



# Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

## Monthly Management Report

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November 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

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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

Preliminary Budget Meeting (Hybrid)

Buvinda House

27th November at 10.00am

-

Budget Meeting (In-person)

Buvinda House

27th November at 1.30pm

-

Turning on of Christmas Lights

Ashbourne - 24th November at 6.00pm

Navan - 25th November at 5.00pm

Bettystown - 25th November at 7.00pm

Trim - 30th November at 6.00pm

Dunboyne - 2nd December at 8.00pm

Kells - 8th December at 6.00pm

Dates and Times subject to change

## Puca Festival - Social Media Promotion



On the final week leading up to the Puca Festival, daily competitions ran on Meath County Council Facebook and Instagram channels. Followers had the opportunity to win a pair of tickets to Macie Gray, Niall 'Bressie' Breslin, Sharon Shannon, the Waterboys and much more. The aim of the competition was to increase awareness about the festival and to help encourage ticket sales.

## Halloween Safety Message



To help promote halloween safety, a video was shared across Meath County Council social media channels featuring Fionnán Blake, Dunshaughlin Fire Station Officer, who reminded everyone of the key safety tips when out and about this Halloween.

The Halloween Amnesty event at local recycling centres was also promoted throughout October.

## In4Green Project



In4Green Project officially kicked off in Navan with a visit from URBACT Lead Expert Jose Costero. The In4Green project is part of URBACT IV programme and aims to empower and

build the capacity in Navan town to overcome the barriers that prevent the transition to greener economies while remaining competitive and inclusive cities.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Tommy Reilly and Navan Cathaoirleach Cllr. Edward Fennessy welcomed Jose and discussed local challenges and project expectations.

## Launch of positive Mental Health Initiative – Mindful Connect



To mark World Mental Health Day, Meath County Council in collaboration with Louth County Council and SOSAD Ireland today launched a novel, community driven, positive mental health initiative called Mindful Connect.

The project will identify many of the groups and organisations offering positive mental health supports in County Meath and compile them in a resource pack that will be readily available to the public on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) and updated regularly.

Members of these groups and other local volunteers in Meath will also be able to become a Mindful Connect Ambassador. This role will involve undertaking free training both on the resource pack itself and on other skills to support them in their role as an Ambassador. Recruitment of the Ambassadors will commence in October 2023.

### **Start your Own Business Course for Ukrainian's**



Meath County Council and Meath Partnership delivered a Start Your Own Business Course for Ukrainian nationals that are living in County Meath during October. The first session was delivered at Navan Education Centre.

The course aims to help those attending to develop and research ideas, learn basic business start-up skills, understand the potential for business growth, and provides marketing, sales and financial planning advice.

We wish the participants the very best of luck with their future endeavours.

## Meath Economic Development Forum host first meeting



Following the appointment of Colm O'Rourke as Chairperson of the Meath Economic Development Forum, Fiona Lawless, Meath County Council Chief Executive, hosted an introductory meeting of the forum on September 28 in Buvinda House.

Some of the main areas that were discussed covered Meath's employment sectors and its skill base, challenges employers are facing around the retention of staff specifically against global competition and the ability to work remotely, challenges facing the construction section and the increase in the green economy.

Following the first meeting of the forum, Meath County Council are preparing a strategic employment sites brochure, along with an expression of interest for appropriately zoned lands suitable for enterprise and employment.

### Preab-Ghaeltacht – Amharclann an Grianstad, An Uaimh

D'éagraigh Oifig na Gaeilge Preab-Ghaeltacht in Amharclann an Grianstad, an Uaimh ar an Sathairn 21 Deireadh Fómhair. Bhí an ócáid seo saor in aisce agus dírithe ar pháistí agus teaghlaigh ón gceantar áitiúil, go háirithe daoine atá ag tógáil a gclainne trí Ghaeilge. Bhí meascán den chomhrá agus siamsaíocht ann mar thug scéalaí Dónal Ó Maoláin cuairt don ghrúpa chun seisiúin scéalaíochta a dhéanamh agus cúpla amhrán trí Ghaeilge a chanadh. Bhí an seisiún dátheangach chun fáilte a chur roimh fhoghlaimoírí na teanga. Leis an meascán de scéalaíocht, comhrá, agus dathú oiche shamhna d'éirigh go maith leis an ócáid le breis is 20 duine i láthair; agus tá se ar intinn ag Oifig na Gaeilge níos mó pop-up Gaeltachtaí a chur ar fáil don phobal áitiúil as seo amach.

### Pop – Up Gaeltacht -Solstice Theatre, Navan

The Irish Language Office organised a pop up Gaeltacht in the Solstice Theatre Navan on Saturday 21 October. This event was free of charge and was directed at children & families from the local area, especially people who are rearing their families through Irish. There was a blend of conversation and entertainment as storyteller Dónal Mullen visited the group to do a storytime session and to sing a few songs through Irish. The session was bilingual to welcome learners of the language. With the blend of storytime, conversation and Halloween coloring the event went well with over 20 people in attendance; and it is the intention of the Irish Language office to provide more pop-up Gaeltachts to the local community going forward.

## **An Uaimh – Baile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta**

Bhuail an Oifigeach Gaeilge le hionadaithe ó Chonradh na Gaeilge agus ón gceantar áitiúil i mí Dheireadh Fómhair maidir le coiste atá siad ag iarraidh a bhunú le haghaidh an Uaimh a chur chun cinn mar bhaile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta. Tá an Oifigeach Gaeilge ag freastal ar na cruinnithe seo chun tacaíocht a thabhairt don ghrúpa agus chun a gcuid tuairimí a chloisteáil i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san Uaimh.

