

# Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

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July 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

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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

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### Corporate Affairs

#### FÉILE NA GEALAÍ – LÁ TEAGHLAIGH

Bhí réimse leathan imeachtaí trí Ghaeilge ag tarlú i gcontae na Mí sa leabharlann Ráth Chairn ar an Sathairn 8 Meitheamh mar chuid de lá teaghlaigh d'Fhéile na Gealaí; agus bhí na himeachtaí seo maoinithe faoin mbuiséad Oifig na Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mí – ceardlann chartúin le Coimicí Gael (Aidan Courtney); seisiún spráúil ceoil agus drámaíochta le Cleamairí Feirste (The Belfast Wren Boys) agus seisiún suaimhneas intinne le Marian Conneely.

#### FÉILE NA GEALAÍ - FAMILY FUN DAY

There were a broad range of events through the Irish language taking place in Co. Meath in Ráth Chairn library on Saturday 14 June as part of the Féile na Gealaí family fun day; and these events were funded under the Meath County Council Irish Language office budget.

Three sessions took place that were suitable for young children; a cartoon workshop with Coimicí Gael (Aidan Courtney); a fun music & drama session with Cleamairí Feirste (The Belfast Wren Boys) and a mindfulness session with Marian Conneely.

#### **Acknowledging 40 Years of Service**

Meath County Council organised a special event at Buvinda House to acknowledge a remarkable 40 years of service from Cllr Brian Fitzgerald. Guests enjoyed heartfelt speeches, shared memories, and recognised the impact of Brian's work over the decades, highlighting his leadership and tireless advocacy for the community.



### Event Guide: June Bank Holiday Weekend

To celebrate the June Bank Holiday, Meath County Council created and promoted an event guide featuring activities from around the county, published across all Meath County Council digital channels. By showcasing local events, the guide aimed to foster community spirit and encourage participation in the diverse offerings available in Meath.



### Flag Raising Ceremony in Bettystown

Meath County Council organised a flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the recent achievements of both Bettystown and Mornington beaches at the International Blue Flag and National Green Coast Awards, which recognise the best beaches in Ireland. The flags raised symbolise not only the

excellence of the beaches but also the community's commitment to preserving their natural beauty for future generations.



#### **Corcubión Delegates Visit Council HQ**

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Wayne Harding, Cathaoirleach of Ashbourne MD Cllr. Conor Tormey, Chief Executive, Kieran Kehoe and elected members were pleased to welcome Francisco Javier Domínguez Traba, the Mayor of Corcubión, and his wife to Meath. The delegation engaged in meaningful discussions centered around enhancing collaborative ties between the two regions, exploring opportunities for cultural exchange, and promoting mutual growth. The visit highlighted a commitment to fostering international relationships and shared interests, showcasing the welcoming spirit of the Meath community.



## A Message from our Newly Elected Cathaoirleach

In this engaging video, our newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr Wayne Harding outlines his vision and key initiatives for his upcoming term in office. Viewers can watch the complete video on our various social media channels.



## Corporate Governance

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

The following are the number of requests received in Q2 2025:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q2 - 2025	37		

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

The following are the Q2 2025 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q2- 2025	8	1	

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q2 2025 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

<b>Subject Access Requests</b>	<b>SAR's</b>
Q2 - 2025	5



# Housing Services



## Capital Programme

### Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE</b>			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q3 2025	Q2 2027
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2026	Q1 2027
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>		
<b>SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS &amp; DETAILED DESIGN</b>			
Kells, Archdeaconry*	22	TBC	TBC
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells*	47	TBC	TBC
<b>COMBINED PLANNING STAGE &amp; DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>		
<b>TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q3 2025	Q4 2027
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q3 2025	Q2 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>			
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>		
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>283</b>		

**\*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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	43
Donacarney	Part V	2
Drogheda	Part V	30
Duleek	Part V	10
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	33
Enfield	Part V	28
Kells	Part V	14
Kilcock	Part V	4
Navan	Part V	45
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
<b>Total</b>		<b>434</b>

**Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 26<sup>th</sup> June 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	5
Julianstown	Part V	2
Ballivor	Turnkey	8
Bettystown	Turnkey	8
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Navan	CAS	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>111</b>

**Affordable Housing**

Meath County Council are offering two new affordable housing schemes at present.

Effernock, Trim, Co Meath – 8 units, Offers issued to successful applicants, 6 have accepted and 14 offers not accepted, 2 from our reserve list have until 01/07/2025 to accept.

