

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

March 2024

This Monthly Management Report is prepared in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and provided to the Elected Members for consideration and information.

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Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

This Monthly Management Report gives an overview of the on-going governance of Meath County Council and is being provided for your information and consideration.

The report covers the following:

Directorate for Corporate Affairs and Governance, Climate Action and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Climate Action and Environment

Directorate for Housing, Community and Cultural Development

Housing Services

Community Development

Library Services

Directorate for Infrastructure, Project Management, People Management and Development

Transportation

Directorate for Planning, Economic and Tourism Development

Planning and Development

Economic Development

Tourism

Directorate for Finance, Information Systems and Water Services

Finance Services

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Preab-Ghaeltacht/Tráthnóna Spraoi - Halla Ráth Cheannaigh

I gcoimhoibriú leis an Oifigeach Gaeilge Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Ráth Cheannaigh, bhí tráthnóna spraoi trí Ghaeilge maoinithe ag Oifig na Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mí chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc páistí óga agus a dtuismitheoirí sa cheantar tuaithe Ráth Cheannaigh agus ón áiteanna eile sa cheantar. D'éirigh go han-mhaith leis an ócáid a tharla le linn an bhriseadh lár-théarma agus bhí slua mór i láthair le níos mó ná 40 páiste ann chun sult a bhaint as sorcais scileanna bunúsacha; agus ag déanamh na balúin éagsúla le háisitheoir Konor Halpin. An sprioc atá ag Oifig na Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mí ná níos mó imeachtaí ar nós seo a scaipeadh ar fud an chontae.

Pop Up Gaeltacht/Fun Afternoon – Rathkenny Hall

In cooperation with the Rathkenny GAA Irish Language Officer, there was a fun afternoon through Irish funded by the Meath County Council Irish Language Office to promote Irish among young children and their parents in the rural district of Rathkenny and from other places in the area. The event which was on during the mid-term break went very well and there was a big crowd in attendance with more than 40 children there to enjoy the basic circus skills and making various balloons with facilitator Konor Halpin. The objective of the MCC Irish language office is to spread events like these throughout the county.

Corporate Governance

Ministerial Visit

Friday, February 23 marked a significant milestone in Meath County Council's commitment to climate action as Cathaoirleach Cllr. Tommy Reilly and Minister for the Environment, Climate, and Communications Eamon Ryan TD officially launched Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.

The plan outlines ambitious strategies aimed at building a climate resilient, biodiverse rich, environmentally sustainable, and climate neutral economy. These strategies will support healthy lifestyles and economic growth in County Meath.



Mayor of Navan Cllr. Eddie Fennessy was joined today by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD and the National Transport Authority (NTA) to officially open the bus interchange on Kennedy Road, Navan Co Meath.

The project was funded by NTA through the Government's Project 2040 and is aligned with the Sustainable Mobility Action Plan, the Climate Action Plan and the GDA Transport Strategy.

The new interchange acts as key link in the public transport network, allowing passengers to make easier connections to the wider bus network in an attractive and comfortable town centre location, facilitating the movement of people into and out of the heart of Navan to work, shop and visit. It also directly links the NX, Navan to Dublin express bus service to the recently constructed Moathill N51 Park and Ride site.



Women For Election Campaign

Throughout February Meath County Council and Meath Women's Caucus partnered with Women for Election to run a wide range of successful programmes to encourage and equip women to run in local and national elections. These programmes targeted women in Meath, Louth, Cavan, Westmeath and Monaghan to engage with politics – building knowledge, awareness and capacity – and to help tackle the recognised barriers which women face in entering politics- what are known as the '5 C's' – cash, care, confidence, culture and candidate selection.

Objective: To increase the participation of Women and Women of Diverse backgrounds in the 2024 Local Elections and Local Government Structures and in engaging with politics generally over the medium term.

Supporting More Women for Local Election

in Meath, Westmeath, Louth, Monaghan and Cavan



Online Training Programme this February

- ✓ Why Local Politics Matter
- ✓ Making the Most of your Local Media
- ✓ Maps, Tally's, Targets and Votes
- ✓ Canvassing
- ✓ Social Media

Visit: www.womenforelection.ie/meath



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meath county council

Register for FREE today!



Women For Election Campaign – In Person Launch Event

On Thursday, February 1st The Votes & Voices: Advancing Women in Local Elections campaign launched the commencement of an exciting training program jointly organized by Meath County Council, Meath's Women's Caucus and Women for Election. This initiative's aim was to empower women in Meath County to take up leadership roles in their communities, fostering inclusivity and diversity in local governance. The event was MC'd by Sinead Brassil, Presenter of the 11-1 LMFM Radio Show. Panels discussions took place which included Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee. The event was promoted across our social media channels.



Check The Register

In February the campaign to raise awareness of closing dates for applications for Special/Postal Votes on 12th February and all other applications on 20th February were published on our digital channels. This has been followed up with a campaign requesting to change your polling station if you are disabled or need a polling station which is more accessible.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

checktheregister.ie

**Last dates for Receipt of Applications to
Vote in the Referendum on Friday, 8th March, 2024**

Special/Postal Votes
Monday, 12th February, 2024 by post only

All other applications
Tuesday, 20th February, 2024

 **Rialtas na hÉireann**
Government of Ireland

Traveller Roots and Routes Manual Launch

The Traveller Roots and Routes Manual was launched in late January 2024, following the successful Traveller Genealogy project of 2019.

During that project, Library Service staff became aware of the rich but vanishing heritage of Meath Travellers in relation to placenames, travel routes, travelling history and customs, and traditional campsites. This project records the memories and experiences of Meath Travellers who lived this life and want the record preserved for future generations. The manual is fully illustrated both with rare and up-to-date photographs of Travellers and campsite locations and with maps of Meath and Westmeath showing travel routes and camp locations.

This project was supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Dormant Accounts Fund.



Ireland Reads Campaign

Ireland Reads is a national celebration of reading.

Throughout February and especially on Ireland Reads Day, February 24th, people across Ireland are asked to get lost in a good book. It doesn't matter what you read, where you read or how well you read, as long as you read.

