



# Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

## Monthly Management Report

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December 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

Meath County Council's Budget Meeting 2024 took place in Buvinda on Monday November 27, 2023. The Elected Members adopted the Revenue Budget which has a budget expenditure of over €208.7m, an increase of over €22m (or 12%) from Budget 2023. During the term of this Council, the annual Budget has increased by almost 68%, which has brought new services, enhanced service levels and provided additional human and financial resources in critical and emerging areas.

Meath County Council has fully embraced the festive season. We kicked off in Ashbourne on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, followed by Navan and Bettystown on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Lights will be switched on in Trim on November 30, at 5.30pm, Dunboyne on December 2 at 8.00pm, Kells December 3 at 4.30pm and Laytown December 9 at 6.00pm.



## Shop Local

Meath County Council is launching a free shuttle bus service in Navan this December.

The shuttle service will run on Friday, December 1st, Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd. The service returns on Friday, December 8th, and will run straight through until Saturday, December 23rd.

The bus will run from the new Moathill Park and Ride located at the back entrance to St. Patrick's Classical School on the N51 to the new bus stop on Kennedy Road, at Kennedy Place opposite Navan Shopping Centre. There will be no other stops along the route. The service begins at 10.00am with the last pick up on Kennedy Road at 6.30pm.

Visitors can park their car for free at Moathill Park and Ride for the month of December, hop on to the shuttle bus, and hop off on Kennedy Road. Making your visit to Navan hassle-free!



**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL  
FREE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE**

**OPERATION DATES AND TIMES**

Moathill Park & Ride N51 - back entrance to St Patrick's School	Kennedy Road Kennedy Place - opposite to Navan Shopping Centre	December 2023
10.00am 11.00am 12 noon 1.00pm	10.30am 11.30am 12.30pm 1.30pm	Friday, December 1st Saturday, December 2nd Sunday, December 3rd
Lunch Break 2.00pm to 3.00pm		<b>DAILY FROM:</b> Friday, December 8th to Saturday, December 23rd
3.00pm 4.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm	3.30pm 4.30pm 5.30pm 6.30pm	

No other stops will be facilitated along the route

comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council

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## NUACHT CÚLA 4

Ghlac an t-Oifigeach Gaeilge páirt in agallamh le cainéal teilifíse do pháiste Cúla 4 chun labhairt faoin Glasbhealach nua ó Ghleann na Bóinne go dtí Fearann an Locha. Labhair Comhairle Chontae na Mí ar an gcuid i gCill Mhaighneann. Seo í an glasbhealach is nua in Éirinn, a thosnaíonn i bPáirc na hAbhann Duibhe san Uaimh agus críochnaíonn sé ag Dún an Rí. Thug an t-agallamh deis an scéal a scaipeadh maidir leis an áit seo i measc páistí agus teaghlaigh agus pobal na Gaeltachta.

The Irish Language Officer did an interview with the Cúla 4 tv channel for children to speak about the new Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway. Meath County Council spoke on the section in Kilmainhamwood. This is the newest Greenway in Ireland, that starts in Blackwater Park in Navan and ends at Kingscourt. The interview gave the opportunity to spread the word about this amenity among children and families and the Gaeltacht community.

## **AN UAIMH – BAILE SEIRBHÍSE GAELTACHTA**

Bhuail an t-Oifigeach Gaeilge le hionadaithe ón gceantar áitiúil agus leis an Oifigeach Forbarta – forbairt pobail, Seán Ó Cuirrín ó Ghlór na nGael ag an gcruinniú míosúla san óstán Brú na Bóinne san Uaimh maidir le coiste atá siad ag iarraidh a bhunú le haghaidh an Uaimh a chur chun cinn mar bhaile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta. Na míreanna a pléadh san aireamh ná: - coiste a chlárú le Glór na nGael, fiosrú a dhéanamh maidir le scéimeanna atá ar fáil ag Foras na Gaeilge; maoiniú a bheadh ar fáil ón gComhairle Chontae le haghaidh imeachtaí a eagrú; deontas ata ar fáil ón Oireachtas d’oíche Chultúir; ranganna Gaeilge a eagrú leis an LMETB nó ais éigin eile; ranganna Gaeilge a chur ar fáil do shaoránaigh nua in Eirinn agus leathanach Facebook agus Twitter le cruthú don choiste.

