

# MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL



comhairle chontae na mí  
*meath county council*



## ANNUAL REPORT 2007



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# INTRODUCTION

Meath County Council adopted a new Corporate Plan in 2005.

In accordance with the guidelines for preparation of Corporate Plans published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Meath County Council is obliged to prepare an annual operational plan for each year of the Corporate Plan's timeframe.

The Meath County Council 2007 Operational Plan outlined in more detail the activities to be undertaken by different service areas to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

This 2007 Annual Report, is based on the 2007 Operational Plan and reports on specific actions, which expand on the normal duties associated with the administration of the respective service areas within Meath County Council.



We are delighted to present to you Meath County Council's Annual Report for 2007.

Each year the Council compiles an Annual Report outlining its accomplishments and progress on various projects undertaken throughout the year. It includes specific activities undertaken by the Council and includes a progress report on the Corporate Plan 2004 – 2009.

During 2007, Meath County Council continued to take on board the challenges facing the County, including that of meeting the needs of a growing population. We invested in excess of €232m. on capital projects, many of which were completed during the year, delivering much needed improvements in our physical and social infrastructure. Over €107m. was spent on day to day operations delivering a wide range of essential services to our people.

As the primary unit of governance in Meath, Meath County Council has a responsibility to highlight the many positive aspects of our County. The changes that have taken place in the County over the past number of years have presented us with many opportunities and challenges. It is our vision to increase the attractiveness of our County as an excellent place to live, work and relax.

The County Development Plan was adopted in March 2007 and the preparation of a large number of Local Area Plans is underway, which will provide an effective vehicle for the sustainable development of our County and all its towns and villages.

The establishment of a dedicated Economic Development & Innovation Directorate in July 2007 underlines the importance that Meath County Council attaches to economic development and promoting the County as a prime location for inward investment.

In the current economic climate, it is essential that we focus on growing and broadening our economic base and continue to promote Meath not only as Ireland's Heritage Capital but as a premier conference location, an ideal tourist destination and a business location of choice for investors.

All the achievements outlined in the Annual Report could not have been accomplished without the collective input of the Elected Members, Chairpersons and Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, Area Committees and Staff, together with the support of the many voluntary and community organisations. The challenges that continue to face our County can and will be addressed with the continued commitment of all, and we look forward to meeting those challenges together in the coming year.

Tom Dowling  
County Manager

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# COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE, RECREATION, CULTURE and HERITAGE

## Strategic objective

To develop and promote a wide range of programmes and services that empower people to participate in community activity and development; and to work together within the Council, with communities and with stakeholders, to best effect to build confident sustainable communities.

## The Community, Enterprise, Recreation, Culture and Heritage Section has responsibility for:

- Meath County Development Board
- Community & Enterprise Development
- Pride of Place Initiatives
- Community, Recreation, Leisure and Amenity Facilities/Community Grants Scheme
- Heritage
- Arts
- Library Service
- Rapid Programme
- Meath Local Sports Partnership



## MEATH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

In 2007, Meath County Development Board met three times. The following presentations were delivered:

- Meath County Council presentations on Infrastructure
  - Roads
  - Water
  - Rail line
- Meath County Development Plan
- Microsoft Enterprise School of the Future – Dunshaughlin Community College
- Meath Education & Training Database Website demonstration
- Meath Interagency Strategy for the Traveller Community – Progress Report
- Guidelines on the Governance of Integrated Local Development Companies and Urban Based Partnerships
- Meath Migrants Research Project – Citizens Advice Centre
- Social Support Services Directory Website demonstration
- Meath Volunteer Centre – Meath Partnership

Office of Community and Enterprise, Meath County Council prepared a submission on behalf of Meath CDB

- An Garda Síochanna Policing Plan 2008.

During 2007 a review was carried out by Indecon Consultants, at the request of Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, on Strengthening /Developing the County/City Development Boards.

Following consultation, Meath County Development Board launched the three-year Meath Interagency Strategy for the Traveller Community in April, 2007 as prepared by the Office of Community & Enterprise on behalf of the Board. This strategy was undertaken on foot of a request from the Departments of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and Justice, Equality & Law Reform with the aim of improving cooperation amongst state agencies in the delivery of services and supports to the Traveller Community. The implementation of the Strategy is overseen by the Interagency Steering Group and the actions documented in the Strategy are further developed through the Issue Working Groups – Health/Accommodation – Education /Youth/Childcare – Justice & Equality Issue Group – Employment/Training/Enterprise Issue Group.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Community & Voluntary Sector Database

In 2007, the Office of Community & Enterprise, Meath County Council continued to encourage Community & Voluntary Groups to register on its database. Over 950 groups are registered and these groups are regularly contacted with details of projects and initiatives being run by Meath County Council, Meath Community Forum, other state agencies, etc. Registered groups are also eligible to nominate and vote in the election of Community & Voluntary Sector Representatives.

### Community Fora

#### Meath County Community Forum & Electoral Area Community Fora

The elected Community & Voluntary Sector representatives, along with Area Fora representatives, form a Steering Committee, which organizes events for the member groups of Meath Community Forum. In 2007, Community & Enterprise worked closely with this Committee in terms of reviewing its operation and structures.

In November 2007, the Steering Committee, on behalf of Meath Community Forum, hosted a public Road Safety Seminar. The meeting was held in Ashbourne and speakers included Gay Byrne, Chairperson, Road Safety Authority, Supt Michael Devine, An Garda Siochana, Ms. Nina Browne, on The Personal consequences of a Road Traffic Accident and Mr Michael Finnegan, Road Safety Officer - Meath County Council

In 2007, Navan Area Forum held or was involved in a number of events including an AGM, at which presentations were made by guest speakers on Multi Cultural Meath and an awareness evening on Gay and Lesbian Rights.

South Meath (Trim) Forum also met frequently and held a number of information events.

Slane Electoral Area Forum was re-established in 2007 with considerable support from a large number of local community groups. A number of meetings were held in preparation of a Community EXPO to be held in Slane in 2008

Each of the active Fora receives a small annual grant from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, channeled by the Community & Enterprise Section, Meath County Council and for which they must submit a Work Programme and Activity Report.

### Community Information

The C&E Section of Meath County Council has endeavoured to facilitate information exchange to and between communities through a variety of media. The initiatives undertaken have proven successful and it is intended to continue, and where possible extend, efforts in this regard. Many of the initiatives below have been supported by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, through its grant aid for the support of community fora and development. A Draw was held for the prize of a computer for all registered groups on our Community & Voluntary Database. The winner in 2007 was The Springboard Community Group in Navan.

#### 'Community Matters'

In 2007, an issue of the community newsletter, 'Community Matters' was produced and circulated to every household and business address in County Meath, with a total circulation of 65,000. Each of the CDB member organisations are invited to submit relevant articles for inclusion where these articles are of general community interest.

#### Meath4Funding

This facility, available free of charge, continued to benefit all Meath community groups, businesses and social enterprises. Meath4Funding offers free access to an innovative service that provides information on grants and supports available. This comprehensive funding database is constantly updated and covers EU, national, regional and local grant and support information. This service is available on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie).

## People in the Community Awards

In 2007, Community & Enterprise Department organized the People in the Community Awards. This scheme recognizes and rewards the contribution made by individuals and groups in their community (in conjunction with Meath Local Sports Partnership.) The awards event took place in Trim in November, 2007.



Community Awards Night

## Community IT Development

In 2007, the following progress was made:

### Communities Online Together

Training Sessions continued on a monthly basis. Over 400 community and voluntary groups registered to participate in the project and almost 300 have received training and are operating their websites.

### Schools Online Together

40 schools trained and operating their websites. Student participation in website maintenance piloted successfully.

### Education and Training Database

Meath Education and Training website launched ( [www.metd.ie](http://www.metd.ie) ) in conjunction with the IT Department and Further and Higher Education Officer. A user guide was produced and distributed to education providers across the County. Over 300 courses taking place in Meath are listed on the website.

### Meath Care Portal

This project including the Meath Care Portal website ([www.meathcareportal.ie](http://www.meathcareportal.ie)) was launched on 10th December 2007. Over 200 links to relevant information are published on the website and 17 desktop computers and 19 laptops along with all-in-one printers and peripheral materials were distributed to relevant community groups across the County.

### Support Services Directory

Meath Support Services Directory ([www.meathsupportservices.ie](http://www.meathsupportservices.ie)), an interagency project, was launched on 10th October 2007 in conjunction with the Health Service Executive and Meath Citizens Information Service. Over 250 local Support Services are listed on the website and a CD Rom and posters listing websites and telephone numbers that are relevant to young people were distributed to all schools in the County.

## Social Inclusion

### County Development Board - Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Group

The SIM group supported the establishment of the Migrants Research Project - a report on Engaging Difference: The opportunity of diversity in a changing Meath - due to be published in 2008. The Group received a presentation on an overview of the Rent Assisted Scheme ( RAS) to be under the administration of the Housing Section. The group also supported the conference for Older Persons held in Trim together with giving significant support to the establishment of the Meath Interagency Traveller Strategy.

### Social Inclusion Unit

In June 2007 a submission was made to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the establishment of a Social Inclusion Unit for Meath Local Authorities supported by the Meath County Development Board and the Social Inclusion Measures Group. Funding was secured for the positions of Social Inclusion Officer and Social Inclusion Analyst.

## Youth Comhairle na nÓg / Dáil na nÓg

### Comhairle na nÓg

Further to the recommendations set by the National Children's Office, Meath County Development Board consulted with young people in the County through a local Comhairle na nÓg (13-17yrs) and Comhairle na bPáisti (7-12yrs). Both groups held events separately and elected 12 representatives to form a steering group to represent their views at County level. These events were facilitated by the ISPPC.

### Dáil na nÓg

In February 2007, 6 young people from Meath were selected from the Comhairle na nÓg process to represent Meath at the 2007 Dáil na nÓg which took place in Croke Park, Dublin.

## Disability

Funding was received under the National Disability Strategy in 2007 for Capital and Current expenditure. A total of €460,000 was secured for the following projects:

### Current Expenditure

Training – General	€23,031
Access Audits	€98,251
Libraries	€23,219
	<b>€144,501</b>

### Capital Expenditure

Installation of Hearing Loop System	€14,146
New Lift County Hall	€200,000
Kennedy Road Civic Space	€50,000
Balrath Wood "Easy Route"	€30,000
	<b>€294,146</b>

Technical staff employed by Meath County Council received training in 2007 by an Access Consultant to enhance their awareness and knowledge of efficient design practice to accommodate persons with a disability. Under capital expenditure design work and ground work began on a new lift in County Hall Navan. Additional Accessibility Audits for Meath County Council Buildings, roads, footpaths and open spaces were also completed in 2007.

## Other Initiatives:

### Smoke Alarms

Under a scheme funded by Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, 500 Smoke Alarms were issued to 250 vulnerable households in Meath nominated by Community Groups in 2007. The Community Groups themselves were responsible for the installation of these alarms.

### Cohesion – Local Development & Community Proposals

Community & Enterprise Department have, on foot of a request from the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, worked closely with Meath LEADER and TIDE to facilitate the establishment of the new unified structure for the delivery of the rural development and social inclusion programmes in County Meath – Meath Partnership. In 2007 Office of Community & Enterprise in conjunction with Meath Partnership prepared a database of Community & Voluntary Groups. This database will be used to establish a verified voters register for the election in early 2008 of Community & Voluntary representatives and representatives of issue networks to the Board of Meath Partnership.

## PRIDE OF PLACE INITIATIVES

Meath County Council Pride of Place is primarily a competition to harness the resources of active community groups to address the demands of a high quality living environment and to foster a partnership with the local authority.

### The following competitions make up Pride of Place:

- The Harvest Walks Competition – Judging September 2007
- The Royal Bloom Competition for towns and villages – Judging July 2007
- The Waterways Awards – Judging July 2007
- The Derelict Sites Improvement Projects – Judging July 2007
- The Village Paint Scheme – Judging July 2007
- Meath County Council Pride of Place (POP) for Schools Competition – Judging May 2007

In order to make the programme as inclusive as possible a number of new initiatives were included in 2007 as follows;

- Best Youth Project
- Best Gaeltacht Project
- Housing Estate Awards
- Church Floral Displays Competition
- Judges Awards for Exceptional Individual Achievement

### Pride of Place for Schools

In 2007 40 schools participated in this scheme. The students and teachers identify a project that is suitable for their school and receive training and advice from Meath County Council. Many schools now boast beautiful gardens and spaces which can be enjoyed by all.

The categories in POP for Schools include:

- Productive or Sustainable Garden
- Biodiversity/Wildlife Garden
- Use of Art in School Setting
- Traditional Garden
- Innovative Garden
- Best Environmental Management System
- Best Whole School Action
- Overall Award for Best Garden



Pride of Place Schools overall winner  
2007, Scoil Mhuire Moynalty

## Training

The Pride of Place Initiatives have a strong focus on training and active community groups get a chance to refresh their landscape management skills as follows:

### February/May 2007:

- Two one day workshops for 40 schools - students, teachers and parents, in National Botanic Gardens
- Two one day gardening workshops for community and voluntary groups, resident associations, individual community activists
- Tidy Towns Groups Seminar
- 17 groups availed of Horticulture consultations on location with landscape architect and gardener.

## Meath County Councils Anti Litter League 2007

In 2007, 70 groups participated in the Anti Litter League. Armed with appropriate equipment the volunteers set out to eradicate litter in their housing estate, town or village over the period of the competition, which ran for March and April. Judges visited each participating area on a bi-weekly basis and marks were lost where litter occurred.

### Awards Ceremonies & Achievements 2007

The Awards evening for the Anti Litter League took place in May 2007, at the Newgrange Hotel in Navan. Residents of Castletown were delighted with the title of the most litter free place in Meath, with Moynalty in the runner up position.

Winners of the housing estate categories included, Old Terrace Balbradagh in Robinstown, Earls Meadow in Ballivor, Bellair in Moynalty, Oak Court in Dunderry.

Meath County Council Pride of Place for Schools Awards Ceremony took place in Warrenstown College in June 2007. Moynalty National School scooped the overall award with many other schools getting awards for specific projects in relation to sustainability, use of art, community involvement.

Meath County Council Pride of Place Initiatives Awards Ceremony took place in October 2007. Kilskyre Village took first prize with awards also going to many other groups in recognition of their excellent work in enhancing their areas, including Slane, Moynalty and Athboy.

Moynalty won tidiest village in Ireland in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Overall the marks for all of the centres in Meath have improved from the results in 2006.



Anti-Litter Awards – 2007

## Community Participation Level in County Meath

### Amenity Levies Scheme

This scheme provides financial assistance to the Council and community-based groups and voluntary organisations for projects and initiatives to develop sporting, recreational, environmental, amenity, heritage and cultural facilities within County Meath. The Amenity Levies Scheme is funded annually by the proceeds of amenity levies on new developments within the County.

The Council agreed funding of €6.45 million for Council projects and initiatives at County and Electoral Area level and Community Projects in November 2007.

A major funding allocation of €1.4m to community groups and voluntary organisations will benefit 52 Countywide projects ranging from sporting facilities, community/resource centres, heritage projects, amenity and environmental improvements.

### ARTS OFFICE

The Arts Office facilitates the further advancement of arts and culture in the County, recognising the importance of the artist and the pivotal role that the artist has to play in promoting social inclusion, and their role in assisting Local Authorities achieve their objectives in areas of personal development, community development, employment and tourism.

In 2007, the Arts Office provided opportunities of participation in events as diverse as ballroom dancing, storytelling, jazz, classical and traditional music compositions, music, writing and drama workshops, puppetry and visual arts in centres across Meath.

Most notably 2007 saw the launch of the 'Lit Lab' in association with Cavan Arts Office. The Lit Lab was a series of workshops designed to mentor both new and experienced writers. Writers, poets, scriptwriters and dramatists from around Cavan and Meath took part in these classes running from April until November. The programme culminated with the presentation of their work in the Park Hotel, Virginia with a celebration of contemporary poetry, readings of fiction, non-fiction and drama recitals.

Seven Classical music events were staged between St. Mary's Church Of Ireland, Navan and in The Venue, Ratoath Community Centre.

The Arts office is expanding existing programmes of sustainable community projects in the key areas of Arts and Disability, Arts and Older Persons, Multiculturalism and the Arts, Youth Drama/Dance, Arts In Education and Arts In Community Development contexts.

Highlights of events programmed for the above groups were

- Foreign Film Festival in conjunction with Meath County Council Library Service,
- Bealtaine, consisting of various workshops including creative writing, ballroom dancing, painting, story telling and visual art projects.
- The Children's ArtFest consisting of: 'The Plumbers Guide to World Music' workshops, Performances of 'Giant Musical Garden', 'Dulsori' and 'The Painted Garden & The Italian Garden' in Solstice Arts Centre, Kite making, Claymation and Music recording workshops, Story telling, and traditional music workshops, presented by Blaiseadh Beag.
- Youth Drama workshops with Gary Keegan in Secondary Schools in Trim, Navan, Nobber & Ashbourne.
- A host of events with Primary Schools throughout Meath including Music Workshops from the National Concert Hall, The Armagh Rymer's, TEAM Educational Theatre Company and Artzone.
- Youth Arts

- Music recording workshops by 'Clued In Music' in Youth Reach Centres
- Commencement of the 'Lit Lab' workshops facilitated by John McAllister
- Visual Art exhibitions in the Toradh Gallery, Ashbourne Civic Offices by Thomas Delohery, Ken Williams and exhibition of the Meath County Council Art Collection
- Performances in conjunction with Meath County Council Arts Office by Ballet Ireland and Upstate Theatre Company

New partnerships have been developed and existing ones consolidated with local, national and international agencies to realise the above objective.