Because taking time to relax and do things you enjoy is important and reading is good for you. It relaxes your body by lowering your heart rate and easing the tension in your muscles. Studies have even shown that reading boosts your mental health by reducing stress by up to 68%.

Ireland Reads is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts.

All you have to do is sit down for a read, for as long or as short a time as you can, and lose yourself in an adventure, a thriller, a romance, a comedy or all of the above.

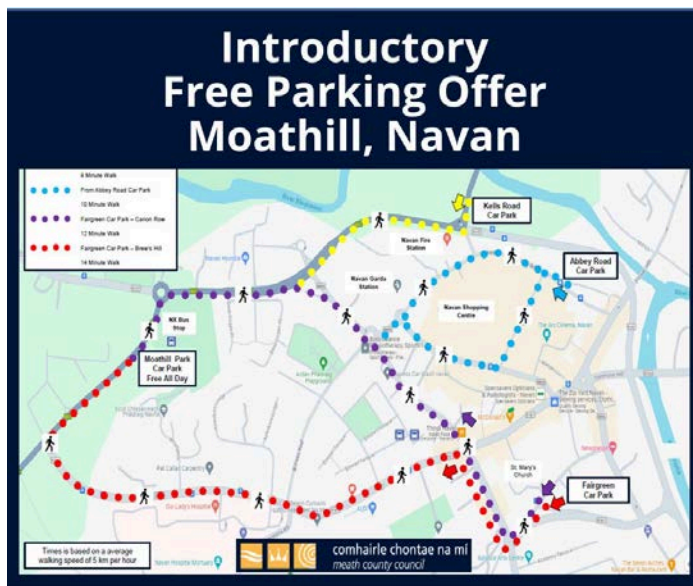


Introductory Free Parking Offer

Mid February, we promoted an introductory offer of free parking in Moathill Car park (located on the N51 adjacent to St Patrick's Secondary School, Navan).

Are you heading into Navan Town? Why not park your car at Moathill and take the NX service into Kennedy Road or further on to stops in Johnstown. Walking into Navan town centre from Moathill carpark takes approximately 9 to 15 minutes, along well lit busy roads.

The fare for a local trip is €1.60 in coins or €1.10 with a leap card.



Think Before You Park Campaign

We promoted a campaign for the Meath Joint Policing Committee urging all drivers to park responsibly and not to park on footpaths, cycle lanes or on bus routes. Illegal parking results in blocked footpaths and cycle lanes, meaning vulnerable road users such as wheelchair users, the visually impaired and pedestrians with or without buggies, and cyclists, are forced out onto the roadway.

THINK before you PARK



Keep our footpaths and cycle lanes
safe and accessible for all



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Climate Action and Environment



Making of the National Waste Management Plan For A Circular Economy 2024-2030

The Chief Executives of each Local Authority signed an order on the 21st February 2024 making the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 .

The ambition of the Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector. This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets , policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables

Tree Week 2024



Meath County Council distributed native and common saplings to community groups, schools and sporting organisations to mark Tree Week, which begins on Sunday March 3rd.

This year, the event's theme [*Planting Trees for a Greener Future*](#) aims to emphasise the importance of trees and forests in helping to mitigate climate change and promote biodiversity.

Bulky Waste Collections 2024

Free Drop Off Days 2024
Navan, Trim, Kells, & Thorntons Dunboyne Recycling Centres

 Couches 11th to 16th March Mon-Sat, Kells & Dunboyne Mon-Fri, Navan & Trim	 Mattresses 15th to 20th April One day at each Centre To Be Confirmed	 Garden Equipment 13th to 18th May Mon-Sat All Centres
 Cot, prams, nursery 13th to 18th June Mon-Sat All Centres	 Halloween Bulky Waste 21st & 22nd October - Navan 23rd & 24th October - Trim 25th & 26th October - Kells	 Toys 11th to 16th November Mon-Sat All Centres

Gate Fee of €2 per vehicle per visit
Householders Only - No Commercial customers
Thorntons, Dunboyne is closed on Monday
and at 1pm on Saturday

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Meath County Council has published a schedule of Free Bulky Waste Collections for householders for 2024. The scheme aims to encourage the use of authorised facilities for the management of bulky household waste, and to prevent the use of illegal Man in a Van operators. Halloween collections aim to divert combustible material from bonfires. Each year approximately 500 tonnes of bulky waste and 1,500 mattresses are collected through the free events.

Climate Action

Meath County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

Members of Meath County Council adopted the Meath County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 on Monday the 29th January at the Ordinary Meeting, pursuant to Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

Internally, the Plan will set the Council on a trajectory to reduce emissions across its own operations by 51% via a range of climate action measures. Externally, the Council will look to use its position of influence to work with local businesses, bodies, communities, and other stakeholders to facilitate effective climate action across the County.

Meath County Council would like to place on record its thanks for the contributions made collectively and individually by members of the public, Council Departments, and Elected Members, for engaging with the plan throughout the consultation process.



Sustainable Energy Communities – Workshop

The final workshop of a series of 3 workshops took place in Buvinda House on 30/01/2024. This workshop 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 also focused on providing advice to 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.



Community Climate Action Programme Fund

As the deadline for applications to the Community Climate Action Programme approaches, the Climate Action Section has run a series of workshops, information sessions and one to one clinics for the benefit of community groups who intend to apply for Community Climate Action Programme Funding.

Community Climate Action Workshop

Meath County Council's Climate Action Section worked with Meath Public Participation Network to deliver a workshop for community groups who are interested in applying for funding under the Community Climate Action Programme.



The 1.5-hour workshop offered a comprehensive introduction to the five key themes of the fund:

Home/Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, and Local Climate and Environmental Action. In addition, the workshop also offered interactive breakout sessions to explore how these themes can translate into impactful projects in your community.