The Irish language Officer met with representatives from the local district and with the Development Officer – community development, Seán Ó Cuirrín from Glór na nGael at the monthly meeting in the Newgrange hotel in Navan regarding the committee they are trying to establish to promote Navan as a Gaeltacht service town. The items discussed included : - to register a committee with Glór na nGael, make an enquiry regarding the schemes that are available with Foras na Gaeilge; funding that would be available from the county council for running events; the grant available from an tOireachtas for culture night; organising Irish language classes with the LMETB or some other facility; make Irish language classes available for new citizens in Ireland and to create a Twitter and facebook page for the committee.

## **FÉILE LEABHAR NA bPÁISTÍ – RÁTH CHAIRN**

Mar chuid den Fhéile Leabhar na bPáistí thug an t-Oifigeach Gaeilge cuairt ar Scoil Uí Ghramhnaigh i Ráth Chairn chun Tráth na gCeist bunaithe ar Leabhair a dhéanamh le rang 5 sa scoil. Bhí an tráth na gceist seo eagraithe le Foireann na leabharlainne le haghaidh Féile Leabhar na bPáistí a chur san áireamh i measc na scoileanna sa cheantar Gaeltachta chomh maith.

As part of the Childrens Book Festival the Irish Language Officer visited Scoil Uí Ghramhnaigh in Ráth Chairn to do a Quiz based on books with 5<sup>th</sup> class in the school. This quiz was organised by the Library staff toward including the schools in the Gaeltacht district in the childrens book Festival also.

# Climate Action and Environment



## Environment

### Green Schools

Forty four schools attended the Green Schools Seminar in October. The seminar included individual courses for each of the Green School Themes – Litter and Waste, Energy, Biodiversity, Water, Travel, Global Citizenship and Marine.

Schools attended the course relevant to the Green Flag that they are working on currently. Applications are due in March and Assessments will follow. Green Flags will be awarded to successful schools in May 2024.

Green Schools is part of the FEE Worldwide Environmental Education Programme.



### In Person (Oct 2023-April 2024):

- For secondary schools (**Reg. ext deadline 6th October**)
- Locations: Navan, Dublin City, Cork City, Athlone
- Regional training days, support sessions, wellbeing workshops and network meetings
- Outdoor clean-ups/water quality testing
- Water packs for each ambassador and GS coordinator/supporting teacher
- Prizes
- 2 Short Reports (students/teachers)

### Waste Prevention Initiative

Meath County Council ran two competitions in support of waste prevention, reminding staff and the public to use reusable cups and bags.

**Up to 25,000** disposable cups are thrown away every **HOUR** in Ireland. The Latte Levy will focus attention on the need for reusable cups.

In the meantime many individuals and businesses are promoting reusable cups, with discounts for those who bring a reusable cup to many outlets.

The Meath County Council cups are made from discarded disposable cups and recycled plastic, in support of a circular economy.



### **Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems – Increase in Grants.**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced that grants available for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (commonly known as Septic Tanks) will be increased to €12,000 from €5,000. The Minister also announced that the qualifying condition that the septic tank must be registered with the local authority prior to 1st February 2013, will be removed.

The Department is in the process of finalising the new regulations and the Council await the terms and conditions relating to the revised scheme which will take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

### **Ending of arrangements for Burning of Agricultural Green Waste**

The Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 makes it an offence to dispose of waste by burning. An initial five year exemption was provided for the permissible disposal of waste by burning where it was done as a final measure after the preferred alternatives had been assessed, the local authority was notified, and the material to be burned consisted only of uncontaminated wood, trees, tree trimmings, leaves, brush or other similar waste generated by agricultural practices – this exemption was extended on several occasions.

In early 2023 the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications announced that the practice of burning agricultural green waste will no longer be permitted after the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Farmers must consider alternative sustainable Management practices for agricultural green waste after this date.

### **National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2024**

The Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications have advised that following a review by the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee the following will be the waste enforcement priorities for the period 2024 :

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity
- Construction and Demolition Waste
- End of Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive and the Waste Metal Industry
- Waste Collection -Household and Commercial
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRIs) and additional local priorities

## **Mornington Dunes Visitor Access and Conservation Management Plan - Public Consultation / Information Day**

Meath County Council in association with National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) as well as other local interested parties have initiated a draft Visitor Access and Conservation Management Plan for Mornington Dunes which are part of the Boyne Coast & Estuary SAC as well as the Boyne Estuary SPA. The draft plan which is considered necessary to address ongoing damage to the Dunes from recreational access, outlines a series of targeted actions aimed at restoring and preserving this unique natural habitat.

The consultation period for the draft plan will run from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and during which period written submissions can be made to [aster4info@gmail.com](mailto:aster4info@gmail.com) or through <https://consult.meath.ie/>. The draft plan can be viewed at <https://theecologycentre.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Mornington-Dunes-Management-Plan-9th-November-2023.pdf>

In addition to this display period an information day is to be held in Scoil Realt na Mara, Mornington, Donecarney Co. Meath (A92 T382) on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10 am until 4 pm and when representatives from the above organisations will be present to address any queries and facilitate the making of submissions on the day.