Beaufort, Boyne Village, Navan, Co Meath – 7 units, Offers issued to successful applicants. 6 have accepted and 7 offers not accepted, 1 from our reserve list has until 30/06/2025 to accept.

**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 €614,442.67 including VAT was submitted for approval to DHLGH on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.
- This includes 56 disabled persons grant units for €522,730.59 and 1 disabled persons grant extension units for €91,692.08.
- This brings the total to 57nr. LAAWS applications scheduled to be completed in 2025.
- Funding for €427,643 has been confirmed by the Department, with the remaining funding expected to be confirmed later this year. Application for the remaining funding has been made.
- 19nr. 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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - **€4,343,714** including MCC match funding.

396 grants awarded to the value of €2,887,005.53 up to 16.06.2025

### Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy upgrade works are currently ongoing on 14 occupied properties in addition to energy upgrades on voids properties. 48 properties have been approved by the Department for the 2025 EERP Programme.

### Local Authority Planned Maintenance

599 Stock Condition Surveys were completed from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 up to 26<sup>th</sup> June 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 27th June 2025.

	<b>No. of Units Vacant &lt; 3 Months</b>	<b>No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months</b>	<b>No. of Units Vacant &gt; 6 Months</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractor</b>
Kells	4	4	4	9	3
Navan	17	8	4	15	14
Ashbourne	2	0	1	3	0
Laytown/Bettystown	2	1	2	3	2
Ratoath	0	0	0	0	0
Trim	1	2	3	6	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>

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

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>AHB</b>	<b>Estimated Completion</b>
Gardenrath, Kells	12	Cluid	Q2/Q3 2025
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	21	Cluid	Q3 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
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>103</b>		

#### 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	33	Cluid - CALF
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	12	Respond - CALF
Emmett St, Trim	12	North & East - CALF
<b>Total Number of Units Delivered</b>	<b>62</b>	

#### Cost Rental

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

#### Homelessness – May 2025

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	181 (185 Adults)	85 (127 Adults, 130 Children)	266
Placements at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	178 (182 Adults)	78 (115 Adults, 122 Children)	256

Of the households with children, 71 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.

#### January 2025 – April 2025 Presentations

Reason for EA Presentations	Total Numbers
NTQ	49
Family Circumstance	42
Hospital /Prison /Care	32
Couch Surfing/Cannot Afford	62
Rough Sleeping	10
Other	0

<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>
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#### May 2025:

256 bed allocations were availed of by service users.

9 beds were available (1 Trim, 3 Navan, 1 Athboy & 4 Drogheda)

Meath County Council is not the sole user of the 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.

59 Presentations as Homeless were made. This comprised of 23 Families.

Reason for EA Presentations	Total Numbers
NTQ	19
Family Circumstance	13
Hospital/ Prison /Care	8
Couch Surfing /Cannot Afford	14
Rough Sleeping	3
Other	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>

#### Family Figures: The increased trend of families exiting EA continues for May.

11 Families exited EA in May. This comprised 19 Adults & 12 Children

Reason for EA Family Exit	Total Numbers
MCC Allocation	3
Not availing of Bed	3
Other	4
Private Rented	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

#### Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 31.05.2025

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
<b>Families</b>	113	-	-	-	18	51	44	0
<b>Couples</b>	8	-	-	-	3	4	1	0
<b>Singles</b>	174	-	-	-	12	51	96	15
<b>Children</b>	122	31	45	46	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>15</b>

### Homeless HAP Placefinder 01/05/2025-30/05/2025

<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	3
Homeless Prevention	2
In Progress	7

### Tenant Liaison Team May 2025

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	76	48
Occupancy of dwelling	41	41
Garden upkeep/maintenance	18	18
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	5	4
<b>Total April 2025</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>ASB Investigations on going at (month end)</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>ASB Investigations completed (month end)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Number of Pre Tenancies completed in May 2025</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Abandonments for May 2025</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Houses taken back into stock for May 2025</b>	<b>5</b>

### Warnings Issued 2025

Warnings	March	April	May	Total
Verbal	3	1	0	4
Written	1	0	1	2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Written	0	2	0	2
Statutory	0	0	0	0
Advisory	5	3	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>

**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	3	1	10	5	1	1
June	0	0	1	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

**Standards in Rented Accommodation**

1,872 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of May 2025. Of this figure, 589 were first inspections, 21 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).