Community Group One-to-One Clinics

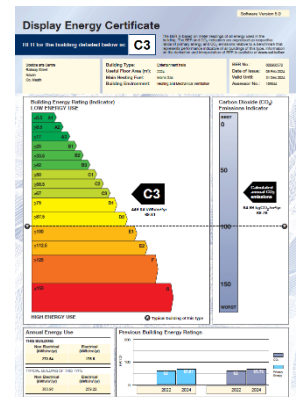
One-to-one clinics on the Community Climate Action Programme fund have been offered to Community Groups held over the past 5 weeks. This was an opportunity for Community Groups to discuss their planned application and ask any clarifying questions. The clinics have been run twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays with 30 community groups availing of the clinics.

Local Information Sessions – Community Climate Action Programme

Local Information In-Person Workshops were held in Dunboyne, Ratoath, Navan and Moynalty for community groups, which provided an overview of the fund, eligibility, project themes, project scales, explanation of the Expression of Interest, State Aid and key dates of the Community Climate Action Programme.

Display Energy Certificates

As per national legislation, Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are required annually for all Meath County Council buildings over 250m² which are frequently visited by the public. This project was completed in the last month for all relevant buildings and involved analysing the energy use for the previous 12 months against the building floor area. All certificates have been issued to MCC and put on display in the relevant buildings.



Energy MAP Training – Meath Energy Team

As part of our internal Energy Management System, Meath County Council have formed an Energy Team in recent months. The team, made up of staff representatives from our Significant Energy Users (SEUs) meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the status of ongoing and planned energy projects. Before the latest meeting in February, the team undertook a full day Energy MAP training, which aligns to the principles and requirements of ISO 50001 for Energy Management. SEAI delivered the training to the team, as well as representatives from Louth, Wicklow, and Kildare County Councils, as part of the Public Sector programme.

Energy Awareness Day

As part of our ongoing staff energy awareness campaign, (*Making Energy Matter*), Meath County Council held an Energy Awareness Day on Wednesday 14th of February. An energy stand was set up in the staff canteen to advise on any queries for energy saving and efficiency measures in the home. Our OPW energy advisor also conducted one-on-one sessions to allow staff get specific information and advice on their individual cases and what measures were best to undertake on their homes.



Housing Services



Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Total	88		
SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS & DETAILED DESIGN			
Nangle Close, Navan	12	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q4 2024	Q2 2026
COMBINED PLANNING STAGE & DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL	109		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q2 2024	Q2 2025

Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q3 2025
Connaught Grove	47	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Total	75		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Yellow Ford, Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Total	219		
OVERALL TOTAL	491		

Carrick Street, Kells

An application for the construction of 36 new residential units, and refurbishment of 9 existing derelict units to provide 11 new units, giving a total of 47 residential units in Carrick Street in Kells was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 29th of July 2022 and was approved by the Bord on the 12th of February 2024.

Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells

An application for the construction of 22 new residential units comprising 6 no. two-bed, single storey units, 6 no. two-bed, two-storey houses & 10 no. three-bed, two-storey houses at Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells, was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 22nd of November 2022 and was approved by the Bord on the 1st of February 2024.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 19th February

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	9
Athboy	Part V	8
Bettystown	Part V	9

Drogheda	Part V	8
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	41
Enfield	Part V	6
Kells	Part V	7
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Navan	Part V	11
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Slane	Part V	6
Stamullen	Part V	2
Bettystown	Turnkey	76
Navan	Turnkey	4
Donacarney	Turnkey	11
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Navan	CAS	12
Trim	CAS	4
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		258

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 19th of February 2024.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Kells	Part V	3
Longwood	Part V	3
Total		6

Affordable Housing

1 Affordable unit is still going through the allocation process for The Willows in Dunshaughlin, 3 x 3 beds are going through the allocation process for Baker Hall. Once these are complete all of the 2023 allocation of 70 houses will be finalised. The Housing Department are working with developers to identify Affordable turnkey units for purchase or rent for 2024.

Expressions of Interest

The Housing Department continue to collaborate 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 was fully completed on 30th Jan 2024.
- Decant of tenants for Phase 5 is in process. Contractor has possession of 5nr. of the 7nr. Phase 5 units.
- Decanting expected to conclude on w/c 19th Feb.
- Project completion currently estimated for Jun 2024

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €563,533 including VAT submitted for approval to DHLGH for 2024.
- To date for 2024, 3nr. LAAWS are complete. Another 8nr. LAAWS are awarded to Contractors.
- A tender will issue in Feb 2024 for additional LAAWS (approx. 10-12nr.).

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

- 150 carried forward from 2023 to the value of €958,289.05
- 55 approved in the month of January to the value of €374,499.96
- To date 205 applications approved to the value of €1,332,789.01

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 19th February 2024. For the period

from 12th January 2024 to 19th February 2024, works were completed on 13 vacant units, while 10 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractors
Ashbourne	2	0	0	1	1
Kells	3	3	3	7	2
Laytown/Bettystown	2	1	0	1	2
Navan	5	4	2	8	3
Ratoath	6	1	0	6	1
Trim	10	3	0	5	8
TOTALS	28	12	5**	28	17

**Note: All five of these pre-let properties are major refurb which includes 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
Swanbrook, Navan	7	Tuath	Q2 2024
Cluain Adain Clonmagaddan Navan	36	Cluid	Q2 2024
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	29	Respond	Q2 2024
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
Total Number of Approved Units	132		

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects Delivered in 2024 Year to date:

None delivered so far in 2024

Leasing - (including Part V)

Project Name	No. of Units	Entity	Estimated Completion
Aylesbury, Clonee	73	Meath County Council	Q2 2024
Dunville, Navan	45	Tuath Housing	Q2 2024
Total Number of Approved Units	118		

Homelessness January 2024

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st December 2023 (Previous Reported Figure)	151 (163 Adults)	68 (115 Adults 110 Children)	219
Placements at 31st January 2024	156 (168 Adults)	68 (115 Adults 110 Children)	224

Of the households with children, 60 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

Family Figures: In January five families exited emergency accommodation. We had four families exit to HAP tenancies, one moved to an allocation. We had five families move into emergency accommodation in January.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is family breakdown; relationship breakdown; unable to find property to rent; Notice to Quit; domestic violence; overcrowding; couch surfing; addiction; mental health; house fire; unsuitable accommodation; rough sleeping