## **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme allocation of Funding -provision Boardwalk from Mornington to Bettystown**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development and Minister for Social Protection has announced the allocation of funding of €50,000 to Meath County Council under the project development category of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), to engage Consultants to complete environmental assessments, preliminary design and specification for a planning application in respect of the provision of a Boardwalk through the Dunes from Mornington to Bettystown.

## **LAWPRO Community Water Development Fund 2024**

The Community Water Development Fund aims to fund projects that will bring about improvements in water quality and/or raise public awareness of the value of good water quality and how to improve it. It aims to build community capacity in water related challenges, working together to improve water quality. The application form and further details of the fund can be viewed at <https://consult.watersandcommunities.ie/en/content/community-water-development-fund-grant-application-form-2024>. Closing date for applications -Wednesday, 6th December 2023 at 12 Noon

## **CLIMATE ACTION**

### **Community Climate Action Programme fund:**



**Community &  
Energy**



**Travel**



**Food & Waste**



**Shopping &  
Recycling**



**Local Climate &  
Environmental  
Action**

### **Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities**

#### **Strand 1A: Shared Island Community Climate Action**

Meath County Council has received sanction from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to launch Strands 1 and 1A of the Community Climate Action Programme on the 06/12/2023. Closing date for receipt of applications is 28/02/2024. Community Groups may apply for funding for projects under the themes of Community Energy, Travel, Shopping & Recycling, Food & Waste and Local Climate & Environmental Action. The fund will support community groups to do small, medium and large-scale projects that will shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities. There is no pre-allocated total fund under Strand 1A, but under Strand 1 a total €811,000 has been allocated to Co. Meath.

#### **Drop-In Information Clinics for the Community Climate Action Programme:**

A series of drop-in sessions are taking place in libraries across County Meath for Community Groups to attend to find out more information about the up-coming Community Climate Action Programme funding streams. Community groups are welcome to bring their proposed plans and Meath County Council's Community Climate Action Officer will be on hand to provide guidance and support.

#### **Sustainable Energy Community Workshops**

Meath County Council is committed to working with communities across the Co. Meath to address the challenges for communities and homeowners of managing their energy needs.



A series of tailored Sustainable Energy Community Workshops were held around the county in October and November to provide awareness 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.

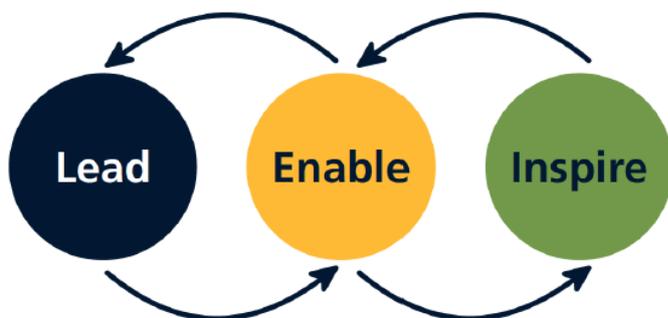
Workshop No. 1 focused on addressing the energy gap in knowledge for members of the public and increasing awareness of how they can better control their energy needs.

Workshop No. 2 focused on providing Elected Representatives with an 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.

Workshop No. 3 was designed for Sustainable Energy Communities who have completed their Energy Master Plans and outlined the next step of identifying homes or community facilities for energy upgrades to make them more efficient, warmer and save money. It was also 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.

A total of 19 Workshops were held both in-person and online, during day-time and evening-time.

**Public Consultation for Meath County Council’s DRAFT Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029**



The Meath County Council Draft Climate Action Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, is now at public consultation stage from 17 November 2023 to 8 January 2024.