46 Improvement Notices and 5 Prohibition Notices were served from January to May 2025.

**Social Housing Supports - for period 1st May to 31st May 2025**

- 233 applications received for Social Housing
- 88 applications approved onto the Social Housing List
- 37 applications unsuccessful

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

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
MCC Direct Allocations	31
Transfers	2
Approved Housing Bodies	16
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	24
Long Term Leasing (inc Private MTR)	2
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>



# 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 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025. Notification from An Bord Pleanála received on the 25 <sup>th</sup> of April informing us that no Oral hearing will be required for ABP to make it's determination. Awaiting decision from An Coimisiún Pleanála.
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	Road safety improvement works and resurfacing scheduled to commence mid July 2025

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>€21,366,350</b>
<b><u>Scheme</u></b>	<b><u>Update</u></b>
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Phase 1 = 55% complete – 16 no schemes
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)	Phase 2 = 7% complete - 5 no schemes completed to date (surface dressing is weather dependent)
Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)	Phase 3 = 52% complete - 10 no schemes completed to date
Phase 4 (Wearing Course)	Phase 4 = 52% - 10 no schemes completed to date including 3 schemes completed under nightworks
Community Involvement Scheme	Works to commence 1 – 2 weeks
Local Tertiaries	Works to commence 1 – 2 weeks

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

<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€1,200,000</b>
<b><u>Scheme</u></b>	<b><u>Update</u></b>
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 process for consultants completed and awaiting approval from DOT to award contract.

## 2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€470,000</b>
<b><u>Scheme</u></b>	<b><u>Update</u></b>
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	Works ongoing. Scheduled to be complete by end of July 2025.	
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Bridge works complete.	
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Parapet works and public lighting complete. Resurfacing yet to be completed in May/June 2025, subject to weather conditions.	
Ballivor Bridge	Works ongoing. Scheduled to be complete by end of July 2025.	
Ashbourne Bridge	Works complete	
BAMS Engineering Inspections (2025)	Inspections to commence Q3 2025	
Verdons Bridge	Consultants appointed	
Aclare Bridge	Consultants appointed	
Graultys Bridge	Consultants appointed	
Piercetown Bridge	Tender documents for consultants being prepared.	

## 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 Planned (July 2025 est. completion)  Keenaghan Drainage Improvement €35,000  R-151 Mornington €30,000 Planned  R-191-8 Leitrim Lower Culvert Upgrade Works €30,000  L-8036-5 Edgeworth Court, Longwood €30,000 completed  L-62251- Rathcore €30,000 planed  L-1011-15 Irishtown, Ardcath €30,000  L-4011-10 Corballis €25,000 planed  L-80045-5 Church Road, Athboy €25,000  L-5615 L-5615 Pilltown Road €10,500 Planned  Total €540,500</p>
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## 2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€750,000</b>
<b><u>Scheme</u></b>	<b><u>Update</u></b>
R132 (Former N1)	Sustainability proposal received and submitted to the DoT for final approval, works to commence early July.

## 3. Active Travel Grants

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>NTA</b>
<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€12,000,000</b>
<b><u>Scheme</u></b>	<b><u>Update</u></b>
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	The tender period has expired, and the submitted tenders are being assessed. It is anticipated that the successful and unsuccessful tenderers will be notified by the end of June 2025.

NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	The review process for the options is approaching completion. A further option to optimise existing road space on the R147 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/early Q3 2025. The schools art competition is being judged and the winners will be notified in due course.
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Paving work substantially completed in Preston Place laneway. Paving works at entrance to Fairgreen car park completed. Watermain section on Old Cornmarket tested. Paving and kerbing works on Church Hill and Sheep Fair area ongoing.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	A design review continuing.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beachmount to Balreask Manor	The Part 8 Statutory display and submissions periods have expired, and submissions are being reviewed in preparation of Chief Executive's report.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	A non-statutory public consultation to commence on 26 <sup>th</sup> of May to 23 <sup>rd</sup> of June.
Dunboyne and Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	Preliminary Design (preparation of Part 8 planning documents) being finalised for Section 1 of the scheme,

	Dunboyne to Clonee Active Travel Links. Design Workshop complete with the NTA, minor alterations required. MCC continuing to meet with landowners whose lands may be impacted by the proposed scheme. Masterplan for the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne due to be submitted for NTA review in early July. Update to be provided to Elected Member early August.
Castle Street Ashbourne	Tenders assessment for the appointment of a consultant engineer to develop an Active Travel Scheme along Castle Street Ashbourne now complete. Consultant appointment process ongoing, design works to start late July.
Johnstown Village Active Travel Scheme	Feasibility and Route Option Selection Report now complete and due for submission to the NTA for their review.
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 have now completed the scheme and have undertaken a survey to determine the impact of the scheme, data currently being processed. Scoil Naomh Eoin Clonmaggaden and St. Stephens Johnstown are scheduled to take part in the scheme in September.
Dangan NS, Summerhill	Further traffic calming works to be implemented at Dangan NS during the school summer holidays. A raised crossing will be provided at the existing pedestrian traffic lights, while the ramps will be reconfigured to further reduce speed.
<b>Safe Routes to School</b>	
St. Stephen's NS, Navan	In Tender Process Stage
Beaufort College, Navan	In Tender Process Stage
St. Colmcille's NS, Kells	In Tender Process Stage