Partners worked with in 2007 included:

- Solstice Arts Centre
- Ratoath Community Centre
- Ballet Ireland
- Alternative Entertainments Ltd
- Moveable Feast Workshop Co.
- Music Network
- Meath Heritage Office

The Arts Office continues to work with Irish language organisations and Gaeltacht areas in the development and implementation of artistic programmes through the Irish language. Through story telling, Niall de Burca performed to 350 children through four County Meath libraries promoting the Irish language during Seachtain na Gaeilge. In partnership with Gael Linn, musicians Michael Rooney, Mick O'Brien and Niamh de Burca visited four Gaelscoileanna in County Meath presenting Blaiseadh Beag of traditional music and song.

## Bursaries & Awards 2007

### Professional Artists Development Fund

Siobhan Strahan  
Helen Blackhurst  
Aileen Hamilton  
Louise Heaney

### Festival Grant Scheme

Navan Choral Festival  
Culture Gap Ltd (Le Cheile, Oldcastle)  
Kells Summer Festival

### Bi-Annual Arts Grant Scheme Phase I

Heritage Art Group  
Dunshaughlin Art Group  
Francis Ledwidge Museum  
Kentstown & Seneschalstown Accordion Band  
Trim Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

### Schools Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme

Navan Educate Together  
St. Marys Special School  
Dunboyne Junior Primary School  
St. Patricks National School  
St Peters College

### Going Solo

Not awarded as none of the applications fully met the application criteria

### Bi-Annual Arts Grant Scheme Phase II

Cultúr  
Ratoath College  
Moynalty Art Group  
The Venue Theatre Dramatic Ensemble  
Suella Holland

### Community Arts Award

Athboy No Name Club  
Our Generations

### Tyrone Guthrie Centre Award

No applications received

### Tony Finnegan Memorial Award

Emma Brady  
Ciara Taaffe

<b>Total amount in Value</b>	€	<b>€28,476</b>
<b>Total Number of Bursaries Award in 2007</b>		<b>26</b>



## HERITAGE SERVICES

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In 2007, public consultation on the Draft County Meath Heritage Plan was completed. A total of 24 written submissions were received and 25 people attended the public meetings. Amendments to the draft were approved by the County Meath Heritage Forum. Funding was secured from the Heritage Council and Meath County Council to implement Year I of the Heritage Plan in 2007, and the Year I implementation programme was completed.

Funding was also secured from the Heritage Council and Meath County Council to implement Year II of the Heritage Plan in 2008.

Seven meetings of the County Meath Heritage Forum were facilitated in 2007.

- A Survey of 11 of the Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) of County Meath was undertaken. This survey evaluates the character of each ACA and provides guidance to the planning authority for development management within and adjacent to these ACAs.
- The draft Conservation & Management Plan for Trim Town Wall and Defences was agreed by the steering committee in 2007. The overall aim of this plan is to assist the various agencies and groups responsible for the conservation and management of Trim Town Walls in formulating, planning and implementing a successful conservation and management plan for this unique national monument.
- Worked in partnership with the Boyne Navigation Restoration Group in their phased restoration programme for the Boyne Navigation and Towpath.
- County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan – Meath County Council and the County Heritage Forum in partnership with the Heritage Council and Open Field Ecological Services began the preparation of the first County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan.
- The Heritage Officer is a member of the Balrath NeighbourWood Steering Committee. In 2007, an Ecological Management Plan was prepared for the wood and a Bird Survey was undertaken in partnership with University College Cork.
- Louise McKeever (Research Assistant) managed Phase II of the County Meath Graveyard Inventory which involves site visits and a photographic survey.
- FERS Ltd were commissioned to survey the River Boyne between Navan and Drogheda for potentially invasive plant species and to ascertain the degree of threat to local biodiversity posed by these species.
- In partnership with Meath Tourism, the Heritage Office developed two heritage walks in the County at Drewstown Bog and the Navan Ramparts.
- The annual Tidy Towns Seminar was held in Broomfield and District's Heritage Centre attended by over 50 people. Talks were given on nature conservation, habitat mapping, managing grasslands for biodiversity, hedgerows, bats, rivers and wetlands.

## The Heritage Service raises heritage awareness and facilitates the collection and dissemination of heritage information

- The heritage website was expanded and updated with various information added. ([www.meathheritage.ie](http://www.meathheritage.ie))
- Promoted the Heritage in Schools Scheme 2007.
- The Environmental Research Agency was contracted in 2006 to capture laser data of the World Heritage Site using Lidar (Light Detection And Ranging). Aerial Lidar survey is based on two principles of accurate measurement by laser of the distance in a particular direction to a point on the ground, and an exact estimation of the position and orientation of the aircraft at the time measurement is being made. Preliminary analysis on the dataset was carried out in 2007.
- Organised a nature walk along the Boyne to promote National Biodiversity Day 2007.
- Coordinated the annual Heritage Week celebrations held from August 25th to September 2nd. Events were widely publicised and the office organised a number of events including three exhibitions and a Family Nature Activity Day in Dalgan Park.
- As part of National Tree Week 2007, 3,000 trees were distributed to community groups in Kells Recycling Centre.
- Meath County Council is a partner in INTERREG project led by Fingal County Council to increase awareness of coastal habitats. Also received a project proposal under INTERREG from Craigavon Borough Council in Northern Ireland and Monaghan County Council titled 'Action for Biodiversity' which seeks to involve all ten local authorities within the region.
- A project to identify and promote the geology of County Meath was undertaken in partnership with the Geological Society of Ireland and Kilkenny and Fingal County Councils.
- An inventory of existing flora and fauna meta-datasets was collated, with a database of 203 biological records for County Meath created. Each record provides information on the type of research carried out, the reasons for the study, a brief description of the study, the habitats and species investigated and information relating to the accessibility and ownership of the dataset.
- In partnership with Teagasc, a GIS modeling of habitats in Meath using existing datasets generated within the EPA Soils and Subsoils Project.
- Promoted the Heritage Council Local Heritage Grant Scheme through local media and also met and advised local community groups on applications as required.
- Meath County Council sponsored the Lismullin Institute Autumn Lecture Series.
- Meath County Council part funded a programme of geophysical and topographical surveys over an extensive area situated some 700 metres south of the Knowth passage-tomb complex, within the townland of Newgrange. What was found is likely to represent the remains of at least two superimposed archaeological monuments consisting of several building phases, which were subsequently levelled by later agricultural activity. The nature and date of these significant archaeological remains has yet to be identified.

## RAPID NAVAN

The RAPID Navan Programme was launched in August 2002 and is part of the current National Development Plan 2006 – 2013. The RAPID Programme was established in order to advance three key areas:

- Increase Investment in key local estates
- Improve service provision in the RAPID estates through better Service Integration
- Enhance Community Spirit through capacity building and increased engagement and participation



Launch of REACT Research Project

## Investment

- Investment has continued to flow into the Navan RAPID area in 2007 with key initiatives being funded including enhancement to estates, road improvements, and additional play and recreation facilities.
- A brand new multi-use games area was opened in Clogherboy Estate during 2007. The total cost of the project is €125,000 and funding came from Meath County Council, Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and RAPID. The area includes a skateboard park.
- A new community playground was opened in Reask Estate for local residents. Residents had requested support from the RAPID Navan team as there was a lack of facilities for children in the area.
- An environment enhancement project in Parnell Park, Benildus Villas, Connolly Avenue and Emmet Terrace was completed during 2007.
- A traffic calming scheme was completed in Clogherboy, Parnell Park and St. Brigid's Villas during 2007.

- A research project that highlights the needs of migrant communities in Meath was started during 2007 and will be launched in mid-2008. The project which is supported by Meath CDB will highlight important issues for service providers in the County.
- The HSE leveraged funding Programme for RAPID Areas was competed during 2007. A total of €80,000 was given to three local community organisations: Meath Women's Refuge, Navan Schools Completion Programme and Claremont Stadium.
- This year the RAPID Navan AIT has been allocated €18,000 towards the Community Support Budget by Pobal. This was the sixth consecutive year that this funding was awarded and Navan has now received more than €100,000 from this scheme.

## Service Co-operation

Local agencies and service providers have continued to work together in 2007 to provide enhanced support and services to the people of the RAPID Navan estates.

- The REACT Group was established in 2007 to oversee the development of a major research project. The Working Group comprises representatives from FAS, VEC, DSFA, Meath Co.Council, FIT, RAPID and the community.
- The Sunshine Summercamp, now in its fifth year, ran for one week in July and catered for 35 children from the RAPID estates. The camp is run by a joint committee that has representatives from RAPID, Meath Local Sports Partnership, Springboard, Navan Schools Completion Programme, Meath Youth Federation and the community.
- The Smoking Cessation scheme which is centred in the RAPID estates continues to run this year with the support of the HSE.

## Community

- The Community Training Programme continued with the support of the Community Support Budget. Capacity building was provided for members of the community.
- The Meath Festival of Cultures – the fifth Navan cultural festival, was held in Claremont Stadium in July and was a huge success with the local community. MLSP, CIS, Community & Enterprise Department, Meath County Council, Cultúr and RAPID worked together to manage the delivery of this project with funding of almost €60,000.
- Community relations continue to develop with the ongoing consultation workshops with community to work through issues such as estate enhancement, playground development and other important community issues.

## RAPID Navan AIT

The RAPID Navan Area Implementation Team (AIT) brings together local State Agency personnel (Local Authority, HSE, VEC, Dept of Social, Community and Family Affairs, FÁS, CDP, etc), and residents from the local community. The AIT is responsible for implementing the RAPID programme at a local level. The team has the support of the Meath County Development Board, the local authority and the RAPID liaison staff in Pobal. The local RAPID co-ordinator is tasked with facilitating the work of the AIT and is employed by Meath County Council.

## MEATH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Meath Local Sports Partnership implements the Meath Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan and develops and delivers a range of quality programmes to increase the awareness of and the benefits of physical activity and sport.

### Objectives of Meath LSP are to:

- Increase opportunities for everyone to participate in sport and physical activity in Meath
- Enhance training and development opportunities for all involved in sport and physical activity in Meath.
- Encourage better use and planning for sport and physical activity.
- Promote participation in sport in a drug and alcohol free environment.

### Young People:

#### Buntus Training

115 primary schools – Generic  
 109 schools – FAI Buntus  
 33 Buntus Basketball  
 20 Childcare Centres/Providers – Buntus Start

#### Summer Camp:

Information leaflet produced – distributed Countywide  
 Windtown/Tailteann Children's Summer Festival  
 Active Leadership Tutor Trained  
 Girls in Action Programme Pilot – 4 schools

### Active Living:

#### Adapted Physical Activity:

70 participants on All Ability summer camp  
 Disability Awareness Training for Clubs  
 Training for Disability Service Providers in Sport and Leadership  
 Secure funding Sports Inclusion Disability Officer

#### Older People:

€2,500 received from Go For Life  
 189 Older people attended Two Sports Fests  
 Grant Information workshop

#### Communities in Action:

Run Physical Activity Programme for Older People in RAPID Areas  
 – 70 participants  
 Training for leaders in Active Leadership Award – 9 leaders

#### Other:

1,000 participants Meath Intercultural Family festival  
 Launch of new Navan Sli Route

**Training & Development:**

**Coach Training:** 21 club representatives participated on SAQ courses  
 16 FUNDamentals Ladies Gaelic  
 43 Sports First Aid  
 27 AED  
 260 Code of Ethics  
 28 Children Officers

**Coach Development:** 397 - 2 Meet and Train Initiatives  
 70 Women in Motion conference  
 €13,000 Bursary awards  
 €5,860 club grants  
 Capital Funding Information Workshop

**Facilities:**

**AUDIT:** 92 updates to facilities  
**Capital Funding:**  
 34 club representatives information evening  
 Assistance to clubs grant application  
**Club database:**  
 Update and maintenance

**Marketing & Communication:**

**Website:** Maintain & update  
**Newsletter:** 103,000 newsletters produced and distributed (3 issues)

**Information:**

Quarterly mailshots with course information sent to 3000 contacts  
Fairplay Initiative in association with Meath GAA

**Strategy:**

New plan currently being developed

**Corporate Governance:****Board Members:**

7 meetings with full board

1 AGM

8 executive meetings

**Financial Planning**

€168,007 Core Funding

€6,800 Youth/Disadvantaged Funding

Comply with all Tax & Revenue

**Reports:**

Annual report produced

Quarterly reports to Irish Sports Council

Annual Workplan produced

**Management:****Staff:**

FAS CE worker renewed

Training for staff

Staff appraisals

ISC Co-ordinator training

## LIBRARY SERVICES

Continued commitment to the Library Development plan 2005-2009 has resulted in further progress in the areas of infrastructure, branch development, increased opening hours, branch improvements, reader development, multicultural services, local studies and events.

### Infrastructure and Opening Hours

A new library was opened in Rathcairn in November 2007 bringing to 13 the number of static branches in the county. The development of a new branch providing a Meath County Library Service in the heart of the Gaeltacht was widely welcomed with over a thousand items issued by the end of the year. The new branch (1,000 sq. ft.) is a partnership development with Údras na Gaeltachta and Comharcumann Rathcairn. Open ten hours a week the branch provides access to over 5,000 volumes and broadband internet facilities to its I.T. users.

An allocation of €150,000 was made to St Kinneth's Church, Ballivor project in 2007 from the Social and Community Facilities Capital Scheme. The design and funding proposals for the new Bettystown library and upgraded Navan library facility were advanced.

Kells library went fulltime with opening hours increasing to 30 hours a week including all day Saturday opening.

#### Highlights of 2007 Included:

### Welsh Minister visits Ashbourne Library

In February 2007 the Welsh Minister for Language Culture and sport, Alun Pugh, visited Ashbourne Library on a fact finding mission around Irish libraries.



OFFICIAL OPENING OF RATHCAIRN LIBRARY • County Manager Tom Dowling, Branch Librarian Treasa Úi Mhairtín, County Librarian Ciarán Mangan, Chairman Nick Killian



Welsh Minister Alun Pugh with County Manager Tom Dowling, County Librarian Ciaran Mangan with two schoolchildren from the local Gaelscoil.



## Local Studies Department:

The local studies department have been involved in many projects throughout the year. Highlights of 2007 included publication of two new resources:

"Mapping Meath in the Early Nineteenth Century" which was published by Meath County Council Library Service in association with Wordwell. The book describes the geography and early mapping of the County with particular reference to the very large map of Meath made by the surveyor and engineer William Larkin in approximately 1812. It is now reproduced on 28 atlas pages in the book, which makes it widely available to researchers for the first time.

## Audio Book 'Best of Times' Launched

The Library service launched the second of its audio books entitled 'The Best of Times' by George Briscoe at Trim Library in November 2007. The book looks at the life of the author at Bellinter House Navan from the 1920s.



View of the audio cover of The Best of Times of Bellinter House, Navan

## Genealogy Courses launched in Oldcastle & Dunshaughlin Libraries

Following the success of these courses in our larger libraries the local studies department arranged genealogy courses in Oldcastle and Dunshaughlin Libraries. Participants learned how to use resources such as census returns, parish records and valuations. All participants were awarded certificates in basic genealogical skills on completion of the course.

## Launch of Library Information Guides

In April the Library Service launched its new series of leaflets outlining all of its services and branches throughout the County. The guides were launched by the Cathaoirleach Jimmy Cudden and are now available in all libraries in the County.



County Librarian Ciaran Mangan, with the County Manager Tom Dowling and Chairman of the Council Jimmy Cudden, with library staff at the launch in Navan Library



Ronnie Delany during his visit to Navan Library

### Ronnie Delany visits Navan Library

In May 2007 Navan Library had the pleasure of a visit from one of Ireland’s greatest sporting icons Ronnie Delany, where he entertained the audience with wonderful tales and reminiscences of the Melbourne Olympics. He also signed copies of his autobiography ‘Staying the distance’.



The winning Gormanstown team with County Librarian Ciaran Mangan, Director of Services Kevin Stewart, Serge Christane, Mary Kiloran from the European Parliament Office and Mary Murphy Executive Librarian.

### Gormanstown Students win EU debate

A team of transition students from Gormanstown College won the first of the Library service’s EU Debate competition in May 2007.

The Team won the school prize of a laptop, projector and screen as well as 40 Euro book vouchers which were given to all finalists. The winning team was also invited by the EU office to visit the EU parliament in Strasbourg later in the year.

### Children’s Services

The Library Service continues to organise a wide range of school and general events for children all year round. The service got great feedback from events organised for Children’s Book Festival in October with authors such as Cathy Cassidy, Sally Prue and illustrators such as Colin Hawkins and Nicholas Allen. Hundreds of children attended the events organised for children throughout the Summer. In September 2007 the Service launched the Children’s Writer in Residence programme with children’s author Oisín McGann who ran numerous workshops around the County’s schools and libraries.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS SERVICE

10,400 items were purchased and catalogued in 2007. All 112 schools were surveyed about the schools service and a number of recommendations were introduced as a result of this consultation process

- Schools staff may now visit County Library H.Q. and select their own stock
- Access to expensive, electronic resources for schools from the library website was introduced ( Britannica Online)
- Additional graded reading schemes were purchased and made available to reduce waiting lists.



Big wild read graduation party at Ashbourne Library



Armagh Rhymers with local school children at Ashbourne Library for Children's book Festival.



Pyjama party at Duleek Library - summer events



'Big wild read' graduation party at Navan Library



Arts & Crafts session at Slane Library



Summer Playstation Challenge at Ashbourne Library



Summer Chess challenge at Ashbourne Library



National Concert Hall Music Workshop - Trim Library



Creeply Crawlies summer roadshow at Navan Library

## Over 1,000 people braved the elements and attended the 4th annual Meath Intercultural Family Festival on Saturday at Claremont Stadium in Navan.

The Festival was one of the largest in the area with over 300 participants, performers and volunteers. It was funded under the National Action Plan against Racism (NPAR), which is a joint initiative between the Department of Justice and the Irish Sports Council and is being delivered locally by Meath Local Sports Partnership.