## **Navan – Gaeltacht service Town**

The Irish Language Officer met with representatives from Conradh na Gaeilge and from the local area in October regarding the committee they are trying to establish toward promoting Navan as a Gaeltacht service town. The Irish language officer is attending these meetings to give support to the group and to hear their opinions regarding the promotion of the Irish Language in Navan.

## **Corporate Governance**

Meath County Council as a public body is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority subject to a number of exemptions.

The following are the number of requests received in Q3 2023:

<b>FOI</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OIC</b>
Q3 - 2023	48	3	0

The link to the Council's FOI Disclosure Log is: <https://www.meath.ie/council/your-council/your-data-and-access-to-information/freedom-of-information>

The following are the Q3 2023 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

<b>AIE</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OCEI</b>
Q3 – 2023	7	5	3

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q3 2023 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

<b>Subject Access Requests</b>	<b>SAR's</b>
Q3 - 2023	4

# Climate Action and Environment



## Compost for Schools

The Compost for Schools Programme has been extended to primary schools across the County, having begun as a secondary school project in 2022/23.

A joint initiative between Composting Ireland, the Regional Waste Office and Meath County Council, the aim of the programme is to help schools prevent waste, improve recycling and set up, start or improve on-site composting systems to reduce waste, save money and combat climate change. The programme also helps schools improve their gardening efforts and increase biodiversity around their schools. All of these activities assist schools with attaining their Green School Flags and reaching their Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the programme gives teachers access to a variety of fun, participatory and interactive activities for school children to learn about composting and gardening. These activities support children's understanding of the underlying principles of ecology, biology and biodiversity that underpin all life on our planet.

Teachers and students are equipped with on site training and all relevant equipment is provided.



### Composting for Schools Programme



September 2023

To All Meath County Council Area Schools-

The award winning Composting for Schools programme is being continued in 2023-24 for Meath County Council area primary and secondary schools **free of charge**. This initiative is run by Composting Ireland and is being funded by Meath County Council and the Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan Office.



## Halloween Bulky Waste Collection

The bulky household waste prevention event took place at Navan, Trim, Kells and Dunboyne Recycling Centres in the run up to Halloween.

The event diverted combustible waste from bonfires over the period.



## Climate Action

### EV Charger Points – Buvinda House



Climate Action in conjunction with Facilities Management have installed 6 EV charge points in the car park of Buvinda House. The charge points will be for use of the public and Meath County Council current and future EV fleet vehicles. The charge points are AC chargers, with a capacity to charge at a rate of 22kW. The infrastructure is in place to allow future installations up to a max of 18 charge points as demand arises.

### HVO Trial

The HVO (Hydrated Vegetable Oil) trial which ran from mid-April has been completed in October. The trial incorporated 10 vehicles from our Transportation, Environment and Civil Defence sections. A total of 9,000 litres of HVO were consumed as part of the trial, which resulted in a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 25 tonnes compared to using the same volume of diesel. This is a reduction of 88% in emissions.

## **URBACT In4Green Navan Project**



Meath County Council has been successfully selected as a project partner in the In4Green under the URBACT IV programme. The project is a collaborative project with 9 European city partners under the URBACT IV programme. The aim of project is to empower and build the capacity of local stakeholders to overcome the barriers that prevent the transition to greener economies while remaining competitive and inclusive cities.

The project kicked off on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 with a visit to Navan by the project Lead Expert, Jose Costero.

## **Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023**

Meath County Council has been shortlisted in the twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 for the following projects:

- Trim Air Quality Project in Climate Change
- URBACT - Global Goals for Cities in Sustainable Environment & Biodiversity

## **Energy Awareness and Sustainable Energy Community Workshops**

Sustainable Energy Community Workshops commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. The Energy workshops aim to address the challenges for communities and homeowners of managing their energy needs and the fact that many communities and homeowners are not aware of what steps they should take or changes they should make in their day to day lives to gain better control of their energy needs. The workshops will run in each municipal district from October to November with morning time and evening time sessions available.

**Tuesday, October 17th**  
Ashbourne Library  
11am to 1pm  
Ashbourne House Hotel  
7.30pm to 9.30pm

**Thursday, October 19th**  
Kells Library  
11am to 1pm  
Headfort House Hotel, Kells  
7.30pm to 9.30pm

**Tuesday, October 24th**  
Trim Library  
11am to 1pm  
Trim Castle Hotel  
7.30pm to 9.30pm

**Thursday, October 26th**  
Navan Library  
11am to 1pm  
Buvinda House, C15 Y291  
7.30pm to 9.30pm

**Thursday, November 2nd**  
Dunshaughlin Community Centre  
7.30pm to 9.30pm

**Friday, November 3rd**  
Dunshaughlin Library  
11am to 1pm

**Friday, November 3rd**  
GAA Club  
11am to 1pm  
GAA Club  
7.30pm to 9.30pm

comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council

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**A basic Introduction to Energy Information Workshop**

**FREE workshop to provide Tips & Information on:-**

- Advice and guidance on achieving conservation and greater efficiency in heating your home.
- Review of the benefits of the new Home Smart Meters.
- Understand what renewable energy is and sources of renewable energy.
- Up-to-date technologies & products to help manage your energy needs.
- How Communities can work together to achieve energy savings.
- Grants available to homeowners and community groups.

