

Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

May 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.

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Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

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

The report covers the following:

Directorate for Corporate Affairs and Governance, 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

Nuachtlitir 2 – Acht Na Dteangacha Oifigiúla

Sna míonna amach romhainn beidh an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúr, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán ag seoladh eolas ar aghaidh i dtaca le hathruithe a bheidh ag teacht maidir le hoibleagáidí na hearnála poiblí don Ghaeilge.

Príomhphointí ón Roinn i mBaile Átha Cliath agus ón Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga atá i bhfeidhm faoi lathair ná: -

1. Fanfaidh an **Scéim Teanga Chomhairle Contae na Mi** i bhfeidhm go dtí go bhforordófar Caighdeán Teanga. Beidh deis ag comhlachtaí poiblí a dtuairimí agus a moltaí a thabhairt ina leith
2. **Comharliúcháin – Caighdeán Teanga:** Foilseafar na dréacht-Chaighdeán Teanga mar chuid den phróiseas comhairliúcháin. Tabharfar 3 mhí do na comhlachtaí poiblí agus don phobal páirt a ghlacadh sa phróiseas agus tuairimí a thabhairt nó moltaí a dhéanamh.
3. Éilíonn Alt 9 ar chomhlachtaí poiblí freagra a thabhairt ar phostálacha ar na meáin shóisialta sa teanga ina bhfuarthas iad agus caithfidh cumarsáid chun eolas nó margaíocht a chur ar fáil a bheith i nGaeilge nó dátheangach.

Newsletter 2 – Official Languages Act

In the months ahead the Dept Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will be sending on information concerning changes that will be coming regarding the obligations of public bodies to the Irish language.

Main points from the Dept in Dublin and from the Office of the Language Commissioners that are effective at present are:

1. The **Meath County Council Language Scheme** is still effective until Language Standards are prescribed. Public bodies will have the opportunity to give their opinions and recommendations regarding this.
2. **Consultation – Language Standards:** The draft Language Standards will be published as part of the consultation process. Public bodies and the public will be given 3 months to take part in the process and to give their opinions and recommendations.
3. Section 9 requires public bodies to reply to posts on social media in the language in which they were received, and communications for providing information must be in Irish or bilingual

Féile na Gealaí – Ráth Chairn

Tarlóidh Féile na Gealaí i Ráth Chairn ag an deireadh seachtaine 13 – 14 Meitheamh. Tá Oifigeach Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mí ag comhoibriú le comhordaitheoir den fhéile le haghaidh trí imeachtaí a mhaoiniú agus a bheas ar siúl i leabharlann Ráth Chairn ar an Sathairn 14 Meitheamh agus a bheidh oiriúnach do pháistí agus teaghlaigh. Beidh na himeachtaí seo á mhaoiniú go hiomlán ag Comhairle Contae na Mí.

Féile na Gealaí – Ráth Chairn

Féile na Gealaí will take place in Ráth Chairn on the weekend of 13th – 14th June. The Meath County Council Irish Language Officer is cooperating with the coordinator of the festival towards funding three events that will take place in Ráth Chairn library on Saturday 14th June and that will be suitable for children & families.

Official Opening of Clonee Playground

The Communications Team coordinated the official opening of the Clonee Park and Playground and provided details to the media and public via a press release and social media.



Drumconrath Safe Routes to School

The Communications Team also coordinated the official opening of the Drumconrath Safe Routes to School, again providing information on the scheme to the media and the public.



Just 1 Life

Our team provided support and social media coverage for the third Just 1 Life Road Safety Awareness Programme held in the Solstice Arts Centre on Tuesday, April 1.



RetroFit Expo Meath

The team also designed the promotional campaign for Retrofit Expo, providing support during the week and coordinating media coverage with LMFM broadcasting live from Buvinda House.



Eco Chic

The team also provided support for the Clothing Swap Shop scheme Eco Chic by designing and implementing the assets and facilitating social media and LMFM coverage of the initiative.



DBEC Visits East Meath

Support and social media coverage was also provided for the first quarterly meeting of 2025 for the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Political Advisory Group held at the East Meath Civic Centre, Bettystown.



Event Guide - Easter

The Communications Team produced an event guide to encourage staying, socialising and shopping local across the Easter break.



Engaging Content

The Communications Team is continuing to actively work with all departments to create engaging content and videos.



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	Q2 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 22nd April 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

Kells	Part V	6
Kilcock	Part V	4
Navan	Part V	33
Oldcastle	Part V	13
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	26
Stamullen	Turnkey	5
Kilmoon	CAS	1
Navan	CAS	12
Trim	CAS	2
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		397

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 22nd April 2025.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ballivor	Part V	4
Clonee	Part V	7
Dunshaughlin	Part V	2
Julianstown	Part V	2
Ballivor	Turnkey	8
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Navan	CAS	5
Total		94

Affordable Housing

Meath County Council are offering two new affordable housing schemes.

Effernock, Trim, Co Meath - The online portal to apply for these affordable housing units opened for applications on 17 April 2025 at 12noon.

Beaufort, Boyne Village, Navan, Co Meath - The online portal to apply for these affordable housing units opened for applications on 24 April 2025 at 12noon.

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 (LAAWS)

- 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.
- 12nr. LAAWS applications are completed so far this year.