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 31.01.2024

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	115	-	-	-	30	45	39	1
Couples	24	-	-	-	5	10	7	2
Singles	144	-	-	-	22	42	71	9
Children	110	31	38	41	-	-	-	-
Total	393	31	38	41	57	97	117	12
Families – 20 adult children								

Adult children range from 18 - 23

Place finder 01/01/2024- 31/01/2024

Total	10
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	5
Homeless Prevention	5

Tenant Liaison Team January 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	77	29
Occupancy of Dwelling	64	61
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	28	23
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	3	3
Total Received 01/01/2024 -31/01/2024	172	116

Standards in Rented Accommodation

303 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of January 2024. Of this figure, 234 were first inspections, 11 properties passed after their first inspection. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

Social Housing Supports

- 157 social housing applications were received for the period 1st to 31st January 2024
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st to 31st January 2024

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	18
Transfers	2
Approved Housing Bodies	37
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	28
Long Term Leasing	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	85

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

Choice Based Lettings Advertised up to 31st of January 2024

No. of Bed rooms	Ashbourne MD No. of properties	Laytown/ Bettystown MD No. of properties	Kells MD No. of properties	Navan MD No. of properties	Ratoath MD No. of properties	Trim MD No. of properties
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	1	3	0	1
3	0	0	2	7	1	2
4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	3	10	1	3

Community Development



Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

The Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 financial and progress report for 2023 was submitted to Pobal in February. The report highlights 911 individuals participated in HIF funded activities in 2023.

The Healthy Ireland Coordinator attended the Meath GAA Health and Wellbeing Committees' annual gathering of Healthy Club Officers and provided advice to 60 Clubs on health and wellbeing programmes they could run in their club.

Meath, in conjunction with the HSE and University of Galway was selected as a pilot for the Act Belong Commit scoping study - a community based mental well-being promotion programme first implemented in Australia - to investigate its suitability in an Irish setting. Stakeholder workshops took place in February.

The next phase of the Chronic Disease Risk Management Programme commenced in five pharmacies in February and another two lined up for April and May. 60 individuals participated in this programme in 2023.

The February/March Edition of The Healthy Meath Newsletter was published link to the latest edition [here](#).

Grants and Funding.

The following grant and funding schemes were advertised for applications:

Grant Scheme	Closing Date
Community Grant Scheme	Friday 8 th March
Regional Festivals and Participative Events	Friday 8 th March
Pride of Place School Gardening	Friday 29 th March
Community Amenity Project	Monday 4 th March
Local Enhancement Programme (LCDC)	CLOSED

Meath Age Friendly

The Meath Age Friendly Alliance Intergenerational IT Initiative completed by Colaiste na hInse won first place in the Meath Garda Youth Awards, held in the Ardboyne Hotel in Navan in January. The students of Colaiste na hInse, Bettystown were there on the evening to accept their award.

Older Person's Council (OPC)

Meath & Louth OPC's held on joint meeting in Dundalk IT where they collaborated on a project about ageism in the media. They also learned about Netwell Casala, which is a networking group on how to age well, hosted in the campus of DKIT.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg members will address the March full Council Meeting. They will discuss projects they are working and inform elected members of items for the year ahead.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next LCDC meeting due to take place on Friday 22nd March 2024.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 22nd March 2024.

Public Participation Network

Two workshops were held for Community Climate Action Fund in January, one online with 48 attending and one in person with 22 attending.

Facilitated Linkage Group development commenced in February with sessions themed around current SPCs.

Meath PPN will host national staff retreat in Trim on April 25th & 26th.

637 groups are registered with Meath PPN.

National Broadband Plan

NBI continue their build in Hill of Down, Navan and Dunboyne. In February Dunboyne Ribbon A and Kilnaleck will be available to customers. Donadea will be offered to retailers in March.

Row Labels	AMD	KMD	LBMD	NMD	RMD	TMD	#N/A	Grand Total
AVAILABLE_TO_PRE_ORDER	151	103	0	0	214	0	0	468
DA_NOT_ASSIGNED	34	142	23	13	39	74	55	380
MOVED_INTO_IA	1	1	15	0	72	0	2	91
NETWORK_BUILD_IN_PROGRESS	831	5170	626	963	723	3768	0	12081
READY_FOR_SERVICE	711	598	2043	0	0	89	0	3441
Active	246	163	612			33		1054
Ceased	8	1	4			1		14
Pending Connection	17	12	39			2		70
Could be connected	440	422	1388			53		2303
SURVEY_COMPLETE	943	468	587		1977	16		3991
SURVEY_PENDING	13	3	12		36	237		301
SURVEY_PLANNED	11	12	5			1	7	36
Grand Total	2695	6497	3311	976	3061	4185	64	20789

BCP/Coding Initiatives

Taster sessions for OurKidsCode were delivered for families in Oldcastle and Ballinacree in Ballinacree Community Centre. If other families are interested, they should contact Broadband@meathcoco.ie to be informed when a workshop will be offered in their area.

Connected Hubs GoRemote Campaign

The Connected Hubs Campaign progressed again in February with roadside signage and bus stop Adshel's promoting remote working. The social media campaign also commenced.

Vouchers were issued for a days free access to one of the Connected Hubs with Athboy Digital Hub, Gibbstown Digiteic and Deerpark Hub being the most popular sites to request.

BUS DUE ANY MIN?

Meath commuters...
there is a better way.

Did you know that County Meath has 6 dedicated remote working hubs? They all offer short flexible contracts, super speedy internet, solo or social spaces AND minimal commutes.

Just saying!

#GoRemote #GoMeath

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GRAAAND STRETCH IN THE EVENING

Go and enjoy it.
Go remote in Meath.

Why not ditch the commute and try working remotely from a hub in your locality? With 6 locations across Co. Meath, we have you covered.

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Libraries Services



Scéal Trail

The Scéal Trail is a fun way to bring together the enjoyment of reading, a love of the outdoors and some physical activity. The Scéal Trail is part of the Right to Read at your Library initiative and brings literacy into the heart of the community.