Soccer legend, Paul McGrath and The Mayor of Navan, Christy Reilly, opened the Festival. They kicked off the "Mini World Cup" 5-A-Side soccer tournament which was won by local lads, Just For Fun, who put a team together especially for the day. Murphy Environmental were the kind sponsors of the "Mini World Cup".



“We were delighted to see so many people from the local and the wider community brave the elements and come to the festival” says Mary Murphy of the Meath Local Sports Partnership. “Everyone had a great time and enjoyed all the events and activities and most importantly, each other’s company.”

A very full programme of indoor and outdoor events and activities took place throughout the day. There was performing arts which included a Chinese Dragon Dance, the exciting Indian Punjab Dancers, the local and very talented Shyerz Crew Rappers, the Gospel Choir from Laytown, a Phillipino Choir, Hip Hop Dancers Raw Edge who taught children to hip hop on the day. There was also a Céilí by the Tara Céilí Band and last, but by no means least, the IGBO African Drummers.

Sporting events included the “Mini World Cup” soccer tournament and FAI skills soccer for children which was extremely popular. There was Archery, Kids Races, and some wonderful Martial Arts displays.

There was over 20 information, crafts and food stalls, film shows, Fire Juggling and story telling as well as face painting and bouncy castles.

There was no rubbish to pick up after the festival as Midland Waste kindly supplied wheelie bins for rubbish collection and recycling.

The event was jointly organised by the Meath Local Sports Partnership, Cultúr, RAPID and Navan Citizens Information who wish to thank all the volunteers, performers, participants for making the festival such a successful and enjoyable event.

It was kindly sponsored by Murphy Environmental and all monies raised on the day will go to Childline who were at the festival to launch Teentext in the Navan Area.

For information contact 046-9067337.



**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:**

<b>Average number of public opening hours per week</b>	
Full-time Libraries	36.92
Part-time Libraries	11.01
<b>Total number of registered users</b>	
	<b>21,231</b>
<b>Total number of items issued</b>	
Books	357,381
Non-Book	61,347
<b>% of Libraries that offer internet access</b>	
	<b>92%</b>
<b>Total number of internet sessions provided</b>	
	<b>51,648</b>

# CORPORATE SERVICES

## Strategic objective

To work within a framework of democratic principles, which facilitates optimum public participation, and the delivery of quality services for the benefit of our community.

## Core Activities

Corporate Services has responsibility for:-

- Communications / Publications / Corporate Identity
- Corporate Buildings & Surrounds
- Corporate Plan
- Customer Care
- Ethics Register (Staff & Members)
- Health & Safety
- Higher Education Grants
- Local Democracy
- Management Team Support
- Meeting Administration
- Official Languages Act 2003
- Members Support
- Register of Electors



## COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS/CORPORATE IDENTIFY

### Strategy

*To communicate effectively with our customers and community in order to increase awareness of the organisations' services and operations*

### Local Radio, Print Media

In 2007, Meath County Council continued to avail of local radio and print media to increase public awareness of council activities and functions.

Media activity is managed through Corporate Services and includes Press Releases, general media queries, as well as the publication of the weekly statutory and discretionary advertisements and public notices for the organisation in the national and local media.

### Public Representations

During 2007, Corporate Services managed 602 written public representations - 578 from Oireachtas Members and 24 from Council Members. This service is managed through our document management system (Idocs) and available directly to the elected representatives through the Meeting Administration / Members Portal system.

### Corporate Event Management

Corporate Services was pleased to manage several Corporate Events and Civic Receptions in 2007 following formal resolution of the elected members. One such occasion was a civic event for Peter McDermott in recognition of his unique participation and contribution to the GAA at local and national level. A presentation was made on behalf of Meath Co Council by the Cathaoirleach Councillor Jimmy Cudden.



## Tone Zone Park - Dunshaughlin

September 2007 saw the official opening by President Mary McAleese of the Tone Zone park in Dunshaughlin. This facility, the first of its kind in Ireland, comprises nine pieces of equipment for aerobics, muscle development, strength building, co-ordination and balance.

Robust and attractively painted, the exercise machines are designed to be used outdoors, in all weathers. People passing can spend a few minutes limbering up, or organised groups can use the machines for intensive exercise programmes. The project took about 4 months to design and was the initiative of the County Manager in conjunction with the President, who, on a state visit to China noticed people of all ages exercising in public parks, using what looked like playground equipment.

The objective of the project was:

- to provide opportunities for people of all ages to exercise and improve their overall fitness levels.
- to enable older people to live active and healthy lifestyles.
- to reduce levels of isolation among older people by encouraging them to exercise alongside children and younger people.

The project is funded by Meath County Council Amenity Levy Scheme. Meath County Council received a small amount of Grant Funding towards the project from Mid East Region Authority.

Costs	€
Design	5,500.00
Installation	44,788.24
Equipment	7,314.35
Total Cost	57,602.59

The opening was attended by members of Dunshaughlin Senior Citizens' Club, members of the Third Age Centre in Summerhill, as well as local public representatives, business people and members of the community, many of whom use the public park.



## Freedom of Information

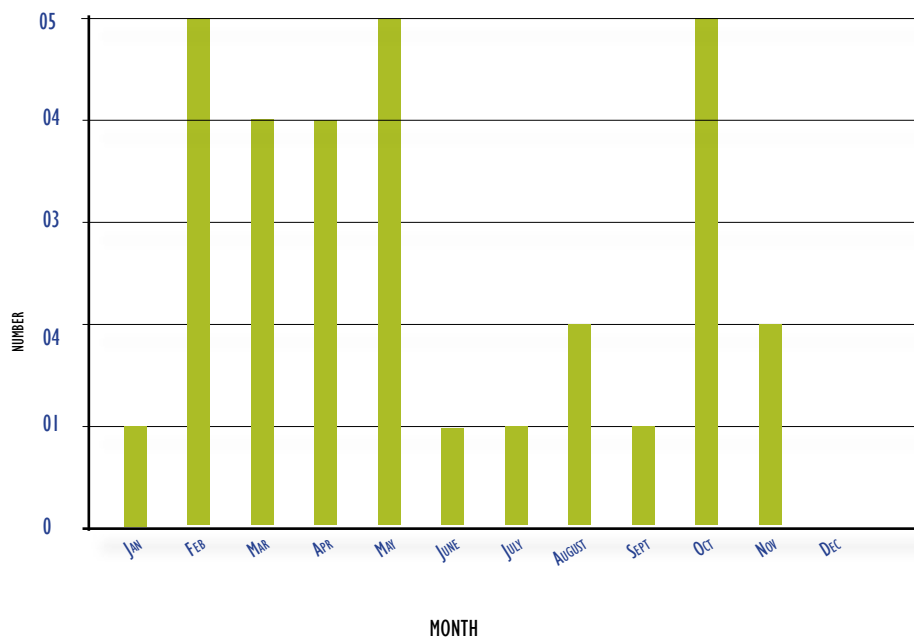
Meath County Council continues to ensure that anyone who has a proper interest in receiving information has access to that information through the Freedom of Information (FoI) Acts 1997 & 2003.

Records made available under FoI are those records not already available under alternative legislation and applies to all local authority records created after 21st October 1998.

The following are the 2007 statistics relating to Freedom of Information Requests:

Applications Received	31
Carried Forward from 2006	5
Total	36
No. of requests granted/part granted	31
No. of requests refused	3
Requests transferred	0
Withdrawn or dealt with outside FOI	0
Live cases at end of 2006	2
No of Internal Reviews	0
No. of Appeals to the Information Commissioner	0

## Freedom of Information Requests: 2007



## Official Languages Act 2003

Meath Local Authorities introduced the language plan Scéim Údaráis Áitiúla na Mí in 2006. This current Scheme is due to run to 2009.

Among the main measures which have already progressed are:

- Improvements in the availability of application forms, information leaflets and other documents through Irish.
- An increase in the information available bilingually on the Local Authorities' website
- A specific email address to deal with enquiries through Irish
- Training courses for staff to improve their Irish language ability, thereby allowing an increase in the services available to the public.

## CORPORATE PLAN

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### Strategy

*To oversee the implementation, monitoring and review of the Corporate Plan*

### Meath County Council Corporate Plan

In early 2006 the County Council completed and presented the first annual review of the Corporate Plan 2004-2009. This review followed a validation of the various departmental operational plans measured against the Corporate Plan. This review was followed by a subsequent review of priorities and the re-allocation of resources as required.

The Corporate Plan will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

## CORPORATE PLAN — ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2007

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### Information Systems

By implementation of improved management tools, Meath County Council ensured that it derives maximum benefit from the existing infrastructure. In parallel, numerous infrastructural enhancements were either completed or begun, including a major network improvement programme which will be completed early in 2008.

Business Areas that received key focus included HR, Payroll and Superannuation, for which a fully integrated system will be implemented during 2008; Planning, whose new premises is supported with a best-practice technology foundation, and for whom a new Planning Administration system has been implemented; Corporate Services - Electoral Register, both in the updating of the register and the successful operation of the general election polling process; Housing, with a continued high level of support for new and existing systems.

### Finance

Meath County Council has achieved a surplus of over €400,000 in 2006, through rigorous and relentless cost efficiencies, frugal spending, and value for money reviews, we expect to also achieve our budget in 2007 confirming the sustainability of the improvement in Financial Performance through our cost efficiency programme.

A further reduction has been achieved in level of Unfunded Capital Balances. These are now expected to drop below €30 million at the end of 2007 from a peak of over €40 million at the end of 2003.

Our programme of ongoing process improvement continues to deliver further efficiencies in terms of outputs from Finance and enhanced services to Members, other Directorates, State Agencies, members of the Public and other stakeholders.

## Housing

Significant progress was made during 2007 with developments involving 249 Social Houses at various stages of completions during the year. A total of 33 houses were also purchased during the year.

In 2007 substantial progress was made in planning for major refurbishment Schemes for the Townparks estate in Navan and Headfort Grove in Kells.

Major progress was made in upgrading of the Housing stock with the objective to bring all older rented housing stock to modern building regulation standard.

Other highlights in respect of activities of the Housing Department during 2007 included:

- Agreements being put in place for the delivery of 444 Affordable & Social Houses under Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000
- The putting in place of a direct sales process which serves to expedite the allocation of Affordable houses to applicants from the Affordable Housing waiting list.
- The completion of a major re-development of the St Patrick's Park Travellers Halt site in Navan.
- 233 Disabled Persons Grants / Essential Repairs grant applications were approved
- 77 units of accommodation being provided in association with Voluntary Bodies under the Capital Assistance & Loan Subsidy Schemes.
- 51 applicants approved under the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

## Environment

2007 was a very busy year for the Environment Section's staff. Some 2,436 complaints regarding environmental pollution were received, and 2,244 of these investigated (i.e. complaints about litter pollution, water and air pollution and illegal dumping). 668 enforcement proceedings were taken in respect of these complaints.

A premises at Rathmaiden, Slane, was identified, procured and became operational as a Dog Pound, operated by a local couple on behalf of the Council with effect from 18th December 2007.

The North East Waste Management Steering Committee met monthly to discuss progress on the implementation of the terms of the Waste Management Plan 2005 – 2010, which was adopted in May 2006. The group is working towards the roll out of a third bin for the collection of bio-degradable waste during 2008.

The new Waste Collection Permit Regulations and the Waste Permit Facility Regulations were signed into force in December 2007, and will add significantly to the work of the Environment Sections. Draft Bye-Laws on the Presentation of Waste were also prepared for discussion with the SPC and the elected members. A new civic amenity site at Kells began operations in February 2007.

The Council continues to pursue a very active programme of water quality monitoring. In excess of 4,500 water samples were tested during the year. The Council is involved in the River Basin District Projects for the Liffey and Boyne Catchment, the Shannon Catchment, and the Border Region Catchment.

The End of Life Regulations, The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations and the collection of Farm Plastics were also major aspects of the work of the Environment Department in 2007.

## Community, Enterprise, Recreation, Cultural & Heritage Department

The key strategic objective of this Department as contained in the Corporate Plan 2004-2009 was further progressed in 2007. Actions contained in the Draft Meath Heritage Plan, and agreed with the Meath Heritage Forum, were incorporated into a work programme in 2007. The Forum will continue to function during the 5-year life of the plan to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Plan. Extensive Heritage funding was also received during the year, including funding from the Irish Walled Towns Network to prepare a conservation plan for Trim Town Walls. A draft biodiversity plan for County Meath was prepared.

An integrated strategy for interagency co-operation in the delivery of services and supports to the Traveller Community in line with DoEHLG requirements was launched in April 2007.

The implementation of the council strategy for the delivery of sporting, recreation and leisure and community facilities continued in 2007 with the adoption of the annual Amenity Levies Scheme incorporating the Council Community Grants Scheme.

Library Development included the opening of a new 1,000sq ft library at Ráth Cairn and the addition of 1,600 sq ft of community and meeting space to the Oldcastle branch library.

The Council advanced the funding and design of new libraries at Ballivor, Bettystown and Navan under the same programme.

The impact of the better and longer opening hours introduced at Dunshaughlin and Kells in 2007 was reflected in increased use at these locations by 25% and 19% respectively.

The programme of Arts Events and Grant allocations was expanded and enhanced in 2007. Review of Arts Plan 2005-2007 has been advanced and the final report due shortly. A very large body of work was completed in 2007 focusing on conservation and restoration of the Meath County Council Art Collection.

## Corporate Service

Health and Safety was maintained as a high priority on the Council's agenda and a full schedule of training courses were put in place. A total of 406 members of staff participated in courses during the year. Two additional staff were also assigned to the Health & Safety Unit. In addition a Fire Safety Manager was appointed assisted by a Fire Safety Committee to ensure best practice in this area.

The Planning Department moved to its new offices at Abbey Mall, Navan which provided greatly improved facilities for staff, elected representatives and the public.

Work continued on the implementation of a scheme to incrementally improve the level of service to be delivered as Gaelige.

The council continued to administer the Higher Education Grant Scheme at local level and a total of 410 new applications and 433 renewal applications were processed during the year.

Awareness training was provided for staff in relation to disability equality and child protection.

## Human Resources

The Council continued with a review of operations which was commenced and detailed in last years report. The Machinery Yard issue is now being examined under the auspices of the Labour Relations Commission.

## Planning and Development

2007 was a particularly busy year for the Planning department: The Following projects were undertaken:

- The Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013 was adopted on 2nd March 2007
- The Kells Town Plan was adopted by members of both Authorities and came into effect from 28th October 2007 .
- The Draft Trim Development plan was placed on public display in December 2008.
- The review of the Navan Development Plan 2003-2009 commenced with publication of Strategic Issues papers on 3rd December 2007.

Other forward planning projects to be undertaken included:

- Review of the East Meath Stamullen Local Area Plan,
- Adoption of variation no1 ( reduction to 5 years for local need qualification),
- Adoption of the Kells Backlands LAP,
- Preparation of a Local Area Plan for Drogheda Environs and procurement of consultants to prepare an Integrated Framework Plan for Land use and Transportation for the Pace Dunboyne area. Other Forward Planning projects initiated in 2007 included Variation no 2 "Order of Priority " and Variations to enable educational and Social Housing initiatives in Duleek and Longwood.

2007 also saw the submission of a Rail Order by Iarnrod Eireann for extension of the Clonsilla rail line to Dunboyne and Pace. This application was the first to be processed through the Strategic Infrastructure Act. Meath County Council was represented at the subsequent Oral Hearing in December 2007.

Planning applications determined increased from 2,784 in 2006 to some 3,595 applications across all application types in 2007.

The Planning Department also relocated to new bespoke offices at Abbey Road, Navan in October 2007. This move which provided much improved facilities for staff and public alike was the first initiative in a larger programme of change to be commenced by the Planning Department.

The Planning and Economic Development SPC progressed Guidance note 1 to final draft stage. This document shall provide assistance to any applicant proposing to construct a dwelling in a rural area.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

On the 30th April 2007 the PPP Contract was signed with Eurolink and works commenced on the provision of the M3 Motorway. Construction on Phase 2B of the Navan Inner Relief Road linking the N51 with the N3 continued in 2007 and will be completed during 2008. Contracts worth over €36m which commenced in 2006 for major realignment works on three strategic Regional Roads (i.e. R161 Navan/Trim, R158 Summerhill/Kilcock & R150 Kilsharvan/Julianstown) were advanced and will be completed in 2008. A total of €6.9m was invested by Meath County Council from its own resources in the non-national road network in 2007.

In 2007 substantial progress was made in advancing a number of Major Water Services capital projects. Schemes completed and operational included:

- Navan AC Mains Replacement Phases 2 & 3 (Cost €4m),
- Trim Water Supply Augmentation Contract 2 (cost €0.5m.),
- Johnstown/Kilcarne Sewer Network Phase 1 (Cost €5.5m.),

- Longwood Sewerage (cost €5m.) and Ballivor Sewerage (cost €5m.).
- In addition contracts were signed and construction commenced on the Major DBO 8 Villages Scheme (Donore, Duleek, Athboy, Kilmainhamwood, Summerhill, Moynalty, Rathcairn & Rathmolyon) costing €40m and on the Ashbourne/Ratoath/Kilbride Scheme Phase 2 costing €11m.

Phase 1 of the Broadband Projects, which included the towns of Navan, Trim, Dunshaughlin, Kells and Dunboyne/Clonee, were completed during 2007.

## Economic Development & Innovation

In recognition of the importance of attracting new business to the County a new Directorate of Economic Development & Innovation was established in mid 2007.

The Directorate has responsibility for a number of areas of activity including:

- Economic Development including liaison with I.D.A., Enterprise Ireland etc.
- Tourism Promotion & Development
- Further & Higher Education
- New Development Projects
- Land acquisition for new business parks and Enterprise Centres

The year saw a continued high level of activity in the economic development area with a number of significant permissions granted across the County including a major new town centre development in Trim, retail, warehousing and commercial units in Navan and Ashbourne and the confirmation of the major Quinn Direct development in Navan by An Bord Planeála. The new Kells Enterprise Centre was formally opened in December and has proved so successful that a second phase is already being planned.