A series of drop-in sessions will take place across the county, Council staff will be available to provide guidance on the Draft Climate Action Plan and the consultation process at the following locations:

Trim Library	Tuesday 28 November	18:00 - 19:30
Dunboyne Library	Tuesday 28 November	18:00 - 19:30
Duleek Library	Wednesday 29 November	14:00 - 15:30
Kells Library	Wednesday 29 November	14:00 - 15:30
Laytown Parish Hall	Wednesday 29 November	18:00 - 19:30
Ratoath GAA club house	Wednesday 29 November	18:00 - 19:30
Ard Boyne Hotel Navan	Thursday 30 November	12:30 - 14:00
Ashbourne Library	Thursday 30 November	18:00 - 19:30
Dunshaughlin Library	Thursday 30 November	18:00 - 19:30

# 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, Archdeaonry	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
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>Delivered 2023</b>			
Lagore Lawn, Phase 2, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Completed.
<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

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	<b>NO. OF UNITS</b>
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	33
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 October 2023.**

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	<b>NO. OF UNITS</b>
<b>Drogheda</b>	Part V	11
<b>Dunshaughlin</b>	Part V	4
<b>Kells</b>	Part V	5
<b>Trim</b>	Part V	16
<b>Navan</b>	Part V	10
<b>Donacarney</b>	Part V	2
<b>Kilcock</b>	Part V	2
<b>Slane</b>	Part V	1
<b>Enfield</b>	Part V	2
<b>Kells</b>	Turnkey	12
<b>Donacarney</b>	Turnkey	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>77</b>

### **Affordable Housing**

The Online portal for applications for Phase 2 of Baker Hall, Navan will open on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. 2 open viewings have been held and there has been significant interest. We are undertaking a social media campaign to raise awareness and understanding of the Affordable Housing Scheme and of the units available to purchase in Baker Hall.

### **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. Nov/Dec).
- 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, 68nr. LAAWS are complete. Another 12nr. LAAWS are awarded to Contractors.
- To date Grant Funding Claims amounting to c.€388,000 have been submitted to the DHLGH. Another claim is being prepared.

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

576 Applications to the value of €3,788,186.80 have been approved to 31/10/2023.

#### **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 16th November 2023. For the period from 15th October 2023 to 16th November 2023, works were completed on 6 vacant units, while 9 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	3	0
<b>Kells</b>	2	2	6	8	2
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	2	1	0	1	2
<b>Navan</b>	9	6	2	15	2
<b>Ratoath</b>	4	1	0	1	4
<b>Trim</b>	5	1	1	2	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10**</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>

\*\*Note: Eight 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**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>AHB</b>	<b>Estimated Completion</b>
<b>Applewood Court, Beaufort Place, Navan</b>	19	Tuath Housing	Q4 2023
<b>Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan</b>	29	Respond	Q2 2024
<b>Maudlin Vale, Trim</b>	11	Tuath Housing	Q4 2023
<b>Woodstream, Bailis, Navan</b>	39	Cluid	Q4 2024

<b>Oldcastle</b>	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q4 2024
<b>Tailteann, Navan</b>	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q3 2024
<b>St. Loman Street, Trim</b>	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:**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>AHB</b>	<b>Delivered</b>
<b>Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan</b>	34	Respond	Q2 2023
<b>Swanbrook, Trim Road, Navan</b>	48	Tuath Housing	Q2 2023
<b>The Arches, Dunshaughlin</b>	6	Tuath Housing	Q2 2023
<b>Maudlin Vale, Trim</b>	20	Tuath Housing	Q1 & Q3 2023
<b>The Willows, Dunshaughlin</b>	20	Cluid	Q2 2023
<b>Cois Glaisin, Navan</b>	5	Cluid	Q2 2023
<b>Effernock, Trim</b>	20	Cluid	Q2 2023
<b>Glen Boann, Donancarney</b>	12	Cluid	Q3 2023
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>165</b>		

**Leasing - (including Part V)**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Entity</b>	<b>Estimated Completion</b>
<b>Aylsebury, Clonee</b>	73	Meath County Council	Q4 2023
<b>Metges Road, Navan</b>	42	Tuath Housing	Q4 2023
<b>Dunville, Navan</b>	45	Tuath Housing	Q1 2024
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>160</b>		

**Homelessness October 2023**

	<b>SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN</b>	<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> of August (Previous Reported Figure)	<b>144 (157 adults)</b>	<b>63 (105 adults and 102 children)</b>	<b>207</b>
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> of October	<b>146 (157 Adults)</b>	<b>69 (111 Adults 109 Children)</b>	<b>215</b>

Of the households with children, 61 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment/B&B) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 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; house fire; rough sleeping; unsuitable accommodation

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

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	111	-	-	-	30	43	36	2
Couples	22	-	-	-	4	7	9	2
Singles	135	-	-	-	16	42	69	8
Children	109	35	34	40	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Families –20 adult children</b>
<b>Adult children range from 18 - 23</b>

**Place finder 01/10/2023- 31/10/2023**

<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Exit from Emergency Accommodation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Homeless Prevention</b>	<b>3</b>

**Tenant Liaison Team October 2023**

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	53	25
Occupancy of Dwelling	29	26
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	35	24
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	6	4
Total Received 01/09/2023- 30/09/2023	123	79