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

269 applications for the value of €1,892,081.45 were approved up to 16.04.2025

Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy upgrade works are currently ongoing on 15 properties. 48 properties have been approved by the Department for the 2025 EERP Programme.

Local Authority Planned Maintenance

381 Stock Condition Surveys were completed from the 1st January 2025 up to 22nd April 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 22nd April 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
Kells	4	3	5	8	4
Navan	7	3	4	11	3
Ashbourne	1	1	1	3	0

Laytown/Bettystown	3	1	3	4	3
Ratoath	0	2	0	1	1
Trim	2	4	4	8	2
TOTALS	17	14	17*	35	13

*Note: 14 of these 17 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	Q2 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 – March 2025

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 28 th February 2025	176 (182 Adults)	82 (133 Adults, 124 Children)	258
Placements at 31 st March 2025	181 (193 Adults)	77 (116 Adults, 117 Children)	258

Of the households with children, 70 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.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:

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

At 31st March:

273 bed allocations were availed of by service users with a 97% occupancy rate.

Meath County Council is not the sole user of properties located in Meath that facilitate the Settlement Section. Owners of properties that border other LA's will also engage with these LA's. This includes, Louth, Fingal, Westmeath & Kildare.

Family Figures: The increased trend of families exiting EA continues for March

Reason for Exiting	Total Numbers
HAP	1
MCC Allocation	6
Other (Not availing of Bed etc)	3
Return to Family / Friends	1
Total	11

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 31/03/2025

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	117	-	-	-	24	49	43	1
Couples	6	-	-	-	3	1	1	1
Singles	173	-	-	-	9	51	100	13
Children	116	37	45	34	-	-	-	-
Total	412	37	45	34	36	101	144	15

Homeless HAP Placefinder 01/03/2025-31/03/2025

Total	4
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	3
Homeless Prevention	1
In Progress	14

Tenant Liaison Team March 2025

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	40	23
Occupancy of dwelling	31	29
Garden upkeep/maintenance	35	29
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	6	5
Total March 2025	112	86

ASB Investigations on going at (month end)	32
ASB Investigations completed (month end)	80
Number of Pre Tenancies completed in Feb 2025	89
Abandonments for Feb 2025	0
Houses taken back into stock for Feb 2025	3

Warnings Issued 2025

Warnings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Verbal	1	3	3	7
Written	1	1	1	3
2 nd Written	0	0	0	0
Statutory	0	0	0	0
Advisory	2	2	5	9
Total	4	6	9	19

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	6	0	3	2	1	0
April	4	0	0	0	3	0
Total	15	1	4	3	5	4

Standards in Rented Accommodation

1260 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath for Q1 2025. Of this figure, 401 were first inspections, 14 properties passed after their first 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 March to 31st March 2025.

- 143 applications received for Social Housing.
- 39 applications approved onto the Social Housing List.
- 22 applications unsuccessful.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st March to 31st March 2025.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	139
Transfers	8
Approved Housing Bodies	36
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	11
Long Term Leasing (inc Private MTR)	1
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	2
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	197

Transportation Services



1. National Roads

Funding Source	TII
Grant Allocation	€8,609,200 (including Greenways €1,400,000)
Scheme	Update
N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 - €2.7M	Snagging work is ongoing and is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - €650K	CPO Oral Hearing took place online on the 3 rd April 2025. Notification from An Bord Pleanála received on the 25 th of April informing us that no Oral hearing will be required for ABP to make it's determination.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross - €31.5K	No funding received from TII for 2025
N52 Grange to Clontail - €1.3M	Currently drafting a gateway approval statement to enter Stage 5, as per TII guidelines.
National Road Resurfacing - €4.5M	N52 Woodtown to County Boundary works substantially complete
N52MH Callaighstown RSIS - €45K	Work in progress
N52MH Mandinstown RSIS	Work in progress
N52MH_034.0 Balrath Cross RSIS	Works substantially complete

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):	Contract in place
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)	Contract in place
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>
R162 Lisnagrew	Additional ground investigation carried out re ongoing road subsidence issue.

R108 / L16111 Bey More Junction safety scheme	Tender documents for consultants issued and awaiting response.
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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 complete
R132 – Keenoge	Works complete
R163/L7141 - Junction Gibbstown	Works substantially
L4010 – Bective Junction	Works substantially
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)	Works substantially complete
Newtown Commons Bridge Duleek	Contractor Appointed. Road closure required.
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Works commenced 22 nd April 2024. R154 Road closure in place.
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Parapet works complete. Bridge re-opened to pedestrian traffic. Resurfacing and public lighting yet to be completed in May 2025.