Our Lady of Mercy NS, Kells	In Tender Process Stage
R161/Borallion	Preliminary Design now complete, with public consultation to follow soon.

#### 4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
Grant Allocation	
<b><u>Scheme</u></b>	<b><u>Update</u></b>
<b>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</b>	
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibstown Car Park	Works progressing on the footpath from the Gibbstown Greenway crossing to Kilberry.
Greenway Surfacing	Tenders received for the replacement of the open grade Greenway surfacing with bituminous surfacing. 5,800m of surfacing to be installed. The section between Nobber and Castletown loops will be surfaced. Surfacing will then progress south from the Castletown loop towards Wilkinstown. Works to commence in September.
Poles Car Park	Tender received for the construction of the Greenway car park at Poles Greenway crossing. Appointment process ongoing. Works to commence on site in October.

#### 5.Other/Projects

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Update</b>
Oldcastle Public Realm 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 Athboy Main Street Public Realm scheme. Feasibility and Route Options Selection report being developed.
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. Scheme currently expected to be substantially complete early Q4 2025.
R162/ Clonmaggaden Road Junction Navan Traffic Lights	Contract awarded and works expected to commence on site end of June 2025 to provide traffic lights to the junction.
R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming	Works substantially completed on site. Road Safety Audit carried out and some minor additional works expected to be carried out shortly.

## 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 has proceeded 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. Permission to proceed to procurement for Stage 2 Works received from Southern Regional Assembly

## 9. Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)

Scheme	Update
<b>Upgrade &amp; Development of the existing Seafield Sports Facility at Corballis, Laytown, Co. Meath</b>	Open Service procurement procedure for the appointment of a Landscape Architect-led Multi Disciplinary Design Team was published on eTender on 15 <sup>th</sup> 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. Stage 2 Service procurement process to appoint an Architect-led Multi-Disciplinary Design team published on eTender on 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Buvinda Council Chambers & Offices	Works tender document preparation is currently on-going. Stage 1 Works Tender received from e- tenders on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025. Works tender documents for Reserved

	Specialist Mechanical and Electrical published on eTender on 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Solstice – Frontage	In discussion with original Architect

## 11. National Speed Limit Review

Scheme	Update
National Speed Limit Review	<p>The first phase of implementation of the national Speed Limit Review saw the reduction from the default 80 km/hr to a default 60 km/hr on rural local roads. The Council completed this phase of the work, involving installation of the new 60 km/hr signs throughout the County, in Q1 this year. The next phase of the review is the introduction of a 30km/hr speed limit in built-up urban areas. The Department of Transport are currently preparing Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland to ensure a common approach among all local authorities in determining the extent of the areas where the 30 km/hr speed limit would be appropriate. These guidelines are required before the draft byelaws for the built-up and urban areas can be finalised to go on public consultation and adoption by the elected members. Therefore, until the guidelines are available, it is not possible to give a date for the completion of this second phase.</p>

## Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism



### Launch of Hinterland Festival

The Economic Development and Arts teams were delighted to attend the launch of the Hinterland Festival on May 29<sup>th</sup> in the Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub. The festival comprises wonderful experiences, attracting hundreds into the county from 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June.



### European Year of the Normans 2027

The Economic Development team attended a stakeholder meeting in Dublin Castle on June 18<sup>th</sup> on European Year of the Normans 2027. The compere for the afternoon was Michael MacDonagh, Chief Archaeologist in the National Monument Service and was attended by President of the Normandy Region, the Ambassador of Ireland, Ambassador of France and the French Senator. Round tables discussion took place amongst the stakeholders on proposed events and potential collaboration around the year-long Norman festival. Trim Castle was featured as the backdrop for the duration of the meeting.



## Remote Working Hubs

Statistics for **Dunshaughlin Hub** - as of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - an increase of 156 views, 1 member and 11 order bookings.



Statistics for **Enfield Hub** – as of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - an increase of 166 views and 13 order bookings.