A number of new Tourism initiatives were launched during the year including the “Meet in Meath” initiative, a joint venture between the Council, Meath Tourism and the hotel industry. This project aims to establish the County as a business tourism and conference venue and 2008 will see the appointment of an executive to market the initiative. Meath Tourism was also recognised nationally by winning the Best Tourism Brochure award presented by HSMAL.

The Meath Office of Further and Higher Education launched the MILL (Meath Initiative for Lifelong Learning) project. This is a joint venture involving the Council, N.U.I. Maynooth and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The success of the County’s ongoing Economic Development Strategy is becoming apparent. Over 250 new businesses were valued during the year and over €1.6 million will be generated in extra rates in 2008 as a result.



## CUSTOMER CARE

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### Strategy

*To promote a culture of excellence in service provision, which is responsive to the needs and expectations of our customers and community*

During 2007, the Council continued to promote a culture of excellence in service provision which is responsive to the needs and expectations of our customers and community.

A comprehensive review of our customer service was initiated in 2006 and an Action Plan was put in place to develop and enhance customer service delivery. In 2007, two dedicated customer care staff were appointed and received intensive training on customer service/care skills.

A Workplace Partnership Quality Customer Care Group, began work on a revised Customer Charter and the new customer complaints and redress procedure is expected to be officially launched in 2008, along with an enhanced customer service unit, supported by the Corporate Service Section.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

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### Strategy

*To ensure that health and safety is a priority in all aspects of our work.*

### Safety and Health Management

Increasing safety standards within Meath Local Authorities was a priority throughout 2007. This was achieved by increasing the number of internal safety inspections carried and standardising safety documentation throughout the organisation. The Corporate Safety Statement was updated and approved to reflect support for safety and health initiatives at all levels.

### Training

Health and Safety training was provided on a range of topics including: Abrasive Wheels, Chainsaw, Chemical & Chlorine Awareness, Dumper, First Aid, Health & Safety for Construction Workers, Managing Safety in Construction, Mini Digger, RCP & Method Statement, Ride on Roller, Road Pavement and Safepass. In addition, a number of Meath Local Authorities' employees attained training qualifications and subsequently provided internal health and safety training in courses such as Signing, Lighting & Guarding, Manual Handling, Safe System of Work Plans and Health and Safety Awareness.

### Meetings

Safety Management Committee (SMC), Directorate and Area Safety Monitoring Groups (SMG) continued to meet regularly during 2007, with a view to enhancing safety and health consultation and communication throughout the organisation.

## Higher Education Grants

In 2007, Meath County Council assisted students under the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 Higher Education Grants Schemes.

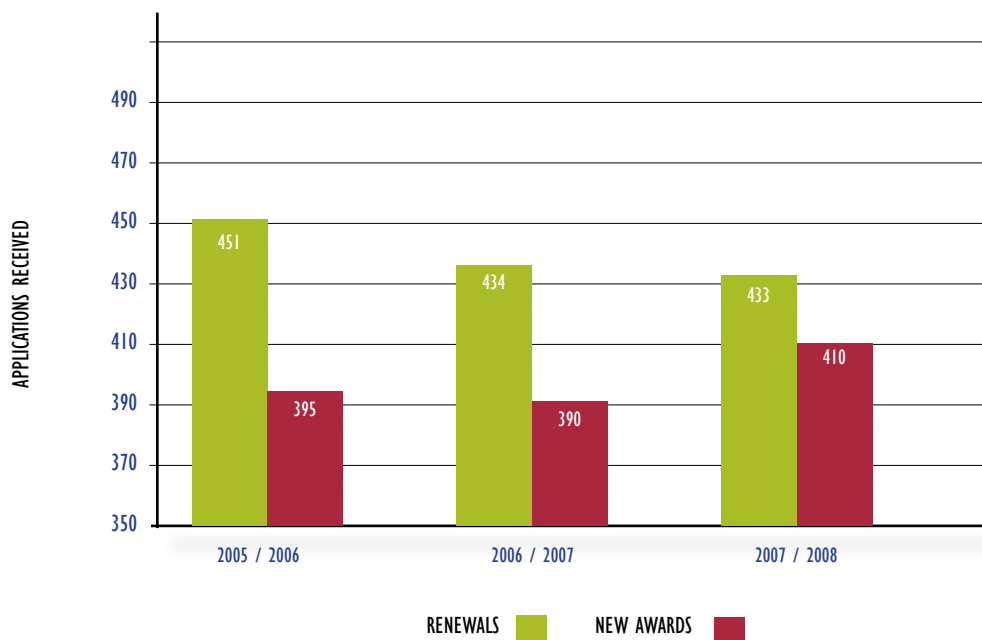
A total of 326 new applications and 467 renewal applications were received for the 2007/2008 academic year. The value of a full grant was €3,420. Overall expenditure in 2007 which related to the 2006/2007 academic year was in excess of €2.5m. This expenditure, with the exception of €14,045.55, is recoupable from the Department of Education and Science.

There are various categories of grant and these are listed below:

- Full Maintenance and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (75%) and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (50%) and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (25%) and Full Fees
- Part Tuition fees only

For the 2007/2008 academic year, Meath County Council paid the 'Special Rate of Maintenance Grant' (Top-Up Grant) to nearly 117 students.

Statistics on applications received for the last 3 years are as follows:



## Public Representatives

During 2007, Corporate Services managed 604 written public representations from Oireachtas Members and from Council Members. This service is managed through our document management system (Idocs) and available directly to the elected representatives through the Meeting Administration/Members Portal System.

## REGISTER OF ELECTORS

### STRATEGY

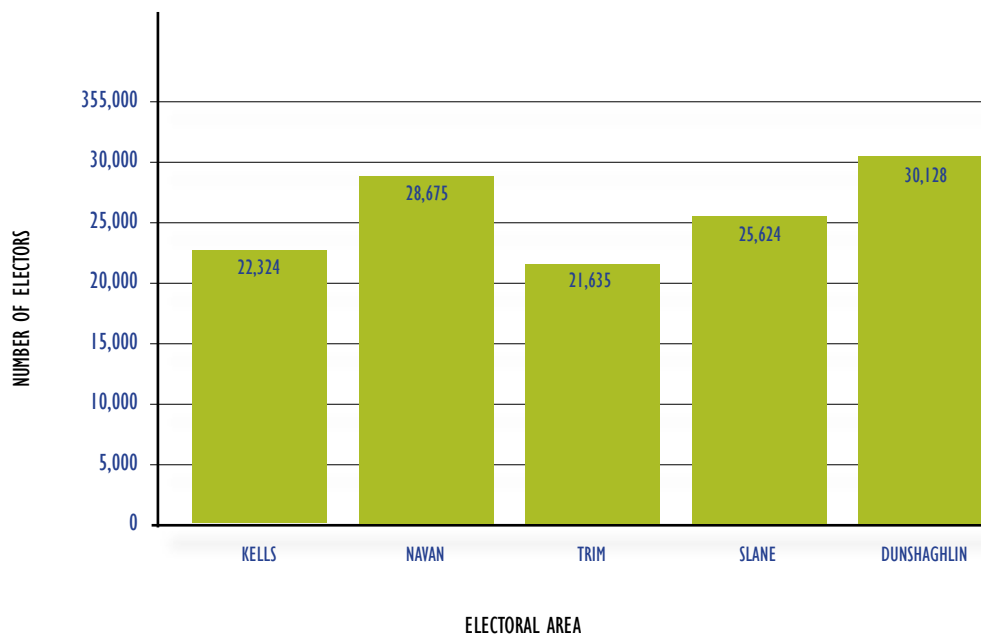
*To capture information and manage the quality control, publication and distribution of the Register of Electors, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act*

### Register of Electors

The Register of Electors was published in February 2007 and showed a voting population as follows:

Dail Electors	125,512
Presidential Electors	124,020
European Electors	126,898
Local Electors	128,386
Postal Voters	366

### Register of Electors 2006/2007



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and INNOVATION

## Strategic Objective

To encourage, facilitate and support the economic development of County Meath

## Core Activities

### Economic Development

- Promote, facilitate & support economic development in Meath through marketing, project development, planning advice & assistance and partnership with other agencies.

### Further & Higher Education

- Promote lifelong learning to the citizens of Meath through marketing, local course provision, utilising flexible modes of learning and partnership with other agencies and institutions.

### Tourism Development

- Marketing County Meath as a high quality tourism destination through Meath Tourism whilst also seeking to encourage and assist tourism product development.

The Economic Development & Innovation Section was established in mid 2007. This team was formed as part of Meath County Council's response to the need to create sustainable communities and against a background of a very low jobs to work force ratio in Co Meath. Meath has a work force of approximately 84,000 persons but only approximately 42,000 jobs exist within the County.

The team consists of a Director of Economic Development & Innovation, an Economic Development Executive and an officer responsible for Higher & Further Education Initiatives linked to business and administrative support. The unit is also responsible for Tourism promotion in the County and this is done in association with the Tourism Development Officer and Meath Tourism.

The function of the team is:

- To provide support for existing and new business in the County.
- To develop promotional campaigns to market the County as a place for business.
- To work with the Planning Department to improve the supply of business location through the Development Plan and Local Area Plan Process.
- To continue to promote County Meath as a major Tourism destination
- To provide support for business requiring Higher & Further Education opportunities for their staff.
- To deliver a range of specific projects linked to Economic Development.

In 2007 the team dealt with approximately 35 business enquiries and provided pre-planning assistance and advice to businesses considering start up or expansion in Co Meath.

The MILL Project was launched in association with NUI Maynooth and the Dundalk Institute of Technology and the first Third Level Course (NUI Certificate in Economics & Finance) was established and commenced in September 2007.

Meath Tourism continued to promote the County at home and abroad throughout the year and of particular significance was the launch of the Business Tourism initiative, Meetinmeath.com. This was an initiative involving partnership with all the major hotels in the County with a view to promoting Meath as a prime location for all types of business conferences, meetings and business related tourism.

The success of the Council's campaign was evidenced as the Rate base increased by approximately 2 million euro during the year. In addition approximately 250 new businesses were valued in the County during that time. A Bank of Ireland report on new business start ups identified Meath as the 7th busiest County for new business starts in 2007.

# ENVIRONMENT

## Strategic objective

To protect, conserve and enhance the Environment in County Meath

## Core Activities

Meath County Council continues to invest substantial resources towards enhancing our environment.



## Waste Plan North East Region which covers the Counties of Louth, Meath, Cavan & Monaghan was adopted in May 2006

Progress on the implementation of the plan continues apace. The objective of the plan is to secure best environmental management of waste generated in the North East Region. This is dependent on a number of specific policies as follows:

- Public awareness and Education
- Prevention and Minimisation
- Waste Collection and Charging
- Waste Recovery and Recycling
- Waste Treatment/Final Disposal
- Priority Waste Streams
- Unauthorised Waste Activities
- Policy on Joint Management and Procurement

### Some of the main objectives of the plan are:

1. A new focus on bring centres with the emphasis on quality of location, presentation and range of receptacles and materials accepted.
2. Provide an integrated waste facility incorporating thermal treatment and energy recovery during the life of the plan – 2005/2010.
3. Prepare a register and carry out an assessment of sites at which disposal and recovery activities have been carried out.

### Waste Management Permits issued 2007

1. Applications received	76
2. Granted	57
3. Refused	3
4. Withdrawn	9
5. Complete	5
6. Incomplete	3
7. Under consideration	21

### Waste Collection Permits issued 2007

1. Applications received	84
2. Withdrawn	3
3. Refused	0
4. Revoked	20
5. Total no. Granted	76
6. Reviews in year	167

## Litter Pollution

The Council continued a vigorous campaign in it's effort to combat the scourge of illegal dumping.

The following is a breakdown of enforcement measures adopted during 2007.

1. No of reports investigated	1,824
2. On the spot fines issued	481
3. On the spot fines paid	227
4. Total no of convictions during 2007	18
5. Struck out	18
6. Adjourned	26

Meath County Council has invested in a number of covert and overt CCTV systems to counteract unauthorised dumping. All offenders identified will be prosecuted.

## Meath Recycling Centres - Trim, Navan and Kells

### Items that can be re-cycled

- Batteries (car-lead acid and household)
- Books
- Cardboard & cardboard packaging
- Clothing, textiles (Clean) and footwear
- Drinks and food cans
- Electrical goods e.g. TVs, computers, videos
- Fluorescent tubes, lamps & light bulbs
- Garden waste – grass/hedge cuttings etc (no soil)
- Glass bottles (jars)
- Household Gas Cylinders (Calor/FloGas)
- Mixed paper (junk mail & envelopes)
- Mobile Phones/Phones
- Newsprint/magazines
- Phone books
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic Bags (Clean and Empty)
- Scrap Metal
- Tetra-Paks
- Timber (untreated only)
- Waste oils(cooking/car)
- White goods (Fridges/freezers/cookers and washing machines/dishwashers/vacum cleaners/microwaves/kettles/toasters)
- Paint at the Kells facility



## Control of Dogs

Under the control of Dogs Act, 1986 and 1992 all dogs and Guard Dog Kennels must be licensed, except those used wholly for official duties by the Gardai, Defence Forces and Custom and Excise Service. Section 2 of the Act makes it an offence for a person to keep a dog unless he/she holds a licence for that dog or a general licence covering any number of dogs at a specified premises.

The provision of a dog pound was a core objective of Meath County Council in 2007. In December 2007 a new pound was officially opened at Rathmaiden, Slane and its operation is contracted out.

• No of licences issued	8,365
• No of General licence	12 (10 dogs or more)
• No of fines issued	219

## WEEE: (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)

Regulations governing the above came into force in August 2005. These regulations are designed to promote the recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment and facilitate the collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of waste electrical and electrical equipment in an environmentally friendly manner. The regulations apply to large and small household appliances. Those registered with Meath County Council have free access, with prior arrangement, to the civic amenity sites within the County for the disposal of WEEE products. Renewals of registrations under WEEE are due on an annual basis on or before the 31st January of each year.

## End of Life Vehicles — S.I.282 of 2006

These regulations came into effect on the 8th June 2006. The purpose of the regulations is to regulate the disposal of end-of-life vehicles, which are defined in the regulations. The producers of vehicles will be responsible for ensuring that Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) for the discarding of end of life vehicles are in place. With current population figures in County Meath, each producer is obliged to list two ATF in their application forms and also in their 3 year Implementation Plans. There are, currently, four ATFs in County Meath. Under the regulations producers are defined as basically the importers of vehicles. The Local Authorities role will be to enforce the regulations pertaining to ATFs and also to ensure that the producers are meeting their responsibilities in relation to the regulations. The maximum penalty for breaches of the regulations is €15 million. Meath County Council keeps a register of all car producers. There is an annual renewal of registrations under the above regulations with the renewal fee based on the turnover of the producer(s).

### Nominated Contractors

- B.S Parts, Boolies, Duleek.
- Oristown Auto Recyclers, Oristown, Kells.
- T.D. Caldwell & Sons Ltd., Raneevogue, Crossakiel, Kells.
- Maynooth Car Dismantlers, Killianey, Maynooth.

## Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2003 - 2007

Under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2003 as amended by the Waste Management (Packaging) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004-2007 all producers have important obligations for the recovery of packaging waste.

These Regulations were designed to assist and promote the recycling of packaging waste in order to facilitate the achievement of the packaging waste recovery targets set for Ireland in EU Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste.

The Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2003 and the Waste Management (Packaging)(amendment) Regulations, 2004-2007 impose certain obligations on 'producers' of packaging and additional obligations on 'major producers'

- 'Producers' of packaging are people who in the course of business supply to others packaging material e.g. shops, pubs, supermarkets, fast-food outlets, wholesalers, manufactures, importers, exporters (both Repak and non-Repak members). All such are referred to as 'producers' of packaging.
- 'Major Producers' of packaging were suppliers who annually placed more than 25 tonnes of packaging (other than packaging for reuse or export) on the Irish market and had an annual turnover of more than €1million ('Turnover' for the purpose of these Regulations means "the amounts derived from the provision (including exports) of goods and services falling within the producers ordinary activities after deduction of trade discounts and VAT".)
- The 2007 Regulations reduced the tonnage from 25 to 10 (with the annual turnover remaining at €1 million) bringing a lot of companies under the threshold as major producers.
- Packaging includes the primary packaging on the product sold.

As licensed premises and restaurants now fall under the scope of the Regulations, they must be able to estimate the weight of packaging consumed on the premises.

All producers participating in the placing of packaging on the market must segregate the packaging waste arising on their own premises (back-door packaging waste) into specified waste streams e.g. waste glass, paper, aluminium, steel, fibreboard, wood and plastic sheeting. An exemption is provided for 'contaminated' waste.

Packaging sold and consumed on a producer's premises also comes within the scope of the Regulations. Bottles sold and consumed in pubs, restaurants, clubs and hotels are now subject to the requirements of the Regulations.

A producer must arrange to have waste:

- taken back by a supplier, or
- recovered, or
- segregated and made available for recovery by an authorised waste recovery operator.

It is an offence for a producer to dispose of such packaging waste without first making it available for recovery.

Major producers have two options available to them in order to meet their obligations under the regulations:

1. The company joins the national compliance scheme with Repak
2. The company applies to the Local Authority to self comply under the regulations.

There is an annual renewal requirement by the 31st January of each year on the self compliers. The registration/renewal fees charged are €15 per tonne subject to a minimum fee of €500 and a maximum fee of €5,000.

## Historic Landfills - S22 & S26 registers

Meath County Council, in conjunction with the EPA and the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, compiled a register of historic landfills, both County Council and privately owned sites, as required under Section 22 (non-hazardous waste) and Section 26 (hazardous waste) of the Waste Management Act. Up to the end of 2007 over 60 sites had been identified. A Risk Assessment has been carried out on approximately 40 of these, with a small number of them requiring extensive remedial works.