ENERGY TEAM

A further two bespoke workshops will be run for Elected Representatives with the purpose of providing awareness of the importance of their role in influencing the outcome of the formation/activation of a Sustainable Energy Communities and to familiarise them with the key processes of energy upgrades for units. The third workshop is designed for Sustainable Energy Communities who have completed their Energy Master Plans and will outline the next step of identifying homes or community facilities for energy upgrades to make them more efficient, warmer and save money. It will also be suitable for Sustainable Energy Communities who have not completed their Energy Master Plans to inform them of the next steps to be taken after completion of their Energy Management Plans.

### **Meath County Council / SEAI Partnership**

Congratulations to Ashbourne SEC who have recently been approved for €20,000 in funding to carry out an Energy Management Plan for Ashbourne under the SEC programme.

### **Presentation to Department of Rural & Community Development**

Climate Action Section gave a presentation to the senior staff in the DRCD on 24<sup>th</sup> October on the Trim Air Quality Project update, challenges and future aims of the project.

### **Climate Action Plan**

We have prepared a Draft Climate Action Plan for County Meath. The draft plan responds to the continuing challenges presented by climate change and lays out Meath County Council's course of action over the five-year lifetime of the plan (2024 – 2029).

The draft plan is currently going through strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and appropriate assessment (AA), upon completion of these assessments, the draft plan will go to statutory public consultation. The adoption of the draft plan is a reserved function and will be presented for adoption by our elected members in early 2024.

# Housing Services



## Capital Programme

### Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE</b>			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	74	Q1 2024	Q4 2025
Bailey Court, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Church Street, Kells	3	Q12025	Q1 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>		
<b>PLANNING LODGED WITH AN BORD PLEANALA</b>			
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	Q3 2023**	Q4 2024**
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q3 2023**	Q2 2025**
<b>SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS &amp; DETAILED DESIGN</b>			
Nangle Close, Navan	12	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
<b>COMBINED PLANNING STAGE &amp; DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q4 2023	Q3 2024
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q4 2023	Q3 2024
Connaught Grove	47	Q1 2024	Q3 2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>			

Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Lagore Lawn, Phase 2, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Q4 2023
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>		
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>528</b>		

**\*\*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	4
Athboy	Part V	8
Bettystown	Part V	8
Drogheda	Part V	8
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	24
Enfield	Part V	5
Kells	Part V	5
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Navan	Part V	37
Longwood	Part V	3
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Slane	Part V	6
Stamullen	Part V	2
Trim	Part V	4
Kells	Turnkey	15
Bettystown	Turnkey	76
Navan	Turnkey	4
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Kells	CAS	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>246</b>

**36 of these units are scheduled for delivery in 2023.**

**Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the end of September 2023.**

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	<b>NO. OF UNITS</b>
Drogheda	Part V	11
Dunshaughlin	Part V	4
Kells	Part V	5
Trim	Part V	16
Navan	Part V	7
Donacarney	Part V	2
Kilcock	Part V	2
Slane	Part V	1
Enfield	Part V	2
Kells	Turnkey	12
Donacarney	Turnkey	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>74</b>

### **Affordable Housing**

The Online portal for applications for Baker Hall, Navan closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.

Applicants are being assessed and offer letters will issue in the coming weeks.

### **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 well but has experienced a delay in the programme. The Scheme is now estimated for completion in Q2 2024.

#### ***Alverno Court Refurbishment:***

- Phase 4 commenced on 16th June and includes 7nr. properties.
- Works are progressing but it is expected that the Phase 4 programme will overrun (current estimate is c. 1month to late Nov'23).
- The new build units No. 79 & 80 Alverno Heights are complete and tenanted.
- The final Phase 5 (not yet started) will consist of 6nr. properties.

### Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €580,970 including VAT has been approved for 2023.
- To date for 2023, 56nr. LAAWS are complete. Another 16nr. LAAWS are awarded to Contractors. Some further LAAWS may be awarded under 2023 budget; this will be based on medical priority and available funding.
- To date Grant Funding Claims amounting to c.€272,000 have been submitted to the DHLGH. Another claim is being prepared.

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

542 Applications to the value of €3,678,058.18 have been approved to 30/09/2023.

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. For the period from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, works were completed on 13 vacant units, while 6 units became vacant during this period.

	<b>No. of Units Vacant &lt; 3 Months</b>	<b>No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months</b>	<b>No. of Units Vacant &gt; 6 Months</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractors</b>
<b>Ashbourne</b>	1	1	1	2	1
<b>Kells</b>	2	5	3	8	2
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Navan</b>	9	5	2	8	8
<b>Ratoath</b>	2	1	1	2	2
<b>Trim</b>	4	2	2	4	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9**</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>

\*\*Note: Seven of these pre-let properties are major refurb which include energy upgrades 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	Q4 2023
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	29	Respond	Q4 2023
Maudlin Vale, Trim	11	Tuath Housing	Q4 2023
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	39	Cluid	Q4 2024
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
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>119</b>		

### 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	48	Tuath Housing	Q2 2023
The Arches, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Q2 2023
Maudlin Vale, Trim	20	Tuath Housing	Q1 & Q3 2023
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	20	Cluid	Q2 2023
Cois Glaisin, Navan	5	Cluid	Q2 2023
Effernock, Trim	20	Cluid	Q2 2023
Glen Boann, Donancarney	12	Cluid	Q3 2023
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>165</b>		

### Leasing - (including Part V)

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	Q1 2024
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>160</b>		

### Homelessness September 2023

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> of August (Previous Reported Figure)	<b>148</b> <b>(161 adults)</b>	<b>58</b> <b>(107 adults 113 children)</b>	<b>213</b>
Placements at 30 <sup>th</sup> of September	<b>144</b> <b>(157 adults)</b>	<b>63</b> <b>(105 adults and 102 children)</b>	<b>207</b>

Of the households with children, 54 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; house fire; domestic violence; couch surfing; rough sleeping; unsuitable accommodation.

**Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation September 2023**

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	105	-	-	-	28	45	30	2
Couples	26	-	-	-	9	8	7	2
Singles	131	-	-	-	14	41	68	8
Children	102	32	34	36				
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Families –17 adult children</b>
<b>Adult children range from 18 - 23</b>

**Place finder 01/09/2023- 30/09/2023**

<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Exit from Emergency Accommodation</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Homeless Prevention</b>	<b>1</b>

**Tenant Liaison Team September 2023**

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	76	46
Occupancy of Dwelling	25	21
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	30	17
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	5	3
<b>Total Received 01/09/2023- 30/09/2023</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>87</b>

### Standards in Rented Accommodation

3,565 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of September 2023. Of these 861 were first inspections, 59 properties passed after their first inspection and 622 properties in total passed the minimum standards during that time period. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

### Social Housing Supports

- 824 applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. 544 were successful.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> September 2023

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>MCC Direct Allocations</b>	249
<b>Transfers</b>	31
<b>Approved Housing Bodies</b>	247
<b>Rental Accommodation Scheme</b>	3
<b>Housing Assistance Payment</b>	284
<b>Long Term Leasing</b>	9
<b>Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)</b>	1
<b>AHB CALF Acquisition</b>	164
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>998</b>

### Choice Based Lettings Advertised up to 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2023

<b>No. of Bed rooms</b>	<b>Ashbourne MD No. of properties</b>	<b>Laytown/ Bettystown MD No. of properties</b>	<b>Kells MD No. of properties</b>	<b>Navan MD No. of properties</b>	<b>Ratoath MD No. of properties</b>	<b>Trim MD No. of properties</b>
<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2</b>	1	0	1	2	29	3
<b>3</b>	0	0	4	1	9	5
<b>4</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8</b>

# Community Development



## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC Meeting was held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 with the next meeting to take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The LAG Meeting was held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 with the next meeting to take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Meath Local Development Strategy has been approved with the implementation of the LEADER programme to commence in due course.

## Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

Healthy Meath launched Mindful Connect (a resource pack, network and Ambassador programme) on World Mental Health Day the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, an initiative to promote positive mental health in the community of Meath in collaboration with Louth County Council and SOSAD Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Coordinator attended a workshop in Galway to prepare a Healthy Ireland Local Government strategy with Minister Naughton also in attendance. Other Healthy Meath projects are ongoing throughout October including a smoking cessation day at Buvinda House, a series of nutrition workshops with Meath Travellers Workshop and Kells FRC and positive mental health workshops.



### **Comhairle na nÓg**

The annual Comhairle na nÓg AGM took place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October in the Castle Arch Hotel in Trim. Comhairle na nÓg members recently took part in a consultation with the MCC Climate Action Team regarding the new Climate Action Plan.

### **Pride of Place Initiative**

The County Pride of Place Awards night will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November in The Ardboyne Hotel.

### **Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place awards**

The Gala Dinner & Gala Award Ceremony 2023 will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November in Armagh City Hotel hosted by Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council. The nominated groups are: Summerhill Tidy Towns, Kells Community Allotments and Solas Glan Community Garden.

### **Meath Age Friendly**

Meath Age Friendly distributed ten laptops for OPC members, members of their groups, and other older people in need of them, from Meath County Council IT Department. The laptops are pre-loved and in perfect working order. These laptops will mean members can now have their own device for keeping in touch with loved ones, or accessing emails sent through the OPC.

Blackwater park in Navan has been chosen as the first public park that will be reviewed by Meath OPC in terms of being accessible and having appropriate and adequate seating. Discussions are underway with the Executive OPC members and this will be developed and completed by the end of the year.

Ita Healy, chair of Meath OPC was elected as the chairperson of the National Network of Older Person's Councils (NNOPC). Her work as chair of Meath OPC has encouraged her to go forward for national chairperson and there is no doubt that her contribution as National Chairperson will be greatly appreciated.

### **Joint Migrant Integration Forum**

The date for the Migrant Information Event being hosted by the Joint Migrant Integration Forum has been changed to the **8<sup>th</sup> November** in the Glenside Hotel, in Drogheda. This event will showcase the work of the Forum in supporting migrants across different aspects of life. The event will be informative and practical with inspirational elements of different cultures on show.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

The final Joint Policing Committee meeting of 2023 is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Public Participation Network**

A Leadership Training workshop was held in Summerhill to support over 15 volunteers in their community groups.

Trim MD groups met on October 18<sup>th</sup> in Summerhill Community Centre, with presentations from Teagasc, Enfield Credit Union Greenify loans, Trim SEC and MCC Climate Action team. Secretariat and staff attended Midlands Regional PPN in Naas on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and National PPN Conference in Arklow from October 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. The next Plenary is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup> in Wilkinstown Community Centre. There are now 597 groups registered with Meath PPN.