Ballivor Bridge	Tender Assessment ongoing, insurances being examined at present.
Ashbourne Bridge	Tender Assessment ongoing
BAMS Engineering Inspections (2025)	Inspections to commence Q3 2025
Verdons Bridge	Consultants appointed
Aclare Bridge	Consultants appointed
Graultys Bridge	Consultants appointed
Piercetown Bridge	Options being considered

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation €540,500	
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
L10021 - Timoole, Ashbourne	Works substantially complete
12 schemes received funding approval for 2025 under Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works	<p>The schemes are being reviewed and options being considered for each.</p> <p>R160 Clongowan €200,000</p> <p>Street, Ashbourne €50,000</p> <p>Seafields Footpath Cycleway €45,000</p> <p>Keenaghan Drainage Improvement €35,000</p> <p>R-151 Mornington €30,000</p> <p>R-191-8 Leitrim Lower Culvert Upgrade Works €30,000</p> <p>L-8036-5 Edgeworth Court, Longwood €30,000</p> <p>L-62251- Rathcore €30,000</p> <p>L-1011-15 Irishtown, Ardcah €30,000</p> <p>L-4011-10 Corballis €25,000</p> <p>L-80045-5 Church Road, Athboy €25,000</p>

	L-5615 L-5615 Pilltown Road	€10,500
	Total	€540,500

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 for the construction of this scheme was placed on E-Tenders on 07/04/25. The latest time for the receipt of tenders is 21/05/25.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	The review process for the options has continued this month and is anticipated to be finalised next month.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Design 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. Following a meeting with the NTA on the overall scheme and various interdependencies, a decision was taken to prioritise the advancement of elements of the scheme, to include the Round 'O' roundabout, N51 to the R147/N51 junction (including the Ratholdren Road junction), and the section of the R147 from Poolboy Bridge (including R147 junction) to the Kentstown Road (New Bridge).

Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	Consultant Team is continuing work on finalising the Preliminary Business Case and final Gateway 3 documents for submission to the National Transport Authority. Intention to proceed to Part 8 application late in Q2 of 2025 (provisionally at the end of May).
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Works on New/diverted underground services & Paving works are continuing Old Cornmarket. Kerbing, paving and landscaping works on the lower end of Fairgreen are continuing also. Drainage, ducting, kerbing and paving works continuing on Church Hill to Fair Green section. Site clearance works have commenced on Preston Place.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	A design review is being undertaken to identify if an interim scheme solution could be delivered along the Kentsown Road section to provide a cycle facility on the Kentstown Road, which aims to mitigate the necessity for land take and reduce potential scheme costs.
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Following engagement with the NTA on funding availability and competing project priorities, a decision was taken to defer any further work to develop the Kiosk building at this time, and to temporarily pave over the proposed footprint area for the building in Kennedy Plaza.
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	All Works complete. Snagging works almost complete. Official opening of this scheme is scheduled to be held on 01/05/2025
Trim Road Phase 2 - Solstice to Athlumney	No update this month.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beachmount to Balreask Manor	Part 8 application submitted and statutory public consultation underway.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	A draft emerging preferred option has been identified, and documents are being prepared for a non-statutory public consultation to commence next month.
Safe Routes to School	

St. Stephen's NS, Navan	Final stages of statutory planning process (Part 8), now with elected representatives for consideration.
Beaufort College, Navan	Public Consultation in progress.
St. Colmcille's NS, Kells	Public Consultation in progress.
Our Lady of Mercy NS, Kells	Public Consultation in progress.
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	Tender documents issued 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. Drone and topographical surveys which will inform the route selection process, are now complete.
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, Commons Road and St. Stephen's NS, Johnstown have both agreed to take part in the scheme. Bus Eireann and MCC will provide a bus demonstration for participating students on the 30 th April and 1 st May.
Bus Stop Enhancement Programme	Procurement of consultant engineer underway (with delivery of bus stops in late 2025)

R161/Borallion	Preliminary Design now complete, with public consultation to follow soon
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4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
Grant Allocation	(covered under TII)
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	
Greenway Maintenance	Contactors appointed. Kells MD managing the works.
Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan	ESB have now removed the overhead cable to facilitate installation of new public lighting. Works will be substantially complete in May.
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 now complete, snagging works remaining.
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.
Greenway Surfacing	MCC have successfully acquired an additional €500k of funding for this year from the TII to replace the open grade Greenway surfacing with bituminous surfacing. Further funding will be sought over next two years to apply bituminous surfacing to the full length of the Greenway.

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	RRDF approval received to appoint technical consultant for the Main Street Public Realm scheme. Options Selection process to commence next month.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme	Tenders for works in all six Municipal Districts have issued or to issue presently for 2025 works programme. Footpath rehabilitation works underway at The Grove and Abbeylands, Navan, Nobber, Drumconrath. Pedestrian crossing civil works completed 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.
R162 / Clonmaggaden Road Junction upgrade, Navan	Contractor appointed to install traffic lights at existing junction. Works expected to commence July 2025.
Trim Millenium Pedestrian Bridge	Planning consent received from An Bord Pleanála. Detail design completed and tender documents for contractor drafted and being reviewed.
R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming	Resurfacing and line marking expected to be completed early May 2025.

6.URDF

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	Demolition of 4 derelict buildings at Andy Brennan Park commenced in April 2025.

Frontage Improvement Works Flowerhill	Letters to be issued to the successful and unsuccessful Architect for Phase 2 works. The Council are seeking approval from URDF for the implementation stage of the project.
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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 ongoing.

8. THRIVE

Scheme	Update
County Archive and Community Hub	Design and the Works tender document preparation currently on-going. Stage 1 Works Procurement process commenced with 8 no. requests to participate received on 23 rd April 2025. Submissions are currently being assessed by the assessment board.

