



Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

June 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

Fleadh na Mí – Áth Buí

Mar chuid d'imeachtaí Fleadh na Mí a tharla i mBaile Átha Buí ón naoú lá de mhí na Bealtaine go dtí an ochtú lá déag de mhí na Bealtaine, rinne an Chomhairle/.Oifig na Gaeilge urraíocht ar Sheomra na Gaeilge sa Scoil Naisiúnta Uí Gramhnaigh Bhaile Átha Buí ar an Domhnach 18 Bealtaine. Bhí ábhar acmhainne ar nós puzzail, cluichi clair, srl. ceannaithe don seomra na Gaeilge. Bhí múinteoir fostaithe chomh maith le haghaidh imachtaí a stiúradh agus a mhuineadh.

Fleadh na Mí – Athboy

As part of the Fleadh na Mí events that took place in Athboy from 9th - 18th May, the Council/Irish language Office sponsored the Irish language room in O'Growney National School on Sunday 18th May. Resource material such as puzzles, board games, etc. were purchased for the Irish language room. There was a teacher employed as well to direct and teach activities.

Official Opening of Phase One of New €7.3m Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme in Navan

The Communications Team coordinated the official opening of Phase One of this scheme on Thursday, May 1, including managing the event itself and handling media and social media activity after the event.



Minister Thomas Byrne's Visit to the Civil Defence

The Communications Team managed the visit of Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence, Thomas Byrne, TD, to Meath Civil Defence HQ on Tuesday, May 6.



2025 Municipal District Awards

The Communications Team managed the 2025 Municipal District Awards held at Buvinda House on Wednesday, May 7, and issued press releases and social media posts afterwards to ensure media and social media traction.



Oireachtas Members Briefing

The Communications Team assisted with a number of events over the course of the month including the Oireachtas Members Briefing on Monday, May 12, producing a booklet for members and taking pictures for social media.



Minister Browne Visit and Official Opening of Three Residential Developments in Meath

The Communications Team managed the official openings of three residential developments in the county on Friday, May 30, which included the visit of Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne, TD, in addition to Minister for Education and Youth, Helen McEntee TD, and Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence, Thomas Byrne TD.



Assistance Provided to Key Council Initiatives in May

The Communications Team provided assistance to a number of important Council initiatives and schemes throughout May including EcoChic, EcoGrow, National Biodiversity Week, Wellness Month, National Bike Week, Cruinniú na Nóg, Meath Made at Bloom, the Census 2027 Presentation, and the THRIVE Navan Cultural Quarter: Community Hub and County Archive, in addition to providing support for Super Garden, Rás Tailteann and the Solstice Arts Centre.



Engaging Content

The Communications Team also created engaging content to assist with initiatives including videos for the launch of the Knockharley Environmental & Community Projects Grant Scheme 2025 and an Integration team exhibition event for Father's Day featuring migrant and Irish families' stories.



Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta 2025 Main Sponsor

As a main sponsor of the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in Rath Cháirín, the Communications Team provided signage and other key assistance on the weekend in addition to media activity highlighting the competition and Meath County Council's involvement.



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	Q3 2025	Q4 2027
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q3 2025	Q2 2026

Total	28		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q3 2025
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q4 2025
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q4 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 14th May 2025

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	43
Bettystown	Part V	4
Donacarney	Part V	2
Drogheda	Part V	30
Duleek	Part V	10
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	34
Enfield	Part V	28
Kells	Part V	14
Kilcock	Part V	4
Navan	Part V	46
Oldcastle	Part V	13
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Ratoath	Part V	27
Stamullen	Part V	2
Summerhill	Part V	17
Trim	Part V	49
Bettystown	Turnkey	13
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		440

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 14th May 2025.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ballivor	Part V	4
Bettystown	Part V	4
Carlanstown	Part V	2
Clonee	Part V	7
Dunshaughlin	Part V	4
Julianstown	Part V	2
Ballivor	Turnkey	8
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Navan	CAS	5
Total		102

Affordable Housing

Meath County Council are offering two new affordable housing schemes.

Effernock, Trim, Co Meath – Offers have issued to 8 successful applicants, 3 have accepted and the remaining 5 have until 21/05/2025 to accept. Reserve list is in place should we have any withdrawals.

Beaufort, Boyne Village, Navan, Co Meath – Currently assessing applications. To date 171 people have logged into the portal to view the details, we have 28 Valid applications for 7 affordable homes. Offers will issue in the coming weeks to successful applicants.

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.
- 13nr. LAAWS applications are completed so far this year.

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

Confirmation of 2025 approved allocation for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People Scheme received on 9th May 2025 - **€4,343,714** including MCC match funding.

298 applications for the value of €2,104,750.41 were approved up to 15.05.2025

Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy upgrade works are currently ongoing on 9 properties. 48 properties have been approved by the Department for the 2025 EERP Programme.

Local Authority Planned Maintenance

445 Stock Condition Surveys were completed from the 1st January 2025 up to 20th May 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	3	4	5	8	4
Navan	4	7	4	13	2
Ashbourne	1	1	1	3	0
Laytown/Bettystown	2	1	3	6	0
Ratoath	0	0	0	0	0
Trim	2	1	2	4	1
TOTALS	12	14	15*	34	7

*Note: 14 of these 15 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	27	Cluid	Q2/Q3 2025
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	21	Cluid	Q3 2025

Emmett St, Trim	12	North & East	Q2 2025
Dunboyne Heights, Dunboyne	50	Iveagh Trust	Q1 2027
Kilmoon	1	Marillac - CAS	Q1 2026
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q3 2027
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q4 2027
St. Loman Street, Trim	2	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2027
Total Number of Approved Units	130		

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
Gardenrath, Kells, Co. Meath	18	Cluid - CALF
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	12	Respond - CALF
Total Number of Units Delivered	35	

Cost Rental

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

Homelessness – April 2025

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 31 st March 2025	176 (179 Adults)	77 (118 Adults, 115 Children)	253
Placements at 30 th April 2025	181 (185 Adults)	84 (125 Adults, 130 Children)	265

Of the households with children, 77 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.

At 30th April 2025:

279 bed allocations were availed of by service users.

5 beds were available (1 Trim, 1 Navan, 1 Ashbourne & 2 Drogheda)

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
MCC Allocation	1
Other (Not availing of Bed etc)	1
Return to Family / Friends	1
Total	3

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 30/04/2025

	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Age profile								
Families	125	-	-	-	25	51	48	1
Couples	8	-	-	-	3	3	1	1
Singles	177	-	-	-	13	50	100	14
Children	130	37	47	46	-	-	-	-
Total	440	37	47	46	41	104	149	16

Homeless HAP Placefinder 01/04/2025-30/04/2025

Total	11
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	1
Homeless Prevention	10
In Progress	10

Tenant Liaison Team April 2025

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	81	36
Occupancy of dwelling	43	37
Garden upkeep/maintenance	47	40
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	3	1
Total April 2025	174	114

ASB Investigations on going at (month end)	129
ASB Investigations completed (month end)	5

Number of Pre Tenancies completed in Feb 2025		33
Abandonments for April 2025		1
Houses taken back into stock for April 2025		10

Warnings Issued 2025

Warnings	March	April		Total
Verbal	3	1		4
Written	1	0		1
2 nd Written	0	2		2
Statutory	0	0		0
Advisory	5	3		9
Total	9	6		15

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	5	0	0	0	3	0
May	2	1	9	2	1	1
Total	18	2	13	5	6	5

Standards in Rented Accommodation

1,548 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of April 2025. Of this figure, 476 were first inspections, 19 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).

