

Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

April 2025

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

Contents

Introduction by the Chief Executive	2
Corporate Affairs and Governance	3
Housing Services	11
Transportation Services	19
Economic Development & Tourism	28
Rural Regeneration	32
Community Development.....	34
Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service	38
Planning	42
Climate Action and Environment.....	47
Libraries Services.....	52
Finance	55

Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

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

The report covers the following:

Directorate for Corporate Affairs and Governance, HR Management and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Directorate for Housing and Integration

Housing Services

Directorate for Transportation, Urban Regeneration & Asset Management

Transportation

Directorate for Planning & Strategic Projects

Planning and Development

Directorate for Financial Services and Information Systems

Finance Services

Directorate for Climate Action, Culture, Community & Gaeltacht Affairs

Climate Action and Environment

Library Services

Community Development

Directorate for Economic Development, Rural Regeneration & EU Affairs

Economic Development

Tourism

Rural Regeneration

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Eagraíodh Imeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2025 idir na dátaí 1-17 le béim ar imeachtaí beo a tharla sna scoileanna, leabharlanna, agus in Amharclann an Grianstad.

Thíos, tá liosta agus cur síos na himeachtaí do Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2025 a tharla i gContae na Mí agus a bhí maoinithe ag Oifig na Gaeilge, chomh maith le grianghraif a mbaineann le cúpla imeacht..

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 events were organised between the dates 1-17 March with an emphasis on live events that took place in schools, libraries and in the Sostice theatre.

Below, is a description of the events for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 that took place in County Meath and that were funded by the Irish language Office, as well as some photographs of some of the events.

Pop Up Gaeltacht – Ionad Oideachais na hUaimhe

Bhí cuireadh tugtha don phobal aitiúil agus do chiorcail comhrá ar fud an chontae teacht chuig Ionad Oideachais na hUaimhe chun a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh in atmaisféar neamhfhoirmiúil agus cairdiúil.. Baineadh sult as an aoí speisialta, damhsóir Gaelach Damien Doherty.

There was an invite to the local public & to ciorcal comhrá groups throughout the county to come to Navan Education centre to practice their Irish in an informal & friendly atmosphere. Great enjoyment was had with special guest, Irish dancer Damien Doherty.

An Bealach go Baile Ghib – Amharclann an Grianstad

Sa bhliain 1937 bhog roinnt teaghlach ó na ceantair Ghaeltachta i nDún na nGall, Corcaigh, Maigh Eo, agus Ciarraí go Baile Ghib; fuair na daoine seo talamh faoin coimisiún na talún agus feiceann an clár faisnéise seo ar na cúiseanna a roghnaigh na teaghlaigh chun bogadh go Contae na Mí. Bhí 113 duine i láthair ag an scáileán ar an Mháirt 7 Márta

In 1937 a number of families from the Gaeltacht districts in Donegal, Cork, Mayo and Kerry moved to Gibbstown/Baile Ghib; these people received land under the land commission and this documentary looks at the reasons the families chose to move to Co. Meath. there were 113 people present for the screening on Tuesday 7 March.

‘A Cup Of Focals’ – Aine Gallagher – Leabharlann na hUaimhe

“is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Bearla cliste”; seo é an sprioc don ceardlann ‘A Cup of Focals’ seó le Áine Gallagher, a bhíonn i gcónaí ag forbairt smaointí nua agus cruthaitheach chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus inspioráid a thabhairt do dhaoine chun an teanga a labhairt. Sa cheardlann dhátheangach seo, d’úsáid Áine focail i nGaeilge ar bhealach nuálaíochta chun spraoi a chruthú agus chun spreagadh a thabhairt do dhaoine a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh gan aon bhrú.

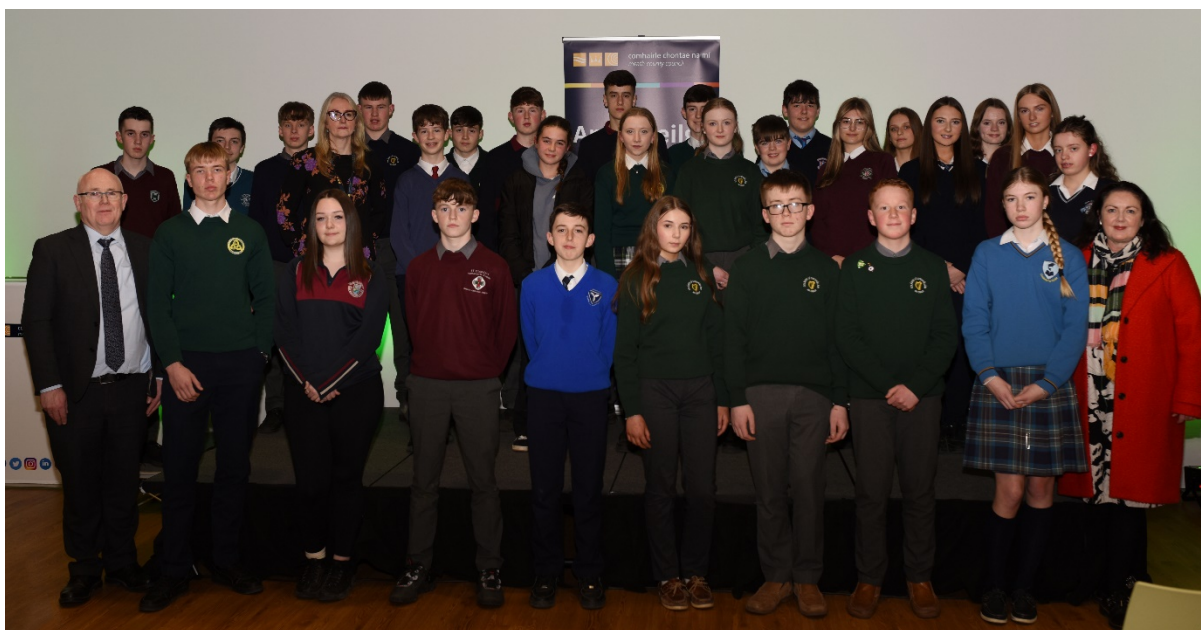
“Broken Irish is better than clever English” – this is the aim of the workshop ‘A Cup Of Focals’ with Áine Gallagher that took place in Navan Library, she is always developing new & creative ideas to promote Irish and to inspire people to speak the language. In this bilingual workshop, Aine used Irish words in a modern way to create fun and to inspire people to practice their Irish without any pressure.



Gradaim na Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

Tharla Gradaim na Scoláireachta Gaeltachta Chomhairle Chontae na Mí i dteach Buvinda ar an Déardaoin 13 Marta. Bhíamhránaí Máire Ní Churraoin as Ráth Chairn ann mar aoi speisialta, agus labhair sí do na daltaí faoi thuras go dtí an Ghaeltacht agus chan sí cúpla amhrán sean-nós. Bhí fiche a ceathair deontas Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh ar a bhfuil luach €150.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna dara leibhéal sa chontae. Bhí ocht deontas eile Máthair Columba Gibbons, ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal; agus sé deontas eile Máire Ní Raghallaigh ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal fosta. Tá na deontais forchúiteamh in aghaidh táillí a íoctar do choláistí samhraidh cónaithe atá aitheanta i rith an tsamhraidh 2023.