9. Meath County Council Projects

Scheme	Update
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. Stage 1 of works Tender published on e- tenders on 17 th April 2025.
Solstice – Frontage	In discussion with original Architect

Economic Development & Tourism



Sectoral Insights Programme

As part of a commitment to increase engagement with stakeholders and Meath businesses, the Economic Development team commenced a programme of meetings with representatives of the key business sectors across the county. The first session took place on 9th April in Buvinda House and included personnel from banking, accounting firms and business consultants. The discussion around the challenges that their clients are facing was hugely informative, with excellent engagement from all. The group indicated their interest in assisting with the work of the Economic Development team, in providing relevant business supports, when the Thrive Centre for Business Excellence during the summer months.

This programme will continue throughout the summer, engaging with SMES across other sectors, with a view to developing a range of measures to assist them with facing ongoing challenges, but also allowing an important opportunity for businesses in similar industries to network and engage with each other.

Remote Working Hubs

Statistics for Dunshaughlin Hub - as of 23rd April 2025 - an increase of 230 views and 8 order bookings.

Total Profile Views	Total Hub Members	Total Orders
3124	16	40

Statistics for Enfield Hub – as of 23rd April 2025 - an increase of 238 views and 11 order bookings

Total Profile Views	Total Hub Members	Total Orders
1121	10	59

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

Events: The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley launched the 2025 events programme with the first of a series of “Cultivating Connections Farm Walks”. The first event of 2025 was held at Shalvanstown Farm, focusing on biodynamic farming. The 2025 programme includes the below events across May and June:

- A Foraging Walk along the River Boyne on 31st May
- “Meet the Cheesemaker” with Michael Finegan Boyne Valley Farmhouse Cheese on 7th June
- “Cultivating Connections: Farm Walk” at Swainstown Farm on 22nd June

Press Coverage: The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley received the following piece of press coverage based on a successful first study trip to the region coordinated by the Centre in March:

- [Drogheda Life | Best News & Advertising | Latest News | Italian students sample Boyne Valley’s food and farming excellence](#)

Transition Year Young Cooks Competition: The final for the Transition Year Young Cooks Competition took place on 1st April in Cavan Institute. The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley supported the expansion of the competition to a more national scale this year, involving schools from Tipperary and Limerick for the first time.

Schools from six counties; Meath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan, Tipperary and Limerick competed in the final, with a team from Eureka Secondary School, Kells representing County Meath on the day.



Local Enterprise Office

Leo Activity Report – April 2025

Grants, Programme Supports, Mentoring & Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Mentoring Assignments Approved	23
Attended Online Training Courses	49
Lunch and Learn LEO Supports	16
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	9
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	7
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	4
Digital for Business	7
LEAN for Micro Applications	1
LEO Grants	1 approved & 2 deferred

Lunch and Learn Roadshow

The Local Enterprise Office held its 6th Lunch and Learn event in Enfield Community Hub on the 16th of April. There was great uptake with 16 attendees, and a robust Q&A session followed the presentation delivery. The LEO team then facilitated business advice clinics with the participants for over an hour following the event. Follow up work is continuing, to assist attendees with their queries.



“You’re the Business” – Google Digital Awards

Meath based business “ADHD Connections” is a winner of the “You’re the Business” competition which will be celebrated on the 26th of May in the Foundry, Dublin. “You’re the Business” is in its third year and is a partnership between Google, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices who are committed to helping SMEs embrace digital transformation and achieve their full potential. Winners receive:

- Google Workspace for 1 year*, featuring the best of Google AI, including Gemini Advanced and NotebookLM Plus
- 1:1 consultation on how to get the best out of Google Workspace
- Attendance at the winner’s event at Google in Dublin

New Frontiers Programme

Meath based MedTech startup **Ideon Engineering** is one of 3, from 24 entries, to proceed to Phase 3 of the New Frontiers Programme with TUS Athlone. A wonderful achievement which resulted from a direct referral from LEO Meath. The team are looking forward to assisting them on their journey.



Tourism

Press Trip

Boyne Valley Tourism welcomed 4 journalists and 1 influencer on a press trip to the destination on the 8th and 9th of April. Representatives came from *The Monaghan Standard*, *The Belfast Telegraph*, *Go Wild Magazine*, *The Meath Chronicle* and Jamie Ó'Flannúra content creation. The itinerary centred on Slane and Drogheda and included a craft workshop with Boann Irish Felt Designs, a visit to the Francis Ledwidge Museum and Slane Distillery, followed by a guided tour of the Hill of Slane. Articles will follow in the coming months, in time for the summer season.



Press Coverage

Boyne Valley tourism received the following press coverage for the Boyne Valley region in April, from Seen in the City – London, from the October 2024 Press Trip:

[A Guide To Visiting The Boyne Valley – A Historical Destination Steeped in Natural Beauty | Seen in the City](#)

FAM Trip

The first Boyne Valley Tourism member familiarisation (FAM) trip of 2025 was on April 30th. The itinerary included Bread with Benefits sourdough experience, Droichead Arts Centre and The Marcy Hotel, lunch and the CS Lewis experience in The Glyde Inn, Anagassan, followed by a visit to Monasterboice. 32 members signed up for the trip, which booked up in a matter of days. There will be two further FAM trips during the year.