28 Improvement Notices and 3 Prohibition Notices were served from January to April 2025.

Social Housing Supports - for the period 1st April to 30th April 2025.

- 108 applications received for Social Housing.
- 30 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 April to 30th April 2025.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	31
Transfers	2
Approved Housing Bodies	13
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	11
Long Term Leasing (inc Private MTR)	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	1
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	58

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 Pleanala 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	Tender competition for Phase 5,67 7 consultant ongoing. 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 Calliaghstown RSIS - €45K	Design currently being progressed

N52MH Mandistown RSIS	Works substantially complete
N52MH_034.0 Balrath Cross RSIS	Design currently being progressed

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):	6no schemes completed to date
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)	Tender evaluation ongoing
Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)	Commencement of work on Monday 19 th May
Phase 4 (Wearing Course)	5no schemes completed to date
Community Involvement Scheme	Tender evaluation ongoing
Local Tertiaries	Evaluation completed

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

Grant Allocation	€1,200,000
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R156/R125 Mullagh Cross	Draft Planning, Environmental and Appraisal reports issued to the DOT for approval to proceed with the formal planning process – response awaited.
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	Draft Planning, Environmental and Appraisal reports issued to the DOT for approval to proceed with the formal planning process – response awaited.
R108 / L16111 Bey More Junction safety scheme	Tender documents for consultants received and being reviewed.

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 complete
L4010 – Bective Junction	Works complete
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 complete

Newtown Commons Bridge Duleek	Contractor Appointed. Works scheduled to commence Monday 26 th May 2025. Road closure required.
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Works ongoing. R154 road re-opened.
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Parapet works complete. Bridge re-opened to pedestrian traffic. Resurfacing and public lighting yet to be completed in May/June 2025.
Ballivor Bridge	Contractor appointed. Works scheduled to commence May 2025.
Ashbourne Bridge	Contractor appointed. Works scheduled to commence May 2025.
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>	
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 Street, Ashbourne €50,000 Seafields Footpath Cycleway €45,000 Keenaghan Drainage Improvement €35,000</p>	

	R-151 Mornington	€30,000
	R-191-8 Leitrim Lower Culvert Upgrade Works	€30,000
	L-8036-5 Edgeworth Court, Longwood	€30,000
	L-62251- Rathcore	€30,000
	L-1011-15 Irishtown, Ardcath	€30,000
	L-4011-10 Corballis	€25,000
	L-80045-5 Church Road, Athboy	€25,000
	L-5615 L-5615 Pilltown Road	€10,500
	Total	€540,500

(f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation		€750,000
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>	
R132 (Former N1)	Works to commence in 3-4 weeks and this scheme will form part of a sustainability trial supported by the DoT and TII.	

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 process is ongoing, with several tender queries being responded to during the period. 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 is approaching completion. A further option to remove a northbound traffic lane on the R147 at the Watergate Street junction is currently being considered as part of the process.	

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. The interim scheme is to be advanced in two separate planning applications with the first to include the Round 'O' roundabout, N51 to the R147/N51 junction (including the Ratholdren Road junction), and second application to include 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 (now revised to commence in June 2025). An art competition has commenced in primary schools in Navan, as part of a pre-Part 8 public engagement process to highlight the forthcoming Part 8 statutory public consultation and the democratic process followed by the Council.
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Works are continuing Old Cornmarket at junction with Church Hill. Kerbing, paving, and landscaping works on the lower end of Fairgreen are continuing also. Upgrade works on Preston Place are underway, to be substantially complete by the beginning of June. Site clearance has commenced at Sheep Fair on Church Hill.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	A design review continuing.
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.	Official opening held on 01/05/2025

Trim Road Phase 2 - Solstice to Athlumney	Proposal for detailed design process approach under review.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beachmount to Balreask Manor	Part 8 statutory public consultation ongoing.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	A non-statutory public consultation to commence on 26 th of May to 23 rd of June.
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. Design Workshop scheduled for early June with NTA. MCC continuing to meet with landowners whose lands may be impacted by the proposed scheme. Masterplan for the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne being finalised before submitting it to the NTA for approval.
Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	No update this month
Castle Street Ashbourne	Tender documents issued for the procurement of a consultant engineer to develop an Active Travel Scheme along Castle Street Ashbourne. Tender closing 22 nd May 2025.
Johnstown Village Active Travel Scheme	Consultant appointed to develop a preliminary design and acquire the appropriate statutory approval for the scheme. Tree survey to be completed before the end of May.
BusIt2School	The BusIt2School scheme is funded by the DOT and aims to encourage primary school pupils to travel to and from school by bus. A bus demonstration day took place at Navan Educate Together on the 30 th April. 51 pupils took bus trips in Week1. Scoil Naomh Eoin Clonmaggaden and St. Stephens Johnstown are scheduled to take part in the scheme in September.
Safe Routes to School	

St. Stephen's NS, Navan	In final stages of statutory planning process (Part 8), now with elected representatives for consideration.
Beaufort College, Navan	Public Consultation complete. Final design and preparations to go out to construction works tender
St. Colmcille's NS, Kells	Public Consultation complete. Final design and preparations to go out to construction works tender
Our Lady of Mercy NS, Kells	Public Consultation complete. Final design and preparations to go out to construction works tender
R161/Borallion	Preliminary Design now complete, with public consultation to follow soon.

4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
Grant Allocation	(covered under TII)
Scheme	Update
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	
Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholden Road, Navan	Works now complete
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibstown Car Park	Works progressing on the footpath from the Gibbstown Greenway crossing to Kilberry. First 600m to be complete by the end of May.
Additional Facilities	Contractor has completed the installation of distance marker posts, seating, picnic benches, bike repair stations, water stations, additional planting, signage, and masonry upgrade works. Snagging works remaining.

Traffic Calming Works R165 Frazer Kingscourt	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. Tender issued for first section of surfacing between Castletown and Nobber.
Poles Cross Car Park	Funding acquired for the construction of a Greenway car park at Poles Cross Greenway Crossing, Kilmanihamwood. Tender documents currently being prepare.

5.Other/Projects

Scheme	Update
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	Tobin Consultant Engineers appointed for the Main Street Public Realm scheme. Options Selection process to commenced.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme	Contract award in process for works in Ashbourne, Trim and Laytown-Bettystown MDs(Tenders to issue presently for Navan, Ratoath, and Kells). Recent works include Cortown, Nobber, Drumconrath and Ashbourne.
LDR4 Navan	Scheme progressing on site. Bridge structure complete. Kerbing 70% complete. Scheme currently expected to be substantially complete Q3 2025.
R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming	Resurfacing and line marking completed. Vehicle Activated sign at north end of village and speed

	gateway signage at southern end of village expected to be completed shortly.
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6.URDF

Scheme	Update
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	Demolition of 4 derelict buildings at Andy Brennan Park is now completed. Emergency demolition works on section of the Former Spicers Bakery to proceed in Q2
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.

7. RRDF

Scheme	Update
Boyne Greenway Navan to Oldbridge	The project team are progressing the preliminary design of the Boyne Greenway route including engagement with TII's specialist teams such as Archaeology and Structures. Ground investigations works, hydrographical and ecological/environmental surveys 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 completed with 6 no. being shortlisted for Stage 2 Works. Tender assessment report for Stage 1 Works sent to the Southern Regional Assembly for their permission to proceed to procurement for Stage 2 Works.

9. Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)

Scheme	Update
Upgrade & Development of the existing Seafeld Sports Facility at Corballis, Laytown, Co. Meath	Open Service procurement procedure for the appointment of a Landscape Architect-led Multi Disciplinary Design Team was published on eTender on 15 th May 2025

10. Meath County Council Projects

Scheme	Update
New Library/Community Building, Amenity Area, and Age Friendly Housing.	Stage 1 Service procurement process complete, proceeding with Stage 2 Service 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 Works Tender published on e- tenders on 17 th April 2025.
Solstice – Frontage	In discussion with original Architect

Economic Development & Tourism



Economic Development

MSD Community Event

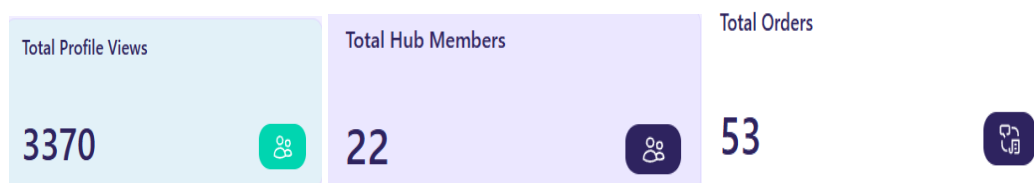
The Economic Development Team were delighted to attend the MSD Community event at their facility in Dunboyne earlier this month. This saw council officials, elected representatives, local businesses, members of the community and local education providers come together to network and collaborate on current economic issues and employment challenges in the area. The event was a great success, and we look forward to further collaboration with MSD going forward

EU Funding

The Economic Development Team has produced a comprehensive EU Funding guide – which provides details of the various current open live funding calls, across 18 different funding programmes. This document will facilitate exploring EU funding initiatives across all Directorates of council and will be updated every quarter and circulated to the Senior management group.

Remote Working Hubs

Statistics for **Dunshaughlin Hub** - as of 22nd May 2025 - an increase of 244 views. 6 members and 13 order bookings.



Statistics for **Enfield Hub** – as of 22nd May 2025 - an increase of 158 views, 4 members and 11 order bookings

Total Profile Views	Total Hub Members	Total Orders
1279	14	71

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley launched its “Meet the Cheesemaker” series as part of the wider 2025 event programme. This series involves events at four cheesemakers across Ireland, starting with the Boyne Valley; Boyne Valley Farmhouse Cheese, Coolattin Cheddar (Wicklow), Leitrim Hill (Leitrim) and Killeen Farmhouse Cheese (Galway).

Planning has commenced for the Samhain Festival of Food & Culture for November 2025, where the ambition is to build on the success of last year and grow the festival even further.

The Centre of Food Culture is also progressing both the Digital Producer Directory and Digital Library projects and linking in with the Boyne Valley Flavours and the other food networks through the country in this regard.

Local Enterprise Office

Leo Activity Report – May 2025

Grants, Programme Supports, Mentoring & Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Mentoring Assignments Approved	32
Attended Online Training Courses	233
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	5
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	8
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	6
Digital for Business	6

National Enterprise Awards 2025

Premier Energy Storage represented LEO Meath at the National Enterprise Awards which was celebrated on the 22nd of May in Dublin. Led by Jonathan Heasley, a trailblazer in the critical power fuel storage, Premier Energy Storage is at the forefront of Europe’s transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy solution.

While disappointed not to have taken home the award on this occasion, Meath LEO offered sincere congratulations to SPRYT from Monaghan on being the overall winners at this year's ceremony.

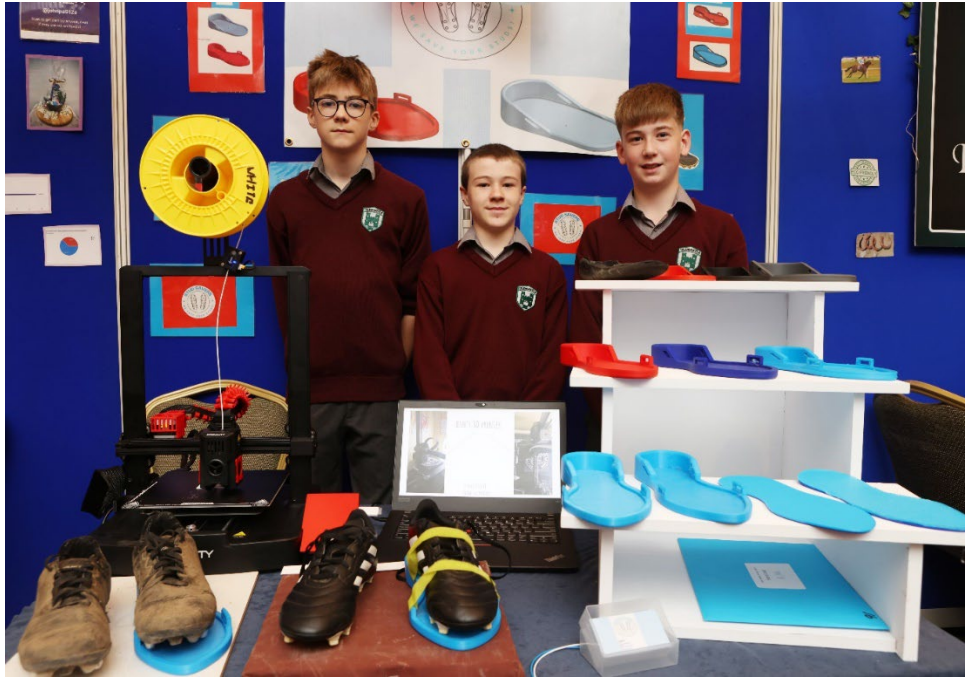


Student Enterprise Programme

The Student Enterprise Programme National Finals took place on Thursday 8th May in Mullingar. Supported by the Local Enterprise Office, the students continued the winning ways of recent years, with Rohaan Bhatnagar of “FutureDev” from St Patrick Classical School Navan supported by his teacher Gareth McMahon, winning the overall Intellectual Property Award across all categories while also winning the Innovation Award in the Intermediate Category. Rohaan’s business concept is a chat bot app similar to the likes of AI Chat GPT application.



“Stud Savers” from St Olivers, Oldcastle took 3rd place in the Junior Category. The students were, Ben Smith, Nathan McEnroe & Aidan Clarke who worked under the guidance of their teacher, Elaine Smith. Stud Savers provides protective cover for studs on sports footwear and they are already achieving great numbers in sales.



There also great excitement with previous student enterprise participants Kate and Annie Madden from Summerhill and owners of “Fenu Health” picking up the coveted Alumni award for recognition of their achievements and success to date with their animal health products now shipping across 15 different countries and with over 1000 customers including 5 Royal Families.

Meath Made at Bloom

A selection of County Meath’s best craft and design businesses will be part of this year’s Bord Bia Bloom event in Dublin’s Phoenix Park. In total 11 Members of Meath Made network are showcasing and selling their products at this five-day festival of gardening, food and fun.

Supported by the Local Enterprise Office Meath, the Meath Made collective shop, is a special area at Bloom that houses a range of Meath’s finest design and craft talent, the shop will run throughout the five days of Bloom from Thursday, 29 May to Monday, 2 June.



Regional Enterprise Plan, Mid East

Meath County Council are the hosting local authority for the Regional Enterprise Programme Manager for the Mid East, covering counties Meath, Wicklow & Kildare. The permanent appointment of Michelle Goodwin has been confirmed to Minister Burke, who will act as the Ministerial lead for the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan.