Tá an Scéim Scoláireachta Gaeltachta á tacú ag Comhairle Contae na Mí, cláir Ghaeilge agus Éire Chruthaitheach.



The Meath County Council Gaeltacht Scholarship Awards Night took place in Buvinda House on Thursday 13th March. Singer Máire Ní Churraoin from Ráth Chairn was invited as special guest and she spoke to the students about the trip to the Gaeltacht and sang some sean-nós. Twenty-four Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh grants of €150.00 each were made available to students attending second level schools in the county. Eight Mother Columba Gibbons grants of €300.00 each were made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools; and a further 6 Máire Ní Raghallaigh grants of €300.00 each were also made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools. The grants are recoupable against fees paid at recognised residential Irish colleges during the summer of 2025.

The Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme is supported by the Meath County Council, Irish Language and Creative Ireland programmes.

Flying the Flag for Meath

The Communications team promoted the work done by delegates from Meath County Council visiting New York and London across St. Patrick's weekend to promote Meath as a significant international hub for both investment and tourism.



Local Lens Podcast

Four more episodes of our Podcast Series, Local Lens, were released in March 2025, discussing pertinent topics and Meath County Council initiatives such as housing, transport, sustainability, climate action and the environment. The last episode of the series featured a wide-ranging discussion with Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe.

Listen to Local Lens on Apple Music, Spotify, You Tube, or wherever you get your podcasts <https://pod.link/1796214489>



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025

An array of events was supported by social media for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025.



International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day, the Communications team produced a video to recognise and celebrate the contributions, strength, and resilience of women, featuring an array of women currently working with Meath County Council in a variety of different posts.

Meath County Council is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion through the recruitment and advancement of women within the Council.



Recycling Drop Off Days

A social media campaign began to promote the various free drop off days throughout 2025.

The Big Couch Drop Off Event

Navan Couch Drop Off Event

Navan Recycle Centre

Trim Couch Drop Off Event

Trim Recycle Centre

Kells Couch Drop Off Event

Kells Recycle Centre

Dunboyne Couch Drop Off Event

Thornton's Dunboyne

Free Drop Off Days 2025

Navan, Trim, Kells, & Thornton's Dunboyne Recycling Centres

 Couches 10th to 16th March Mon-Sat, Kells & Dunboyne Mon-Fri, Navan & Trim	 Mattresses 12th April - Dunboyne 17th April - Navan 18th April - Trim 19th April - Kells	 Garden Equipment 12th to 17th May Mon-Sat All Centres
 Cot, prams, nursery 16th to 21st June Mon-Sat All Centres	 HAPPY HALLOWEEN Halloween Bulky Waste Dates TBC	 Toys 10th to 15th November Mon-Sat All Centres

Gate Fee of €2 per vehicle per visit
 Householders Only - No Commercial customers

comhairle chontae na mí
 meath county council

Event Guide for St Patrick's Weekend

The Communications team developed and promoted an event guide around Meath based events and activities taking place across St. Patrick's Bank Holiday Weekend. Alongside this, they promoted shopping, dining and staying local with the continuation of the Think Meath First campaign.



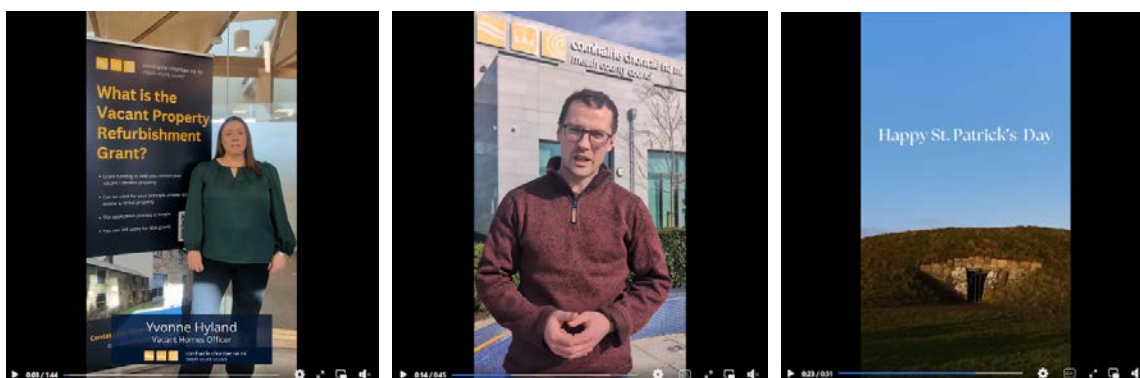
Community Projects Funding

Promoted the news that 12 Meath Community centres and projects received €886,219 in Funding for improvement and refurbishment works under the 2024 Community Centre Investment Fund.



Engaging Content

The Communications Team is actively working with all departments to create more engaging content by producing more videos targeted at all stakeholders.



Corporate Governance

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

The following are the number of requests received in Q1 2025:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q1 - 2025	43	1	

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

The following are the Q1 2025 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q1- 2025	15	1	1

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q1 2025 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q1 - 2025	10

Housing Services



Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q3 2025	Q2 2027
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2026	Q1 2027
Total	82		
SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS & DETAILED DESIGN			
Kells, Archdeaconry*	22	TBC	TBC
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells*	47	TBC	TBC
COMBINED PLANNING STAGE & DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL	69		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q2 2025	Q4 2026
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
Total	28		

CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q1 2025
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q3 2025
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q3 2025
Connaught Grove	47	Q3 2024	Q1 2026
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q4 2024	Q3 2026
Total	104		
OVERALL TOTAL	283		

***Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells & Carrick Street, Kells**

The matter for both schemes is now subject to Judicial Review brought by Kells Anglers Association and Ciaran O’Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála and Uisce Éireann, and Meath County Council (Notice Party) High Court No 2024 440 JR and High Court No 2024 484 JR. The matter was listed for mention in the High Court in the Planning and Environment List on Monday 13 May 2024. The hearing is expected to be scheduled for May/June 2025.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 13th March 2025

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	43
Bettystown	Part V	4
Carlanstown	Part V	2
Donacarney	Part V	2
Drogheda	Part V	30
Duleek	Part V	10
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	36
Enfield	Part V	28
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	6
Kilcock	Part V	4
Navan	Part V	31
Oldcastle	Part V	5
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Ratoath	Part V	4

Stamullen	Part V	2
Summerhill	Part V	6
Trim	Part V	49
Bettystown	Turnkey	21
Donacarney	Turnkey	16
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Kells	Turnkey	3
Navan	Turnkey	14
Stamullen	Turnkey	5
Kilmoon	CAS	1
Navan	CAS	17
Trim	CAS	2
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		382

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 13th March 2025.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ballivor	Part V	4
Clonee	Part V	7
Dunshaughlin	Part V	2
Total		13

Affordable Housing

Meath County Council will have a new affordable housing scheme for 8 units in Effernock, Trim, Co Meath opening for applications soon.

Expressions of Interest

The Housing Department continue to collaborate with Developers and Landowners to purchase land and or properties for the provision of social and affordable housing.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €614,789.19 including VAT was submitted for approval to DHLGH on 23rd January 2025.
- This includes 50 disabled persons grant units for €412,289.19 and 3 disabled persons grant extension units for €202,500.00.