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Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process (Apr 2025)	
Dunshaughlin Sensory Garden Part 8	MCC
Longwood playground	TVRS or MCC
Works Commenced (Apr 25)	
Learn to Cycle Track - Blackwater Park	MCC
Trim Aura - Astro Pitch replacement	MCC
Works Completed (Apr 25)	
Dunshaughlin Park (3*3 Basketball court)	MSP
Boreen Keel (3*3 Basketball court)	MSP
Works to pumphouse in Drumonrath (convert to storage unit for Tidy Towns Group)	TVRS

Community Development



Meath Age Friendly

The Meath Age Friendly Programme presented the three Meath branches of the Citizens Information Service (Navan Trim and Ashbourne) with their Age Friendly Business Recognition charters on 23rd April in Buvinda House. The Meath branches of the Citizens Information Service completed Age Friendly Business Recognition training provided by the Meath Age Friendly Programme in October last year and since then have created and completed specific actions to improve their service for older people, such as bringing in age friendly seating, reorganizing the stand of forms to make them easier to find and providing access to magnifying sheets for anybody needing assistance in accessing documents and forms with a smaller font. Meath OPC consulted on the project and attended the sites to confirm that the actions were completed. The Chief Executive presented the charters to the new Meath Age Friendly Champions.



Public Participation Network

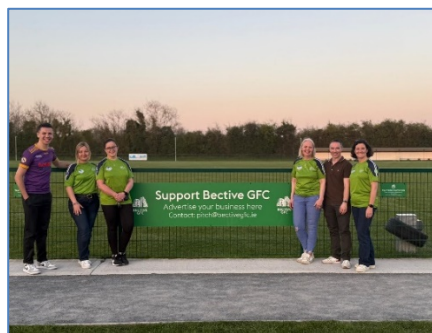
Planning of the National PPN Conference continues.

SPC reps attended training on March 25th in Buvinda House. AILG held an online training for members of SPCs on April 17th and a further community reps training will take place in early summer, hosted by Meath PPN.

The Mental Health book project held an event in Bective on Friday 11th April and 132 young people attended (photos below).

The May Plenary will take place in Duleek on Thursday 29th May.

763 groups are registered with Meath PPN.



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last LCDC meeting was held on Friday 25th April 2025.

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

The last LAG meeting was held on 25th April 2025.

Comhairle na nÓg

The first steering committee meeting of 2025 took place on 11th March, 2025. Three new Comhairle na nÓg members of the Steering Committee were in attendance and spoke about their involvement in a variety of consultations on mental health and suicide, electoral register consultation and department of transport consultation; school stress as the chosen annual topic for CNN, advocacy work for autism classes and free period products, their work on the Healthy Meath Programme and collaboration with Jigsaw on reducing stigma around mental health and video created for International Womens day.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Eligible applications received under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 were recommended by the LCDC on 28th March, 2025. A return has been made to the Department of Rural & Community Development for final approval

Healthy Meath

Champion training for the CommUnity Connects mental health project will take place in Louth and Meath in May, where community volunteers will be trained up in how to use the resource pack.

The Healthy Meath Microgrant Fund closed on 11th April. Grant allocation recommendations will be brought before the LCDC meeting in April for approval.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme

Meetings of the Indaver Community Liaison Committee were held on 19th & 26th March & 3rd April to assess the 36 applications received under the Carranstown Environment Projects Grant Scheme 2024. Funding recommendations will be presented to the Laytown-Bettystown MD Members for approval at their May meeting and by Full Council at their June meeting.

Knockharley Community Liaison Committee

A meeting of the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee took place on 9th April to discuss funding for 2025.

Pride of Place

One expression of interest was received for the IPB Pride of Place initiative. This was received from Age Well in Summerhill.

Judging is currently taking place in the 51 schools, pre-schools and Montessori schools that applied for this year's Schools Pride of Place initiative.

Community Safety Partnership

Minister O'Callaghan commenced the Policing, Security, and Community Safety Act 2024 on April 2nd. We are awaiting the establishment of regulations and guidance to formally commence the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