A new story, *The Vanishing Lake* by Paddy Donnelly was installed at Blackwater Park in Navan in January. The story starts at the playground and families can follow the trail around the park to read the whole story.

The author and illustrator, Paddy Donnelly, introduced the new Scéal Trail to Junior Infant classes in Flowerfield N.S., St Oliver's N.S., and Scoil Naomh Eoin via Zoom. As part of the launch, the children received a free copy of the book and a fun activity pack to bring home. 250 copies of the book have been gifted to children in local schools.

The Vanishing Lake is about a little girl called Meara who goes to visit her Grandad who lives by a lake which disappears and reappears for no apparent reason. She constantly asks her Grandad why it happens and each time he has a more extravagant and unbelievable reason for her. Meara won't believe any of his stories, but with a little imagination she may discover the 'real' reason.

Paddy Donnelly is an Irish author and illustrator who lives in Belgium. His work has achieved international acclaim. He has been nominated twice for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration, shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards, and in 2023 he won the Judges' Special Award at the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards.

<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/blackwater-park-sceal-trail-the-vanishing-lake>

Peadar Murray's Photographs: A selection

Peadar Murray was born in 1872 in Garristown in northwest County Dublin, close to the border with County Meath, where his family owned a farm and ran a public house. In 1896 he moved to Dunshaughlin, County Meath, where he opened a public house and shop. He was to spend the rest of his life in Dunshaughlin. This book – a collaboration between Meath County Council and Dunshaughlin & District Historical Society - celebrates Murray's work as a pioneering photographer in County Meath. His photographs celebrate the life of his adopted village, its sporting events and the Gaelic language revival of which he was a leading light.

The book is available from Dunshaughlin Library and from Antonia's Bookstore Trim for 15 euros.



Engineer's Week

Meath County Council Library Service is celebrating Engineers Week (Saturday 2nd - Friday 8th March) with a great range of events and competitions for primary schools and public groups.

Libraries will host the following events:

- Engineering-themed Storytime and Experiment sessions for pre-school children.
- STEAM Saturdays in all branches where families can have fun learning and exploring together with interactive, hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Maths.
- Bricks artist, Jessica Farrell will visit two libraries to run inclusive Lego workshops for families. The families must work together as a team on the LEGO building challenges.
- Online quizzes for families and schools.
- A JENGA play session for children with the Autism Unit in St. Michael's BNS.
- The very popular Lego Building Competition for Engineer's Week has been extended to 3 libraries. Entries will be accepted in Ashbourne, Navan, and Trim libraries. The theme of this year's competition is "Inventions". As usual there are two age categories for judging and two overall prizes-the engineer's choice and the crowd favourite.
 - Category 1: Ages 9-12
 - Category 2: Ages 4-8

Healthy Ireland At Your Library

Trim Library recently hosted a successful series of four parenting talks with Dr. Mary O'Kane in partnership with Trim Family Resource Centre & SMART. These events were part of the Healthy Ireland At Your Library initiative.

The lectures covered a range of topics including Supporting anxious teens, Raising resilient children, Parenting in the online world, and Parenting tweens and teens.

Dr Mary O’Kane is a Lecturer in Psychology and Early Childhood Education teaching with the Open University. Popular for sharing her expertise in a warm and relatable way, Mary is a regular contributor to *Ireland AM* on both parenting and early childhood education issues.

The Healthy Ireland at your Library programme looks to complement, support, and expand existing programmes in the community under the Healthy Ireland national framework and to be fully consistent with Healthy Ireland’s whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to improving health and wellbeing and the quality of people’s lives. Healthy Ireland at your Library is delivered through a national framework managed by Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and local authorities and supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Department of Health. Development of the Healthy Ireland at your Library programme is a key action of the new national public library strategy 2023 – 2027, *The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration*.

Magic Tummy Time

This new initiative is a special time for babies who haven't started to crawl yet. Babies can play beneath the beautiful light projections of the interactive Tovertafel (Magic Table) whilst parents and minders get to know each other. This Right to Read initiative introduces age-appropriate books for babies and books for parents on parenting and child development.

Magic Tummy Time is now available in Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Enfield, Kells, Navan, Oldcastle, and Trim Libraries

Transportation Services



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

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor accommodation works finalised.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents were lodged with An Bord Pleanála. The Public submission period closed on the 16th February 2024. Currently awaiting direction from the Board. Dedicated website available https://www.n2slanebypass.ie/ detailing the project.
N52 Grange to Clontail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral hearing set by An Bord Pleanála for the 9th April 2024 on this CPO.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary design work is ongoing to refine the preferred option corridor for the scheme at the tie in junction locations. To inform this work the Ground Site commenced in August 2023
National Road Resurfacing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N51 Slane to County Boundary resurfacing - contractor commenced work prior to Christmas and programmed to be complete by end of April 2024 N51, N52, N2 and M2 Ballybin Road Overbridge – pavement and bridge joint repair works contract is substantially complete N52 Woodtown to Co. Boundary Pavement Scheme – currently out to tender.

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 completed on the following:
Ratoath MD: R-125 Culmullen (Restoration Improvement)

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

R162 Kilberry Phase 2B: Gully installation progressing on west side of R162. New Kerbs, footpath and road reconstruction expected to be completed circa end Q1 2024.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme (formerly Julianstown Bypass Scheme): Following receipt of feedback from the Department of Transport (DOT) in December 2023, relating to the Stage 1 Project Outline Documents, formal request submitted to the DOT for approval to appoint consultants to progress the review of potential options.
R156 Mullagh Cross: Topographic survey and environmental surveys carried out. Potential Options drafted and Option Selection process currently being progressed.