- This brings the total to 53nr. LAAWS applications scheduled to be completed in 2025.
- 5nr. LAAWS applications are completed so far this year.

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

237 applications for the value of €1,604,258.94 were approved up to 14.03.2025.

Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy upgrade works are currently ongoing on 20 properties. 48 properties have been approved by the Department for the 2025 EERP Programme.

Local Authority Planned Maintenance

266 Stock Condition Surveys were completed up to 18th March 2025.

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as of end February 2025.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractor s
Kells	4	5	7	11	5
Navan	10	5	4	11	8
Ashbourne	1	1	1	0	3
Laytown/Bettystown	3	4	0	2	5
Ratoath	0	1	0	1	0
Trim	3	4	0	6	1
TOTALS	21	20	12*	31	22

*Note: 11 of these 12 pre-let properties are major refurbishment which includes energy upgrades to bring the property to BER rating of B2 or better.

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects (Including Part V)

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Gardenrath, Kells	45	Cluid	Q2 2025
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	12	Respond	Q1 2025
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	21	Cluid	Q3 2025
Emmett St, Trim	12	North & East	Q2 2025
Kilmoon	1	Marillac - CAS	Q1 2026
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2026
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q4 2026
St. Loman Street, Trim	2	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2026
Total Number of Approved Units	110		

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects Delivered in 2025 Year to date:

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB
Flowerhill Lodge, Navan	5	North & East - CAS
Total Number of Units Delivered	5	

Cost Rental

12 Affordable Cost rental units due to be delivered in Woodstream, Bailis, Navan, Co. Meath and Co. Meath by Q2 2025.

Homelessness – February 2025

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 31st January 2025	183 (195 Adults)	89 (143 Adults, 142 Children)	272
Placements at 28th February 2025	176 (182 Adults)	82 (133 Adults, 124 Children)	258

Of the households with children, 75 families are placed in short-term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention and 7 Families in PMVT/DePaul Family Hubs.

Family Figures: In February, 8 families exited emergency accommodation. We had 2 family exits to HAP tenancies, 3 to Meath County Council allocation, 1 returned to family and friends, and 2 other reasons (not availing of bed, etc).

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:

The primary reason is family breakdown, relationship breakdown, unable to find property to rent, Notice to Quit, domestic violence, overcrowding, couch surfing, addiction, mental health, unsuitable accommodation, and rough sleeping.

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 28/02/2025

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	133	-	-	-	36	50	46	1
Couples	12	-	-	-	3	1	7	1
Singles	170	-	-	-	8	50	100	12
Children	124	39	45	40	-	-	-	-
Total	439	39	45	40	47	101	153	14
82 Families – 133 Adults & 124 Children (of these 23 are adult children)								
Adult children range from 18 - 39								

Homeless HA Placefinder 01/02/2025 – 28/02/2025

Total	2
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	2
Homeless Prevention	0
In Progress	5

Tenant Liaison Team February 2025

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	70	25
Occupancy of dwelling	43	37
Garden upkeep/maintenance	47	40
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	1	1
Total February 2025	161	103

ASB Investigations on going at (month end)	33
ASB Investigations completed (month end)	128
Number of Pre Tenancies completed in Feb 2025	60
Abandonments for Feb 2025	1
Houses taken back into stock for Feb 2025	3

Warnings	Jan	Feb	Total
Verbal	1	3	4
Written	1	1	2
2 nd Written	0	0	0
Statutory	0	0	0
Advisory	2	2	4
Total	4	6	10

Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme						
2025	Applications Received	Invalid	Offers Issued	Offers accepted	File to Solicitor	Sale Closed
January	2	1	1	0	1	1
February	3	0	0	1	0	3
March	3	0	3	2	1	0
Total	8	1	4	3	2	4

Standards in Rented Accommodation

1058 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath to 28th February 2025. Of this figure, 332 were first inspections, 13 properties passed after their first inspection. 380 properties were on second inspection and of this figure 100 were compliant after inspection. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance. The number of tenancies to be inspected by Meath County Council in 2025 has been set at 1,973 dwellings (each dwelling can only be counted once per calendar year).

Social Housing Supports - for the period 1st February to 28th February 2025.

- 118 applications received for Social Housing.
- 54 applications approved onto the Social Housing List.
- 13 applications unsuccessful.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st February 2025 to 28th February 2025.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	42
Transfers	5
Approved Housing Bodies	19
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	13
Long Term Leasing	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	2
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	81

Transportation Services



1. National Roads

Funding Source	TII
Grant Allocation	€18,254,967 (including Greenways €3,140,000)
Scheme	Update
N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Snagging work is ongoing and is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	<p>In January 2025 MCC received a request from ABP to advertise the additional information that was submitted to ABP in Dec 2024. This was on display from 4th February to March 18th 2025.</p> <p>CPO Oral Hearing to take place online on the 3rd April 2025.</p>
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross	<p>MCC in conjunction with FCC published the Preferred Option Corridor for the N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross Project in 2022, since then further analysis of the potential junction strategy was developed. The aim of the analysis was to refine and narrow down the Preferred Option Corridor at the tie-in locations at both ends of the scheme. This update was published in February 2025</p> <p>www.N2Rath2Kilmoon.ie</p>
N52 Grange to Clontail	No update
National Road Resurfacing	N52 Woodtown to County Boundary works ongoing

2. Non - National Roads

Funding Source	DoT
Grant Allocation	€26,567,800

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

Grant Allocation	€ 18,283,550 (including CIS)
Own Resources (Local tertiary roads)	€3,083,800
Total	€21,366,350
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Tender evaluation ongoing for 2025 programme
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)	Tender evaluation ongoing for 2025 programme
Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)	Tender evaluation ongoing for 2025 programme
Phase 4 (Wearing Course)	Tender evaluation ongoing for 2025 programme
CIS	Tender evaluation ongoing for 2025 programme

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

Grant Allocation	€1,200,000
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	Formal request for approval from Department of Transport to proceed to Planning Phase being finalised.

R156 Mullagh Cross	Formal request for approval from Department of Transport to proceed to Planning Phase being finalised.
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2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Grant Allocation €470,000	
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R149 – Stirling	Works substantially complete
R132 – Keenoge	Works rescheduled for March 2025
R163/L7141 - Junction Gibbstown	Works ongoing
L4010 – Bective Junction	Works ongoing
12 schemes received funding approval for 2025	The schemes are being reviewed and options being considered for each.

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Grant Allocation €742,250	
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Castlecor Bridge (R154)	Contractor Appointed
Newtown Commons Bridge Duleek	Contractor Appointed
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Contractor Appointed
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Parapet works complete. Bridge re-opened to pedestrian traffic. Resurfacing and public lighting yet to be completed.

Ballivor Bridge	Tender Documents for works contract issued
Ashbourne Bridge	Tender Documents for works contract issued
BAMS Engineering Inspections (2025)	Inspections to commence Q3 2025
Verdons Bridge	Consultants Tender assessment ongoing
Aclare Bridge	Consultants Tender assessment ongoing
Graultys Bridge	Consultants Tender assessment ongoing
Piercetown Bridge	Options being considered

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation €540,500	
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
L10021 - Timooole, Ashbourne	Works substantially complete
12 schemes received funding approval for 2025	The schemes are being reviewed and options being considered for each.