## Fire Prevention

The fire service plays a major role in Fire Prevention activities in addition to normal fire fighting activities. The measures in place include:

- **Fire Safety Certificates** - all developments other than private housing are obliged to apply for a fire safety certificate from the Fire Authority. A Commencement Notice must then be submitted to the Planning Department prior to the commencement of the development. A register of Commencement Notices and Fire Safety Certificates are maintained by the Local Authority.
- **Planning applications** are assessed for fire safety requirements and reports are then submitted to the Planning department
- **Inspections** - A planned programme of inspections is in place and the emphasis is on inspection of Apartments, Hotels, Hospitals, discos/niteclubs and other Licensed Premises, Nursing Homes and venues which attract large numbers of patrons such as Slane concerts and the Fairyhouse Easter Meeting.
- **The Fire & Rescue Service** deals with applications under the Dangerous Substances Act, 1979 as amended and Petroleum Emission Regulations
- **During Performance Inspections** – Regular spot checks take place at discos, licensed clubs and premises where large functions take place. The emphasis during these inspections is on over-crowding and fire safety. The Gardai can be requested to assist inspections where necessary.
- **Education** – visits to schools and the elderly. National fire safety week normally takes place in October.

## Fire Service Records

Records in relations to activities in all seven fire stations are kept and maintained in the fire service office located at Abbey Road. Fire statistics returns are submitted to the Department of the Environment on a regular basis. An in-house fire service meeting under the chairmanship of the Director takes place on a monthly basis to review service delivery. Records in relation to inspections, training, service agreements, fire attendance and all other connected activities are retained.

## Fire and Emergency Plan

The fire and emergency services prepared an emergency plan, which addresses potential hazards and the response necessary in the event of an emergency. The plan also carried out a risk assessment. The plan was brought before the members for approval in early 2007.

## MONTHLY FIRE STATISTICS

JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2007

	Navan	Duns	Ashb	Trim	Kells	Oldc.	Nobber	Total
<b>Domestic Buildings:</b>								
Chimney Fire In Houses	26	3	7	42	21	9	4	112
Other House Fires	20	12	7	14	3	3	4	63
Apartments, Flats and Bedsitters	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	7
Caravans/Mobile Homes	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
<b>Institutions:</b>								
Hospitals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Industrial:</b>								
Factories	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	5
Storage Buildings/Warehouses	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Commercial:</b>								
Shops, Supermarkets	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Hotels/Guesthouses/Boarding Houses etc	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Service:</b>								
Restaurants	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Other:</b>								
Petrol Stations/Garages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicles	46	25	27	25	13	9	13	158
Unoccupied Buildings	10	3	6	0	1	0	0	20
Agricultural Buildings	5	4	1	7	3	0	0	20
Forest/Bog/Grass, etc.	24	5	13	7	3	5	6	63
Outdoor Storage	8	5	4	2	3	0	0	22
Outdoor Rubbish	13	9	4	7	2	0	1	36
Miscellaneous	48	13	14	18	9	3	2	107
<b>False Alarm Incidents</b>								
1. Malicious	19	1	3	3	3	0	0	29
2. Good Intent	117	28	55	33	15	7	11	266
<b>Special Services</b>								
Road Traffic Accidents	37	43	42	25	24	10	14	195
Water Pumping/Flooding	8	8	1	2	3	10	1	33
Other Non-Fire Rescues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous substances (eg. Spillages)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	25	11	16	15	9	14	9	99
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1252</b>

## FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE 2007

The Meath Fire Authority (ie Meath County Council) is responsible for the provision of a fire and emergency response service for the entire administrative County of Meath, including the three town councils. The Fire Authority operates primarily under the provisions of the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, as well as other legislation such as the Dangerous Substances Regulations 1979, the Ease of Escape Regulations 1985, Building Control Act 1990, the Building Control Regulations 1997, the Building Regulations 2006 and Licensing of Indoor Events Act 2003.

### Fire Operations

Meath County Fire & Rescue Service provides a first line response to all types of emergencies including fires, road traffic accidents, flooding, chemical incidents & oil spillages, and emergency cover for major events such as the Slane concerts. The Fire & Rescue Service also co-ordinates with other statutory services as part of the provision of Local and Major Emergency Planning. Table top and simulated major emergency exercises, organised by the Fire & Rescue Service, take place on an ongoing basis, both within the County and on a regional basis.

Under a long-standing agreement, Drogheda Fire Authority provides a fire and emergency service in the East Meath area. This area is roughly from South of Drogheda to the Duleek area, Julianstown and Bellewstown. Dublin Fire Brigade provides cover to areas roughly south of Julianstown and southeast of Bellewstown. Meath County Fire & Rescue Service respond in a backup capacity to fire and emergency call-outs to adjoining counties, Dublin, Cavan, Kildare, Offaly and Westmeath. The arrangement is reciprocated by these counties in the event of emergencies arising in Meath. As part of its Draft Development and Emergency Plan, 2007-2012, East Meath has been identified for a new fire station - Duleek. Approval and funding will be sought from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government when specifications & Departmental approval have been agreed.

The Eastern Regional Control Centre (ERCC) also referred to as CAMP (Computer Aided Mobilisation Project), which is located in Dublin Fire Brigade's offices at Tara Street, Dublin channels almost all the emergency calls for the Meath area.

Fire Service headquarters is based at the fire station in Abbey Road, Navan. There are six other stations located throughout the County - Ashbourne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Nobber, Oldcastle and Trim.

The fire and emergency service has undergone major changes. It has moved from the traditional role of extinguishing fire and rescuing persons and property, to the role of preventing fires and when fires occur, ensuring the reduction of deaths, injuries and loss of property. The Fire & Rescue Service has a central role in relation to fire safety standards in the design of new and existing buildings and in relation to the fire safety aspects of the day to day use of buildings to which the public have access.

### New Equipment

Two new water tankers at a cost of approx €120,000 each were purchased and delivered to Navan & Ashbourne fire stations and these were funded by the DoEHLG. The tankers each contain 11,000 litres of water for firefighting purposes and an on-board portable pump for fire-fighting operations. The tankers have greatly assisted firefighting operations particularly in areas where water supplies are poor.

Vehicle exhaust extraction systems were also provided in every station for the Health & Safety of fire service personnel in the fire stations following funding by the Department.

### Proposed new offices for Navan Fire Station

Plans are being drawn up to provide permanent administrative accommodation at the above location to replace the current temporary portacabins for Fire Service staff.

# HOUSING

## Strategic objective

To ensure that all our citizens enjoy an adequate standard of housing accommodation appropriate to their needs and as far as possible, in a location and tenure of their choice and to provide a responsive and supportive housing service for those in need of assistance.

## Core Activities

The Housing Department has responsibility for:-

- Land Acquisition
- Implementation Housing Construction Programme for Social/Affordable Schemes
- Negotiating with developers for the delivery of Social/Affordable units under Part V of Planning & Development Acts (2000 - 2002)
- Processing Affordable Housing Applicants
- Sale of dwellings to Council tenants under the Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Processing of Disabled Person Grants and Essential Repairs
- Grants Applications
- Provision of Housing by Voluntary Schemes
- Operation of the Homeless Strategy
- Provision, allocation, maintenance and management of Traveller accommodation
- Refurbishment and maintenance of its housing stock of 2000 units
- Development of Estate Management/Resident Participation
- Administration/Customer Care

During 2007 Meath County Council's Housing Department continued to implement its multi annual Construction Programme 2004-2008 comprising Social and Affordable Housing, Rental Accommodation Scheme, Remedial and Regeneration Works, Estate Management, Traveller Accommodation, Voluntary housing, Homeless supports and the Loans and Grants schemes, and in doing so maximised the availability of accommodation to meet different categories of need and improved the quality of life for many hundreds of people.

A number of significant Government Housing Policy documents were published during the year including Delivering Homes –Sustaining Communities, and Quality Housing For Sustainable Communities, both of which build on commitments given in "Towards 2016" to the provision of housing services.

A new fixed price form of contracts for Housing procurement was introduced in 2007, which provides for an increased scrutiny of capital projects particularly in the area of value for Money.

### **Actions and achievements during 2007 include:**

- Under the Housing Construction Programme, a total of 337 housing units were completed and a further 65 were under construction at the year end.
- The Capital programme was delivered substantially in line with targets set out in the Multi Annual programme agreed with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.
- An additional 32 houses were purchased and made available to tenants.
- Approved the sale of 52 Local Authority houses under the Tenant Purchase scheme.
- Provided 63 Affordable Homes in various private housing developments under Part V of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 -2006.
- Agreements being put in place for the delivery of an additional 218 Affordable & Social Houses under the same legislation and with a further 404 units the subject of discussion.
- The substantial completion of 18 Affordable housing units on Council owned lands at Windtown.
- The purchase of land banks in Navan & Athboy which will provide for integrated housing development and cater for medium to long term housing needs.
- Developed the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) with a transfer total of 51 households.
- Approved 343 Disabled Persons Grant applications to the value of €3.25 million.
- Approved 221 Essential Repairs Grants applications to the value of €1.43 million.
- The Council's Settlement Officers dealing with the Homeless met with 485 family units during the year and arranged Emergency Accommodation for 48 adults and 30 children.
- The identification of a Service provider who will run the Homeless Shelter to be provided in Navan on a site to be identified.
- An increase in the level of Voluntary activity and facilitating the delivery of 77 units of accommodation in association with Voluntary Bodies under the Capital Assistance & Loan Subsidy Schemes.
- Targets set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005-2008, were achieved with families being accommodated in standard Council housing, Voluntary Housing, Rental Accommodation Scheme, permanent halting site bays and in private rented accommodation.
- Progress was made following extensive consultation with the residents on the proposed remedial works schemes at St Martins Park, Trim, & St Francis Park, Navan halting sites.

- A significant increase to 55 the numbers of estates taking part in the Council's Housing Estates Awards Scheme which seeks to promote community development, tenant participation and good estate management practices.
- Commenced preparation of plans for Resource and recreational facilities in Windtown, Navan which will service the needs of residents in the area.
- The commencement of the process for the carrying out of an assessment of Housing Needs to determine the need for accommodation by persons who are unable to provide it from their own resources.

## Housing Maintenance

Housing Maintenance is a critical element of the housing programme, in improving both the house and the housing estate. New housing standards and Building Regulations provide an opportunity to upgrade houses, so that it conforms to modern standards, in terms of safety and comfort. Major progress was made in upgrading of the Housing stock with the objective to bring all older rented housing stock to modern building regulation standard.

Substantial sums of money were spent in 2007 which have considerably improved the quality of the housing stock including works on the central heating, windows and doors replacement and boiler maintenance programmes. These together with activity under the Extension Works Scheme, the Improvement Works in Lieu Scheme and the Void Schemes as well as normal maintenance have enhanced the value of the houses as well as quality of life for the residents therein.

In 2007 substantial progress was made in planning for major refurbishment Schemes for the Townparks estate in Navan and Headfort Grove in Kells.

## Housing Grants

The former Disabled Persons Grants have been discontinued and replaced with a Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for people with a Disability and a Mobility Aids Grant scheme. The Essential Repair Grants scheme and the Housing Aid for the Elderly scheme (which was administered by the HSE) have also been discontinued and replaced with a scheme of Housing Aid for Older people to be administered by the Council.

## Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The RAS initiative involves the Council assuming responsibility for rent supplement claimants, who are receiving supplementary welfare allowance for more than eighteen months. The Council's role is to inspect properties in accordance with the Private Rented Regulations 1993, and to enter into medium and long-term contract agreements with landlords to provide accommodation for letting exclusively to participants in the scheme.

## Strategic Policy Committee - Housing and Social Policies

The Housing and Social Policy Strategic Policy Committee comprises 9 Councilors and 4 Representatives from the sectoral groups. The Housing and Social Policy S.P.C. has assisted the Council in the formation and development and review of policy in relation to all functions in the Housing area. The S.P.C. met 4 times in 2007 and discussed/agreed policies in the following areas:

- Housing Action Plan 2007 – 2009
- Anti Social Behavior
- DPG and ERG Scheme
- Meath Arts Plan



- Part L Building Regulations
- Homeless
- Control of Dogs in Local Authority Estates
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Meath Bio Diversity Plan
- Sectoral Plan in accordance with Disability Act 2005
- New Public Procurement Requirements

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Strategic objective

The main function of Human Resources (HR) is to plan and recruit our Workforce, enabling us to achieve through people, while creating an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment which is positive and safe. In doing so the HR team aims to assist all Meath Local Authorities' sections in the delivery of organisational objectives, while at the same time developing the potential of every staff member. The Local Government Management Services Board has launched a HR Strategy Framework document which will be customised to produce a HR Strategy & Implementation Project Plan during 2008 which will further define the HR role within Meath Local Authorities.

## Core activities

The HR function is broken down into the following core services:

- Recruitment & Selection
- Staff Structure & Staff Returns
- Staff Leave
- HR Policies & Procedures
- Industrial Relations
- Superannuation
- Training
- Performance Management Development System (PMDS)

## Recruitment & Selection

Meath Local Authorities endeavour to recruit and retain sufficient staff with the qualifications and experience necessary to deliver on the corporate objectives and accomplish corporate goals. Provision of this service in 2007 involved HR arranging and holding 91 competitions and processing approx. 1,634 application forms. This represented an increase of 44% from 2006 in application forms processed. Interviews for 89 of these competitions were held during the year with 95 interview days in total.

## Staff Structure

In 2007, 212 new employee contracts were issued to staff both permanent staff and temporary staff commencing on fixed term contracts. 122 temporary contracts were extended during this period while 29 contracts for M3 staff and 85 student contracts were also issued.

## Staff Returns

Every quarter the HR Team compiles a 'return' of staff numbers which is submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government detailing overall figures of staff employed by the Council. HR also prepare a more comprehensive 'annual return' for submission to the DoEHLG each year. See Table 2 below for a breakdown of staff by sector as of December 2007.

**Table 2. Breakdown of staff by sector**

Sector	Number	WTE
Managerial	7	7
Administrative	295	265.1
Engineering / Technical	102	101.8
Operational / Outdoor	234.57	215
Contract	167	153.74
Fire-fighter	68	10.74
Non DoEHLG	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>875.57</b>	<b>755.38</b>

December 2007

## Staff Leave

In line with Work/Life Balance ethos, Meath Local Authorities processed & granted the following number of various leave applications in 2007:

**Table 3. Work-sharing and Term-time applications**

Leave Type	2004	2005	2006	2007
Term Time Applications	3	7	18	15
Work Share Applications	39	60	57	72

## Sick Leave Indicator for 2007:

Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Certified'	2.97 %
Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Uncertified'	0.52 %

## HR Policies & Procedures

Meath Local Authorities currently implement 5 national HR policies. These policies were agreed and signed off nationally by Union and Management Representatives and subsequently endorsed at local level by the Partnership Committee of Meath Local Authorities. The latest national policy document which will go through this process in 2008 is the Attendance Management Policy and Procedures

The Council also implements 8 local HR policies (specific to Meath Local Authorities). These were agreed and endorsed through Workplace Partnerships in Meath Local Authorities.

## Industrial Relations

Meath Local Authorities continually work with all staff and their representative Trade Unions in order to resolve a wide variety of issues, which arise from time to time. It is the policy of the Council to actively promote staff and Union consultation in order to resolve any possible IR issues at the earliest possible stages.

## Workplace Partnership

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### Strategic Objective:

To build on stable industrial relations, and to promote and develop Workplace Partnership as the way we work, to achieve organisational success. The partnership process involves management, unions and staff agreeing on common objectives and working together to ensure organisational success. Partnership is an ongoing process and requires the engagement of people across the organisation. It is the preferred way of doing business and is a vital approach for the introduction of change.

In 2007 the process focused on:

1. Strategic i.e. significant issues.
2. Education and Development of Staff.
3. Social/health issues.

## Achievements

In 2007, the following working/departmental groups were put in place to address various organisational change issues:

- Depot Group
- Lone Working
- Time and Attendance
- Equality Group
- Planning Group
- Housing group

Project funding totalling €25,000 was received from LANPAG. This funding was matched by Meath Local Authorities to implement a number of projects. Some of those projects included:

## Staff Support Service

Meath Local Authorities, under the auspices of the Staff Support Service dedicated the year 2007 to health awareness, and basic health screening was offered to all staff.

## Long Service Recognition

Meath Local Authorities honoured 21 staff with 30+ years of Local Authority service at a function on the 21st. November 2007.

## Retired Staff

A function to recognise the contribution of our retired staff to Meath County Council, was held in November.

## Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is an organisation supported by over 150 businesses, which has programmes designed to give school students an appreciation of the value of work and enterprise.

Since 2004, Meath Local Authorities have been involved in the programme. In 2007 eleven staff volunteered to deliver programmes in both Primary and Secondary Schools. In September, Della Clancy, National Director of Junior Achievement Ireland, presented our group of 'Business Volunteers' for 2007 with their certificates.

## Superannuation

All staff members are entered into the Local Government Superannuation Scheme from the date of their commencement of employment with Meath Local Authorities. The following is a breakdown of superannuation activities dealt with in 2007:

**Table 4. Breakdown of superannuation activities**

Activity	Number in 2007
VEC – Lump sum and pension calculations	8
Meath Local Authorities retirements in 2007	9 (3 Officers, 6 Employees)
Gratuities for non-pensionable persons	4 (Retained Fire-fighters)
Preserved Benefits	0

The total of retirement lump sums paid in 2007 to Meath Local Authority staff was €207,957 with a further €589,391.44 in lumps sums being paid to retiring VEC staff.

## National HR, Payroll & Superannuation Project

Meath County Council is one of the three pilot local authorities (the others are Donegal and Kerry County Councils) in the National HR, Payroll & Superannuation project. This involves the development, testing and implementation of a new integrated system, which will hold all staff records and will be used by Superannuation to prepare Pension calculations and Benefit Statements and by Payroll to replace the current Acupay system. Staff will also use the system to apply for leave, view their balances, run current personal benefit statements etc.