2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Allocation for 2024 schemes - €362,500

2024 Schemes Road
2024 schemes – options currently being considered.
R149 – Stirling R132 – Keenoge R163/L7141 Junction Gibbstown L4010 – Bective Junction L1006 Cabinhill Cross Roads

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

2023-2024 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works substantially complete, remaining footpath works expected to commence in the coming weeks.
Priory Gate Wall	Works expected to be complete by mid February 2024
Stoneyford Bridge (L-4021)	Works commenced 08/02/2024 and expected to be complete by 02/03/2024
Springhall Culvert (R195)	Works expected to be complete by 09/02/2024

Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	Works complete
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	De-vegetation advance works complete. Required repair works being assessed.
Minor Bridge Works 2023	Works ongoing
Obelisk Bridge, Oldbridge	Works ongoing, contract being administered by Louth Co Co

3. (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – Allocation for 2023 schemes - €545,500 – 11 schemes funded :

R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall – options being considered
L10021 Timooole
L3414 Commons Road, Navan.
L68221 Robinstown
L34036 Kearnstown Drumconrath Flood alleviation works
L7403 Carrickleck, Kingscourt Flood Alleviation
L2803 Cormeen Flood Alleviation
R148 Enfield Flood Alleviation
Griffin Park Flood Alleviation
L4003 Flood Alleviation
L8031 Flood Alleviation

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic reversal occurred on 28th of January 2024. • New EV charger commissioned in Kennedy Plaza. • New line marking and signage completed in advance of traffic reversal. • Bollards installed on Market Square. • Street furniture installed. • Bollards to Plaza and at Shopping Centre installed. • Belisha poles relocated for traffic reversal.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved footpath on Eastern side of Railway Street were completed (Railway crossing to Solstice). • Accommodation Works to Station House property including drainage, surfacing and side boundary elements to be completed. • Works at large Eir chamber on Railway St complete. • Kerbing, ducting and paving works on western side of Railway St were completed (Railway crossing to Solstice). • Railings installation at County Hall completed. • 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 was completed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works on Railway Street (western side of the street) was completed., • Temporary Traffic Management plan and diversion route in place on Trim Road from Carriage Road to Dan Shaw Road is being maintained in place.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • Detailed design of cantilevered section completed. • Anticipated tender package for the Scheme (Trim Road Phase 2) will be made available by the Consultants next month.
Navan GDA Cycle Network NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants working on Phase 5 Detailed Design process. • Designer to commence producing elements/sections of the tender package for review by the Project Team.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following confirmation of NTA 2024 funding allocations, a Letter of Acceptance has been drafted and is anticipated to issue this month. • A pre-award meeting was held with the Consultants.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants continuing design work associated with Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection. • Workshops held with the Consultants and the Project Team on 13th and 20th of February in relation to options for the River Boyne crossing and the junction of Flowerhill and Ratholdren Road.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held with Rep of St Marys Parish in relation to proposed accommodation works. • Stage 2 Road Safety Audit Completed. • Designer progressing with final design, incorporating the St Marys Campus accommodation works, and they are working to produce deliverables for NTA approval of progression to Part 8 application.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-statutory public consultation completed for the section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor on the Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) for the scheme. • Non-statutory public consultation to commence next month for the section from Athlumney Castle (Convent Road) To Metges Road on the on the Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) completed for that section of scheme.

Pathfinder Scheme – R161, Navan to Trim Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept meetings have taken place between project team, NTA and designers. • An emerging preferred route option has been identified and is currently being drafted by the Consultants.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NTA's 2024 allocation for the scheme has now been confirmed, tender documents for construction of Contract 1 will be issued in March. Contract 1 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.
N51 Park & Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park and ride operational from 27th of January 2024 (date of traffic reversal and extension of NX bus services to the Moathill Park and Ride
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation for the emerging preferred routes and public realm plans for Dunboyne and Clonee are currently being finalised with the intention to commence the non-statutory public consultation process in March/April. • In advance of the non-statutory public process the Ratoath MD councillors will be invited to a meeting where the emerging preferred routes will be presented. MCC also intends to write to residents who lands or parking may be directly impacted by the scheme. They will be invited to meet with a member of the project design team in advance of the non-statutory public consultation process commencing.
Safe Routes to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meath County Council are liaising with An Taisce Green schools' team, well Gaelscoil Na Mi, Ashbourne and Beaufort College, Navan on designs.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities, Bettystown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Design complete and with NTA for their approval for Part 8 Planning application.
Newtown Road Trim Walking Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Report presented to Trim MD elected representatives for their consideration.
Greenogue Bus Stop (on R125)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 8 planning in process. Display and submissions period has closed with Planning report in preparation.
Donacarney Footpath and Cycleway Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works 90% complete, anticipated completion by mid-February 2024.
R132 Active Travel Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 85 agreement progressed with Louth County Council who are the lead authority. A Non-statutory public consultation is taking place on the design.

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

Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works substantially complete up to Rath Lodge. Works progressing between Rath Lodge and south of Ballybin Road junction. This month new footpath and cycle lanes will be completed on both sides of the R135 between Circle K Filling Station and the Fire Station. • There have been delays in finalising the traffic control programme required to commission the traffic lights at Castle Street and St. Johns Wood junctions. The issues causing delay are now resolved and site commissioning at Castle Street junction will take place next week.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	<p>The greenway is now complete from Navan to 2.5km north of Kilmainhamwood. This provides 25km of continuous greenway, with the remaining 5km 90% complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilkinstown to Castletown This section of Greenway is now open to the public. The surfacing in this section has not bound like the remainder of the greenway. This matter is currently being reviewed by the contractor and a remedial action is being developed. • Nobber to Kingscourt Nobber to Kilmainhamwood Opened 25th October 2023. Kilmainhamwood to 500m south of Poles Cross (Crystal Maze) Opened 08th December 2023. Poles Cross to Kingscourt (5Km) 90% complete. • Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan A contractor has now been appointed to deliver a 4m shared surface along the Ratholdren Road between the New LDR4 junction and the Greenway. The LDR4 contractor will deliver the remaining section between the LDR4 junction and Blackwater Park. These two packages of work will effectively link the Greenway and the Blackwater Park. • Car Parking Facilities Car parking facilities are currently being designed for Gibbstown, Nobber and Poles Cross. MCC currently determining planning and land acquisition requirements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Calming Traffic calming designs have been developed for Poles Cross and Gibbstown Greenway crossing. Tender drawings have been issued for pricing and it is intended to deliver these works within the next 6weeks. • Kilberry to Gibbstown Greenway Crossing footpath link MCC have appointed Systra consulting Engineers to prepare Part 8 planning application for the proposed footpath link between Kilberry and the Gibbstown Greenway Crossing. It is planned to submit this application in April 24.
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-statutory consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route has closed and currently all submissions are being duly considered as the project works towards the preferred route selection and report.
Dunshaughlin Public Realm Main Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application has been made to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, RRDF for construction funding (note: a joint application with the Dunshaughlin Courthouse project by Planning Section).
Athboy Public Realm and Bus Stop Facility, Western end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application has been made to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, RRDF for construction funding. The project is 'shovel ready' with additional funding sources from the National Transport Authority, NTA as well as Meath County Council being secured.
Kilberry Looped Walking Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work substantially complete.

