable means for them to purchase their own home.

Local Authorities have been requested to expedite the application process for the Local Authority Home Loan for tenants who have received a 'Notice of Termination' from their current rental property. If approved, the LAHL can be used to purchase their current or other property, once it is within the scheme eligibility criteria. The usual eligibility criteria and LAHL terms and conditions still apply to applicants under the Notice of Termination Expedited Process, as it does to all applicants. As such an Expedited Application Process has been put in place for this cohorts of applicants.