HR, Payroll and Superannuation staff have attended at workshops and so assisted in agreeing a common configuration of the new CORE system to deal with relevant processes with the Local Authorities. 2008 will see the completion of the testing of the newly configured system and the implementation across the pilot sites.

## TRAINING

### Strategic Objective

To systematically assess needs in conjunction with the Performance Management Development System, and provide the appropriate training, education and professional development, to empower a skilled, productive, flexible human resource, capable of meeting evolving organisational needs.

With regard to the National Service Indicators C2, the following table shows performance in 2007 spend of total Payroll on Training & Development

Requirement	Performance re All staff	Performance re Go & Related Grades
3 %	4.97 %	3.5 %

Congratulations to all our employees who achieved qualifications in a wide range of disciplines from Local Government Administration, IT, Health & Safety etc.

### Performance Management and Development System

The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) in Meath Local Authorities continued during 2007 with the preparation of Team Development Plans, Personal Development Plans and all resulting training requests being identified and forwarded to the Training Section for consideration.

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Strategic objective

Use the talents of our staff and the skills of external organisations to provide information technology that will assist all Council departments in accomplishing their objectives.

Apply technology and best practices that make the delivery of our services efficient, accessible, and responsive to the staff and customers of Meath Local Authorities.

## Core activities

The Information Systems department is responsible for the support and improvement of business processes throughout the Council through the appropriate use of information and communications technologies. This involves:

- Provision and support of secure, reliable and efficient networks and computer equipment
- Business process analysis and consulting
- Implementation and support of business systems sourced externally or developed internally
- Implementation, support and consulting services for spatial applications
- Provision of internet services for the public, elected members and staff

## GOALS AND ACTIONS

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**Upgrade and enhance our computing and telecommunication infrastructure to provide a reliable, responsive, highly available, secure, and scaleable IT environment for council business functions.**

### **Wireless Wide Area Network**

As part of the establishment of the new Planning office at Abbey Road in Navan, we implemented a high capacity wireless network link between Abbey Road and County Hall. We also initiated the tender process for the provision of an additional 5 such links to our major sites in 2008.

### **Web Content Filter**

A more effective automated method of Web access control was implemented early in the year. The content filtering system was seamlessly rolled out to all sections on a phased basis. The usage rules enforced by the system have helped to ensure only content appropriate to our work environment is accessible, in addition to improving security, usage visibility and staff productivity.

### **e-mail**

We migrated to a newer more robust email system in 2007 and began the process of standardising email users to a single version of Outlook. The migration allowed us to introduce an internet browser based email access service.

### **Internet Firewall**

We also migrated to a newer more robust Internet firewall in 2007. This yielded an immediate improvement in reliability and performance as well as enhanced security.

**Implement best practices in the areas of IT project management and service management to ensure high quality, cost-effective and secure IT system delivery, operations, and support.**

### **IT Asset Management**

We introduced a program of pro-active replacement of PC assets based on age. This will help to ensure that PCs are always fit for purpose and reduce the risk of mechanical failure while in service.

### **Service Desk**

We procured and began the implementation of a new Service Desk application as a tool for Service Management and the improvement of IT service delivery through the helpdesk. The benefits will begin to be realised in 2008.



Research and, where justified, implement IT business applications for council departments that enable them to share information, deliver quality services and improve the cost-effectiveness of their operations.

### Business Process Improvement

We have established a process improvement function within Information Systems to work with all areas of the business to seek opportunities for either incremental improvements or broader re-engineering. The improvements to be sought may or may not include new systems or technology but may involve working smarter and more consistently with existing tools.

#### The major activities in this area will be:

- A high level process mapping of all of the council's services and activities. This will provide an invaluable framework for assessing and prioritizing change initiatives.
- Engagement with individual business areas on a more detailed basis to map "As Is" processes, define metrics and seek change opportunities.

### Business Systems

Numerous business systems were implemented or enhanced during 2006. These included:

#### Planning Administration

During 2007 we migrated to a new planning administration system. The new platform will allow us to roll out further improvements during 2008 and beyond.

#### Housing Loans

A system was developed to improve the management of housing loans. The system automates the tracking of loan applications and provides greatly improved reporting.

#### Meath Education & Training Database

##### [www.metd.ie](http://www.metd.ie)

This online system was developed to allow the public to search for training opportunities available in the county. Information is provided on full-time, part-time and distance learning courses offered by over forty organisations.

#### Meath Graveyard Inventory

Work was finalized on the internal administration aspects of this system and in 2008 a web interface will be made available for use on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

#### MapRoad

A GPS Video Survey was conducted on all County Roads.

#### Electoral Register

We purchased a new polling card printer in 2007 to ensure reliable delivery of polling cards to the expanding population. We also made use of online services such as GoogleMaps to provide directions to polling stations.

**Proactively maintain and support existing production systems to minimize business workflow interruption to our customers.**

## Service Metrics

The IT Helpdesk actioned 6457 service requests over the year, while 198 new PCs were deployed.

## Server Virtualisation

We introduced virtualisation technology that will make a radical difference to our delivery of services in the future. Through this we will be able to reduce the number of physical servers required to support the growing number of applications that support the business. We will also be able to increase the availability of systems through almost instant migration of applications from one physical server to another, allowing maintenance activities to take place without impact on customers. Migration of systems to a virtualised environment will proceed during 2008.

## Reorganisation

By consolidating our infrastructure support teams into a unified IT Operations team we improved team cohesion and our capacity to deliver better customer service to Meath Local Authorities.

## Anti-Virus Client Software

We completed the migration to new anti-virus software during the year. The migration has provided an improved level of coverage, by ensuring the software on each PC is a single up-to-date version. The reliability of the distribution of anti-virus protection has been improved by this change, helping to improve the overall level of security.

**Continue to enhance and expand the availability of information and online services through internet, intranet and extranet web sites.**

Monthly visits to the website increased steadily in 2007 – for example 53,001 visits were received in January 2007, growing to 64,184 in October 2007. Providing quality online services during 2007 has reduced the amount of time council staff spend on administration and simple queries – so they are free to spend more time delivering better quality, value-for-money service. Areas where service offerings have been improved through the availability of online information include Planning, Environment, Housing, HR, and Corporate Services.

## Hotel Online Booking System

A Hotel Online Booking System has been introduced into the Tourism Section of the Website in 2007, available from <http://www.meath.ie/Tourism/>



### **Dog Pound Section of Website**

Citizens can visit this section to see dogs that are available for re-homing. This has proved to be one of the most successful areas of the website, receiving about 400 pageviews per day.

### **eInclusion**

Social Inclusion has been a main focus in Meath Local Authorities over the last few years – and we have made eInclusion a main aim for our website, especially as it impacts our more vulnerable members of society, such as the aged, the disabled and those who may find it difficult to take the first steps into the exciting and rewarding world of the Internet. We are implementing eInclusion on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie), by providing useful information and online services, as well as making the website itself accessible, through adherence to standards and simplified navigation.

# INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES

## Strategic objective

To maintain and further develop the infrastructure of the County and to ensure that infrastructural investment facilitates the physical, economic, social and cultural development of the County.

## Core activities

The core activities of the Infrastructure section relate to the roads and services, sanitary, water and wastewater services for Meath Local Authorities. This provision must comply with land use policies contained in the Development Plan and with current Environment Directives.

## ROADS



Minister Martin Cullen turning the sod on M3 Motorway

## NRA Programme for Primary Roads traversing Meath

### N3 Arch Bar Junction, Dunshaughlin (N3/R125)

Works substantially completed.

### Slane By Pass

Draft EIS submitted to NRA for approval.

### M3 Clonee / North of Kells Motorway

Under construction  
Expected completion date 2010

### Navan Inner Relief 2A – 2 Way Conversion

Works completed.

### N51 Navan Inner Relief Road Phase 2B (Kells Rd to Athboy Rd)

Works in progress

### N51 Tullaghanstown Pavement Overlay

Works in progress

### N3 Quality Bus Corridors

Works completed on 24 hour bus lanes

### R125 Ratoath – Roundabout at Jamestown

Works substantially completed

## Programme of Works for Regional Routes

### R158 Trim/Summerhill/Kilcock Phase 2 (Summerhill to Kilcock)

Construction well advanced towards completion

### R150 Duleek/Julianstown Phase (Kilsharvan to Julianstown)

Construction well advanced towards completion

### R161 Trim / Navan

Works substantially completed.

### R154 Patrickstown, Oldcastle

Works completed

### R153 Navan to Balrath

Works completed

## Pavement & Minor Improvement Works

Pavement and Improvement Works were carried out at the following locations

- N2 Balrath to Flemingstown
- N2 Rath to Crickstown (Phase 2)
- N2 Coolfore Pavement Overlay
- N3 Railway Crossing to Newgate (Phase 2) Realignment

## Major Schemes at Planning / Design Stage

The following road schemes at the planning/design

- N3/R161 (Springfield Glen to Trim Road Navan)
- Trim / Longwood Road / Brannockstown
- Maynooth / Dunboyne Rd (Moygaddy)
- N51 Dunmore Realignment Phase 1
- Kentstown Junction

## County Roads Improvements

- Sheephouse/Donore

## INFRASTRUCTURE SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Major Schemes in progress/completed in 2007

**Kells Civic Amenity Site** - Contractor – Clarkes Quarries Ltd

Provision of a recycling Centre to accept a vast range of household materials for recycling and recovery. Total cost of project was €1.2m. The Facility was officially opened in March 2007 .

**County Meath Regional Broadband** - Contractor – Gerry McCloskey Contracts Ltd - Est. Cost €11m

Provision of Broadband Network in Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne/Clonee, Kells, Trim & Navan. Ensures ‘always on’ internet connection that gives high speed access and downloads. Works completed in 2007.

### Review of Speed Limits

To replace & update all existing speed limit bye-laws in the County. Preliminary Draft completed in 2007.

## SANITARY SERVICES

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### Meath County Council's Sanitary Services Programme consists of:

- Major Capital Investment Programme
- Rural Water Programme

### Strategies

- To implement the Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009.
- To advance the Projects identified in the Assessment of Water Service Needs (2007-2013) as adopted by Meath County Council in July 2006 in future Water Services Investment Programmes.
- To investigate and seek to reduce our dependency on other Local Authorities for water and wastewater services.
- To upgrade existing water services facilities where deficient, in order to meet the Drinking Water Regulations and the Urban Wastewater Directives/Regulations

### Schemes Completed/Under Construction in 2007

#### Ballivor Sewerage Scheme

Provision of a sewerage supply for the village.

Works completed in 2007 at a cost of €5m

#### Major Grouped Wastewater Scheme

Provision of treatment systems & collection networks for Duleek, Summerhill, Kilmainhamwood, Moynalty, Donore, Athboy, Rathcairn and Rathmolyon.

Works commenced in 2007.

#### Dunshaughlin Sewerage Scheme

Major Scheme to cater for Dunshaughlin & surrounding settlements

Works completed in 2007 at a cost of €34m

#### Navan AC Mains Replacement Phase 2

Replacement of old asbestos cement mains in the town

Works completed in 2007 at a cost of €3.7m

#### Ashbourne/Ratoath/Kilbride Sewerage Schemes Phase 2

Upgrade and expansion of the existing wastewater system at these locations.

Works commenced in 2007.

#### Summerhill Water Supply

Upgrade of water supply to village.

Works substantially completed in 2007 at cost of €3.5m

#### Kilcarne/Johnstown Sewer Improvement Scheme

Upgrade of sewers & new pumping station in Navan.

Works completed in 2007 at a cost of €5m

## **Kiltale Sewerage Scheme**

Provision of new pumping station & network for the village  
Works substantially completed in 2007 at a cost of €1.5m

## **Kilcloon Sewerage Scheme**

Provision of new pumping station & network for the village  
Works substantially completed in 2007 at a cost of €1.5m

## **Longwood Sewerage Scheme**

Provision of new treatment system for village  
Works completed in 2007 at a cost of €3.5m

## **Trim Water Supply Augmentation**

Upgrade the supply for Trim Area  
Works substantially completed in 2007 at a cost of €2m

## **County Wide Water Conservation Project**

Expand the Conservation Programme to all Water Supply schemes in the County at an estimated cost of €16.5M.  
Works are ongoing.

## **Schemes at Planning/Design Stage**

The following Schemes are at various stages of Planning/Design:

### **Water Supply Schemes**

- Dunshaughlin Major Water Supply Scheme
- East Meath, Drogheda and South Louth Water Supply Scheme
- Navan & Mid Meath Water Supply
- Dunboyne/Clonee Water Supply
- Kells/Oldcastle Water Supply

### **Sewerage Schemes**

- Oldcastle Sewerage Scheme
- Stamullen/Gormanstown Sewerage Scheme
- Duplication of rising main from Grammar School to the Drogheda WWTP
- Kells Sewerage Scheme
- Navan Sewerage Scheme (Network Rehabilitation)





# PLANNING

## Strategic objective

To operate a system of physical planning within sustainable patterns of settlement which facilitates and provides the impetus for economic development in County Meath ,whilst at all times fostering protection of the natural and built environment of the County.

## Core activities

The Planning department Section has responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000 –2006 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2007.

This includes inter alia.

- The making of physical planning policy
- The preparation and review of the relevant Development Plans /Local Area Plans.
- The consideration of applications for planning permission,
- The control of development and the enforcement of planning legislation.
- The giving of advice on planning matters to the public and to other Council Departments
- The promotion of industrial and other development in the County.
- The promotion of economic and tourism activity

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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### Strategy

*To deliver a high quality, efficient & effective service through skilled and motivated staff, using the most up to date integrated Information Technology packages.*

A new IT system "Iplan2 " was introduced during 2007. The system facilitates additional functionality , integration of mapping with document imaging systems and provides an improved service to staff, customers and agents.

### STATISTICS

- 3,715 planning applications were received by Meath County Council and Navan, Kells & Trim Town Councils, representing a significant increase on 2006 activity .
- The grant rates for all applications determined in 2007 was approximately 70 % and on average 76 % of all applications were determined within the statutory 8 weeks without the need for further information requests.
- 788 planning applications for rural dwellings and 144 housing developments were determined during 2007.
- An Environmental Impact Statement accompanied a total of 22 planning applications.
- In cases where the Planning Authority's decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanala the Bord confirmed the Councils decisions in (123) 75% of cases, and reversed decisions in (41) 25 % of cases.
- Planning offices in Navan, Dunshaughlin, Trim, Kells and Duleek remained open to the public on average 29.30 Hours per week.

### Organisational Change

In October 2007 the Planning Department relocated to its new Corporate Headquarters at Abbey Mall, Navan.

The Planning Department commenced a Change Management process which focused on identifying areas for process improvement and structural change in the delivery of planning services. This process is due for completion and roll out in early 2008.

## Statistics profile of valid planning applications received

DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED DURING 2006	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED DURING 2007	+ / - DIFFERENCE
Dwellings	1149	1369	+19%
Domestic Ext	572	766	+34%
Agricultural buildings	291	505	+73%
Other Buildings	297	273	-9%
Mining etc	11	20	+81%
Caravan, Parking	2	4	+100%
Plant, Machine, Tanks	15	9	-40%
Advertisement Structures	5	10	+100%
Electricity Lines	7	8	+14%
Other Developments	138	181	+31%
Horses, Ponies, Greyhounds	8	12	+50%
Golf, Pitch & Putt Courses	0	0	-
Burial grounds	1	1	-
Forestry, Peat extraction	10	4	-60%
Other Buildings-Development	0	1	-

## Major Planning Applications received or determined during 2007 included:

- Mixed use commercial business office development at Piercetown Dunboyne
- Discount food store permitted in southern Drogheda Environs
- Quarries at Mulhussey & Rathmolyon
- Trim Town Centre including new OPW HQ
- Retail warehousing at Knockumber Navan
- Major roads and services at Kilcock .
- Industrial units at Clonee (Kennedy Adbrasives)
- 5,504sq.m of office development at Ashbourne Business Park
- 2 large housing developments in Dunshaughlin
- Multiple, new school and extension proposals
- Event licences for Concert & Redbull Motocross at Slane , and Planet Love concert at Fairyhouse

## Strategic Infrastructure

Meath County Council considered a proposal from Iarnrod Eireann for an extension of commuter services from Clonsilla to Pace Dunboyne and attended the subsequent Oral Hearing.

Pre-planning consultations were facilitated with Eirgrid , and College Proteins in accordance with statutory Obligations under the Act.

## Planning and Economic Development SPC

The SPC has progressed "Guidance Note 1 , Documentation to be submitted in support of an application for a dwelling in a rural area " to advanced draft , which is to be considered by Full Council in early 2008.

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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### Strategy

*To review and prepare all Development Plans, Local Area Plans & Area Action Plans and other statutory documents in line with the principles of sustainable development.*

### Implementation of the Meath County Development Plan 2007 - 2013

The new County Development Plan, 2007-2013, was adopted 2nd March 2007. The County Development Plan contains the strategic development objectives for the County and is accompanied by a Record of Protected Structures, proposals for the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas throughout the County, a Landscape Characterisation Assessment and the Housing Strategy. The existing zonings for individual centres have been re-adopted pending the preparation and subsequent adoption of individual Local Area Plans.

Individual Development Plans are in place for the Town Council areas of Navan, Trim and Kells. The review of the Navan Development Plan commenced with the publication of Strategic Issues papers in December 2007. The Kells Development Plan 2007-2013 was adopted in October 2007. A draft Trim Development Plan was published in December 2007.

### Development Plan Variations

4 variations were published during 2007 featuring proposals for land use zonings at Duleek and Longwood together with the adoption of an order of Priority for the release of residentially zoned land and amendment of qualifying criteria for local needs.