2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation €750,000	
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R132 (Former N1)	Tender evaluation ongoing for 2025 programme

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	NTA
Grant Allocation	€12,000,000
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	The tender pack for the construction of this scheme is undergoing a final review process prior to issue.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	The Design Team is undertaking a review of the Part 8 proposals to take account of several developments since the scheme was published. Contracts for the Slit Trench Works and Ground Investigation Works, which were scheduled to commence in Q1 2025, have been deferred until the review is completed (anticipated to be next month).
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	The Consultant Team is currently finalising options and feasibility designs, with a view to undertaking a non-statutory public consultation towards the end of Q2 of 2025. Work is continuing with respect to the Preliminary Design Report and Structures Report (TII), prepared as part of Phase 2 (Feasibility and Options Assessment) of the process.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	Consultant Team is continuing work on finalising the Preliminary Business Case and Gateway 3 documents for submission to the National Transport Authority.
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Paving works are continuing Old Cornmarket. Surfacing works to the upper end of Fairgreen car park and the Bedford car park are complete. A temporary traffic management system is to be implemented at the start of April, which will provide for a one-way system on Church Hill and Fairgreen, which is required to facilitate upgrade works at those locations. Works are to commence on Church Hill next month.

Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	No update this month.
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	The tender pack for Kiosk building for Kennedy Plaza is currently under review. Snagging and outstanding works items were closed out for Contract 3.
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	No update this month.
Trim Road Phase 2 - Solstice to Athlumney	No update this month.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beachmount to Balreask Manor	Documents are currently being compiled for a Part 8 public consultation next month.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	Options assessment and feasibility design work is ongoing.
Safe Routes to School	
St. Stephen's NS, Navan	Statutory planning process (Part 8) in progress
Beaufort College, Navan	Development proposals ongoing
St. Colmcille's NS, Kells	Development proposals ongoing
Our Lady of Mercy NS, Kells	Development proposals ongoing
Dunboyne and Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	Preliminary Design (preparation of Part 8 planning documents) progressing on Section 1 of the scheme, Dunboyne to Clonee Active Travel Links. MCC meeting with landowners whose lands may be impacted by the proposed scheme. MCC await from the consultant, the updated Masterplan for the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne before submitting it to the NTA for approval.

Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	No NTA funding currently available for the scheme. ORIS funding application being prepared for a section of the Broadmeadow Urban Greenway.
Castle Street Ashbourne	MCC preparing tender documents for the procurement of a consultant engineer to develop an Active Travel Scheme along Castle Street Ashbourne.
Johnstown Village Active Travel Scheme	Consultant appointed to develop a preliminary design and acquire the appropriate statutory approval for the scheme. Surveys taking place in order to inform the Route Options Selection process.
BusIt2School	The BusIt2School scheme is funded by the DOT and aims to encourage primary school pupils to travel to and from school by bus. Navan Educate Together, Common Road and St. Stephen's NS, Johnstown have both agreed to take part in the scheme, which is due to run from April to June this year.
Bus Stop Enhancement Programme	The bus stop programme of works has been advised to each Municipal District at the March meetings, with design development and procurement now in progress. Bus stops and ramps were installed in Navan this month.
R161/Borallion	At design stage

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
Grant Allocation	
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	
Greenway Maintenance	Contactoer appointed. Kells MD managing the works.

Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan	Awaiting ESB to remove overhead cable to facilitate installation of new public lighting.
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibbstown Car Park	Works progressing on the footpath from the Gibbstown Greenway crossing to Kilberry.
Additional Facilities	Contractor is currently installing new distance marker posts, seating, picnic benches, bike repair stations, water stations, additional planting and signage, masonry upgrade works. Works scheduled to be complete in early April.
Traffic Calming Works	Traffic calming civil works now complete at the Greenway crossing approaching Kingscourt on the R165 (adjacent to Frazer's hardware store), awaiting installation of vehicle activated signs.

5. Other/Projects

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	RRDF approval granted to progress the detailed design of the scheme. Tobin Consultant Engineers Ltd. actively progressing the detailed design. MCC exploring options to acquire land for new car park to serve the town centre.
Athboy Main Street Public Realm Scheme	Awaiting RRDF approval to appoint technical consultant for the Main Street Public Realm scheme.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme	Tenders for works in all six Municipal Districts have issued or to issue presently for 2025 works programme. Footpath rehabilitation works to commence presently at The Grove, Navan. Pedestrian crossing works underway at Race Hill/St. Mary's National School, Ashbourne.
Refurbishment of Boardwalk on the Boyne Greenway	Work on the Rathmullan Road footpath complete, with landscaping/planting to follow.

6.URDF

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	Works contract for demolition of 4No Buildings in Andy Brennan Park published on eTender . Tender assessment completed
Frontage Improvement Works Flowerhill	Letters to be issued to the successful and unsuccessful Architect for Phase 2 works.

7. RRDF

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Boyne Greenway Navan to Oldbridge	The project team are progressing the preliminary design of the Boyne Greenway route. Ground investigations works have commenced on site which will inform the design.

8.THRIVE

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
County Archive and Community Hub	Design and the Works tender document preparation currently on-going. Stage 1 Works Procurement process commenced.

9. Meath County Council Projects

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
New Library/Community Building, Amenity Area and Age Friendly Housing	Stage 1 procurement process complete, proceeding with Stage 2 procurement process to appoint an Architect-led Multi-Disciplinary Design team
Buvinda Council Chambers & Offices	Design and the Works tender document preparation is currently on-going
Solstice – Frontage	In discussion with original Architect

Economic Development & Tourism

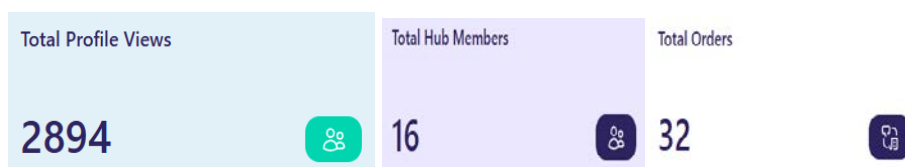


DBEC

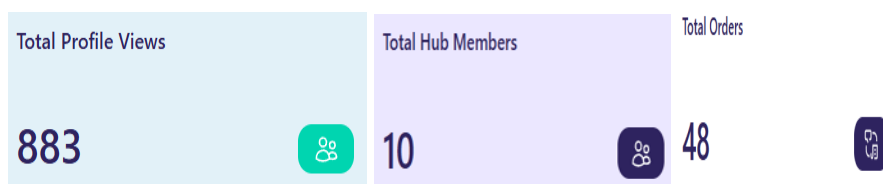
On 27th March, Meath County Council hosted the first quarterly meeting of 2025 of Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Political Advisory Group, following the hugely successful inaugural Summit in February. The meeting took place in the East Meath Civic Centre and was very well attended by the political representatives, Chief Executives and Directors of the eight partnering authorities. Discussions centred around an All Island Labour Market Study and further DBEC brand and project developments.