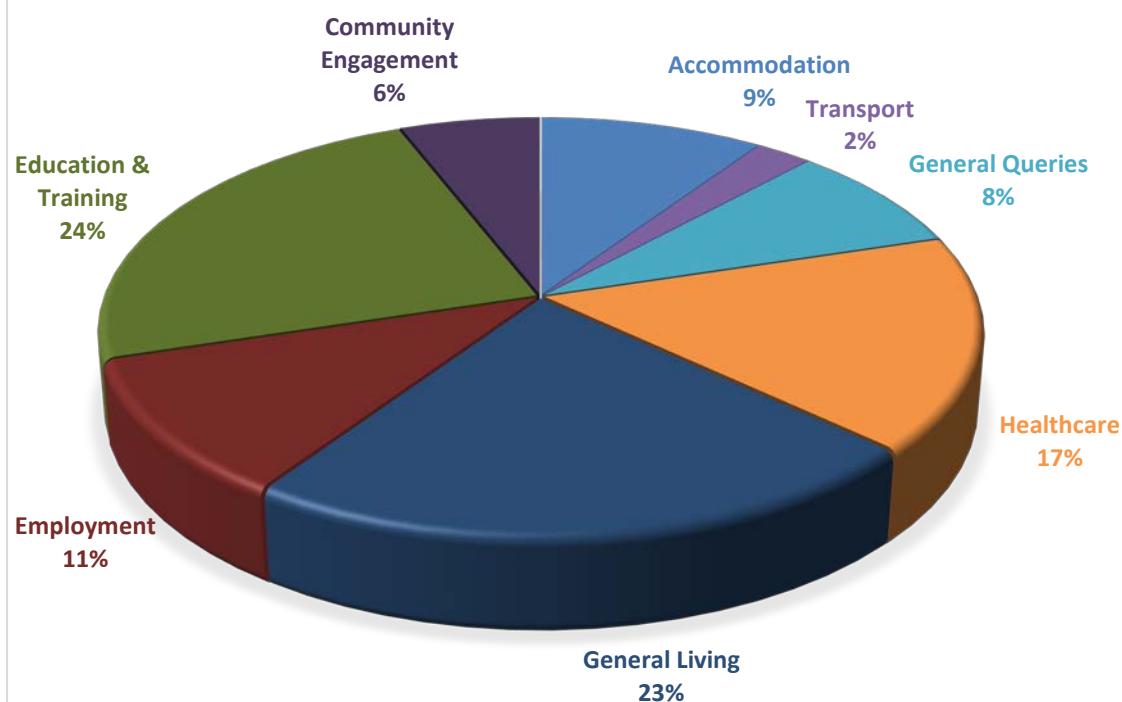
The LAIT continues proactively holding drop-in clinics in all commercial setting centres in Meath. If required, we also conduct impromptu visits to centres and other locations to address issues as they arise.

In April there were **785** Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) across 12 commercial settings in Meath and a further **981** in 9 centres hosting International Protection applicants (IPAs).

- Cumulative Yearly total of Clinics Held: 51 with 240 attendees
- Customer Service Cases Logged April 2025: 30

Number of Customer cases assigned YTD	148
Number of Customer cases closed YTD	126

BREAKDOWN OF CLINICS YEAR TO DATE



The LAIT completed a planting initiative with the guests in Flaxmill, Navan with a similar scheme in Tara na Ri. The team facilitated a meeting between Gormanston Park Residents and Meath Partnership SICAP/BOTP integration team to set up groups in the centre to create a self-sufficient group for employment/training/childrens groups and English language classes.

The Team met with Schools of Sanctuary who attended our Ashbourne court clinic (pictured).



Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service



A series of 6 regional training events for Older People's Council Chairs and Vice Chairs was delivered in March and April by external facilitator Mary Carleton Reynolds. The training focused on the representative role of Older People's Councils and promoting diversity with these committees to reflect the voice of all older people in the community.

Age Friendly Ireland was represented at the WHO supported Age Friendly Futures Summit in Manchester in March. At this global event, Regional Manager Karen Fennessy contributed to a special session on the forthcoming WHO European Strategy on 'Ageing is Living: Promoting Lifelong Health and Well-being (2026–2030)'.

An innovative pathfinder Community Linkage Project is being set up with funding from the Women's Health Action Plan in the Department of Health. A project co-ordinator will be employed by MCC to bring befriending volunteers and other community-based supports to women in residential care in Counties Roscommon and Leitrim, with the aim of improving health and wellbeing outcomes for older women.

A new partnership between Age Friendly Ireland and the GAA was announced to mark the start of a collaborative process to scale up the demonstrator model of an Age Friendly Stadium. Five GAA stadia across the country will follow the example of Croke Park in developing their facilities in line with World Health Organisation guidance for supporting ageing communities.



A new initiative to focus on the development of Age friendly Workplaces will be piloted in County Meath with local businesses. Employers will be involved in co-design sessions to develop a toolkit and recognition programme for workplaces that wish to be accredited as Age Friendly working environments.

Older People's Councils were involved in consultation sessions with Professor Ronan Collins on the topic of Assisted Dying, and with An Garda Siochana on the topic of road safety. In April, they engaged nationally with the HSE through an Older Person's Reference Group established as a patient and service user panel to support the work of the Office of the HSE National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead.

Age Friendly Ireland hosted a health and wellbeing event for Sligo and Leitrim in Sligo ATU on 28th March which attracted over 200 people across the two counties.

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme continues to support older people, over 65 years of age, to live in their home for as long as possible. Referrals to the programme remain strong. A tender process was completed, and Stichting International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) have been awarded the contract to carry out a three-year programme evaluation.

Age Friendly Ireland carried out a walkability audit of Carlow train station, one of the ten stations chosen by Iarnród Éireann to go through the Age Friendly four stage process.



Age Friendly Housing & Public Realm training was delivered to Architectural Design Teams involved in the delivery of housing for Local Authorities nationally.

Age Friendly Ireland was represented at the House Building Summit and Housing Practitioners conference in Croke Park on 8th April. The IHBA's annual summit explored building housing amid infrastructure, cost, labour and planning pressures - offering insights and solutions to advance best practices in housing development.

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

349 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2025 to 31.03.2025. This is compared to 366 in the same period in 2024.