## Flogas Irish Women's Amateur Open

Meath County Council was proud to support the Flogas Irish Women's Amateur Open which concluded on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at the stunning Headfort Golf Club Championship Course.

The Irish Women's Amateur Open tournament is a three-day event, with 94 players in total competing at the Kells venue creating a great buzz and excitement in the area. It was a very successful weekend of action with the prestigious event drawing in many visitors to the county over the course of the weekend.



### **The Centre of Food Culture**

The Centre of Food Culture hosted two events, part of its wider programme of ten events scheduled so far for this year; “A Foraging Journey by the River Boyne with Jenny Boylan” on 31<sup>st</sup> May and “Meet the Cheesemaker; Michael Finegan Boyne Valley Farmhouse Cheese” on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Samhain Festival of Food and Culture (flagship festival for The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley) was announced as one of the four major festivals in Meath and Louth contributing to the region’s Home of Halloween campaign supported by Fáilte Ireland for the next three years.

### **Local Enterprise Office**

#### **Leo Activity Report – June 2025 - Grants, Programme Supports, Mentoring & Training**

<b>Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Business Advice Clinics</b>	<b>25</b>
Mentoring Assignments Approved	18
Attended Online Training Courses	29
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	5
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	2
Digital for Business	2
Grow Digital Voucher	1
LEAN for Micro	2
Energy Efficiency Grant	4
Transfers to EI	1

LEO provided a presentation to the Business Network International (BNI) network during the month, on all of its services.

### **Primary Schools Enterprise Programme**

Congratulations to Méabh Hayes from St Dympna’s National School Kildalkey who won this year’s Primary School Enterprise Programme prize of a Pizza party for her class along with a trophy for the school.

### **Meath Made and Boyne Valley Tourism at Bloom**

Bord Bia Bloom 2025 attracted more than 100,000 visitors to Dublin’s Phoenix Park throughout the June Bank Holiday weekend and the Meath Made and Boyne Valley Tourism stands welcomed thousands over the 5 days of the show.



### **Tourism Press Visits**

The Boyne Valley received three great pieces of press coverage during the month, in the following publication, links provided for information:

[The Belfast Telegraph | The hidden gems scattered through Ireland's Ancient East](#) This originated from the April group press visit

[Lonely Planet | The ultimate weekend in the Boyne Valley, Ireland](#) This originated from the May UK group press visit

[Trip Reporter | Insider Guide to the Boyne Valley](#) This was also from the May UK group press visit

### **Marketing Materials**

The Tourism office has arranged for 500 copies of the new golf guide to be printed and distributed to all golf courses and hotels in the region.

The team is also in the process of distributing the A5 strut card with QR code link to the Boyne Valley Holiday Guide to all members. This will be completed by the end of June.

# Rural Regeneration



Vacant Homes	2025 total
Vacant Homes Identified	31
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2025	2
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2025	3
Derelict Sites	2025 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	39
No. of statutory orders issued	13
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2025	2
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2025	2
Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2025 total
Approved Applications	35
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	29
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	33
Rejected Applications	3
Withdrawn Applications	24
Completed / Paid Applications	48
Total Applications Received	46
Total Approved Grant Funding	€3,117,560
Total Paid Grant Funding	€1,605,271
Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
<b>Part 8 Process (June 2025)</b>	
Drumconrath Recreational Space & Enterprise Building (Commenced)	TCF T&V
Dunshaughlin Sensory Garden Part 8 Display (Completed)	MCC
<b>Works Commenced (June 25)</b>	
Balrath Wood - Entrance Upgrade Works	ORIS
Environmental Reports for Laytown Park Lands (Tara Road)	MCC



Longwood Playground - out to tender	TVRS
Castletown - Cottage Refurb - out to tender	TVRS
<b>Works Completed (June 25)</b>	
Kilmainhamwood to White Wood Lake Footpath	ORIS
Navan Aura - Dry Changing Rooms phase 2	Sport Capital
Clár 2023 Kilsyre - Public Lighting element (Project now fully completed)	CLAR

# Community Development



## Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The highlight of June was the LAIT Father's Day Exhibition organised as part of Refugee Week from (16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> June). The LAIT managed a preparatory writing workshop in East Meath Civic Centre with 32 participants from Ashbourne Court Hotel and The Lodge Wilkinstown. In the workshop participants explored their experiences of fatherhood.

The Exhibition, participant writings and accompanying video was launched by Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June in the Restaurant in Buvinda House with invited guests who had participated in the project.