### Local Area Plans (LAPS)

A Planning Authority may prepare a Local Area Plan for any area within its functional area. Plans must be made for areas with a population of 2,000 and a Local Area Plan shall be consistent with the objectives of the Development Plan. It consists of a written statement, mapping and specific local objectives. When making a planning decision, the Planning Authority and An Bord Pleanála shall have regard to the provisions of the LAP for that area.

Work continued on LAPS in Navan and work on new plans commenced for areas including Longwood, Ballivor, Summerhill, Enfield and Drogheda Environs.

Work also commenced on the Integrated Framework Plan for Land Use and Transport for the Dunboyne/Clonee/Pace Rail corridor. This study will be completed in 2008.

## ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL

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### Strategy

To use the full rigours of the enforcement provisions of the Planning Act 2000-2006 in ensuring that the integrity of the planning system is maintained and to take appropriate enforcement action against people who carry out unauthorised development.

2007 saw the expansion of staff resources available to the enforcement function within the Planning Department. Specific staff were deployed in the areas of Quarry Control and the inspection of Housing Estates.

The Planning Authority also petitioned the High Court for orders to demolish a number of structures and to limit the scope of certain unauthorized activities.

During 2007 Meath County Council and the Town Councils of Trim, Navan and Kells received a total of 393 complaints. 155 Warning letters were issued and 97 Enforcement Notices served. It was found necessary to initiate Court proceedings in respect of 15 cases during 2007.

## PRE-PLANNING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

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### Strategy

To give advice on planning matters to the public and to other bodies, including the continuation of pre-planning clinics at area level in respect of one-off housing or domestic extensions.

This initiative serves to improve the quality of subsequent planning applications, avoids the necessity for seeking further information where possible and in some cases spares the costs of what is likely to prove an abortive application.

During 2007 officials conducted over 531 pre-planning clinics in respect of proposed development including major residential, commercial, industrial and retail type developments.

The appointment of additional Planners during 2007 has significantly improved the capacity of the Department to service pre-planning needs of the commercial and industrial sector. The Council facilitated some 461 "one off" residential and 70 commercial / larger development pre-planning meetings during 2007.

Dedicated meeting rooms are now available in the Planning Headquarters at Abbey Road to hold clinics and briefing sessions with potential applicants.

## CONSERVATION

It is the policy of Meath County Council to protect the rich heritage of the County and to secure the protection of buildings and structures that are Protected Structures as defined in the Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000.

In 2007 a permanent Conservation Officer was employed which has reduced our dependency on seconded officers from neighbouring Authorities. The officer provides professional advice to owners of protected structures on Conservation Issues. The Planning Authority also administers the National Conservation Grant Scheme, which provides assistance for appropriate conservation works to eligible structures. The Council published its proposed scheme of priorities for determination of applications for grant aid under this scheme in December 2007. €118,000 was granted to 31 qualifying projects during 2007.

## BUILDING REGULATIONS

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### Strategy

*To ensure strict implementation of the Building Regulations to ensure good practice in the design and construction of buildings in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of people who use buildings.*

### Inspection of Buildings

Meath County Council achieved an inspection rate of over 60 % of new buildings during 2007. This is significantly in excess of the recommended inspection rate 12-15% of buildings. Meath County Council continues to train staff to ensure that maximum efficiency of the Building Control and Planning Enforcement functions are achieved.

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<b>Name</b>	Cllr. Robbie Griffith	
<b>Political Party</b>	Non - Party	
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<b>Name</b>	Cllr. Vincent Mc Hugh	
<b>Political Party</b>	Fianna Fáil	
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<b>Name</b>	Cllr. Margaret Mc Givern	
<b>Political Party</b>	Sinn Fein	
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<b>Email</b>		
<b>Name</b>	Cllr. Danny O' Brien	
<b>Political Party</b>	Labour	
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<b>Name</b>	Cllr. Jimmy Peppard	
<b>Political Party</b>	Fianna Fáil	
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<b>Name</b>	Gerry Reilly	
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**Trim Town Council is the local authority for the urban district of Trim. It is composed of nine elected councillors who are elected for a period of five years. Members of Trim Town Council are as follows: Cllr. Ray Butler – Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Trevor Golden - Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Philip Cantwell, Cllr. Robbie Griffith, Cllr. Trevor Golden, Cllr. Vincent McHugh, Cllr. Margaret McGivern, Cllr. Danny O’Brien, Cllr. Jimmy Peppard and Cllr. Gerry Reilly. Trim Town Council is a key service provider in the expanding town of Trim while also providing a democratic and representational forum for the people of Trim.**

Trim town is one of Ireland’s most celebrated heritage towns. Its population is set to more than treble from 4,000 at the turn of the millennium to 15,000 by 2010. Its community has managed sustainable development that ensures that the town is a truly living community and will remain so into the future.

Trim has an extremely rich heritage of archaeological sites with more medieval sites than any other town in Ireland. It’s natural amenities, it’s tranquil setting along the banks of the river Boyne makes Trim a much sought after location to live in. It is only in the latter part of the twentieth century that a deep appreciation of our heritage and a deep appreciation of our natural amenities has emerged. Outstanding progress has been made in recent years in opening up the towns’ heritage to the people of Trim and visitors alike. Progress has been made in the enhancement of the landscape and the provision of amenities that are sensitive to the built and natural environment.

During 2007 the roads and footpath Reconstruction and Restoration Programme continued. Works were completed on Haggard Street, Bridge Street, Mill Street and Athboy Road/Kells Road. 2007 saw Trim Town Council open the first new street for many years with the Members naming the street after a well-known local man, the late James Finnegan. The street is now known as “Finnegans Way”. 2007 also saw works commence on the “New Town Centre Project” with the O.P.W. commencing works on their new headquarters.



Construction on the new Trim Sports and Leisure Centre was well on the way by the end of the year with a facility set to boast a new pool, fitness dock, community room and all-weather pitch when completed.



Trim Town Council in conjunction with Trim Tidy Towns Committee commissioned an art piece for the Town Centre with Artist Joey Burns completing works on a piece of bog oak retrieved from Castle Street during the reconstruction works. The sculpture now proudly sits off Castle Street and is entitled "Hunger for Knowledge".

Trim continued to fare well in the IBAL Litter League retaining its Litter Free Status and finishing 4th for the year just outside the prestigious top three Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.



Works were completed on the new "Slí na Sláinte" walkway through the Porchfields. Starting in the heart of the medieval town at Trim Castle, the 3.7 km Slí na Sláinte route passes along the outer line of the Porch Field to Newtown and back into Trim along the Dublin road. The route includes most of the historic sites of Trim and Newtown, Trim. The pinnacle of Trim's past coincided with

the early period of Norman power in Ireland. The ruins of the great castle and of the abbeys around it are all that now remains as testimony of this great era.

Trim Town Council in conjunction with Meath County Council establish a "Trim Walled town Conservation and Management Plan" during 2007 which forms part of the County Meath Heritage Plan 2007 - 2011 and will form the basis of funding to expose the existing Town Wall and future development of same.



# NAVAN TOWN COUNCIL

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<b>Name</b> <b>Political Party</b> <b>Address</b> <b>Phone No.</b> <b>Email</b>	Cllr. Shane Cassells Fianna Fail 8 Moatlands Drive, Navan, Co. Meath. 086 3399198 scassells@members.meathcoco.ie	
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<b>Name</b> <b>Political Party</b> <b>Address</b> <b>Phone No.</b> <b>Email</b>	Cllr. Jim Holloway Fine Gael Farganstown, Navan, Co. Meath. 086 2355236 jholloway@members.meathcoco.ie	
<b>Name</b> <b>Political Party</b> <b>Address</b> <b>Phone No.</b> <b>Email</b>	Cllr. Christopher Reilly Fianna Fail Ardsallagh, Navan, Co. Meath. 087 7736545 creilly@members.navantc.ie	
<b>Name</b> <b>Political Party</b> <b>Address</b> <b>Phone No.</b> <b>Email</b>	Cllr. Tommy Reilly Fianna Fail Ardsallagh, Navan, Co. Meath. 087 2786945 treilly@members.navantc.ie	

The town of Navan has enjoyed rapid growth over the past number of years and faces a huge challenge in responding to the resulting demands. The economic development of our town is critical to ensure that this growth is sustainable. This growth will be driven first and foremost by the policies contained in the Navan Development Plan 2003- 2009, the review of which has commenced.

## MAJOR PROJECTS

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There are a number of major projects underway which when completed will contribute enormously to the development of the town and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. The projects are at various stages of development and one of the Council's main objectives in 2008 will be to ensure these projects proceed to an advanced stage.

### Kennedy Place

Construction works have continued on the Civic Space at Kennedy Road in 2007 and it is anticipated that these works will be completed in early 2008.

### Market Square/Watergate St Enhancement

Continuing with the enhancement of town centre locations, the Council's plan to redevelop Market Square/Watergate Street was advanced during 2007 and plans will be advertised under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act in 2008. This project is of significant importance to maintaining and enhancing our town centre.

### Navan Town Park

It is a major challenge for this Council to deliver on the new 68 acre Town Park but it is vital that the Council maximise funding to ensure the delivery of this much needed amenity. It is the intention of the Council to make an application for funding under the Sports Capital Grant Scheme in the coming year.

### Solstice

The Solstice Arts Centre was opened in 2006 and during 2007 a wide and varied list of events were presented to the residents of the Town and the County at large. Almost 30,000 people have visited the Solstice Arts Centre during the year.

## ROADSWORKS PROGRAMME

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This year has also seen the completion of a number of improvements throughout the Town. Road and footpath improvements were carried out in Abbey Crescent, St Mary's Park, Mellows Terrace, Boreen Keel and Connolly Avenue. Ramps were installed in Parnell Park and Dean Cogan Place. Upgrading of footpaths were carried out on Academy Street, Kennedy Road, New Lane, and Boreen Keel. Footpath repairs and installation of ramps were carried out in Woodlands Housing Estate. Resurfacing of roads at Carriage Road, Fairgreen and St Benildus Villas and the restoration of a lane at Emmett Terrace were also carried out. All of these works have contributed to the enhancement of the Town.

The resurfacing of Railway Street was completed in 2007.

Work on conversion of Navan Inner Relief Road Phase 2A between Round O and Kells Road was completed in 2007.

Work is ongoing on the construction of the Navan Inner Relief Road 2B between the Kells and Athboy Roads and also on Navan / Trim road.

Phase 2 of the Navan AC Watermains Replacement Scheme were completed in 2007.

The Council has provided for a Long Stay car park at Commons Road and for a Short Stay car park at Brews Hill.

All of these works are essential to the development of the Town.

## HOUSING

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This year the council has allocated 21 houses. Our Central Heating Programme is ongoing at present and is expected to be completed in the coming year.

In 2007 the Elected Members took the decision to make a financial provision towards the promotion of community development in the Windtown area. A Community Worker has been appointed and is carrying out a needs analysis as part of the works. It is hoped that this will foster a greater community spirit through participation and partnership.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

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Navan improved its score by 7 points on the previous year in the Tidy Towns competition.

Landscaping works were carried out at the area along the Navan Inner Relief Road 2A between the Round O and Windtown Junction and the area adjacent to the Fire Station at Abbey Road.

New hanging baskets and barrier boxes were erected at various locations within the town.

Other initiatives were the St Finian's Terrace Paint Scheme and the continuation of the successful Anti-Litter League.

The Council purchased a road sweeper which assists in the Council's aim to eradicate the scourge of litter on our streets and to improve our rating in the Irish Business against Litter Anti Litter League.

The Environmental Enforcement Officer has made a major contribution to the Council's fight against litter. This has resulted in 219 Litter Fines being issued in 2007.

A designated derelict sites team was set up in 2007 in a bid to reform any derelict sites in the town.

It is intended to forge further links with our twinned towns of Bobbio and Broccostella in the coming year.

## Recreation & Amenity

The provision of a multi-use games area and skateboard park in Clogherboy was achieved in 2007 and this has made a positive difference to the quality of life and living environment of the people of the area.

It is proposed to provide FAI Mini Pitches at Boreen Keel Park & Claremont Housing Estate in 2008.

The Council awarded amenity grants in the sum of €40,755 to various residents associations, sporting groups, organisations working with people with a disability, the youth and the elderly and musical and theatrical groups.

## Alteration of Town Boundary

Work is nearing completion on the proposal to alter the boundary for Navan Town. Meath County Council is at present finalising its consideration of the proposal and the members of that Council will shortly be considering a draft statement of response to Navan Town Council's proposal.

## Civic Receptions

**Navan Town Council held two civic receptions during 2007.**

In March the Council held a Civic Reception for Navan Educate Together Primary School to recognise the links they have forged with St Peter's Roman Catholic School in Dalbeattie in Scotland.

In October the Town Council held a Civic Reception for Parkvilla Football Club and Navan Town Football Club in recognition of the considerable contribution that both clubs have made & continue to make in the development of young people in the town of Navan.

The Council incurred €9,094 in entertainment and associated expenses in 2007.

## The Council's collection rates were as follows

Commercial Rates	82%
Rents	86%
Water	59%

## Payments to Council Members

Payments made to members under travelling & subsistence	€19,500
Payments to members in respect of conferences, seminars, etc	€19,196
Within the state	€14,465
Outside state	€ 4,731
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>€38,696</b>

## No of Meetings of Navan Town Council

A Total of 15 Meetings of Navan Town Council were held in respect of 2007.

## Committees

### Meath County Library Committee

One Member from Navan Town Council

### Public Authorities and Other Bodies Local Authority is represented on

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd  
Cllr. J Holloway represented Navan Town Council.

### Mid-East Regional Tourism Authority

Cllr. J Duffy represented Navan Town Council.

### Meath Tourism Ltd

Cllr. A Gibney represented Navan Town Council.

### Navan Enterprise Centre Company Ltd

Cllr.s A Brennan & P Fitzsimons represented Navan Town Council

## Conferences, seminars other similar events at which local authority was represented

### Association of Municipal Authorities in Ireland Annual Conference

New Ross, Co Wexford - 5 Members

### Association of Municipal Authorities in Ireland Spring Seminar

Tralee, Co Kerry - 3 Members

### Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd AGM

Dublin - 1 Member

## CONFERENCES 2007

### **TJK Conferences Ltd**

Tralee, Co Kerry - 2 Members  
Planning Seminars

### **Local Authority Members Association Conference**

Killarney, Co Kerry - 1 Member  
Theme National Development Plan 2006-2013- The Challenges

### **Colmcille Winter School Conference**

Letterkenny, Co Donegal - 1 Member  
Theme- The Contribution of the GAA to the Sporting & Social Life in Ireland

### **Rattoo Heritage Society 15th Annual Kerry Env Conference**

Ballybunion, Co Kerry - 2 Members

### **Byrne/Perry Summer School Conference**

Gorey, Co Wexford - 1 Member

### **St Patrick's Day Parade**

New York - 1 Member

### **St Patrick's Day Parade**

London - 1 Member

# KELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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<b>Name</b> <b>Political Party</b> <b>Address</b> <b>Phone No.</b> <b>Email</b>	Cllr. Oliver Sweeney Fine Gael Hurdlestown, Kells, Co. Meath. 046 9240518 osweeney@members.kellstc.ie	



## Structure & Services

Kells Town Council is the local authority for the urban district of Kells. It is composed of nine directly elected councillors who are elected for a period of 5 years.

## Core Activities

The council provides a wide range of services that are vital for the development and functioning of the town. These services include

- Housing,
- Planning control, development planning,
- Sanitary services (in conjunction with Meath County Council), urban roads and environment.

In addition the Council contributes financially to Meath County Council to support a number of Countywide services including fire service, swimming pools and libraries.

The Council's current budget stands at €2.8million, a significant portion of which is spent directly in the town with €9.5million in 2007 on capital projects.

Kells Town Council is a key service provider in the expanding town of Kells while also providing a democratic and representational forum for the people of Kells.

## Kells One-Stop-Shop

Kells Town Hall was originally designed as a bank by William Caldebeck in 1853 and became the Town Hall in 1974. In 2005, work began on an extensive development of the building to secure its future as the administrative centre for the Local Authority in the town and electoral area. The original building has been fully renovated and extended from c.3,000 sq. ft. to c.9,500 sq. ft. at a cost of €5 million. This brings the investment by the Town and County Council in listed buildings in the town to €7.5m since 2000. This work was completed in 2007 and the Civic Offices opened for business on the 28th May 2007 and is included in the funding of the Town Hall project.



Official opening of Kells One-Stop-Shop

## Kells Development Plan

The Kells Development Plan (2007-2013) has been adopted and provides the strategic blueprint for the future development of Kells. This Plan will yield, in addition to economic benefits, in excess of 75 acres of recreational lands and a 20 acre town park with river access to the Headfort Mausoleum. This will allow for a holistic development of the town. Extensive pre-planning has occurred in relation to the town centre expansion, which is an objective detailed in the Kells Development Plan 2007-2013.

## Water Services

Kells water supply and waste water schemes were included in 2007 in the National Water Services investment programme with an expected operational date of 2012. Funding was approved for the WW optimization works.

## Kells Swimming Pool

Kells Swimming Pool was refurbished, at a cost of €5m. to provide a modern civic leisure amenity for the people of Kells and beyond. The Pool continues to provide swimming lessons and activities for all age groups and is a state of the art facility for exercise and relaxation.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KELLS

### Kells Enterprise & Technology Centre

Kells Town Council is delighted to announce the launch of Kells Enterprise & Technology Centre (KETC). Located in Kells Business Park the centre provides all modern facilities to support the expansion of existing business and the creation of new ventures in the town. The primary role of the holding company is to provide incubation / workspace units for the Manufacturing and High Technology service sector at economic rent to assist the growth of small businesses and to alleviate the initial start-up costs.

The Centre is a two-storey building, covers a total floor area of 2280m<sup>2</sup> and comprises units varying in size from 20m<sup>2</sup> to 750m<sup>2</sup>. The centre is fully accessible. The design features cater for an advanced IT infrastructure, meeting rooms, a training room and a video conferencing facility. The administrative centre will supply reception / secretarial services, meeting and conference facilities along with business advice mentoring.