Remote Working Hubs

Below are the user statistics for Dunshaughlin Hub - as of 18th March 2025.
An increase of 199 views, 3 Hub members and 9 order bookings.



Below are the user statistics for Enfield Hub – as of 18th March 2025
An increase of 135 views, 1 Hub member and 14 order bookings



Strategic Policy Committee

The first strategic policy committee meeting of 2025 for Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, EU Affairs, & Rural Regeneration SPC was held on Thursday 13th March. Updates across the

various sections were provided to members and councillors of the SPC, with focused discussions on Multi Annual Work Programme 2024-2029 & Annual Work Programme 2025. The next SPC will take place on Thursday 12th June 2025.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley partnered with The University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy to coordinate the first study trip to the Boyne Valley region from 10th – 16th March. A group of 14 students from the leading gastronomy university visited 17 producers and food services providers across Meath and Louth over the week. The trip focused on learning about the territory, and topics including distribution, sustainability and food tourism.

The university offers study trips in Italy, Europe and further afield to their students as part of their courses to complement their learning at the university. This trip marks a significant step in our partnership with the university and working towards creating greater awareness of our food culture internationally. This trip also presented opportunities for future collaborations with producers in the region including potential internship opportunities for international students and collaboration on partnership events with The Centre of Food Culture.



Students from the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy visiting Newgrange Gold farm, Slane

Local Enterprise Office

Student Enterprise Programme

The Student Enterprise County Final took place in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim on Tuesday 11th March, with the biggest number of entries to date at 72 stands.

The overall winners in each category were:

- Junior Category – Stud Savers, St Olivers Oldcastle
- Intermediate Category - FutureDev, St Pat's Navan
- Senior Category – Púc Protectors, St. Ciaran's Kells

There were also awards for sustainability, innovation, best pitch and best display across each of the three categories. The first placed in each of the three categories will now represent county Meath in the national finals in Mullingar on the 8th May.



Student Enterprise Senior Category Winners with Puc Protectors, from St. Ciaran's School, Kells

Local Enterprise Week

Meath Local Enterprise Week took place between Monday 3rd March and Friday 7th March with more than 550 local entrepreneurs, businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs participating in the week's events.

The Local Enterprise Office team hosted a range of workshops, seminars, and networking opportunities designed to inspire, educate, and empower local businesses. From expert-led panel discussions on the current landscape of enterprise in Meath, to practical sessions on digital supports & AI the events were tailored to address the diverse needs of businesses across Meath.

March 2025 – Meath Local Enterprise Office - Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Mentoring Assignments Approved	29
Attended Online Training Courses	462
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	9
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	12
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	2
GREEN for Micro Applications	5

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Digital for Business	4
LEAN for Micro Applications	4
LEO Grants	EVAC Meeting Date TBC

Tourism

Following the launch of the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy last year, the Tourism Section is running a series of workshops for businesses operating in the tourism sector. The immersive and interactive workshops, led by industry experts and designed especially for the Boyne Valley Region are for members who are accommodation providers, local activity operators, attractions, bars or restaurants.

1st workshop - March 31st at Tankardstown House, Slane covering:

- Designing and developing new saleable experiences
- Marketing the business

2nd workshop - May 13th at City North Hotel will cover

- Managing the operational costs
- Attracting & retaining the right people for the business to succeed.

The Boyne Valley Tourism AGM will also take place on this day.

Linkedin

Boyne Valley Tourism created a LinkedIn page this month to connect with professional travel buyers, industry stakeholders and corporate businesses. This was one of the actions outlined in the new Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy. The Tourism team will be working to grow the following over the coming months with regular posts to showcase the destination and highlights to inspire engagement. The overall objective is to create a destination wide collaborative presence and narrative to raise the Boyne Valley's profile among industry.

Press Coverage

Boyne Valley tourism received the following pieces of press coverage for the Boyne Valley region in March:

[Why you need to visit the Boyne Valley on your next Ireland trip | Travel Weekly](#)

[Mother's Day gift ideas: 12 of the best experience presents to spoil your mum | The Irish Independent](#) (Two BVT members featured, Bread with Benefits and Frayne Woodcraft).

These pieces came from the 2024 October and November press trips.

Rural Regeneration



Vacant Homes	2025 total
Vacant Homes Identified	8
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2025	0
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2025	2
Derelict Sites	2025 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	40
No. of statutory orders issued	3
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2025	2
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2025	0
Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2025 total
Approved Applications	16
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	9
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	64
Rejected Applications	1
Withdrawn Applications	10
Completed / Paid Applications	11
Total Applications Received	15
Total Approved Grant Funding	€1,371,000
Total Paid Grant Funding	€670,000
Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Works Commenced (Jan/Feb'25)	
Project development for Enfield Amenity area	Town and Village
Project development for Drumconrath Amenity area	Town and Village
Enfield Community Centre/Hall	TVRS
Drumconrath -Building surveys and site clearance	TVRS TCF

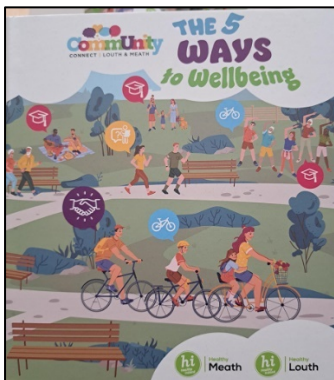
Navan Swimming Pool	Sports Capital Grant (Depart of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media)
Works Completed (Feb/Mar25)	
Kilmainhamwood (3*3 Basketball court)	MSP
Balinlough GFC - Wheelchair platform & Play area	CLAR

Community Development



Healthy Meath

The CommUnity Connects mental health resource pack was launched in Deerpark Community Hub in Carlanstown on 28th February. This resource pack was produced by collaboratively between Healthy Meath and Healthy Louth. The launch event was attended by the LCDC members, HSE reps and members of the public. The event connected into the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' by hosting a taster yoga session & mindfulness class and activator pole walking on the track outside the centre. CommUnity Connect Champion training will be rolled out in April, allowing the Champions to be advocates for mental health in their local groups and organisations.



Public Participation Network

- A first meeting between all stakeholders involved in County Meath hosting this year's National PPN Conference took place on February 26th. DRCD will support and help Meath County Council and Meath PPN in hosting the event. Monthly meetings will follow and an internal meeting with the Communications and Events team is being scheduled.
- 758 groups are registered with Meath PPN.
- Staff presented at the annual Gathering of Meath GAA Healthy Club Coordinators on February 24th and March 3rd in Dunganny. Funding, training and collaboration between clubs were highlighted as important, with many clubs seeking further advice from PPN.
- Linkage Groups took place supporting community representatives on SPCs and providing a forum for people to discuss common issues and seek ways of working collaboratively towards bettering their communities.
- Staff supported the launch of the CommUnity Connect project in Deerpark Hub, Carlanstown.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last LCDC meeting took place in the Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown, Kells on 28th February in conjunction with the Healthy Meath CommUnity Connects Launch. The SICAP End of Year Review for 2024 and the SICAP Annual Plan for 2025 were approved. The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled to take place on 28th March 2025.

LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027 – Local Action Group (LAG)

The last LAG meeting was held on 28th February in the Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown, Kells.

Comhairle na nÓg

The 2024 Annual Return and Expenditure Report has been completed. Annual funding of €25,000 for 2025 has been approved.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Applications received under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 are currently being assessed.

Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events

Applications received under the Regional Festivals & Participative Events grant scheme 2025 are currently being assessed.

Community Grant Scheme

Applications received under the Community Grant scheme 2025 are currently being assessed.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme

A meeting of the Indaver Community Liaison Committee is scheduled for 19th March to assess the 36 applications received under the Carranstown Environment Projects Grant Scheme 2024.

Knockharley Community Liaison Committee

A meeting of the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee took place on 26th February.

Pride of Place

Expressions of interest for the Co-Operation Ireland all-island Pride of Place initiative are currently being sought.

Community Safety Partnership

Mapping Community Meeting Spaces Survey

Survey closed on the 7th of March, results currently being analysed.

Property Marking Training

Property Marking training took place on the 22nd of March for An Garda Síochána and community groups in Buvinda House. The machine can now be borrowed by members of an Garda Síochána and community groups who have received the training to run property marking events in their communities.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT continue to proactively hold drop-in clinics in all centres with guests of more than **15** people. We also carry out impromptu visits to centres and other locations if required to address issues as they arise.

At the end of February there were **828** Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) across 12 commercial settings in Meath and a further **981** in 9 centres hosting International Protection applicants (IPA's).

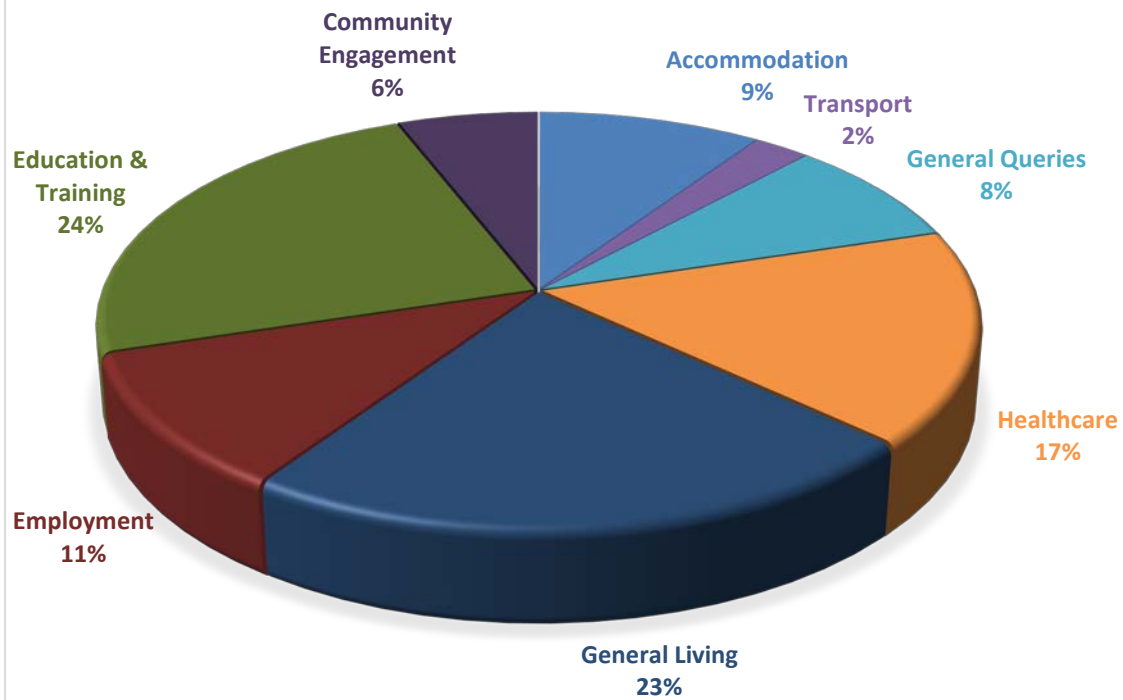
Nannys in Duleek will close to Ukrainians on 31st March with 57 guests moving.

- Cumulative Yearly total of Clinics Held: 34 with 180 attendees
- Customer Service Cases Logged Feb 2025: **36**

Number of Customer cases assigned YTD	84
Number of Customer cases closed YTD	68

The LAIT took proactive steps in terms of meeting with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) regarding compliance team in IPAS. Another key milestone was attendance by the team at the National Network yearly event for ISW (Integration Support Workers) and ISC (Integration Support Coordinators) in Dublin.

BREAKDOWN OF CLINICS YEAR TO DATE



Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service



Age Friendly Ireland presented at an international webinar for the Association of Former WHO Staff on 'Options and opportunities for engagement of members in the WHO Global Network' on 25th February. The WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities currently includes over 1,700 cities and communities in 55 countries, covering over 330 million people worldwide. The objective of the webinar was to enhance the opportunities for a greater engagement of former WHO staff in local initiatives aimed at creating physical and social environments conducive to healthy ageing in cities and communities.

Training for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Older People's Councils – a programme of regional in-person training days has commenced for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Older People's Councils to support them in the roles in relation to representing the voice of older people in their communities, chairing and managing meetings, and broadening diversity among the membership. Across the country, there are almost 500 older people involved in Older People's Council Executive Committees and almost 7,000 in the wider membership. Older People's Councils are the recognised consultative bodies representing the older people's views in Ireland, particularly relation to local government and public services.

The 2024 annual report for Age Friendly Ireland, which includes data from the 31 local Age Friendly Programmes in each authority, shows that 33 walkability audits were carried out across the country last year, including in a racecourse, nursing homes, libraries, train stations and towns. There are now 499 Age Friendly Car Parking Spaces in Ireland, with many situated at local authority offices, libraries, tourism facilities, shopping centres and town centre locations. Age Friendly Parking is accessible parking for older people and others with a higher level of need. It is provided on a courtesy basis to allow less-mobile individuals to have easier access to local shops and services.

On 7th February, Monaghan Hospital became the second hospital in Ireland to receive Age Friendly recognition, following the example of the demonstrator model St Luke's in Kilkenny. Monaghan Hospital implemented a programme of work that included signage, Age Friendly parking, a new access ramp, improved traffic management, sensory garden, renovated toilet facilities, and Universal Design compliant seating in public areas, and enhanced visual contrast on kerbs for better accessibility.

The GAA have signed a partnership protocol with Age friendly Ireland to develop their sports facilities as Age Friendly. They will start with 5 Stadia in 2025 and assign staff members to adopt the WHO four stage process for age Friendly recognition.

Age Friendly Ambassadors from around the country supported this year's 'Ireland Reads' campaign by encouraging everyone to go to their library and get lost in a good book, they also gave examples of their favourite reads.

Two Meath County Council | Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service projects, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme and the National Age Friendly Library Recognition Programme, were shortlisted for the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Awards, under the category 'National Impact Award'.

The Age Friendly National Technical Manager delivered Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm training to Architectural Design Teams involved in the delivery of housing for Local Authorities nationally.