The video can be viewed here [Last Friday, we launched our Father's Day Photography exhibition, 'Shared Strength; Portraits of Fathers in our Community'. The exhibition features the... | By Meath County Council | Facebook](#)

The CIF was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June and as part of the Regional Visits, the Local Government Management Agency and the Department of Justice were in attendance. They were presented with a comprehensive booklet on the Meath Community Integration Forum as well as being updated by the form with presentations from the members in attendance.

The LAIT continue to proactively hold drop-in clinics in all centres with populations of more than 15 people. We also carry out impromptu visits to centres address issues as they arise. To date in 2025 80 clinics have been held

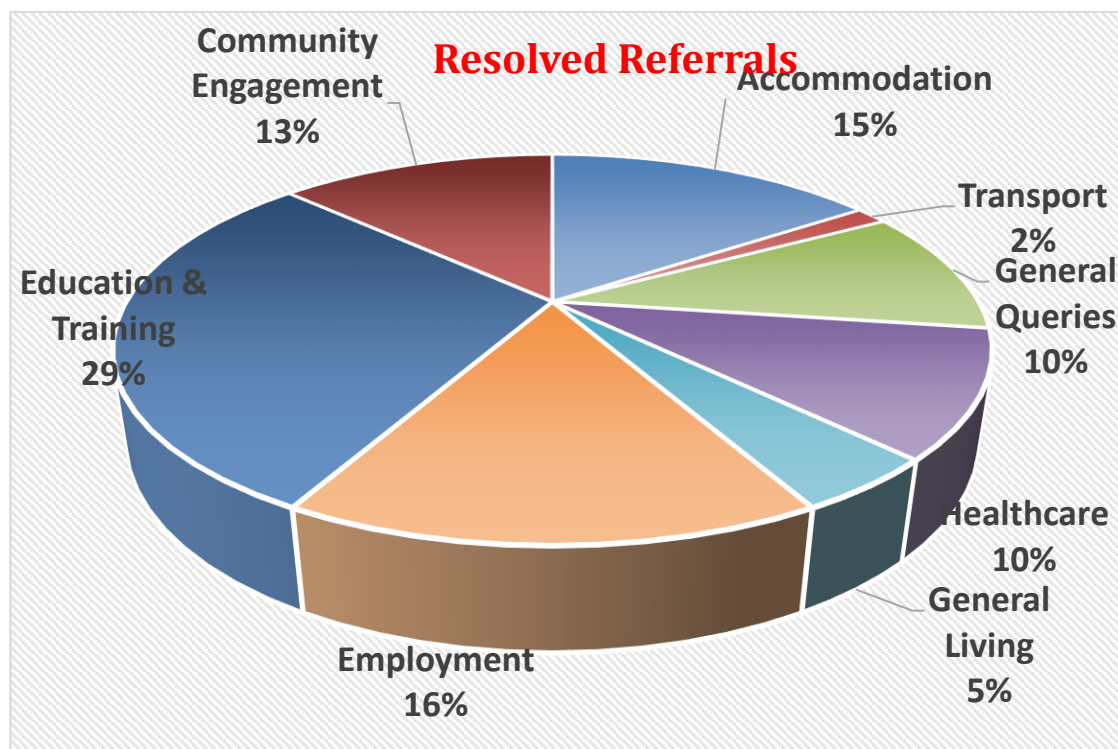
**Customer Service Cases Logged 2025:**

Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	<b>21</b>
Number of Customer cases closed	<b>202</b>

**Current numbers accommodated in Meath**

<b>UKR</b>	<b>697</b>
<b>IP</b>	<b>989</b>

The graph below represents the cumulative breakdown of interactions (202 logged) year to date 2025. The Support Workers have met with these guests. This illustrates the main categories of queries for newly arrived and more established refugees of any status.



## **Community Development**

### **Public Participation Network**

There are 776 groups are 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.

The nomination of Michael Gunn to the Environment Pillar vacancy on LCDC was approved at June Council meeting.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

Meath Comhairle na nÓg are continuing their work alongside Jigsaw Meath on a stigma reduction campaign that will culminate in a public event in October this year. This project is supported by Meath CYPSC.

Meath Comhairle na nÓg contacted both Minister for Education and Youth Helen McEntee and Senator Linda Murray Nelson and requested their support on the young person's right to switch off from school communication outside of school hours. They have requested that the Minister and Senator's assistance in organising for their departments and committees to survey secondary school students on the effects on young people and their families when communications come in late at night or at the weekend. Meath Comhairle na nÓg have offered to help develop and disseminate the surveys so effects of these communications can be measured.