5. Other Actions/ Projects

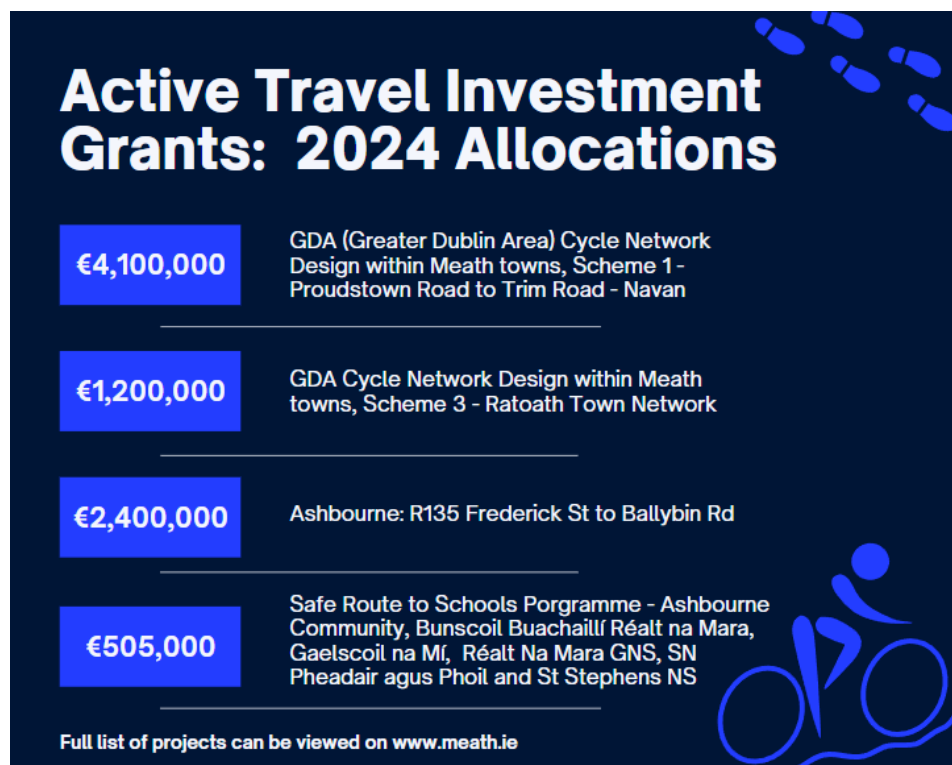
Housing Estate Road Surfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratoath MD: Contractor completed works in Beechdale Dunboyne, Crestwood, Ashbourne and Village Drive Stamullen.
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening determination referred to An Bord Pleanala. • Part 8 process stalled as a result and further information submitted to ABP.
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New road from Kells road to Ratholdren Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site fencing commenced and site compound being set up. Demolition of old OPW building on Kells road expected to commence early March.

Trim Millenium Pedestrian Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground Investigation completed on site. Design and draft planning reports being progressed.
Traffic Calming Ramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works substantially completed. One additional site added – Castletown, works scheduled for early December.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing works at Moynalty, Oldcastle, Dunboyne. Further works being awarded and in preparation for 2024 for all Municipal Districts.
Traffic Signals Upgrade and new junctions added	<p>Upgrades of existing sites: 10 pedestrian crossing upgrades, 6 junction small upgrades, 4 junction large upgrades.</p> <p>New sites commissioned: 4 new junctions, 4 new zebra crossings and 7 new pedestrian crossings</p>

National Transport Authority Funding

The National Transport Authority (NTA) allocated €13.5 million in funding to Meath County Council with a view to spending on walking and cycling infrastructure in 2024.

€4.1m is allocated for an Active Travel Scheme on the Proudstown Road to Trim Road, Navan, with €1.2m allocated to a second Active Travel Scheme from the Fairgreen to Johnstown, Navan. Other projects include €2.4m for the Frederick Street to Ballybin Road cycle network in Ashbourne, as well as cycling and 'Safe Routes to School' projects across the county.



Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

174 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 17.02.2024. This is compared to 147 in the same period in 2023.

2. Commencement Notices

97 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 17/02/2024. This is compared to 70 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	51
Multi-Units	233** (units)
Extensions	16
Other*	2

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

**This includes a resubmission of a commencement notice where the initial valid commencement notice had since been withered.

No commencement notices have been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2024 to 17.02.2024.

Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31st January 2024 show a collection of €376,145.80. This is compared to €461,265.35 collected in the same period in 2023. (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 2023 are being recouped from the DHLGH. There are contributions of €363,510 due from the Department for the January recoupment, not included in the receipts above.

Please note: MCC can only recoup the waived contribution on receipt of a signed and witnessed undertaking from each applicant.