Meath hosted the Steering Committee meeting for the Mid East Region in Buvinda House in May with representatives from a number of Government Departments including DETE, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, EMRA, IBEC, Intertrade Ireland and the Regional Enterprise Ireland Team.

Tourism



Press Trip

Boyne Valley Tourism welcomed 5 UK journalists on a press trip to the destination on the 8th and 9th of May. Representatives came from Lonely Planet, *The Mirror*, *Bloom Magazine*, *My Weekly* / *The People's Friend* and *The Travel Magazine* / *Trip Reporter* / *AboutMyGeneration* / *The Cultural Voyager*. The itinerary included on Brú na Bóinne, Bettystown Beach, Trim Castle Hotel, Loughcrew, The Poppy Garden, Killua Castle, Dunboyne Hoel & Spa, and Bread with Benefits. Articles will follow in the coming months.

Boyne Valley Tourism AGM

The Boyne Valley Tourism AGM was held on Tuesday 13th of May in Citynorth Hotel. There was a strong turnout of member businesses. The proposed amendments to the Boyne Valley Tourism Memos and Articles were approved, and four new directors were appointed. There is now a full board of directors in place.

Retiring directors: Wayne Harding representing Vintners, Theresa McKenna representing Festivals

New directors: Michael Gavigan representing Vintners & Gastropubs, Nicola Flanagan representing Visitor Experiences, Eimear Doughty representing Travel & Retail, and Gene Smith representing Special Interest Activities & Events.

Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy Workshop

Boyne Valley Tourism hosted a member workshop before the AGM focused on “Managing Costs in Your Business”. Participating businesses had the opportunity to ask questions, network and learn from fellow members.



Balmoral Show

Boyne Valley Tourism represented the destination at the Balmoral Show from June 14th – 17th. over 110,000 visitors attended the shows over 4 days. We were supported by industry members from The Headfort Arms, Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa, The Johnstown Estate, Kandle Queen and Citynorth Hotel & Conference Centre



Marketing Materials

Boyne Valley Tourism have gone to print on an updated Boyne Valley Golf Guide. This will primarily be distributed digitally but there will be a small number of printed copies available for shows. We have produced a golf branded pull up banner also.

The new Boyne Valley Lightbox stand has been delivered and will be used for the first time at the stand at Bloom from 29th May to 2nd June.



Rural Regeneration



Vacant Homes	2025 total
Vacant Homes Identified	23
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2025	0
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2025	3

Derelict Sites	2025 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	42
No. of statutory orders issued	6
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2025	2
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2025	0

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2025 total
Approved Applications	32
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	24
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	33
Rejected Applications	2
Withdrawn Applications	24
Completed / Paid Applications	48
Total Applications Received	46
Total Approved Grant Funding	€3,154,493
Total Paid Grant Funding	€1,327,646

Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process (May 2025)	
Fr. Ryan Park, Duleek	T&V
Works Commenced (May 25)	
Environmental Reports for Laytown Park (Tara Rd)	MCC
Environmental Reports for Dunville Park	MCC

Trim Aura - Astro Pitch replacement	MCC
Works Completed (May 25)	
Learn to Cycle Track Blackwater Park	MCC
Blackwater Pak (3*3 Basketball court)	MSP
Navan Aura - Dry Changing Rooms phase 1	Sport Capital
Clár 2022 Newcastle Hall	DRCD & MCC
Clár 2023 Kilsyre - Surfacing of carpark	DRCD & MCC
Clár 2024 St Brigid's GFC - Fencing around perimeter of carpark	DRCD & MCC
Clár 2024 Carnaross GFC - Surfacing of Walking Track/Carpark	DRCD & MCC
Footapth at KADA Community Building	MCC

Community Development



Community Development

Meath Age Friendly

The Healthy Food Made Easy Programme started in the Kells Family Resource Centre on 15th May, which is being provided specifically for members of Meath Older Person's Council. This programme is an 8-week programme on nutritional advice for older people and hands-on experience with healthy cooking for older people.

Members from the Meath's Older Person Council were among 200 older people who attended the National Older Persons Council Convention, hosted by South Dublin County Council on 8-9 May 2025. The theme of this year's convention was 'The Wisdom of Years – A Lifetime of Perspective' and focused on preventive over reactive healthcare, brain health, and intergenerational solidarity as keys to ageing well. Meath Age Friendly will be piloting a new programme, "Security and Safety for Older People in Meath" with the first taster session taking place on 17th June in Athboy Covent Community Centre. An Garda Síochána will be there on the day to provide local information to older people in the area on staying safe and secure in different ways.

Public Participation Network

There are 773 groups registered with Meath PPN.

Plenary held in Duleek Community Facility on May 29th, with over 50 groups attending. Presentations from the Ombudsman, Community Link Worker, Governance and new Local Community Safety Partnership were given as well as networking and stalls from Sonairte, Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland and BHP community insurance.

National Conference planning continues, with 4 meetings of the stakeholder's subgroup.

4 excursions and 4 workshops will take place, along with a misinformation session and opportunity for networking.

The nomination to fill the Environment Pillar vacancy on LCDC is an agenda item on the June Council Meeting for approval.

Comhairle na nÓg

The second steering committee meeting of 2025 took place on 13th May 2025. Comhairle na nÓg members have developed a programme around their chosen topic of school stress to be worked on over the remainder of 2025. Currently they are formulating a response to Minister for Education, Helen McEntee on students right to switch off, completing the public consultation on policing priorities, and collaborating with Jigsaw on a mental health stigma reduction campaign. They also recently met with Cormac Ross, Meath County Council Senior Executive Engineer regarding the Navan 2030 project, with specific reference to Trimgate Street.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme

Funding recommendations for the Carranstown Environment Projects Grant Scheme 2024 were presented to the Laytown-Bettystown MD Members for approval at their meeting on 15th May and will go to Full Council for approval at their June meeting.

Knockharley Community Liaison Committee

The Knockharley Community Liaison Committee celebrated their 20 -year anniversary on 16th May with the announcement of the launch of the Knockharley Environmental and Community Projects Grant Scheme 2025. This grant scheme is open for applications until 13th June 2025.



Elected Members from Ashbourne MD and Liaison Committee members at the Launch of the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme 2025

Pride of Place

The submission date for Pride of Place applications was extended to May 23rd due to the low number of applications received. Judging will take place in July & August.

Community Grant Scheme

The Community Grant Scheme was approved at the full council meeting on Monday 12th May. Applicants have been notified. A total of 540 grants were approved.

The Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals & Participative Events Grant Scheme

The Regional Festivals & Participative Events Grant Scheme was approved at the full council meeting on Monday 12th May. Applicants have been notified. 8 grants were approved.

Local Community Safety Partnership

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

Local Community Safety Partnership Staff participated in the in-person consultation for the policing priorities with the Policing and Community Safety Authority on the 20th of May in Tullamore.

Local Community Safety Partnership Staff attended Summerhill Community Centre on the 19th of May with the Summerhill Community Gardai providing information on the Property Marking Machine and safety information.