### **National Broadband Plan**

There are now 886 connections (as of 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023) to the NBI network. Up 22 connections in the last month. No new Deployment Areas have been released for connections since the last update.

### **Microsoft Dream Space**

Microsoft Dream Space and Meath County Council have opened registration for the 2024 Dream Space Showcase programme. Schools and clubs will be challenged to develop projects to enter a County and National Coding showcase in May/June 2024. Schools can register for the information sessions on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November at <https://aka.ms/DSSeol>

### **Telecommunications Action Group**

Meath County Council hosted the latest meeting of the Country's Broadband Officers in Buvinda House on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. The officers heard updates on the County's Trim Air Quality Monitoring Project which was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development's Digital Innovation Programme, the work being done by Meath Libraries to support and develop digital skills for library members both young and old as well as updates from National Broadband Ireland and the Department of Rural & Community Development.

# Libraries Services



## Enfield Library



Senior students from Baconstown National School attended the first event in Enfield library on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October – a visit by leading author Sinead Moriarty.

This was a **closed event** and formed part of the countywide Children's Book Festival – [Children's Book Festival | Meath.ie](https://www.meath.ie/childrens-book-festival/)

Sinéad Moriarty is the much-loved author of 16 adult novels, and her books have been translated into 25 languages. Sinead has won over readers and critics by telling stories that are humane, moving and relevant, and her children's books are now inspiring a new generation of readers. 'The New Girl', her debut children's fiction, won the An Post Award for Teen and Young Adult Book of the Year in 2021. 'The Truth About Riley' was nominated the following year in the same category. Suitable for 5th and 6th classes.

### **Call for Proposals ICT Funding 2023**

The public library strategy, 'The Library is the Place - Information, Recreation, Inspiration', was launched in July 2023. The strategy promotes the vision of public libraries as leaders in enabling and supporting all people, across all communities, to be informed, connected, literate individuals, skilled for life. It also commits to support strategic actions to develop public libraries as enablers of digital services and facilitators of digital skills development while also recognising the importance of enhancing digital inclusion and providing up-to-date ICT infrastructure.

A key strategic action is the development of a new national 'Skills for Life' umbrella programme which, it is intended, will be available through all library authorities by the end of 2024. This programme will support lifelong learning by helping people to improve their basic digital skills, media literacy and business and employment skills. The strategy also commits to begin delivering comprehensive training in 2023 to help staff develop and expand their digital skills, and a cohort of digital library specialists will be created in 2024 to support better digital services in each library authority.

In recent weeks, on behalf of the Department, Libraries Development, LGMA, compiled information on the devices that are currently used by the public in all library authority areas, that may need to be replaced. Following on from this exercise DRCD invited Library Authorities to submit proposals for ICT equipment that will be procured by direct drawdown from OGP Frameworks:

Approvals were expected to issue from DRCD by 13 October 2023.

The objective was that all approvals under the call would be fully spent and drawn down by Library Authorities in 2023. Therefore, claims for payment are to be submitted to the Department, accompanied by invoices on or before 10 November 2023. Claim forms issue with the approval letters.

DECADE OF CENTENARIES CONFERENCE

# THE BIG HOUSE IN MEATH

Saturday 4th November 2023

Hosted by Meath County Archive

Supported by the *Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012–2023*

Meath County Council Buvinda House Dublin Road Navan C15 Y29

## PROGRAMME

9:30–10:00	Registration
10:00–10:20	Welcome Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive, Meath County Council
10:20–10:30	Opening – Dr Peter Connell, Meath History Workshop
10:30–10:55	Dr Terry Dunne, 'Not enough land to sod a lark': agrarian social movements in the Irish Revolution'
10:55–11:15	Tea and Coffee
11:15–11:40	Aidan Gilsean, Maynooth University, A social history of evicted tenants in Leinster 1879–1939
11:40–12:05	Dr Andrew Tierney, TCD, Digitising Summerhill: a 3D visualisation of one of Ireland's great houses
12:05–12:30	Dr Gavin Hughes, TCD, The 'Almost' Lost Treasures of a King: Lismullen House and William III
12:30–12:50	Q&A
12:50–13:30	Lunch
13:30–13:55	Dr Ciarán Reilly, Maynooth University, Offaly and the big house
13:55–14:20	Dr Jean Young, 'A barbarous mania of incendiarism': Big House burnings in Co Louth, 1921–23
14:20–14:45	Dr Finola O Kane, UCD, Sharp gradients of history in the 19th century Irish House Garden
14:45–15:15	Terence Reeves Smyth, 'Development of parks and gardens in North East Leinster 1660–1900'
15:15–15:40	Robert O'Byrne, Irish Country House in the 21st century
15:40–16:00	Q&A



Over a hundred and twenty people are booked in to attend 'The Big House in Meath' conference in Buvinda on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. A publication will be produced containing the talks presented on the day and this will be shared later.