A recent 2-day meeting and workshop with the national network of Age Friendly Technical Advisors, saw the launch of the new Universal Design Checklist and Toolkit for compliance of internal spatial requirements for Age Friendly Homes and an updated version of the Age Friendly Ireland publication "Ten Universal Design Features to include in a Lifetime Adaptable & Age Friendly Home". The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design at the NDA attended the launch.



Meath County Council | Age Friendly Ireland SS at the LAMA Awards



Members of the National Older People's Councils at the LGMA



10 Universal Design Features Publication



Monaghan Age Friendly Hospital launch

CO of AFISS, Catherine McGuigan at Monaghan Age Friendly Hospital launch

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

221 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2025 to 28.02.2025. This is compared to 219 in the same period in 2024.

83.25% of the applications received in 2025 have been lodged via the online portal -ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

56 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2025 to 28/02/2025. This is compared to 127 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	11
Multi-Units	12** (units)
Extensions	20
Other*	16

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

No commencement notices have been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2025 to 28.02.2025.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

The collection figures for development contributions for the period Jan – Feb 2025 are as follows:

Receipt Period:	Jan - Feb 2025
Total Receipts	€ 759,206
Recoupments received	€ 0

Total Received	€ 759,206

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2025:	€ 8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan – Dec 2025:	€ 759,206
% collected:	9.49%

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann receipts (€13,228).

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2024 was €1,564,089.

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

24 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 28.02.2025

New Cases to be Investigated	11
Warning Letter	41
Enforcement Notices	10
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	17

*please note these figures relate to actions taken on files in the year 2025 only.

5. Forward Planning

Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	On the 17 th February and 19 th February respectively, the Elected Members of Clane Maynooth Municipal District and Meath County Council resolved to make the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.
Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan Issues Paper	Report on submissions to Issues Paper envisaged to be finalised and circulated to Elected Members in the coming weeks.

Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027	<p>Public notices on the adoption of Variation No. 3 - <i>to incorporate the Sustainable and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2024 into the CDP & update the Age Friendly Section</i> were published on the 5th and 9th of March and the variation text has been incorporated into Consolidated Meath CDP 2021-2027 (incl. Variations 1, 2 & 3).</p> <p>Work on Variation No. 4 - To incorporate the Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 into the Meath CDP 2021-2027 has commenced, with a view to placing it on public display in early April 2025.</p> <p>Work on Variation No. 5 to carry out a Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) for South Drogheda is progressing and shall inform the zoning of appropriate lands to meet the household allocation for the remaining period of the current MCDP 2021-2027. It is envisaged that this variation will go on public display in Q2 of 2025.</p> <p>Review of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 to commence in Q3 of 2025. Work is progressing on background reports which will inform the new CDP.</p>
RZLT	<p>The Final RZLT Map 2025 & Annual Draft RZLT Map 2026 consultations remain on public display until 1st April 2025.</p> <p>This Final RZLT Map 2025 is available at Final RZLT Map 2025</p> <p>Please note that <u>Landowners only</u> can make a rezoning submission for land identified on the Final Annual Map 2025.</p>
Judicial Review Outcome	<p>In a recent case of Protect East Meath (PEM) and Meath County Council (MCC) 2024 604 JR, a judgement delivered by Mr Justice Nolan on 14 March [2025] IEHC 149 refused the application for mandamus where the applicant (PEM) had requested the courts to direct MCC to prepare and carry out a Local Area Plan for East Meath. The case confirms that all 38 new settlement plans will be considered and prepared within the new Meath County Development Plan 2027-2037 that will formally commence later this year in Q3 2025.</p> <p>Full details of judgment available on Court.ie here:</p>

6. Projects

Duleek Heritage Led Regeneration Plan	<p>Meath County Council in conjunction with Sheridan Woods Architects & Urban Planners has prepared a Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Duleek.</p> <p>The preparation of the Plan was funded by the Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) through the Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) grant scheme.</p>
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	The Vision for Duleek is <i>‘to fulfil its future potential as a sustainable and vibrant place to live, work and recreate, celebrating its past, built, and natural heritage and cultural identity for the benefit of all’</i> .
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7. Heritage & Biodiversity Projects

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025	Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025 supported by Creative Ireland was launched. The aim of the scheme is to support community groups and organisations to undertake projects that will gather information, help to appropriately manage, and promote an awareness and appreciation of our heritage. Closing date: April 7 th 2025
Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN)	Representatives from Kells, Navan, Trim and Athboy member towns along with Meath County Council Heritage and Conservation Officers attended the AGM of the Irish Walled Town Network in Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Funding application was submitted to the Irish Walled Town Network Event and Interpretation Fund 2025 for the following project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feasibility study for creation of open-air interpretative space and pocket park at Navan Town Wall, Abbey Street, Navan</i>
Meath County Outdoor Recreational Plan	Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer sit on the County Outdoor Recreational Committee (CORG) and workshop held on March 18 th to receive feedback on public consultation process and feed into the development of actions for the draft plan.
Kells Printing Works Project	Working with Project Archivist to curate material from the Kells Printing Works Archive for exhibition and interpretative purposes.
Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030	The development of the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan is supported by the Heritage Council. The Biodiversity Working Group of the County Meath Heritage Forum were provided with an update of progress made in its first quarterly meeting of the year. This took place on 28 th February. Steps remaining to be taken include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening • Translation of the draft plan • Public consultation on the draft plan • Final amendments and plan approval • Illustration and design • Launch of the Plan
Local Biodiversity	A total of 10 applications were submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in a bid to seek grant funding to deliver projects supporting biodiversity actions. These projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Meath Wetland Survey - Phase 1

Action Fund Projects 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Meath Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Survey - Phase 1 • IAS Project - Quagga Mussel in Lough Sheelin • IAS Project - Spartina anglica in the Nanny Estuary • Recording Irish mayfly – establishing conservation status • The Hare's Corner • Commons of Lloyd Biodiversity and Conservation Agriculture Project • Barn Owl Conservation Project • Development of the Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey • Community biodiversity initiatives and outreach support
National Biodiversity Week 2025	<p>Planning is underway for events that will be led and supported by Meath County Council to celebrate National Biodiversity Week 16th – 25th May. An events programme should be finalised and promoted in mid-late April.</p>

Climate Action and Environment



Climate Action

Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders: This is the first report based on the 2024-2029 CAP. It will be made available at the April Full Council meeting and online at [Climate Action | Meath.ie](https://climateaction.meath.ie).

Community Climate Action Programme:

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities

€811,000 has been allocated to 25 Projects within Meath under the Community Climate Action Programme. This allocation supports a variety of community organisations in areas such as energy, waste, biodiversity and active travel. Nine projects are now fully complete with the rest of the projects progressing.