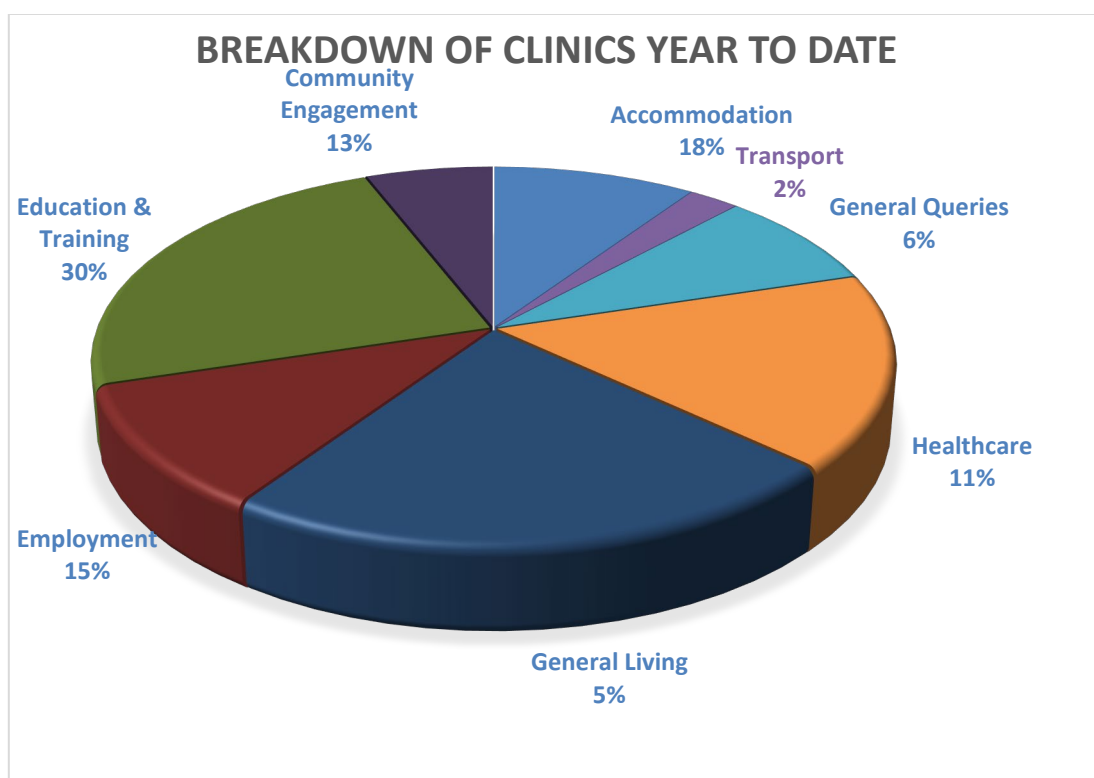
Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT continue to proactively hold drop-in clinics in all 20 commercial accommodation settings in Meath. We also carry out impromptu visits to centres and other locations if required to address issues as they arise.

In May there were **722** Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) of which **195** are children across 11 commercial settings in Meath and a further **927** of which **438** are children. in 9 centres hosting International Protection applicants (IPA's).

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

Number of Customer cases assigned YTD	171
Number of Customer cases closed YTD	149



The Integration Team facilitated:

- a visit to Newgrange for 26 Beneficiaries of Temporary protection from an accommodation centre in Navan on Friday the 25th April.
- The team in collaboration with Meath Sport Partnership organised for 14 IP children from The Lodge accommodation centre to attend a fun swimming camp over the Easter holidays
- The team in collaboration with Meath Sport Partnership organised a 6-week social soccer programme for IPs and BOTPs around County Meath. The programme started on Wednesday the 30th of April and is facilitated by an FAI coach
- A group of 26 IPA guests currently residing in East Meath alongside volunteers enjoyed a Heritage and Nature Walk at the Hill of Tara last Saturday 17th May, to the ancient seat of the High Kinds of Ireland



Attendees at the LAIT Visit to Newgrange

Meath Local Community Development Committee

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC meet on 23rd May.

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

The LAG met on 23rd May.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Final approval is awaited from the Department of Rural & Community Development of Local Enhancement Programme 2025. Grants were recommended by the LCDC on 28th March 2025.

Healthy Meath

Two days training for the Champions for the mental health project CommUnity Connects took place in Louth and Meath in May. CommUnity Connects is a collaboration between Health Meath and Healthy Louth.



Attendees at the CommUnity Connects Champions Training

The Healthy Meath Microgrant Fund allocation was approved by the LCDC at the April Meeting. 13 projects were awarded funding under healthy lifestyle and positive mental health themes.

<u>Healthy Lifestyle Projects</u>		
Cultur Migrant Centre	exercise classes for migrant women	€ 1,000.00
Whistlemount Day Centre	chair yoga & movement for day residents	€ 1,000.00
Trimfinity Arch Club	Camps & social activities for kids with additional needs	€ 1,000.00
Trim Family Resource Centre	light gardening, planting & movement for seniors	€ 1,000.00
Kildalkey Active Retirement Group	Yoga, hire of hall plus equipment for skittles	€ 800.00
Kentstown ICA Group	Activity Day out for older people to get active	€ 900.00
Youth Work Ireland Meath	Play outside initiative - tote bags with outdoor games for kids	€ 1,500.00
Ballinabrackey GAA Club	breathwork and reset class for 4 weeks	€ 800.00
		€ 8,000.00

<u>Positive Mental Health Projects</u>		
Clann Mor	Mental health wellbeing day for residents with intellectual disabilities	€ 1,500.00
Boyne Hockey Club	Teenage Hockey sessions plus wellbeing talks for 12 weeks	€ 2,000.00
Trim GAA Club	Healthy Club Wellbeing Series	€ 1,500.00
Down Syndrome Ireland	6 week of therapy & wellbeing sessions	€ 1,500.00
East Coast FRC	Mental health workshop, day out, activity & Bus costs	€ 1,500.00
		€ 8,000.00

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service



The National Convention of Older People's Councils took place over three days in May, hosted this year by South Dublin County Council and its Age Friendly Programme. The conference theme was 'The Wisdom of Years, a Lifetime of Perspective'. Speakers included Kieran O'Donnell TD (Minister for Older People), Professor Ronan Collins (Tallaght University Hospital), Moyagh Murdock (Insurance Ireland), Mike Hanrahan (musician) and Meath Co Council's Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe. A special consultation workshop on the Department of Rural and Community Development's new Rural Policy discussed challenges and opportunities for older people in rural areas. Delegates attended site visits to Age Friendly housing at The Weir, a walkability audit of Tallaght Stadium, and an active ageing exercise class, among others.

Minister Kieran O'Donnell visited four nursing homes in Counties Roscommon and Leitrim on 28th May to launch the new Community Linkage Project that will bring more community-based services and volunteering supports to people living in residential care. This initiative will benefit 200 nursing home residents over an 18 month period. Training has been provided for the staff champions assigned in the nine participating nursing homes.

Through a partnership with Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Ballybrophy Train Station in County Laois received Age Friendly recognition on 2nd May. Ballybrophy is the second station in Ireland to receive recognition. It is one of ten stations that Irish Rail are prioritising this year to future proof for ageing. The station now has Age Friendly car parking spaces, wheelchair accessible spaces and accompanying signage available on platform seating and waiting areas, and accessible toilets. Age Friendly Ambassador for Laois Anna May McHugh attended the event.

A walkability audit took place of Cavan General Hospital, one of the first steps towards making the hospital Age Friendly. Cavan is following the recent example of Monaghan Hospital, using the guidelines developed with St Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny.

Under the National Technical Programme, Age Friendly Housing & Public Realm training was delivered to Limerick City and County Council staff on 28th May and Cavan County Council staff on 16th May.

Age Friendly Ireland participated in two in-person stakeholders engagement sessions on 20th and 26th May on Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána organised by the Policing and Community Safety Authority.