# Transportation Services



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

<p><b>N51 Dunmoe Phase 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction Works to mainline re Accommodation Works are ongoing.</li> <li>• Construction Works to side roads re landscaping Works, surfacing and Accommodation works are ongoing.</li> <li>• A temporary traffic management system will continue in place to facilitate ongoing construction works along the route.</li> <li>• Contract is expected to be substantially complete in Q3 2023</li> </ul>
<p><b>N2 Slane Bypass &amp; Public Realm Enhancement Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents are being finalised to be lodged with An Bord Pleanála</li> </ul>
<p><b>N52 Grange to Clontail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanála have on this CPO.</li> </ul>
<p><b>N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary design work is ongoing to refine the preferred option corridor for the scheme at the tie in junction locations</li> <li>• To inform this work the Ground Site commenced in August 2023</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Road Resurfacing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N52 Reask to Carlanstown – resurfacing contract commenced</li> <li>• N51 Slane to County Boundary resurfacing contractor appointed</li> </ul>

- N51, N52, N2 and M2 Ballybin Road Overbridge – pavement and bridge joint repair works contract has commenced

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

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

#### **Road Works Programme**

The following works commenced in each MD since the last meeting;

#### **Ashbourne MD:**

L-5018-0 Ballybin Restoration Improvement

#### **Kells MD:**

R-165-65 Drumconrath Restoration Improvement

#### **Navan MD**

L-1016-0 Ratoath Meadowbank Hill (night works) Restoration Improvement (CI942/HRA)

L-6207-0 Culcommon/Ribstown Restoration Improvement (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing)

#### **CIS**

Works complete at

Fearmore

Johnstown, Kilskyre and

Towlaght, Clonard

#### **LIS**

Works complete at

Fosterfields

Alexandereid and

Boddington

LIS works commenced at

Agher, Summerhill

Corstown, Drumconrath

Straneybeg, Rathmolyon

Hallstown, Ashbourne

Parke, Kinnegad

Kennetstown, Bellewstown

Crossdrum, Oldcastle

Seraghstown, Crossakiel

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

#### **R162 Kilberry Phase 2B:**

Works, which involve road drainage, road repair and footpath upgrade from Meath Farm Machinery to the GAA club on the R162, commenced on site and expected to be completed Q1 2024.

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

<b>2023 Schemes Road</b>
<p><b>2023 schemes</b> – discussions and design works ongoing</p> <p>L4007 Shambo Cross – at tender assessment stage.</p>

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

<b>2023 DoT Schemes</b>	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works completed, bar watermain replacement
Mellifont Bridge (L5606)	Works complete
Clonguiffin Bridge (L4020)	Works complete, resurfacing scheduled for end of October
Springhall Culvert (R195)	Contractor appointed
Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	Contractor appointed
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2023	Complete
BAMS Surveys and Inspections	Surveys and Inspections underway
Minor Bridge Works 2023	Works commenced
Obelisk Bridge, Oldbridge	Works commenced, contract administered by Louth Co Co

**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 – Works ongoing.  
L-3405 Drumconrath Flood Works – Works due to commence early November.  
L-6814 Fennor  
R-941 Mullingar Rd, Kells

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

<p><b>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paving works to front of the new substation at Kennedy Plaza are now 80% complete.</li> <li>• Paving works from plaza car park entrance to the Credit Union completed.</li> <li>• Road surfacing works on Kennedy Road were completed from plaza car park to Post Office .</li> <li>• New flowerbeds adjacent to site of old St Laurance Hotel and Eddie Rockets were landscaping.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with business owners on Trimgate Street and Market Square continuing.</li> <li>• New pedestrian crossing in Kennedy Plaza completed.</li> <li>• Paving works at corner of Kennedy Road/Trimgate Street adjacent to Little Chislars completed.</li> <li>• Paving works adjacent to Tierneys Newsagents completed..</li> <li>• New pedestrian crossing at AIB to Tierneys completed.</li> <li>• Watermain works from Market Square/Kennedy Road junction to Trimgate Street commenced.</li> <li>• Paving works, including new kerbing and services, from Tierneys Newsagents, past the entrance to the ZipYard, and towards the Central have commenced.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New paving block footpaths constructed on Eastern side of Railway Street.</li> <li>• New set-back boundary wall to Station House property completed; various elements of accommodation works ongoing.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> stage of new Eir chamber constructed on Railway St.</li> <li>• Vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Railway St relocated to the eastern side of the road to facilitate the commencement of drainage, kerbing and paving works on the western side of the street.</li> <li>• Foundations and 1<sup>st</sup> stage of plinth for the railings and gates on front of County Hall Building have been constructed.</li> <li>• Major sections of kerbing and footpath construction works completed on Connolly Avenue section on the western side of the street.</li> <li>• New foundations for overhead ESB poles installed adjacent to Connolly Avenue.</li> <li>• Retaining Wall RW01 at Connolly Ave to facilitate pedestrian crossing constructed.</li> <li>• Relocation of existing underground services on Trim Road is continuing.</li> <li>• Drainage works on Trim Road adjacent to Connolly Avenue completed + significant drainage works on Trim Road towards Beechmount completed.</li> <li>• Temporary Traffic Management plan and diversion route in place on Trim Road from Carriage Road to Dan Shaw Road is being maintained in place.</li> <li>• Works on eastern side of Connolly Avenue/Trim Road section to commence, including installation of new scheme of public lighting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant/Designers continuing with Detailed Design of cycle and pedestrian scheme from Solstice roundabout to R147 (Circular</li> </ul>