**Standards in Rented Accommodation**

3,860 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of October 2023. Of this figure, 1,068 were first inspections, 109 properties passed after their first inspection and 691

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**

- 978 applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. 582 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> October 2023

### **Allocations/Housing Supports**

	<b>Number</b>
<b>MCC Direct Allocations</b>	290
<b>Transfers</b>	56
<b>Approved Housing Bodies</b>	221 *
<b>Rental Accommodation Scheme</b>	3
<b>Housing Assistance Payment</b>	302
<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>1046</b>

*\*AHB's allocation figure was over reported in previous monthly report.*

### **Choice Based Lettings Advertised up to 31st of October 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>	0	0	0	32	0	0
<b>3</b>	0	3	0	11	7	3
<b>4</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

# Community Development



## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The most recent LCDC took place Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with the final meeting for 2023 scheduled for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

## LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The most recent LAG Meeting took 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 has developed a new healthy lifestyle campaign to support communities to promote healthier lifestyles. The November / December Healthy Meath Newsletter was published. The Healthy Ireland Coordinator attended the Creativity for Wellbeing Networking Event in Dublin on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, the World Health Organisation Healthy Cities Annual Business Meeting in Utrecht from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of November and the PPN plenary event in Wilkinstown Community Centre on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. A free health check day delivered by the Irish Heart Foundation took place at Buvinda House on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November for staff and members of the public. Pobal announced that the allocation for the Healthy Ireland Fund for 2024 for Meath County Council is €75,000.

## Pride of Place Initiative

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

## Meath Age Friendly

The most recent Meath Age Friendly Alliance meeting was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The Alliance is looking forward to meeting again in the new year to continue delivering more actions within the Meath Age Friendly Strategy.

On the morning of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November the Age Friendly Alliance IT Initiative launched in Colaiste na hInse, in Bettystown. Members of two local older person's groups attended the first class, where they were paired up with Transition Year students who will teach the older participants how to use communication technologies over the next 8 weeks.



### **Joint Migrant Integration Forum**

The Migrant Information Event was hosted by the Joint Migrant Integration Forum on the 8<sup>th</sup> November in the Glenside Hotel, in Drogheda. This event was a great success, with over 60 attendees on the day. Talks were given by MABS, Cultúr, Culture Connect and several other service providers. Exhibitors on the day spoke to many different migrant groups who sought information, and the event was finalised with invigorating dancing and a relaxing session of chair yoga.



The final meeting of the Joint Migrant Integration Forum will be held in person, in the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

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

### **Knockharley Community Grant Scheme**

A meeting of the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee took place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **Public Participation Network**

Staff took part in the Joint Migrant Integration Forum in Glenside Hotel on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

A Community Climate Action Fund workshop took place for member groups on November 15<sup>th</sup> with 41 participants.

The second Plenary of the year took place on November 30<sup>th</sup> in Wilkinstown Community Centre with an opening address from the Leas Cathaoirleach to PPN members. Groups participated in workshops from Healthy Meath, Clann Credo Community Finance, BHP Insurance and Climate Action. Networking and Linkage Group development were also on the agenda.

There are now 603 groups registered with Meath PPN.

### **Digital Strategy & National Broadband Plan**

The 2022 Progress Report on the Digital Strategy and an up to date progress report on the NBP was presented to each Municipal District in November. The completed 2022 Progress Report has been circulated to all members and work is commencing on the review of the strategy.

## Libraries Services

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### **Decade of Centenaries: The Big House in Meath**

Meath County Council Archive service hosted a very successful conference in Buvinda House, Navan on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, reflecting on the role of the Big House in County Meath during the revolutionary period. One hundred and thirty-five people attended the event which was opened by Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paul McCabe and Director of Service, Martin Murray.

The event provided a unique opportunity for local historians to hear academics and experts discuss the impact of agrarian social movements in the period in Meath and neighbouring counties.

The event received generous support from Meath County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023.

### **Family Time at your Library**

Family events and activities will take place in all libraries during the month of December this year to support the involvement of the whole family in children's reading.

*Family Time at your Library* activities are provided to engage family members in the enjoyment of reading and sharing stories. The whole family are also introduced to collections of children's books, e-books, and e-audio books.

The *Family Time at your Library* events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children.

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

Funding has been confirmed for the Meath proposal under the above call to the value of €42,225.96.

The 100% funding awarded by the department will allow for the replacement of all frontline ICT equipment across the branch network and enable the purchase of additional resources to support outreach ICT activities. The new equipment will be in place in early 2024.

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.