A pilot programme has been launched in County Meath to develop an Age Friendly Workplace Recognition Programme. A stakeholder day took place on 29th May in Bellinter House Hotel with businesses from across Meath to hear their ideas on how to develop working environments that support older workers. A wide array of businesses took part including Bus Eireann, Emerald Park, Insurance Ireland, and Age Action. The guest speaker was from the Centre for Ageing Better in the UK.

The shared service made submissions in May in relation to the National Housing Plan, the Protection of Liberty Safeguards, and the Rural Safety Plan.

The National Age Friendly Recognition Awards are open for applications until 6th June.

A bespoke Age Friendly Communication Training Programme has been delivered to nursing home staff in 18 residential units across Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan. The programme trained 63 champions who will now go on to train their staff teams. The training content was developed by Age Friendly Ireland, based on interview material with residents of the nursing homes.

The annual Age Friendly Sports Day will take place on 25th September in the National Indoor Arena and will include Tai Chi, Cycling, Trishaws, Park Run, Cricket for All, Walking Football, Fitstix and an active class with weights.

Age Friendly Business training was delivered to 39 participants in 4 training courses from February to May, including Credit Unions (across the country), FBD, Hidden Hearing and Tírlan.

Age Friendly Ireland is participating in a special 'Housing for Older People' policy group chaired by Minister O'Donnell.

Training has been provided for Fire Officers & Local Coordinators for the Home Fire Safety Visit Collaboration between Healthy Age Friendly Homes and Sligo Fire Service, Leitrim Fire Service. The Community Fire team has devised a home fire safety checklist to include checks on electrical safety, night-time routine, drying clothes, cooking/smoking advice. A referral form has been developed and direct referral from HAFH Local Coordinators into the Fire Service was identified. Two Fire Officers call to older people's homes to carry out home fire safety checks and install smoke alarms. A Protocol of Collaboration agreement is now in place for this initiative.



Minister O'Donnell visits Shannon Lodge nursing home as part of the launch of the new Community Linkage Project.

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

488 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2025 to 30.04.2025. This is compared to 472 in the same period in 2024.

84.2% of the applications received in 2025 have been lodged via the online portal - ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

141 Valid Commencement Notices were received in the period 01/01/2025 to 30/04/2025. This is compared to 428 in the same period in the previous year.

The Commencement Notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	44
Multi-Units	53** Units
Extensions	45
Other*	28

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

One commencement notice has been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2025 to 30.04.2025

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

The collection figures for development contributions for the period Jan - April 2025 are as follows:

Receipt Period:	Jan – Apr 2025
Total Receipts	€ 1,470,027
Recoupments received	€ 0

Total Received	€ 1,470,027

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann receipts (€28,976).

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2025:	€ 8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan – Dec 2025:	€ 1,470,027
% collected:	18%

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2024 was €4,993,480.

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

86 Planning Enforcement complaints have been received since 01/01/2025.

43 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 30.04.2025

New Cases to be Investigated	23
Warning Letters	63
Enforcement Notices	10
Referred for Legal Proceedings	1
Closed	25
Court Attendances	21

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

5. Taking in Charge

12 developments were taken in charge by Meath County Council during the period from January 1st to April 30th 2025 as follows:

Ashbourne MD: Milltown Meadows,

Kells MD: Wilmount View, Lynfield both Kells & Borora Crescent Carlanstown

Laytown-Bettystown: Berford Duleek

Navan: Dunville, Navan; Metges Place, Navan; Rowleys Lock, Navan

Ratoath: The Rectory, Dunshaughlin, Cooksland Manor, Dunshaughlin; Kilmessan Village, Kilmessan

Trim: Maudlin Vale, Trim

6. Forward Planning and Projects

Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan Issues Paper	Report on submissions to Issues Paper in final stage and will be circulated to Elected Members in the coming weeks.
Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027	<p>Variation No. 4 to incorporate the Maynooth Joint LAP in the Meath County Development Plan currently on public display since the 16th May. Submissions can be received up to the 16th June, 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 Q3 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> <p>Consultants currently being appointed for Housing Need Demand Assessment and Housing Strategy.</p>
RZLT	<p>Closing date for filing and payment of lands subject to RZLT extended from Friday, May 23rd to May 30th.</p> <p>Landowner rezoning submissions currently under consideration – deadline June 30th.</p> <p>Work on creation of RZLT Monitoring system to commence.</p>
Masterplans	<p>The following draft Masterplans under preparation and under review:</p> <p>MP 23 – Bracetown/Gunnocks Business Park in Dunboyne</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>
Old Johnstown Village Public Realm and Regeneration Plan	The draft public realm and regeneration plan is on display between 6 th May and 19 th June. Submissions can be made during this time and must be received by 5pm on 19 th June.

7. Heritage & Biodiversity Projects

Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030	<p>Environmental assessments have been completed on the draft Meath Biodiversity Action Plan actions. A graphic designer and artist have also been commissioned to work on the draft plan.</p> <p>With funding from Creative Ireland, the Biodiversity Officer is also working with a producer to create a video piece that will be released to coincide with the launch of the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 in Q4 2025.</p> <p>Final text for the draft plan will be completed in June. The draft plan will go to public consultation in early Q3.</p>
Local Biodiversity Action Fund Projects 2025	<p>National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has agreed to grant €101,011.67 funding for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Meath Wetland Survey - Phase 1 • 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 <p>Projects are expected to be completed by Monday 10th November 2025 in order to complete grant drawdown.</p>
National Biodiversity Week 2025	<p>National Biodiversity Week 16th – 25th May was celebrated by Meath County Council with the provision of a programme of events for members of the public to enjoy.</p> <p>14 events were organised and run by the Biodiversity Office, serving 241 members of the public who chose to come along. Some of these events and activities were run in collaboration with the library service.</p> <p>In addition, 3 further events were supported by the Biodiversity Office, facilitating a further 77 members of the public.</p>



Figure 1. Ben Malone Biodiversity Officer showing participants the smaller wildlife visitors can find when they visit Balrath Woods.



Figure 2. Niamh Roche (Bat Conservation Ireland) highlighting the importance of mature trees for supporting bats at Sonairte, Laytown.



Figure 3. Ben Malone Biodiversity Officer with a group of enthusiastic attendees at Rachel McKenna's public talk, 'Step into Nature', at the Swift Cultural Centre, Trim.



Figure 4. Ben Malone Biodiversity Officer with a group of visitors to Girley Bog for a walk and talk event.

Climate Action and Environment



Climate Action

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. Six projects are now fully complete with 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	In Progress
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	In Progress
Summerhill CC	Solar Panels	€30,794.82	In Progress
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	In Progress
Athboy Celtic AFC	Solar Panels	€3,847.50	In Progress
Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG	Solar Panels	€46,970.43	In progress
Drawdown 3 – May 2025			
Club	Details	Amount	Project Complete
Athboy Celtic AFC	Solar Panels	€18,194.00	In Progress
Moynalty Community Council	Polytunnel for Garden	€1,670.00	In Progress
Drumree GAA	Safe Walkway & Cycle route, Bike Rack & Planters	€3,115.54	In Progress
Meadowbank hill Residents Association	Planters & Benches	€2,000.01	In progress
Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG	Solar Panels	€11,742.62	Yes

Bective GFC	Solar Panels	€2,394.44	In Progress
Drewstown House	Food Waste Machine	€16,805.16	In progress
Wilkinstown Community Centre	Solar Panels	€13,500.00	Yes
Athboy Development Forum	Solar Panels at St. James's Hall	€27,240.00	In Progress
Summerhill Community Centre	Pollinating Shrubs and Plants	€4,360.67	In Progress
Boardsmill GAA	Replacement of Lights to LED on Training Pitch	€20,146.25	In Progress
Drawdown 4 – August 2025			
Final Project Drawdown - 6th January 2026			

EcoGrow Campaign



The EcoGrow Initiative is starting on Saturday, May 17th and will run an event in each Decarbonising Zone until the end of May. The initiative will include workshops to teach attendees how to create and use compost from food waste, how to grow their own food using spring plants, allowing them hands-on experience of the same. They will also be taught how to make fertilizer from kitchen resources, the principals of biodiversity, the importance of native plants, sustainable garden practices which encourage biodiversity and habitat diversity in garden design.