	Road) to link with the Athlumney Road (R153 – Cantilevered Bridge).
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants working on Phase 5 Detailed Design process.</li> <li>• Contractor for Sewer CCTV has completed the survey works.</li> <li>• Contractor for Site Investigations have completed works. Awaiting deliverables to inform the design process.</li> <li>• Communications ongoing with affected landowners with respect to potential land acquisition.</li> <li>• Progress being made on detailed design of signalised junctions.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tender process completed and a Successful Tenderer identified.</li> <li>• Tender appointment process on hold pending on approval from NTA to progress the Scheme to detailed design phase.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle &amp; Pedestrian Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants continuing design work associated with Phase 2 - Concept Development &amp; Option Selection.</li> <li>• Preparations are ongoing for a non-statutory consultation of an emerging preferred option to stakeholders ahead of the Statutory process.</li> <li>• Options, to include a route on the N51, are currently being prepared.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary design works in relation design elements and stakeholder impacts being finalised in preparation of the submission of a Part 8 Planning application.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design work continuing on the potential options, including the proposed upgrade of the Academy Street/R147 junction.</li> </ul>
<b>Convent Road to Metges Road &amp; Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants finalising the Option Selection process for the section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor. It is planned to commence a non-statutory consultation process on the options for this element of the scheme in November. The Option Selection process for the section from Convent Road to Metges Road is continuing.</li> </ul>
<b>Pathfinder Scheme – R161, Navan to Trim Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pathfinder Programme forms a key part of the implementation of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy and Meath County Council has been successful in obtaining funding commitment from the NTA for the delivery of a high-quality rural cycleway between Navan and Trim, a distance of approximately 12km</li> <li>• Active Travel Section has very recently appointed Consultants to deliver this project and the Concept Development/Option Selection Process is about to commence.</li> </ul>
<b>Ratoath Pedestrian &amp; Cycling Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final tender documents issued to NTA for approval to issue tender.</li> </ul>

<b>N51 Park &amp; Ride</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final elements (cctv system, parking meters) installed and commissioned.</li> <li>• Signage installed.</li> <li>• Works to N51/L3416 junction completed.</li> <li>• Works to the proposed new pedestrian crossing on the N51 adjacent to the roundabout junction at the R147/N51 ('Woodies roundabout') commenced</li> </ul>
<b>Bus Shelter Enabling Works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus stop works in Ratoath completed. Preparing final account.</li> </ul>
<b>Accessible Bus Stops Works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus stop works in Trim completed. Preparing final account.</li> </ul>
<b>Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Route Option Selection Report finalised. Workshop scheduled with the NTA 9<sup>th</sup> November.</li> </ul>
<b>Safe Routes to Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works well progressed at Realt Na Mara Donacarney, SN Pheadair agus Phoil Drumconrath and Ashbourne Community schools.</li> </ul>
<b>Eastham Road Cycle Facilities, Bettystown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing Preliminary Design including extensive local liaison with stakeholders (Landowners Residents, Gardaí, etc) and preparing for Part 8 Planning application.</li> </ul>
<b>Newtown Road Trim Walking Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Design complete, progressing land acquisition agreements and final preparation for Part 8 planning application.</li> </ul>
<b>Greenogue Bus Stop (on R125)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design works well progressed and preparing documentation and plans for Part 8 planning application.</li> </ul>
<b>Donacarney Footpath and Cycleway Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor has progressed well despite some severe adverse weather in early and late August. The R150 road has re-opened and works to be complete later this year.</li> </ul>

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

<b>Millennium Pedestrian Bridge - Trim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerging preferred bridge option identified. Ground Investigation works carried out on site and design and environmental studies progressing.</li> </ul>
<b>Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works substantially complete between Tudor Grove and Rath Lodge. New works area opened from Rath Lodge to south of Ballybin Road junction.</li> </ul>
<b>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wilinstown to Castletown</b> Due for completion early November</li> <li>• <b>Nobber to Kingscourt</b> <b>Nobber to Kilmainhamwood</b> Opening 25<sup>th</sup> October. <b>Kilmainhamwood to Poles Cross</b> Opening 10<sup>th</sup> November. <b>Poles Cross to Kingscourt</b> 70% complete</li> </ul>
<b>Boyne Greenway &amp; Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional flooding assessment and modelling as identified by TII requirements completed now, and completing final draft of the Feasibility Study and Options Assessment report.</li> </ul>

<b>Dunshaughlin Public Realm Main Street</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised design development to Part 8 statutory approval stage. Planning application to be lodged in August</li> </ul>
<b>Kilberry Looped Walking Trail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Transportation progressing this project on behalf of Community Section.</i> Contractor has commenced works on the Kilberry-Slane Road, R163 and progressing well.</li> </ul>

#### 5. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Housing Estate Road Surfacing</b>	<b>Ratoath MD:</b> Contractor commenced works in Garnett Estate Dunboyne
<b>Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening determination referred to An Bord Pleanala. Part 8 process stalled as a result. Further information submitted to ABP.</li> </ul>
<b>LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New road from Kells road to Ratholdren Road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stage 2 Tenders received and being assessed. Contract award currently expected Q4 2023 with circa 24 month estimated construction duration.</li> </ul>
<b>Batterstown Traffic Calming scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part 8 closing date for submissions was 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Submissions received being reviewed.</li> </ul>
<b>Traffic Calming Ramps</b>	Works substantially completed. One additional site added – Castletown, works scheduled for late November.
<b>Footpath Rehabilitation Programme</b>	Footpath works completed at Blackcastle Navan and Frayne Road Athboy. Pedestrian crossing underway at Northlands and Golf Links Road, Bettystown.

# Planning and Development



## 1. **Planning Applications (Section 34)**

1355 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2023 to 20.10.2023. This is compared to 1380 in the same period in 2022.