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

30 planning enforcement cases were opened to 17.02.2024

New Cases to be Investigated	6
Warning Letter	20
Enforcement Notice	0
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	4

*please note these figures relate to cases opened in 2024 only

4. Planning Projects

Large Residential Developments (LRDs)	29 LRD applications received since introduction of process.
SIDs	Dart + North, pre application discussions ongoing with Irish Rail. Submission being prepared in respect of ABP-318677-23, 110kV substation etc at Fieldstown, Co. Dublin. Submission being prepared in respect of ABP-318759-23 110kV Substation etc at Cloneymeth, Summerhill.
Village Core Redevelopment & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme for Old Johnstown Village, Navan.	Pre-draft public consultation survey closing 26/01/24. Navan MD briefed at Dec meeting. Details of project can be found at Old Johnstown Village Public Realm Meath.ie.
Flowerhill Frontage improvement Scheme, Navan	URDF funded Project D-Building Frontage Scheme, consultant procured to finalise proposed interventions and implement same.
Duleek Heritage Led Regeneration Plan	Regeneration Plan currently being edited for public display.
Dunshaughlin Multi-Purpose Community Facility & Public Realm Enhancement Project	Part 8 process complete RRDF funding application being prepared.

5. Forward Planning

Settlement Capacity Audit	<p>Settlement Capacity Audit required by NPF, Development Plan Guidelines & High Court Order</p> <p>Countywide SCA underway for all 38 settlements. Meetings have been held between the Forward Planning Department and Uisce Eireann and Meath County Council Transportation Department in relation to the servicing of a number of settlements.</p> <p>Set for completion by April 2024 to coincide with NPF Review</p>
Variations to Meath County Development Plan 2021 - 2027	<p>Work on Variation Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4 ongoing.</p> <p>Variation Nos. 1 & 2 – will go on public display in Quarter 1</p> <p>Variation Nos 3 & 4 – will go on public display in Quarters 3 & 4</p>
Residential Zoned Land Tax	<p>Tax will now apply from February 2025</p> <p>First Annual Review which consists of a revised map for public consultation is currently on public display from 1st February to 1st April 2024 and this public consultation remains open for landowners only until 31st May 2024.</p> <p>Submissions can be made to remove or add lands to the map and landowners can make requests to rezone their lands</p> <p>Mapping will be reviewed annually thereafter.</p>
Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	<p>Publication of Draft Maynooth & Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030, alongside supporting documents, envisaged to go on public display in May 2024</p>
Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan	<p>Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper published on 31st January 2024 by Louth & Meath County Councils with period for submissions/ observations open until 15th March.</p>
Navan Local Area Plan	<p>Work has commenced on reports to inform the Navan LAP including a Settlement Capacity Audit and Social Infrastructure Audit</p> <p>Formal commencement of the preparation of the plan will follow by Q2 of 2024</p>

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	6
Mentoring Assignments Approved	29
Attended Online Training Courses	127
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	11
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	12
Attended Financial Advice Clinics	3
Digital for Business Applications	1
LEAN for Micro Applications	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	3

The Economic Development team has awarded a contract to carry out a Skills Audit for County Meath. This was identified as essential to inform potential investors on the availability of key qualifications and skills within the county. The final report in this is due at the end of February 2024.

The team is progressing a Business Profiling exercise for the County, outlining the numbers of businesses in each Sector, as well as capturing details of the geographical spread of these companies.

The Economic Development team and the Forum Members are working on an Action plan which will identify priorities and objectives, with clear deliverables over the short to medium term. A draft of the Action plan should be available by the end of March 2024.

A meeting of Meath Economic Development Forum members and Enterprise Ireland was held on 21st February 2024 to look at possible areas for collaboration and additional supports that could be provided for businesses to assist with sustainability, growth and future job creation.

The CE has held a number of meetings with other key stakeholders such as IDA and the, OPW to look at further developing the economic growth of the County.

The Economic Development Section is currently assessing applications received for the 2024 Economic & Enterprise Funding Support Grant for events being held in the County which will benefit the local economy. Successful applicants will be notified of their allocation in March 2024. It is intended to run another call for applications halfway through the year.

Food Development – Boyne Valley Flavours

- Work is almost complete on the first draft of the Boyne Valley Food 2024 – 2028 5-Year Strategy, which will be reviewed with all stakeholders during March 2024, with a view to finalising and launching the document shortly after that.
- The Boyne Valley Flavours AGM took place on Tuesday 27th February in Bellinter House. Food producers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, food service providers, etc. from counties Louth and Meath, who are interested in being a part of the Food Tourism movement in our region were invited to attend this critical meeting, with the message that new members are always welcome.

Tourism



Tour Operator Fam Trip

Boyne Valley Tourism invited 19 tour operators and Failte Ireland publicity team on a 2 day site visit of the Boyne Valley on 19th and 20th February. During the visit, the group had a packed itinerary to view tourism experiences and accommodation across 5 towns in Meath and South Louth.

The itinerary included site visits to Johnstown Estate, Trim Castle, Trim Visitor Centre for the Medieval Armoury Tour, Trim Swift Cultural Centre, Trim Castle Hotel, Bective Tea rooms, Stud and Holiday Homes, Martry Mill, Causey Farm, Headfort Arms Hotel, Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub, Drogheda Bids and Boyne Boats, Scholars Townhouse Hotel, Slane Castle and Distillery and a return to Heuston Station.

There were 19 operators from 10 companies who will programme the Boyne Valley for future itineraries which would include small groups, FITs/individuals and family groups of up to 8 people and larger leisure and incentive groups.



Familiarisation Trip for the Local Tourism Industry

A site visit for tourism members of Boyne Valley Tourism was held on 1st February to visit Emerald Park who are in the process of a €22mn investment in the park with 2 new rollercoasters. The group of 43 local businesses also visited Newbarn Farm and the Donkey Shed in Ashbourne, Fourknocks Tomb and Fairyhouse. The purpose of the trip is to experience the sites in order to encourage referrals.

Finance



Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2024 to 20 th February 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	8	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	All relate to 2024 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	6	3 relate to 2023 and 3 relate to 2024 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	2	2 relate to 2024 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	3	2024 applications
Active Approvals	35.79	29.79 relate to 2023, 6 relate to 2024
Expired	7	7 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	2	2 relate to 2023 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2024 to 20th February 2024 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Other Information:

NPPR: From 1st April 2024 the NPPR liability period is reduced to 2013 only, total liability if unpaid is €750. Originally it was 2009 – 2013, totalling €7,230 if unpaid.

Rates: Rates Demands issued to all relevant businesses in February 2024.