85.1% of the applications received in 2025 have been lodged via the online portal - ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

100 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2025 to 31/03/2025. This is compared to 295 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	27
Multi-Units	31** (units)
Extensions	31
Other*	24

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

One commencement notice has been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2025 to 31.03.2025.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

The collection figures for development contributions for the period January – March 2025 are as follows:

Receipt Period:	Jan - Mar 2025
Total Receipts	€1,033,934
Recoupments received	€0

Total Received	€1,033,934

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2025:	€8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan – Dec 2025:	€1,033,934
% collected:	13%

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann receipts (€27,026).

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2024 was €3,429,583.

4. Planning Enforcement

41 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 31.03.2025

New Cases to be Investigated	17
Warning Letters	63
Enforcement Notices	10
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	27
Court Attendances	18

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

5. Forward Planning

Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan Issues Paper	Report on submissions to Issues Paper envisaged to be finalised week ending 2 nd May 2025 and circulated to Elected Members in the coming weeks.
Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027	<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. Tender preparation presently underway for assessments required to inform the new CDP.</p>
RZLT	<p>The closing date for rezoning submissions took place on the 1st April 2025.</p> <p>Landowner rezoning submissions currently under consideration.</p>
Masterplans	<p>The following draft Masterplans are presently under preparation and under review:</p> <p>MP13 – Balreask Old, lands between Trim Road and Commons Road</p> <p>MP 10 – Balreask Old, lands between Trim Road, Borallion Road and former Navan-Dublin Rail line</p> <p>MP 31 - Lands to the west of Trim which include the OPW building and buildings which front onto Emmet Street</p> <p>MP 37 – Jamestown, east of Ratoath, served by RORR.</p>

6. Projects

Public Realm & Regeneration Plan – Old Johnstown Village	The draft Public Realm & Regeneration Plan for Old Johnstown Village will be on public display from Tuesday 6 th May to Thursday 19 th June.
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7. Heritage & Biodiversity Projects

Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN)	<p>Funding of €15,000 has been awarded for a feasibility study for the creation of open-air interpretative space and pocket park at Navan Town Wall, Abbey Street, Navan.</p> <p>Funding of €70,000 has been awarded for conservation works to a section of Trim Town Wall</p> <p>Funding of €20,000 has been awarded to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for Athboy Town Walls</p> <p>The April edition of the Heritage Council's Walled Town Crier e-zine featured Navan</p> <p>IWTN_WalledTownCrier_April_2025.pdf</p>
Community Monuments Fund	<p>Meath County Council has been awarded funding for projects as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ardcath Church €120,000• St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trim €100,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Athlumney Graveyard, Navan €17,958.00• Kilberry Church and Graveyard €19,864
County Heritage Plan	<p>Funding of €37,500 received from the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Fund 2025.</p> <p>This funding will be used to implement the annual heritage work programme from <i>County Meath Heritage Strategy 2024-2030</i> including an extensive programme of events for Heritage Week 2025 and a collaboration with Department of History, Maynooth University on Moynagh Lough Project.</p>

Climate Action and Environment



Meath Energy Expo

Meath County Council hosted the Retrofit Expo on April 2, 2025, at Buvinda House in Navan. The event focused on promoting energy efficiency and sustainable building practices. It coincided with the visit of the NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building) Truck from the National Construction Training Campus, offering workshops and accredited courses.

Representatives from the Vacant Homes, and Climate Action Sections of Meath County Council, local financial institutions, and representatives from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and Local Enterprise Office (LEO) provided advice on grants, retrofitting techniques, and loan options. The event featured a live broadcast by The Late Lunch with Gerry Kelly, interviewing key participants.

The Expo was a success, with over 80 people trained on NZEB principles, 200 consultations with experts, and 50 guidance sessions by financial institutions. The radio broadcast reached an estimated audience of over 10,000 in the Louth/Meath area.



Community Climate Action Programme Fund

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, the communications team are working on videos of the projects which will issue shortly.

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			



The EcoChic campaign was launched in Navan in the Solstice Arts Centre on 12th April 2025 with a clothing swap event. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness on the impacts of fast fashion and textile waste, and to encourage sustainable alternatives to conventional consumption such as second-hand shopping, upcycling, and mending of textiles, and clothing swaps.

This event was the first in a series of 25 events, including clothes swaps and upcycling workshops to be held across the county throughout Q2 of this year.

Date	Day	Time	Zone	Location	Event
12/04/2025	Saturday	11am - 3pm	Navan	Solstice Arts Centre	Clothes Swap
19/04/2025	Saturday	9.45am - 12.45pm	Navan	Solstice Arts Centre	Upcycling Workshop

19/04/2025	Saturday	13.45pm - 16.45pm	Navan	Solstice Arts Centre	Upcycling Workshop
24/04/2025	Thursday	1pm - 4pm	Dunshaughlin	Dunshaughlin Pastoral Centre	Clothes Swap
26/04/2025	Saturday	9.45am - 12.45pm	Trim	Swift Centre	Upcycling Workshop
26/04/2025	Saturday	13.45am - 16.45pm	Trim	Swift Centre	Upcycling Workshop
29/04/2025	Tuesday	12pm - 2.30pm	Ballivor	Ballivor Library	Sashiko Workshop
29/04/2025	Tuesday	5pm - 8pm	Bettystown	East Meath Civic Centre	Upcycling Workshop
01/05/2025	Thursday	10am - 2pm	Ashbourne	Ashbourne Library	Clothes Swap
02/05/2025	Friday	10am - 1pm	Ashbourne	Ashbourne Library	Upcycling Workshop
03/05/2025	Saturday	9.45am - 12.45pm	Kells	Deerpark Community Hub	Upcycling Workshop

Energy



Energy Awareness Morning

As part of our ongoing staff energy awareness campaign, (*Making Energy Matter*), Meath County Council held an Energy Awareness morning, tying in with the NZEB events, on Monday 31st March. An energy stand was set up in the staff canteen to advise on any queries for energy saving and efficiency measures in the home. Our OPW energy advisor spoke to staff and gave information and advice on their individual cases and what measures were best to undertake.