## 2. **Commencement Notices**

543 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2023 to 20/10/2023. This is compared to 506 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	219
Multi-Units	1036** (units)
Extensions	106
Other*	54

\* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

## 3. **Development Contributions (Section 48)**

Development Contribution receipts up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 show a collection of €6,004,321. This is compared to €11,004,174 collected in the same period last year. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

### **Temporary Waiver Scheme**

In addition to the above, development contributions covered by the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver Circular introduced in April will be recouped from the DHLGH. There are 623 units to date eligible for this Scheme, totalling €4,367,165. The first claim was submitted to the Department on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and the recoupment has been received. The second claim was lodged on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and we are awaiting payment. *(Please note: MCC can only recoup the waived contribution on receipt of a signed and witnessed undertaking from each applicant).*

The new Development Contribution Scheme was on public display until Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. A total of 4 submissions were received. The CE report on these submissions is being presented to the November Council Meeting for consideration.

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

129 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 20.10.2023

New Cases to be Investigated	25
Warning Letter	69
Enforcement Notice	8
Referred for Legal Proceedings	1
Closed	26

\*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	No meeting held in October
Trading Online Voucher Approval	4
Mentoring Assignments Approved	20
Attended Online Training Courses	66
Attended National Women's Enterprise Day event	63
LEAN for Micro Applications	2
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	11
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	4
Attended Financial Advice Clinic	3

The Planning & Economic Development teams are finalising the Strategic Employment Sites Brochure to aid with marketing Meath to potential investors and highlighting the availability of suitably zoned lands in the County as well as the connectivity to Dublin Airport/Ports/Motorways etc.

There is currently a tender running to secure a suitable consultant to progress a Skills Audit for County Meath, so that breakdown can be provided to any potential investors on the availability of key qualifications within the county. This will also assist with identifying any existing gaps that could focus future targeted campaigns for the local authority, as well as outside stakeholders and education providers. The tender closes on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Meath Economic Development Forum is scheduled to meet again on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, when focus will be given to establishing some working groups to progress ideas generation for the various key focus sectors.

# Tourism



## The Meath Business and Tourism Awards

The Meath Business and Tourism Awards are in full swing with 29 businesses shortlisted. The pitch night was held in AIB Navan on October 25<sup>th</sup> where each business got the opportunity to pitch their business and its unique selling point in 2 minutes to the judges.

## Release of Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway Map and opening of Nobber to Kilmainhamwood section

Meath County Council was delighted to announce the official opening of the next section of the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway between Nobber and Kilmainhamwood on October 25<sup>th</sup>. This opening provides a seamless 10.1km walking and cycle path commencing in Castletown South and finishing just north of Kilmainhamwood.

Together with the previously opened section from Navan to Wilkinstown (7.7kms), this marks a milestone in Meath County Council's work to develop what will be 30kms of walking and cycle route between Navan and Kingscourt passing on or close to six villages and connecting the towns of Navan and Kingscourt.

As part of the announcement, Meath County Council has released the map of [Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway](#), which clearly illustrates the main sections that are open to the public to use immediately, in addition to providing a guide to parking and the distances between each section enabling users to plan their visit.

It is anticipated that this new Greenway will attract many visitors to County Meath to experience Ireland's newest Greenway and what will be a walker's paradise with pedestrian pathways connecting the six villages, encouraging economic activity and an opportunity for visitors to interact with the local people.

Visit [www.boynevalleytolakelandsgreenway.ie](http://www.boynevalleytolakelandsgreenway.ie)

## Púca Halloween Festival

The build-up for the Púca Halloween Festival is underway and a large crowd is anticipated for the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October. 16 international tour operators/buyers and 20 international media will be in Trim and Athboy for the weekend. The festival is focussing on sustainability and has implemented many measures to engage the community and implement a sustainability policy. By using HVO the festival has reduced energy emissions by 90%. Púca removed 15k plastic cups from landfill by using reusable cups in the Big Top Tent. All vendors in the Harvest Market have signed up to the Púca Festival Sustainability Policy. There is an emphasis for this year's festival on transport with a shuttle bus between both Trim and Athboy while a bus is serving key local towns.

## **Disability Awareness Training**

Boyne Valley Tourism is teaming up with Empower Abilities and James Casserly who is a wheelchair user to deliver this new training on disability awareness. James and his parents Vicki and Paul have visited the Boyne Valley on invitation from Boyne Valley Tourism on a number of occasions to experience our tourism offering and what it offers to people with differing mobility issues. On 7<sup>th</sup> November at CityNorth Hotel, Vicki will be giving their experiences and offering practical advice and guidance on the different ways you make your business more accessible for people with disabilities.

The training will take on Tuesday 7th November, 2-4pm at **CityNorth Hotel & Conference Centre**.

Please RSVP to [info@discoverboynevalley.ie](mailto:info@discoverboynevalley.ie) to book.

## Finance



### Housing Loans :

<b>RIHL/LAHL Data 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023</b>		
Fully Completed Applications Received	57	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	Relates to 2023 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	53	40 relate to 2023, 13 relate to 2022.  (3 x 2022 applications and 1 x 2023 applications were reassessed for the increase in house price limit as per Circular 07/2023 effective 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023)
Refused by Credit Committee	17	14 relate to 2023, 3 relate to 2022 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	1	2023 application
Active Approvals	34.08	33 relate to 2023, 1 relates to 2022, 0.08 relates to 2021
Expired	26	24 relate to 2022 & 2 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	24.78	12 relates to 2023, 11.86 relate to 2022 applications, 0.92 relate to 2021 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 and in some cases relate to applications from 2022. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.