EPA data shows: The average Irish household throws out 150 kg of food waste each year: at a cost of approximately €700. Food waste in landfill breaks down to methane gas which is a potent Greenhouse Gas.

EcoGrow is Meath County Councils initiative to help the public learn more about how you can use food waste for eco-friendly gardening to grow your own food. The outcome from this project will be the reduction in volumes of food waste to landfill.

EcoGrow		Composting & Gardening Workshops	
MAY 2025	SAT 17	Navan, Claremount Stadium	14.00-17.00
	TUES 20	Kells - Deerpark (AS2N9PS)	09.30-12.30
	TUES 20	Dunboyne GAA Pitch	14.00-17.00
	THURS 22	Ashbourne Library	09.30-12.30
	MON 26	Trim FRC	09.30-12.30
	MON 26	Dunshaughlin Pastoral Centre	14.00-17.00
	TUES 27	Ratoath GAA Pitch	09.30-12.30
	FRI 30	Duleek Community Facility	09.30-12.30
	FRI 30	Bettystown Library	14.00-17.00
			

EcoChic Campaign



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.

Dates for June, we are encouraging participation and attendance from our Elected Members. We are promoting these events via our social media.

Date	Day	Time	Zone	Location	Event
04/06/2025	Wednesday	9.30am - 12pm	Slane	Slane Library	Sashiko Workshop
07/06/2025	Saturday	11am - 3pm	Ratoath	Ratoath Community Centre	Clothes Swap
13/06/2025	Friday	9.30am - 1.30pm	Duleek	Duleek Community Centre	Clothes Swap
20/06/2025	Friday	11am - 1.30pm	Dunboyne	Dunboyne Library	Vaida Rascuite Workshop
27/06/2025	Friday	2pm - 4pm	Navan	Buvinda House	Clothes Swap

Environment Awareness

Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards 2025

Meath Beaches received three prestigious Awards at the An Taisce Blue Flag and Green Coast Award Ceremony. The awards were presented by Mr. James Browne TD – Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the presentation ceremony held in the Ravenport Resort in Curracloe, County Wexford on May 19th. Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Browne, who presented the award flags noted “Given that the Blue Flag programme is an internationally recognised symbol of high standards in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety, I am honoured to present a record number of awards today – 99 Blue Flags and 70 Green Coast Awards.”

Meath received a Blue Flag for Bettystown Beach and two Green Coast Awards for Bettystown and Mornington Beaches.



Green Schools 2025

Twenty-five Meath schools received their Green Flag at the Green Schools Awards in Dundalk on Wednesday 21st May. St. Patricks Classical School received their 'Water' Flag together with St Ciarans Community School, Kells and Ratoath College. Five schools received their Litter and Waste Flag – Loreto Secondary, Dunshaughlin Community College, Enfield Community College, Colaiste Ríoga Dunshaughlin. Franciscan College Gormanston, Ashbourne Educate Together, Coláiste Pobail Rathcairn, Scoil Naomh Bríde Trim and St Marys National School Enfield received their Travel Flag. Biodiversity Flags were awarded to Navan Educate Together, Duleek Boys National School, St Stephens National School Johnstown and Gilson National School Oldcastle. Global Citizenship Flags were awarded to Carricleck N.S., Scoil Oilibheir Naofa Kilcloon, Kilmessan N.S., Castletown Kilpatrick N.S., Kilbride N.S. Trim, St Joseph's N.S., Scoil Colmcille Skryne, Scoil Mhuire Moylagh and St Patricks N.S. Slane.

Green Schools is a whole school environmental awareness, action and award scheme, known internationally as Eco-Schools, that promotes long-term, whole-school action for the environment. It

is undertaken by sixteen million students in 82 countries around the world. In Ireland it is managed by An Taisce with support from Local Authorities. The program helps schools reduce waste, conserve energy and water, and increase environmental awareness.



Water Quality Update

Our Farm inspection programme is ongoing in the Nanny, Delvin, Martry, Kilmainham (Dee), Dee and Stoneyford catchments; pre-inspection letters have been issued, and inspections are underway.

Meath County Council are currently participating in a pilot programme regarding notified movements of organic fertilisers as part of the National Agricultural Inspection Programme working group.

Coastal Protection Update

Our Environment Dept and our Consultants RPS Ireland Ltd presented an update on the 'Meath Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management' Study to the Laytown Bettystown MD at the May meeting.

Issues raised by the Members at the meeting will be taken on board in the study which is due for completion in June 2025.

Libraries Services and Arts Office



Navan Library Book Club earns Special Merit Award at KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2025



The *Stay Up All Night Book Club* was set up in Navan Library in September 2023 in collaboration with the Louth Meath Branch of Down Syndrome Ireland. The young adults attend monthly meetings in the library which is facilitated by two dedicated library staff members. They have developed a successful and creative format for the club, resourcing a wide range of reading material and supplemental tailored resources including video, music and art to engage the club members each month.

As part of this year's programme the book club participated in the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards Junior Juries' Programme, a unique activity for schools, libraries and book clubs, designed to encourage children and young people to read widely and to engage with reading in an innovative and exciting way. At the recent KPMG Children's Books Ireland Book Awards ceremony, the achievements of the club were awarded a Special Merit Award.

The group travelled by bus to the ceremony in Merrion Square where they were joined by Sinéad Flynn from Down Syndrome Ireland's Adult Education Department. Each member received a €50

book voucher and a special mention from the KPMG representative on stage. They were interviewed by RTÉ Junior Radio who broadcast the interviews on Monday, 26th May. They also met award-winning authors whose books they had read as part of the Junior Juries programme, two of whom have agreed to visit the book club later in the year.

The group enjoyed the experience, and it should encourage them to continue their reading journey as part of the book club.

Europe Day

Diversity, creativity, and culture were celebrated across Meath Library service during May, as part of Europe Day celebrations 2025. Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs Communicating Europe Initiative, a variety of events were designed to foster awareness in our young EU citizens of their place in the EU.

Children put their knowledge to the test in an exciting series of table quizzes, the sessions were brought to life by fun and vibrant musical interludes celebrating the anthems of Europe with musician Caithríona Madden. Young people were invited to test their Lego engineering skills while building iconic European landmarks; explore European identity with A Passport to Europe art and creativity workshop and take part in multilingual story times and craft sessions.

Many of these story times were facilitated by library staff each from their own diverse cultural background. These story sessions introduced children to new languages, sounds and traditions, while fostering cultural appreciation and inclusion in our local communities.

Creative Ireland: Cruinniú na nÓg



Funded by the Creative Ireland Programme, Cruinniú na nÓg is a national day of free creative activity for children and young people. In 2024, over 1,800 children participated in Meath Cruinniú na nÓg events.