# Transportation Services



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

<b>N51 Dunmoe Phase 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor accommodation works to be completed.</li> </ul>
<b>N2 Slane Bypass &amp; Public Realm Enhancement Scheme</b>
<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>
<b>N52 Grange to Clontail</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanála have on this CPO.</li> </ul>
<b>N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon</b>
<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>
<b>National Road Resurfacing</b>
<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> <li>• N51, N52, N2 and M2 Ballybin Road Overbridge – pavement and bridge joint repair works contract has commenced</li> </ul>

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

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

**Road Works Programme****Works were carried out on the following:****Laytown/Bettystown MD:**

R-150 Donacarney (Restoration Improvement)

**Ratoath MD:**

R-157-4 Bennetstown (Restoration Improvement)

R-155-72 Piercetown (Restoration Improvement)

R-157-4 Bennetstown (Restoration Improvement)

R-155-72 Piercetown (Restoration Improvement)

R-154-11 Merrywell (Restoration Improvement)

**Kells MD:**

L-6834-12 Kilskeer (Restoration Improvement)

**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, drainage to east side completed and works progressing on site and expected to be completed Q1 2024.

**R156 Mullagh Cross:**

Topographical and ecological surveys on-going. Constraints study carried out and review of potential options being assessed.

**2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads –Allocation for 2023 schemes - €390,500****2023 Schemes Road****2023 schemes** – discussions and design works ongoing

L4007 Shambo Cross – at tender assessment stage.

**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
Springhall Culvert (R195)	Works scheduled to commence Monday November 20th
Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	Works scheduled to commence Monday November 27th
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2023	Complete
BAMS Surveys and Inspections	Works on progress to be complete by December 1st
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 complete and works to close up the opening in the existing wall in advance of cladding works are complete.</li><li>• New traffic signal erected at Kennedy Road/Trimgate Street junction in advance of commissioning.</li><li>• EV charger installed in Kennedy Plaza in advance of commissioning.</li><li>• Road pavement surfacing works and line marking completed from Kennedy Road/Trimgate Street junction to Market Square.</li><li>• Bollards installed on Kennedy Road.</li><li>• CCTV connection (fibre) to Town Hall installed.</li><li>• New public lighting installed on Kennedy Road and Market Square.</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>• Paved footpath on Eastern side of Railway Street is 90% complete.</li><li>• Accommodation Works to Station House property are well advanced; walls complete, gate have been erected. Drainage, surfacing and side boundary elements to be completed this month.</li><li>• Works at large Eir chamber on Railway St are 90% complete.</li><li>• Kerbing, ducting and paving works on western side of Railway St are advancing and progressing well.</li><li>• Footpath works have commenced on section from bus station to level crossing on eastern side of the street.</li><li>• Major additional sections of kerbing and footpath construction works completed on Connolly Avenue section on the western side of the street.</li><li>• Excavation/site clearance works on Connolly Avenue section (east side of road) have commenced at junction of Woodlands and are</li></ul>

	<p>progressing well in a southerly direction. Ducting and kerbing works to be advanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site clearance, ESB ducting, footpath and kerb preparation works for a significant new section of works to the southern end of Trim Road, from the site compound (western side) to Lidl, has commenced.</li> <li>• Drainage works on Railway Street (western side of the street) has commenced.</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> </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 Road) to link with the Athlumney Road (R153 – Cantilevered Bridge).</li> <li>• Ground Investigation Works to identify the extents of existing retaining walls and structures along R147 to the south of New Bridge have been completed.</li> <li>• Design workshop to take place in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of November.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Navan GDA Cycle Network – NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants working on Phase 5 Detailed Design process.</li> <li>• All 3<sup>rd</sup> party survey/investigations works are now complete.</li> <li>• Communications ongoing with affected landowners.</li> <li>• Traffic signal design workshop has taken place.</li> <li>• Designer to commence producing element/section of the tender package for review by the project team.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle &amp; Pedestrian Scheme</b></p>	<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 the identification of a preferred option to be delivered to stakeholders ahead of the Statutory process.</li> <li>• Options, to include a route on the N51, are currently being examined.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Navan Public Realm – Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary design works in relation design elements and stakeholder impacts being finalised.</li> <li>• Draft design images presented to Navan MD members via project update.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designer to progress final design and produce deliverables for NTA approval of progression to Part 8 application.</li> </ul>
<b>Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design work continuing on 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>• Consultant/Designers have finalised the Option Selection process for the section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor and have developed the Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) for the scheme.</li> <li>• The non-statutory consultation process for the EPO has commenced on 13/11/2023 with a public event in the Newgrange Hotel and will continue online for a period of 4 weeks.</li> <li>• The designers to gather all submission info and commence on preliminary design stage of the scheme.</li> </ul>
<b>Pathfinder Scheme – R161, Navan to Trim Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designers/Consultants appointed in October to deliver this project and the Concept Development/Option Selection Process.</li> <li>• Concept meeting have taken place between project team and designers.</li> <li>• Information gathering including topographical, traffic count, landowner, land use surveys etc are being progressed.</li> <li>• Designers to identify constraints and bring forward options.</li> </ul>
<b>Ratoath Pedestrian &amp; Cycling Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting approval from the NTA to issue Contract 1 tender documents, which includes works on R155 Fairyhouse Road, Woodland Road, R125 Dunshaughlin Road, R125 Main Street and the Super Valu Junction. Design works continuing on remainder of the scheme, including the urban greenway along the Broadmeadow.</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>Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop held with the NTA on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. All routes reviewed in detail. Consultant to review comments and update documents accordingly. Further works required on the route design prior to non-statutory public consultation on the routes in Q1 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Safe Routes to Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works almost complete at Realt Na Mara Donacarne, SN Pheadair agus Phoil Drumconrath and Ashbourne Community schools, minor works as well as traffic signals &amp; public lighting to be completed.</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>• Part 8 planning application submitted.</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>• Works 80% complete, anticipated completion by year end.</li> </ul>