Members of Meath Comhairle na nÓg will attend a regional member meeting in July with other Comhairlí from Leinster.

Jamie Singh, a member of Meath Comhairle na nÓg will represent Meath Comhairle na nÓg on the National Youth Assembly.

### **Carranstown Grant Scheme**

The Carranstown Grant Scheme 2024 recommendations will be presented at the July Full Council Meeting for approval. Groups will then be notified of their allocations.

### **Knockharley Community Liaison Committee**

The Knockharley Environmental and Community Projects Grant Scheme 2025 closed for applications on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025. 8 applications were received.

### **Meath Age Friendly**

The pilot Security and Safety Information Session for Older People in Meath was held in the Athboy Convent Community Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> May. 43 older people were in attendance. Presentations and talks were given by the Meath Crime Prevention Officer, the Meath Fire Service, Task Community Care and the Meath Local Sports Partnership.

### **Pride of Place**

Judging for the Pride of Place scheme is currently taking place, 212 projects were entered into this year's scheme.

## **Meath Local Community Development Committee**

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The LCDC met on 27<sup>th</sup> June and the LCDC approved the SICAP 2025 Mid-Year Review.

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

The LEADER LAG met on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Local Enhancement Programme 2025**

Successful projects under LEP 2025 were announced by Ministers Buttimer and Calleary on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2025. Grant offer letters have issued to all groups in Meath who were successful.

### **Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)**

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

Property Marking event held in conjunction with An Garda Siochana Meath North Community Engagement team and the Irish Farms Association at Carnaross Mart on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June.





# Planning



## 1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

636 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2025 to 31.05.2025. This is compared to 637 in the same period in 2024.

83.8% of the applications received in 2025 have been lodged via the online portal – ePlan.

## 2. Commencement Notices

186 Valid Commencement Notices were received in the period 01/01/2025 to 31/05/2025. This is compared to 476 in the same period in the previous year

The Commencement Notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	59
Multi-Units	63** Units
Extensions	59
Other*	33

\* 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 30.05.2025

### 3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

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

#### **Receipt Period: Jan - May 2025**

Total Receipts	€ 1,848,709
Recoupments received	€ 0
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<b>Total Received</b>	<b>€ 1,848,709</b>

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann receipts (€29,601).

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2024 was €6,078,788.

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2025:	€ 8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan – May 2025:	€ 1,848,709
% collected:	23%

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

101 Planning Enforcement complaints received since 01/01/2025.

73 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 31.05.2025

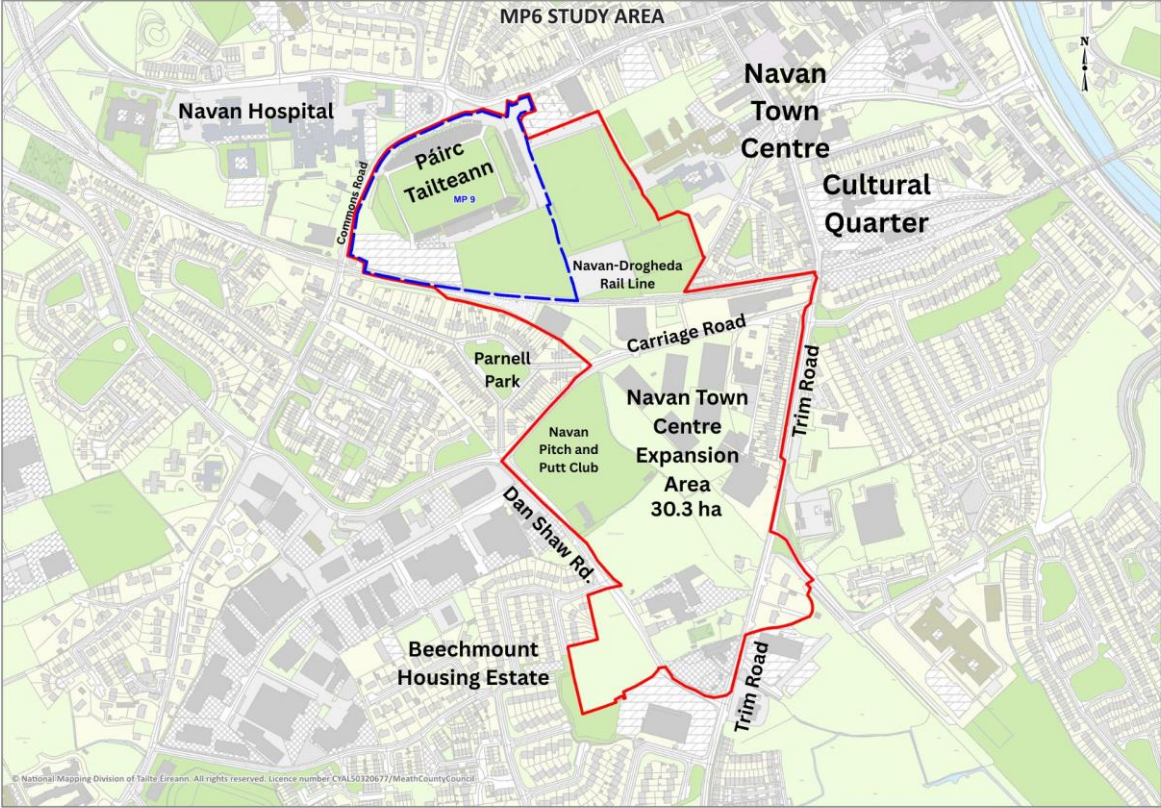
New Cases to be Investigated	19
Warning Letters	103
Enforcement Notices	13
Referred for Legal Proceedings	1
Closed	29
Court Attendances	33