This year Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on Saturday, June 7th with a vibrant programme of free creative events for children and young people across County Meath. This year's activities will centre around East Meath and Trim and will include a strong programme for schools.

The programme will also include a special morning of events in Mosney Accommodation Centre for the children living there, delivered in collaboration with Louth County Council.

All events have been thoughtfully designed following a consultation process with children and young people, ensuring that the programme reflects their voices, interests, and creative aspirations. The result is a diverse and engaging schedule that promotes inclusivity, imagination, and active participation.

Bookings for Meath Cruinniú na nÓg opened on Friday, May 23rd. For further information and booking details for all events, please visit <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/cruinniu-na-nog-2025>

Arts Office Arts Grants Awards and Bursaries 2025



71 grants approved under five award schemes at May Council meeting, applicants notified of outcome of their submissions.

Three further Awards live for applications May 2025:

Age & Opportunity Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Award

In partnership with Meath and Louth County Councils. This award aims to support professional artists of 50+ to develop their practice, by creating time and space to think and reflect on their work and to bolster their peer network. This will be achieved through a dedicated bursary to attend a residency over the course of a week. Two artists (one based in Meath and one based in Louth) will receive a funded week-long residency in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre including a small stipend. The residency must take place between July and December 2025.

Closing date: **Thursday 19th June 2025, 1pm**

Meath Culture Night Event Grant Scheme 2025

Culture Night is an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts, taking place on **Friday 19th September 2025**. This award supports artists, venues and local arts/cultural organisations who wish to host a Culture Night event in County Meath. The event must take place between 4pm and 11pm on Friday 19th September and be free of charge to the public. Maximum amount available up to €800.

Application close: **Friday 20th June, 1pm**

Belfast TradFest new All-Ireland Residential Bursary Scheme – Meath Bursary

New in 2025, the **Meath Bursary is a cross border partnership** as part of the recently announced **Belfast TradFest new All-Ireland Residential Bursary Scheme for young traditional musicians**. The scheme offers fully funded places at its traditional music summer school, taking place from 28 July to 1 August 2025. It is open to applicants aged 18–23 residing in both Northern Ireland and, for the first time, the Republic of Ireland. The summer school provides an intensive week of masterclasses, workshops, performances and sessions. Based at Ulster University's campus in Belfast, the programme will be taught by leading traditional artists including fiddle player Kevin Burke, singer Iarla Ó Lionáird, Scottish harpist Catriona McKay, Shetland fiddle player Chris Stout, singer Cathy Jordan, tin whistle player Mary Bergin, fiddle player Zoë Conway, and guitarist John Doyle. This cross border scheme aims to support one participant from each county on the island of Ireland and covers tuition fees, accommodation, meals and full access to the programme of afternoon events. To apply, applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to learning and contributing to traditional music. Priority will be given to musicians from disadvantaged groups and those facing financial barriers in attending the summer school. Applications close: **6pm on Monday 2 June**. Further information available at www.belfasttradfest.com.

Meath Artist Meet-Up (MAMU) Workshop & Gathering Series



Two full houses for workshops held recently at the Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub as part of the Meath Artist Meet-Up (MAMU) Workshop & Gathering Series. *Funding Application Workshop for Artists* with Lian Bell and *How to Create Unforgettable Characters Workshop* with Deirdre Kinahan. After each workshop, there was an opportunity for artists to gather & enjoy a light lunch together. The MAMU Workshop & Gathering Series is supported by The Arts Council. Next workshop *Arts Producing Knowhow - making your idea a reality* with Kath Gorman takes place on June 11th. This is a professional development morning for artists, emerging producers and local communities who want to put on arts events/develop arts projects. Experienced producer Kath Gorman of Promenade will take artists through the nuts & bolts of producing e.g. budgeting, marketing, project planning, the role of the producer, how to get their project idea off the ground and top tips for working with and finding the right producer. Date: Wednesday 11th June, Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm

Toradh Gallery 2 Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub

'Melting, Moving, Mesmerising' by Mary Clarke
26th March – 28th May 2025

This latest exhibition of new work by Navan based artist Mary Clarke explores the themes of climate change and the environment. Mary's collection of vibrant, layered and abstracted images confronts the viewer, both subtly and directly, in an effort to provoke a reaction. Her work engages with the audience's imagination, to stimulate conversation, in the hope of igniting positive action. Presented

by Meath County Council Arts Office, this collection of thought-provoking photographic prints, collage and works on paper ran until 28th May 2025.

On Thursday May 15th, **80 pupils from Our Lady of Mercy Junior School** took part in three workshops in the gallery with Artist Mary Clarke.



ig2
Kells Courthouse
Tourism and Cultural Hub
Headfort Road, Kells, Co. Meath

Melting, Moving, Mesmerising

An exhibition of work by Mary Clarke
26th March - 28th May 2025

meath county council
ARTS
cultural services for all

arts council
council on the arts

toradh gallery

Opening hours:
Mon - Fri: 9:00 - 5:00
Saturday: 9:00 - 4:00



Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

Working with Co Library Services and the Culture Team in the delivery of Cruinniú, a day of free creativity for children and young people, Saturday, 7th June.

Funded by the Creative Ireland Programme, Cruinniú na nÓg is a national day of free creative activity for children and young people. This year Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on Saturday 7th June with a full programme of events taking place in East Meath and Trim. Creative Ireland is calling on all

young people to 'unleash your creative spark'. All Cruinniú na nÓg events are free of charge, child-centred and activity-based. For further information and booking details for all events, please visit <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/cruinniu-na-nog-2025>

Creative Ireland Live Music in Residential Healthcare Settings Scheme 2025

Application under this scheme submitted to Creative Ireland in partnership with Louth County Council Arts Office and Music & Health Ireland. **Amount of €20,000** awarded to continue the highly successful ***Tea, Chats & Tunes*** programme in Meath and partnership with Louth facilitated by Music & Health Ireland. TCT partners day held at Dalgan Park, May 23rd.

Festivals:

Congratulations to Arts Office supported festival **Another Love Story** who won the **Best Small Festival Award** at the recent IMRO Live Music Awards 2025. Another Love Story takes place at Kilyon Manor each August.



Working with **Hinterland Festival of Art & Literature (June 26th – 30th)** and **Type Trail Festival (June 26th – August 31st)** re programming, hosting and supporting events in 2025.

Bealtine Festival 2025

Worked with Age & Opportunity and county library Services in delivery of Bealtine 2025 events and opportunities. Packed house for Songs & Souls theatre and music performance event at Bettystown Library with award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan and internationally acclaimed Musician Steve Wickham (Waterboys).



Finance



Housing Loans :

LAHL Data 1 st January 2025 to 23 rd May 2025		
Fully Completed Applications Received	19	2025 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Invalid Applications	1	2025 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	2025 applications
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	2	2025 applications
Active Approvals	21.36	14 relate to 2025, 6 relate to 2024, 1.36 relate to 2023
Expired	12	12 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	5.42	4 relate to 2024, 1.42 relate to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2025 to 23rd May 2025 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023 and 2024. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Other Information:

Public Consultation has commenced under Section 15 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 for the making of a scheme providing for the waiver of rates.

Meath County Council welcomes written submissions from the public on this matter specifically covering the potential effects of a scheme providing for the waiver of rates on businesses, individuals and on local authority services.

Submissions must be received by 12pm on Thursday the 5th of June 2025 and be sent to:

The Administrative Officer, Meath County Council, Finance Department, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 Y291, or by email to waiver@meathcoco.ie