Drawdown 1 - November 2024

Club	Details	Amount	Project Complete
Ratoath Athletics	LED Track Lighting	€8,000.00	Yes
Castle Villa AFC	LED Installation on Astro Pitch	€7,000.00	Yes
Syddan GFC	Insulating attic and walls of community hall	€9,500.00	Yes
Meadow Bankhill Residents Association	Equipment for Community Garden upkeep	€1,995.00	In progress
Moynalty Tidy Towns	Self-Watering Baskets	€3,452.00	Yes
St. Vincents GFC	Bike Storage and LED Pitch Lighting	€46,425.00	Yes
Summerhill CC	Solar Panels	€30,794.82	Yes
Drewstown House	Replacement of lighting to LED lighting	€3,851.59	In progress

Drawdown 2- February 2025

Club	Details	Amount	Project Complete
St. Vincents GFC	Water Refill Station	€3,075.00	Yes
Bective GFC	Solar Panels	€23,622.90	Yes
Athboy Celtic AFC	Solar Panels	€3,847.50	Yes
Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG	Solar Panels	€46,970.43	In progress

Drawdown 3 Due 6th May 2025

Final Project Drawdown - 6th January 2026

Native Woodland Scheme

Earlier this year, the Department of Agriculture Food and Marines' (DAFM) approved Meath County Council's application to establish new native woodlands on a 7.9 hectares (19.5 acres) site in Liscartan, with Greenbelt appointed as the project's foresters. Greenbelt will oversee the woodland establishment process ensuring best practices in ecological restoration and sustainable forest management.



Oak, beech, hazel, and alder trees are set to be planted in the area which will recreate lost native woodland habitats, rich in biodiversity and cultural significance.

DAFM's Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme recognises that native woodlands are an important part of Ireland's natural, historical, and cultural heritage, and are unique in terms of their biodiversity.

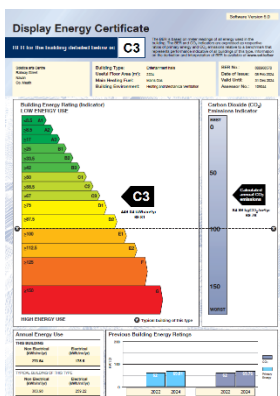
They are home to specialised woodland animals, birds, insects, and plants, including red squirrel, pine marten, great spotted woodpecker, narrow-leaved helleborine and wood millet, to name but a few.

As well as on-site biodiversity, they provide many ecosystem services, including carbon capture, the protection and enhancement of water quality, wider habitat linkage, landscape enhancement, and opportunities for outdoor recreation, which itself promotes contact with the natural world, physical and mental well-being, and outdoor learning.

Energy

Display Energy Certificates

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



Environment Awareness

Tree Week

National Tree Week 2025 was celebrated from Sunday, 9th March, to Sunday, 15th March, with the inspiring theme, "Planting Trees, Growing Together."

To mark the occasion, Meath County Council distributed an impressive 5,000 native and common saplings to community groups and schools. These saplings will support tree-planting initiatives across local areas, sports grounds, housing estates, and schools, fostering a greener and more sustainable future.

The carefully chosen, pollinator-friendly selection included Alder, Holly, Crab Apple, Rowan, Wild Cherry, Oak, Birch, Hazel, and White Thorn. These native species will not only enhance local biodiversity but also create vibrant habitats for pollinators, contributing to the preservation of our natural environment.

A wonderful step towards a greener Meath!



Free Couch Drop Off Event

Meath County Council successfully hosted the first free bulky waste collection event of the year from 10th to 16th March. This initiative took place across four recycling centers: Navan, Trim, Kells, and Thornton's Recycling Centre in Dunboyne, providing residents with a convenient and cost-free opportunity to dispose of large, unwanted items responsibly.

Building on the success of this event, the Council is committed to supporting Meath householders with additional free bulky waste collection events throughout the year, further promoting sustainable waste management and environmental care across the county.



Environment Update Waste Oil Dumping Gormanstown

On 3rd March 2025, approximately fifty 25-litre drums of waste engine oil were illegally discarded on a cul-de-sac in the Gormanstown area, near the River Delvin and approximately 200 meters from the beach.

Many of the drums were unsecured, leading to extensive oil leakage. A specialist contractor, engaged and supervised by Meath County Council, promptly removed the waste oil. By 2:30 PM on 4th March 2025, the road was reopened. The spillage was confined to a small section of an open drainage ditch adjacent to the river. Thanks to the swift response, neither the river nor the beach was adversely impacted.

As a precaution, the bed of the affected drainage ditch was excavated and removed for proper treatment and disposal.

An investigation is currently underway by Meath County Council's Waste Enforcement Department. Meath County Council are encouraging any persons with information to contact us.



Libraries Services



Local Studies

The annual launch of *Ríocht na Midhe: Records of Meath Archaeological & Historical Society* took place in The Ardboyne Hotel on Wednesday 26 March 2025. The journal has been published since 1955 and is one of the most highly regarded in the country. The subjects covered by this year's volume include Viking Navan, the Navan-Kells turnpike road 1734-1780, agrarian revolt in Summerhill, the early years of Meath camogie 1904-1934, and The Discovery Programme at Tara. A full house attended and Myles Dungan spoke on the subject of his recent book *Land is all that Matters: The Struggle That Shaped Irish History*.



STEAM kits

As part of Engineer's Week 2025, Meath County Council's Library Service launched the STEAM kits collection, which includes themed activities and books on a variety of subjects for children over eight years. The launch was held at Trim Library on Monday, March 3rd.

Thanks to funding of €15,000 from the Meta Clonee Data Centre as part of Meta's Community Action Grants, the kits are now available at all 15 libraries in Meath. These kits follow on from the successful STEAM backpacks initiative, also supported by Meta.

With nine different kits in total to choose from, each kit includes themed activities and books on topics ranging from astronomy, water, creative and robotic coding, maths, music, circuits and electricity. The kits are a great way for children and adults to make learning a fun experience together, showing how STEAM ideas are part of everyday life. This initiative is all about helping young people think critically, solve problems, and be creative.



Bettystown Library at East Meath Civic Centre

Following the launch of East Meath Civic Centre on Monday, March 24th, Bettystown Library opened its doors to the public on Tuesday, March 25th. The building spans over four floors, with separate libraries for Adult and Children's Books, as well as meeting rooms, study space, public access PCs and the library service's first purpose-built sensory room.

More than 1,300 new members signed up to the library in the first five days, and the weekly STEAM Saturday sessions, hosted in library branches throughout the county, have become a popular event.

At the end of March Bettystown Library hosted a talk entitled 'Can Sand Dunes Survive Climate Change'. Borrowers and visitors can soon look forward to the addition of other regular events such as storytimes, Magic Tummy Time and Book Clubs to the library's calendar.

In the first month of operation, 2,200 people registered as members and c6,500 books/items were borrowed.

Dormant Accounts Funding

The Library Service received over €15,000 to assist, facilitate and reach out to people with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Allocated under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2024, the funding injection delivered a range of furniture and equipment, including age-friendly chairs, height-adjustable desks, hand-held magnifiers, a high-spec magnifier for visitors to the Local Studies room, and age-friendly book trolleys. All items will support the elderly and people with mobility needs or physical disabilities. The various products will maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence, thereby promoting their well-being

Finance



Housing Loans :

LAHL Data 1 st January 2025 to 21 st March 2025		
Fully Completed Applications Received	12	2025 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	2025 application
Approved by Credit Committee	11	1 relates to 2024, 10 relate to 2025
Refused by Credit Committee	1	2025 application
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	21.39	5 relate to 2025, 14 relate to 2024, 2.39 relate to 2023
Expired	5	5 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	2.44	2 relate to 2024, 0.44 relates to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2025 to 21st March 2025 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023 and 2024. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.