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

<b>Dunboyne Business Park link to R157</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants progressing detailed design. Ground Investigation expected to commence early 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works substantially complete up to Rath Lodge. New works area opened from Rath Lodge to south of Ballybin Road junction. The contractor plans to have all cycle tracks and footpaths completed to north of Circle K by December. Road surfacing in this area will be completed as part of larger area of carriageway surfacing in early 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wilkinstown to Castletown</b> Due to be open before the end of November.</li> <li>• <b><u>Nobber to Kingscourt</u></b> <b>Nobber to Kilmainhamwood</b> Opened 25<sup>th</sup> October. <b>Kilmainhamwood to Poles Cross</b> Opening before the end of November. <b>Poles Cross to Kingscourt</b> 80% complete.</li> </ul>
<b>Boyne Greenway &amp; Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing final draft of the Feasibility Study and Options Assessment report in preparation for non-statutory consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route.</li> </ul>
<b>Dunshaughlin Public Realm Main Street</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Executives for Part 8 report presented to Elected Representatives for consideration.</li> </ul>
<b>Kilberry Looped Walking Trail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation progressing this project on behalf of Community Section. Contractor progressing well, almost complete.</li> </ul>

#### 5. Other Actions/ Projects

<b>Housing Estate Road Surfacing</b>	<b>Ratoath MD:</b> Contractor completed works in Garnett Estate Dunboyne, St. Peter's Park Dunboyne, Mill Farm, Dunboyne and St. Oliver's Park Ratoath.
<b>Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening determination referred to An Bord Pleanála. 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>• Contract award being finalised. Works expected to commence on site early 2024 with expected completion Q4 2025.</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 assessed and statutory process progressing.</li> </ul>
<b>Traffic Calming Ramps</b>	Works substantially completed. One additional site added – Castletown, works scheduled for early December.
<b>Footpath Rehabilitation Programme &amp; small works</b>	Ongoing works at Clonmagaddon Road, Navan. Completing minor works remaining at Kilbride, Dunshaughlin and East Meath.

# Planning and Development



## 1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

1470 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2023 to 17.11.2023. This is compared to 1505 in the same period in 2022.

## 2. Commencement Notices

591 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2023 to 17/11/2023. This is compared to 543 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	242
Multi-Units	1094** (units)
Extensions	120
Other*	56

\* 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 show a collection of €7,193,224. 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 are being recouped from the DHLGH. There are 686 units to date eligible for this Scheme, totalling €4,766,165 (including €1,026,460 in the receipts above, for the September recoupment of waived contributions). Claims have also been lodged for October and November and we are awaiting payment of same. *(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 went on public display and a total of 4 submissions were received. The CE report on these submissions was presented to the November Council Meeting for consideration, with a view to adopting the new scheme at the December Meeting.

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

145 planning enforcement cases have been opened to 17.11.2023

New Cases to be Investigated	22
Warning Letter	77
Enforcement Notice	9
Referred for Legal Proceedings	2
Closed	35

\*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	-
Trading Online Voucher Approval	6
Mentoring Assignments Approved	18
Attended Online Training Courses	59
Attended Meath MADE Launch	100
LEAN for Micro Applications	1
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	7
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	1
Digital for Business Applications	2

The Planning & Economic Development team has produced a Strategic Employment Sites Brochure, detailing the 12 sites with that designation in the County Development Plan. This will assist the Economic Development team, as well as the IDA and Enterprise Ireland, with marketing Meath to potential investors by highlighting the availability of suitably zoned lands in the County as well as the connectivity to Dublin Airport/Ports/Motorways etc. The intention is to build on the detail included in this brochure to further inform on housing & services available in the vicinity of these locations.