KETC is supported by Kells Town Council, Enterprise Ireland and Meath County Enterprise Board. The project received funding under the National Development Plan 2000-2006, from the European Union and the Irish Government. It opened in 2007 with Quinn Direct as its main tenant providing local employment to Kells. A further €300,000 was secured for the Phase II expansion.

### Kells Business Park

In late 2004, Kells Town Council purchased approximately 10 additional acres to continue the expansion of the Business Park. Development is continuing and work has begun on projects within the 19 acres available.



Official opening of Kells Depot

**Environmental SPC**

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<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Patrick O’ Brien East Commons, Station Road, Duleek, Co. Meath Pillar – Commuity 086 1662018</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Ms Penny Mc Gowan Kells Chamber of Commerce, Castle Street, Kells, Co. Meath Pillar – Business &amp; Commerical</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Michael Lynch 4 Whitehall, Oldcastle, Co. Meath Cllr. Kells Area 086 1080585 mlynch@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
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**Environmental SPC, Contd.**

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<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Thomas C. Burke Castle House, Lagavooren, Drogeda Community Representative 041 983 5584 / 087 274 0080 tcaburke@hotmail.com</p>

**Infrastructural Development SPC**

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<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Seamus Mc Gee Mc Gees Cross, Crossakiel, Kells, Co. Meath Farming – Pillar</p>
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**Infrastructural Development SPC, Contd.**

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<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Eamon Gavigan  Business &amp; Commerical</p>
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<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Andy Brennan 3 Parnell Park, Navan Mayor Navan Town Council 046 9023930 abrennan@members.navantc.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Michael Gallagher Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath Cllr. Kells Area 041 6854498 mgallagher@members.meathcoco.ie</p>

**Planning & Economic Development SPC**

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<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Emer Dunne Gilltown, Beauparc, Navan Farming – Pillar 041 9824830</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Oliver Reilly Clegarrow, Enfield, Co. Meath. Trade Union – Pillar</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Shaun Lynch Newlanes House, Duleek, Co. Meath Communiy Representative 041 9823315</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Sean Boyle Tara House, 38 Trimgate Street, Navan Business &amp; Commerical 046 9023797</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Bryan Reilly Rockfield Road, Kells, Co. Meath. Cllr. Kells Area 046 9240122 breilly@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. John V Farrelly Hurdlestown, Kells, Co. Meath. Cllr. Kells Area 046 9241290 remaxroyallcounty@eircom.net</p>

**Planning & Economic Development SPC, Contd.**

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<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald Warrenstown, Kilcock, Co. Meath Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area 01 8251847 briannfitzgerald@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Patrick Boshell Laytown Road, Julianstown, Cllr. Slane Area 041 9829264 / 087 7543537 pboshell@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Joe Reilly Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan, Co. Meath. Cllr. Navan Area 046 9028392 jreilly@members.meathcoco.ie</p>

**Social, Community & Cultural Development SPC**

<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. James Mangan (Chair) Rathfeigh, Tara Cllr. Navan Area 041 9825429 jmangan@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Nick Killian Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Co. Meath Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area 01 8256700 nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Brendan Conway 54 Millbrook, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath Trade Union – Pillar 01 8882183</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Maureen Kerrigan Bohermeen ICA, Cortown, Kells, Co. Meath Commuity Representative 046 9434136 kerriganmn@yahoo.com</p>

Social, Community & Cultural Development SPC, Contd.

<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>James Doorley D.F.I., St Annes Community Centre, Railway Street, Navan, Co. Meath Community Representative 046 9059488 / 086 3834587 Jamesdoorley@disability-federation.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Patricia Hehir The Moate, Rathmoylon, Co. Meath. Community Representative 046 9555589 / 087 6216702 Patricia-hehir@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Seamus Murray Cullentra, Longwood, Co. Meath Cllr. Trim Area 046 9555189 smurray@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Jenny D'Arcy Apt 1, 7 Trimgate Street, Navan, Co. Meath. Cllr. Navan Area 087 2619695 jdarcy@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Eugene Cassidy Possextown, Nobber, Co. Meath. Cllr. Kells Area 046 9052116 ecassidy@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Trevor Golden Church Lane, Trim, Co. Meath. Cllr. Trim Town Council 086 8447420 tgolden@members.trimtc.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Phillip Cantwell "Villa Maria", Manorland, Trim, Co. Meath. Cllr. Trim Area 046 9431515 pcantwell@members.meathcoco.ie</p>
<p>Full Name Address Representative Phone No. Email</p>	<p>Cllr. Jimmy Cudden 23 St Cianan's Villas, Duleek, Co. Meath. Cllr. Slane Area 041 9823353 jcudden@members.meathcoco.ie</p>



### Environmental SPC • 3 Meetings Held

#### REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

- GMS Crops
- Derelict Sites
- Roll out of Brown bin
- Collection, storage and presentation of waste Byelaws
- Provision of 4th Civic Amenity Site
- Major Illegal Dumping Sites
- Farm Plastics
- River Basin District
- Urban Tree Plant Scheme
- Civil Defence
- Major Emergency Framework Document
- Fire Service
- East Meath South Louth Water Improvement Scheme
- Bring Banks
- Provision of Dog Pound

### Infrastructural Development SPC • 4 Meetings Held

#### REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

- Making of Water Bye Laws
- Advancing Speed Limits Bye Laws process
- Update on Road Pavement Condition Survey
- Upgrade of Public Lighting
- Policy recommendations on Ramps
- SEA on GSDSDS Strategy
- Strategy for Provision of Water Services in East Meath & Drogheda Environs
- NRA Liaison Sub-Committee
- Machinery Yard Operations

### Planning & Economic Development SPC • 3 Meetings Held

#### REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

- Draft Guidance note on documentation required to support an application for a one off house in a rural area
- Housing Estate Guidelines
- Rural Design Guidelines
- Meath Biodiversity Action Plan
- Development Contribution Scheme
- Review of action plans for Enterprise and Innovation Directorate

### Housing, Social, Cultural & Community SPC • 4 Meetings Held

#### REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

- DPG and ERG Scheme
- Landbank availability
- Internal Capital Receipts
- Housing Needs Assessment 2008
- Council Housing Estate Awards
- Private Sites Scheme
- Central Heating Programme
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Draft Tenants Handbook
- Training programme for Sectoral Representatives
- Meath Arts Plan
- Housing Action Plan 2007 – 2009
- Affordable Housing Scheme
- Part L Building Regulations
- Homeless
- Control of Dogs in Local Authority Estates
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Meath Bio Diversity Plan
- Sectoral Plan in accordance with Disability Act 2005
- Housing Policy Document “Building Homes Sustaining Communities”
- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- New Public Procurement Requirements

# ELECTED MEMBERS COMMITTEE DETAILS

## APPENDIX III

NAME OF COMMITTEE	NAME	PARTY
THE MID EAST REGIONAL AUTHORITY	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Non Party
	Cllr. Patsy O' Neill	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Jimmy Fegan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Michael Lynch	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
MID EAST REGIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION	Cllr. John Farrelly	Fine Gael
THE CHARLTON ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE	Cllr.. Michael Lynch	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr.. Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
THE DUBLIN TRANSPORT OFFICE ADVISORY	Cllr. Charles Bobbett	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Oliver Brooks	Fianna Fáil
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY & CITY COUNCILS	Cllr. William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Jimmy Fegan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
THE IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD.	Cllr. Shane Cassells	Fianna Fáil
THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION	Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	Non Party
THE LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE	Cllr. Jenny D'Arcy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil

# ELECTED MEMBERS COMMITTEE DETAILS

CONTD.

APPENDIX III

NAME OF COMMITTEE	NAME	PARTY
MEATH COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD	Cllr. Patrick Boshell	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fail
	Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
INTEGRATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CO. MEATH PARTNERSHIP	Cllr. Patsy O' Neill	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Liz Mc Cormack	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Michael Gallagher	Sinn Fein
MEATH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP LTD. COUNCIL CHAMBER	Cllr. Liz Mc Cormack	Fianna Fáil
MID EAST REGIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION VARIOUS	Cllr. John V. Farrelly	Fine Gael
NAVAN ENTERPRISE CENTRE COMPANY LTD.	Cllr. Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Shane Cassells	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL TEAGASC	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE	Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Michael Lynch	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil

# ELECTED MEMBERS COMMITTEE DETAILS

## APPENDIX III

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MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME OF COMMITTEE	NAME	PARTY
TARA MINES ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING	Cllr. Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Joe Reilly	Sinn Féin
	Cllr. Patsy O'Neill	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Phillip Cantwell	Non Party
	Cllr. Shane Cassells	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
MEATH TOURISM BOARD	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. John V. Farrelly	Fine Gael
MEATH VEC	Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Patrick Boshell	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Jenny D'Arcy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Charles Bobbett	Fine Gael
	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Joe Reilly	Sinn Fein
	Cllr. William Carey	Fine Gael
MEATH ENERGY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	Cllr. Patsy O'Neill	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr. Michael Gallagher	Sinn Fein
LIBRARY ADVISORY	Cllr. Patrick Boshell	Fianna Fail
	Cllr. Michael Lynch	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Peter Higgins	Fine Gael
SOUTHERN & EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Jim Holloway	Fine Gael

# ELECTED MEMBERS COMMITTEE DETAILS

CONTD.

APPENDIX III

NAME OF COMMITTEE	NAME	PARTY
PROTOCOL COMMITTEE	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Patsy O' Neill	Fine Gael
	Cllr. William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	Non Party
CPG	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Anne Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Shane Cassells	Fianna Fáil
REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN & NORTH EAST	Cllr. Anne Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Joe Reilly	Sinn Fein
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
HERITAGE FORUM	Cllr. Tom Kelly	Green Party
SLANE FORUM	Cllr. Ann Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
EASTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY	Cllr. Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
NEAGH BANN INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY	Cllr. Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil

# ELECTED MEMBERS COMMITTEE DETAILS

## APPENDIX III

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MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME OF COMMITTEE	NAME	PARTY
Shannon International River Basin District Advisory	Cllr. Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fail
MCC Audit	Cllr.. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr.. Jim Holloway	Fianna Fáil
DELAGATION – RPG IMPLEMENTATION GROUP	Cllr. Tom Kelly	Green Party
EAST BORDER REGION	Cllr. William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr. John Farrelly	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Non Party
	Cllr. Michael Gallagher	Sinn Fein
	Cllr. Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil

### List of Approved Abroad Conferences and members who attended in 2007

Title	Dates	Members Attended
ST PATRICK'S DAY – NEW YORK	March 2007	Cllr. Jenny D' Arcy Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald Cllr. Eugene Cassidy Cllr. Tom Kelly Cllr. Oliver Brooks Cllr. Liz Mc Cormack
ST PATRICK'S DAY – FLANDERS	March 2007	Cllr. Patsy O' Neill Cllr. Jim Holloway Cllr. Shane Cassells Cllr. Nick Killian
ST PATRICKS DAY – LONDON	March 2007	Cllr. Jimmy Fegan Cllr. Noel Leonard Cllr. Ann Dillon Gallagher
SANDANSKI, BULGARIA	April 2007	Cllr. Jimmy Fegan Cllr. Noel Leonard Cllr. Ann Dillon Gallagher Cllr. Jenny D'Arcy
JOURNEY OF REMBERING - IEPER	October 2007	Cllr. Charles Bobbett Cllr. Noel Leonard
CARY – TWINNING	August 2007	Cllr. Nick Killian Cllr. Seamus Murray Cllr. John Farrelly Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald Cllr. Eugene Cassidy



# HOME CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

## APPENDIX V

### List of Approved Home Conferences and members who attended in 2007

Title	Dates	Members Attended
Tackling Poverty & Social Need in Ireland North & South	07/12/2007 - 07/12/2007	Cllr. Oliver Brooks Cllr. Eugene Cassidy
Pathfinding - An Island of Ireland Local Government Partnership	01/12/2007 - 01/12/2007	Cllr. Phillip Cantwell
Tourism for Changing Lifestyles	22/11/2007 - 24/11/2007	Cllr. Eugene Cassidy Cllr. Phillip Cantwell Cllr. Jimmy Cudden Cllr. Patsy O'Neill Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher Cllr. Michael Lynch
Effective Communications for Councillors - 2007	16/11/2007 - 18/11/2007	Cllr. Patsy O'Neill Cllr. Joe Bonner
Annual Winter Conference 2007	09/11/2007 - 10/11/2007	Cllr. Michael Lynch Cllr. Jimmy Cudden Cllr. James Mangan Cllr. Charles Bobbett Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher
Border Counties Childcare Network	09/11/2007 - 10/11/2007	Cllr. Nick Killian
Douglas Hyde Conference 2007	26/10/2007 - 28/10/2007	Cllr. James Mangan
The Challenge of Climate Change for the Island of Ireland	19/10/2007 - 19/10/2007	Cllr. Phillip Cantwell
Planning Seminar for Councillors	12/10/2007 - 13/10/2007	Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald Cllr. Noel Leonard Cllr. William Carey
Getting A Grip 2007 "Winning or Losing"	04/10/2007 - 05/10/2007	Cllr. Jimmy Cudden Cllr. Jim Holloway Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher
Local Government and Rural Development	25/09/2007 - 26/09/2007	Cllr. Michael Gallagher
94th Annual Conference 2007	13/09/2007 - 15/09/2007	Cllr. Michael Gallagher Cllr. Jimmy Fegan
Developing Local Heritage for Tourism Purposes	06/09/2007 - 07/09/2007	Cllr. Charles Bobbett
Local Government & The Arts	24/08/2007 - 26/08/2007	Cllr. Michael Gallagher Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher
General Humbert Summer School 2007	23/08/2007 - 26/08/2007	Cllr. William Carey
Macgill Summer School & Arts Week 2007	15/07/2007 - 20/07/2007	Cllr. Joe Bonner

# HOME CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

CONTD. APPENDIX V

## List of Approved Home Conferences and members who attended in 2007

Title	Dates	Members Attended
The Local Government Planning Services Summer 07	05/07/2007 - 07/07/2007	Cllr. Michael Lynch Cllr. Tommy Reilly Cllr. Dominic Hannigan Cllr. William Carey Cllr. Patsy O'Neill Cllr. Jim Holloway
1916-1923 War, Civil War Fallout"	29/06/2007 - 01/07/2007	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
IRD Association Planning Conference 2007	18/04/2007 - 20/04/2007	Cllr. Phillip Cantwell
Meeting The Challenge - Providing the Solutions NDP 2007-2013	12/04/2007 - 13/04/2007	Cllr. Seamus Murray Cllr. Jimmy Cudden
Death on our roads - Community Action	28/03/2007 - 30/03/2007	Cllr. Jim Holloway
Rattoo Heritage Society	28/03/2007 - 01/04/2007	Cllr. Charles Bobbett Cllr. Tommy Reilly Cllr. Jimmy Fegan Cllr. Noel Leonard
ACCC Conference 2007 - The place to be seen in election 2007	08/03/2007 - 10/03/2007	Cllr. Nick Killian Cllr. William Carey Cllr. Jimmy Fegan Cllr. Tommy Reilly Cllr. Jim Holloway Cllr. Seamus Murray
Rural & Regional Development	02/03/2007 - 03/03/2007	Cllr. Noel Leonard
18th Colmcille Winter School 2007	23/02/2007 - 25/02/2007	Cllr. Tommy Reilly Cllr. Jimmy Fegan
Planning Seminar for Cllr.s 2007	16/02/2007 - 17/02/2007	Cllr. Oliver Brooks Cllr. Jimmy Cudden Cllr. James Mangan Cllr. Charles Bobbett Cllr. Noel Leonard Cllr. Seamus Murray
Antrim Tourism Conference 2007 - Food for Thought	02/02/2007 - 03/02/2007	Cllr. Micheal Lynch
The Local Government Planning Services 2007	01/02/2007 - 03/02/2007	Cllr. Seamus Murray

### County Council meetings held during 2007

• Monthly Meetings	11
• Special Meetings	13
• Annual	1
• Pre Budget and Budget	2
• Protocol	11
• CPG	11
• SPC – Environment	3
• SPC - Infrastructure	4
• SPC – Social,Community & Culture	4
• SPC – Planning & Economic	3
• Area - Dunshaughlin	14
Kells	16
Navan	11
Slane	11
Trim	11

EXPENDITURE	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
Housing & Building	8.966	78.696
Roads Transportation & Safety	30.550	86.557
Water & Sewerage	21.646	25.167
Development Incentives & Controls	7.130	17.404
Environmental Protection	13.455	2.904
Recreation & Amenity	5.801	8.715
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	7.072	0.064
Miscellaneous	5.927	2.249
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.547</b>	<b>221.756</b>
INCOME		
(See funding sources below)	56.304	256.610
Net Transfers		3.194
Net Revenue Cost to be funded from County	(44.243)	
Rates	18.609	
Local Government Fund	28.583	
Charges to Urbans	1.451	
Transfer from (to) Reserves	(3.800)	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	0.600	38.048
Opening Balance (01/01/07)	(10.359)	52.892
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>(9.759)</b>	<b>90.940</b>
Funding Sources	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
State Grants & Subsidies	27.857	150.758
Borrowings		25.166
Other Receipts	3.791	80.686
Rents from Houses	5.558	
Housing Loans	1.142	
Commercial Water and Sewerage	1.884	
Planning Fees	3.152	
Recreation & Amenity Activities	0.309	
Fire Charges	1.152	
Pension Contributions	1.562	
Miscellaneous	9.897	
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.304</b>	<b>256.610</b>
<b>Members allowances and expenses for Conferences</b>		(€)
Chairman's and SPC Chairs Allowance		61,611
Councillors' Gratuities		50,000
Member's Expenses/Salaries		758,452
Attendance at Conferences abroad		35,916