Libraries Services



Local Studies

The council of Meath Archaeological and Historical Society met in Navan Library to carry out the work of the annual mail out of the journal, *Ríocht na Midhe*. In addition to scholarly institutions throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom, the journal also goes to academic institutions and individuals in Nova Scotia, Minnesota, North Carolina, Connecticut, New York, Chicago, Indiana, and Long Island.



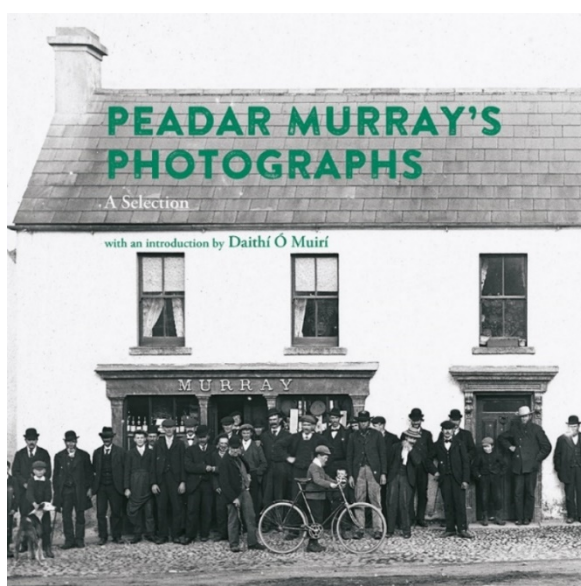
Local Studies

From the Nanny to the Boyne was successfully launched to a full house in Bettystown Library at the East Meath Civic Centre on April 8th. Cathaoirleach Sharon Tolan, historian John McCullen, and Margaret Downey's daughter Mog all spoke about the significance of the book to the people of east Meath.



National Skills Share Training Programme

At the April Online Skills Share Session for Library Staff, Local Studies Librarian Tom French presented on the topic of 'Digitising and promoting the Library's local collection'. He shared his experience of digitising and publishing the Peadar Murray photographic collection.



Creative Ireland

"A Voice" - Foróige Music and Visual Art Project with Artists Mark Smith and Alun Smyth

As part of Meath Cruinniú na nÓg 2025, young people from the Fóroige Navan Young People's Development (NYPD) project will create a unique music and visual arts project to amplify their voices within their community. This project idea emerged from a dynamic creative consultation process with the group during which they expressed a desire to make their voices heard through art and music. Collaborating with local artists Mark Smith and Alun Smyth, they will participate in a series of workshops designed to explore identity, expression, and community through creative practice.

The outcome will be a powerful multimedia project combining music and visual art. As part of the visual element, the young people will design six mock vinyl covers, each featuring a single letter from the phrase "A Voice." These letters will be layered over photographs of local graffiti, symbolizing raw, authentic expression from their hometown streets. The imagery will also be woven into a music video, soundtracked by original music they create during the workshops, resulting in a bold artistic statement that reflects their collective voice and vision.

Their original creations will be unveiled in Navan the week of June 7th as part of the Meath Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 programme. Date, time and location to be confirmed. An audio-visual piece will also be shared to the Meath County Library social media pages on June 7th. After this date, their work will travel to Kells to be exhibited as part of the Kells TypeTrail launching on June 26th.

Bealtaine 2025

The Bealtaine Festival, Ireland's national celebration of arts and creativity as we age, is celebrating 30 years of the festival this May. The Library Service boasts an impressive number of free events across the branch network.

Programme highlights include

- The annual Big Book Quiz
- Healthy Ireland Events such as Pilates, Chair Yoga and Chair Exercise
- Creative events such as pressed flower crafts, painting by numbers class, and art workshops
- An evening with celebrated author Seamus O'Rourke in Oldcastle Library
- Concerts by the Buvinda Choir, the Ashbourne Ensemble choir and Musical memories with sopranos Teresa and Louise Carley
- A reminiscence poetry and songs workshop
- Ciorcal comhrá for beginners

Details on all events are available at <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/library-events/adult-library-events>

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1 st January 2025 to 25 th April 2025		
Fully Completed Applications Received	14	2025 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	0	
Approved by Credit Committee	14	1 relates to 2024, 13 relate to 2025
Refused by Credit Committee	1	2025 application
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	21.43	14 relate to 2025, 6 relate to 2024, 1.43 relate to 2023
Expired	11	11 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	5.35	4 relate to 2024, 1.35 relate to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2025 to 25th April 2025 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023 and 2024. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.