The Tender has closed for a Skills Audit for County Meath, which has been identified as a key exercise to allow for a breakdown to be provided to any potential investors on the availability of key qualifications and skills within the county. The contract to progress this audit will be awarded by the start of December.

The team will then look at carrying out a Business Profiling exercise for the County, something which has been identified as important when attracting interest from foreign investors, who are considering locating in an area where similar or complimentary businesses are established already.

The next meeting of the Meath Economic Development Forum took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, where progress from the last meeting was discussed. The members identified a number of priority workstreams to assist the Economic Development team in focusing their approach to the promotion and development of the county.

# Tourism

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## Meath Business and Tourism Awards

Congratulations to the winners in this year's Meath Business and Tourism Awards sponsored by Meath County Council.

- **Overall Business of the Year: Harp Renewables**
- **Overall Tourism Business of the Year: Johnstown Estate**
- Best Customer Experience: Johnstown Estate
- Best small tourism business: Newbarn Farm
- Best Digital Trailblazer: Bellinter House
- Investment in Employee Development and Training – The Zone
- Emerging new business: Elmgrove
- Local Enterprise award: Kells gin
- Best tourism experience – Navan Adventure
- Best Family Business: Harp Renewables
- Best Not for profit: Clann Mór
- Lifetime Achievement: Flowers by Moira

## Navan Racing Festival

Meath County Council and Boyne Valley Tourism along with Failte Ireland supported the inaugural Navan Racing Festival which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November. A press visit was organised by Boyne Valley Tourism with the Mirror newspaper journalist visiting and will write up a piece. Navan Racing Festival worked with the restaurants and publicans in the town to host music and encourage footfall into the town.

## Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2024-2030 Consultation

Consultation on the new 7-year tourism strategy is ongoing and the public are invited to submit their views via a survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/28FPFT8>

The new Tourism Strategy will guide the future development and growth of the tourism industry across the Boyne Valley. It will have an emphasis on sustainability and the integration of the UN SDGs, in addition to incorporating accessibility to create an inclusive destination. Generating an economic spread throughout the destination along with identifying innovative ideas for new projects will be key. There will be a focus on heritage, adventure and activities, food and outdoor trails. The hidden gems along with opportunities within our rural towns and villages will be explored through the consultation process.

## Finance



### Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023		
Fully Completed Applications Received	65	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	3	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	Relates to 2023 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	54	41 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	5	2023 application
Active Approvals	31.08	30 relate to 2023, 1 relates to 2022, 0.08 relates to 2021
Expired	28	24 relate to 2022 & 4 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	26.78	14 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 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and in some cases relate to applications from 2022 and 2021. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

### Commercial Rates:

**Circular Fin 10/2023 - Commencement of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters (LGROMA) Act 2019, as amended.**

#### Background and Update on LGROMA 2019

The Government recognised the need to modernise the collection of commercial rates and the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act (LGROMA) 2019 was passed by the Oireachtas and enacted on 11 July 2019.

However, only certain provisions of the Act relating to rates were commenced in 2019. This was due to pressure of time where other outstanding issues with the Act were not addressed prior to the passing of the legislation. Amendments, which are largely technical in nature, were required prior to further commencement of the Act.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was identified as the vehicle for carrying Rates Act amendments. That Act was signed into law by the President on 13 October 2023. The Minister signed the necessary Orders on 3 November 2023 to commence the bulk of the rates provisions.

#### Main Process Changes resulting from the commencement of the LGROMA 2019 effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

- Removal of two moieties – there will now be a single rate bill for the year
- Amendments to a valuation list will be effective immediately i.e.:
  - Revisions;
  - Additions and Removals; and
  - Appeals (Valuation Tribunal and Courts).
- There will now be provision for pro-rata liability and billing where occupation ends or begins mid-year.

A number of other changes will not be commenced until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, this is to allow sufficient time to prepare, allow for public consultation where necessary and for sufficient notice period to rate payers. These include;

- The application of interest on overdue rates
- A scheme for waiver of rates
- Provision for the abatement of rates in respect of vacant property.

The DHLGH will be consulting with the sector through the Rates Consultation Group in relation to a number of matters on the Act prior to the making of general regulations.