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

### 5. Forward Planning and Projects

<b>Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan Issues Paper</b>	The report on submissions to Issues Paper is in final stage and will be circulated to the Elected Members in the coming weeks
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<b>Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027</b>	<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 would go on display in Q3 of 2025.</p> <p>Review of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 to commence in Q3. Tender preparation underway for assessments required to inform the new County Development Plan.</p>
<b>Old Johnstown Village Public Realm and Regeneration Plan</b>	<p>Public consultation closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and submissions are currently being assessed.</p>
<b>Navan Town Centre Expansion Area Master Plan</b>	<p>Preparation of the overall Master Plan for lands in Navan off the Trim Road and Carraig Roads has commenced. The lands have been designated to provide for the extension of Navan Town centre and the potential location for the future Navan Central Rail Station as part of the new proposed Navan Rail Line.</p>  <p>These lands are zoned in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 for primarily 'Commercial Town or Village Centre', mixed uses as well as community and open space. They predominantly include the area of Masterplan 6 and 9 as identified in the Development Plan.</p> <p>Currently underutilised, these lands have the potential to accommodate a major new town centre expansion area based on sustainable transport and will regenerate the site through the development of the Navan Central Rail Station and complementary commercial, retail and residential</p>

	<p>development. The rail station and a civic plaza in this new urban quarter will be a focal point in any future development, with commercial uses being complementary to the core retail area of the town.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for relevant stakeholders and the public to get involved in the plan making process through pre-draft consultation. An online survey is currently published on Consult <a href="https://www.consult.meath.ie/">https://www.consult.meath.ie/</a>.</p> <p>The deadline for completion of the survey is Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.</p>
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## 6. Heritage & Biodiversity Projects

<b>Community Monuments Fund</b>	<p>Two Stream 1 projects were awarded funding: Ardcath Church and St Patrick's Cathedral, Trim.</p> <p>Conservation Teams comprising of Conservation Architect/Engineer, project archaeologist and ecologist have been appointed. Tender drawings and specifications are currently being finalised. Ardmulchan Graveyard – Phase II Conservation works have been completed which included structural repairs to consolidate the upstanding remains of the medieval church, boundary wall, entrance gate and selected tombs within the graveyard.</p> <p>Two Stream 2 projects were awarded funding: Kilberry Graveyard and Old Athlumney Graveyard. Conservation teams have been appointed to undertake surveys and works are progressing.</p>
<b>Community Heritage Grant Scheme- 21 applications</b>	<p>All 2025 applications have been assessed; 19 projects have been awarded funding with two projects supplying further information.</p> <p>All projects will hold a Heritage Week event.</p>
<b>Heritage Week</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2025. Event Planning underway.
<b>Irish Walled Town Network – Trim and Athboy</b>	<p>Conservation Team have been procured and appointed to lead conservation works to Trim Town Walls. Tender drawings and specifications are currently being finalised.</p> <p>Tender process complete for the appointment of consultants to prepare Athboy Town Wall Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan.</p>

The **Residential Zoned Land Tax** was introduced in the *Finance Act 2021*. The tax aims to activate serviced, zoned land identified for residential or mixed use. The aim of the tax is to boost housing supply, prevent hoarding and regenerate vacant, idle urban land.

The land parcels for the RZLT have been identified by the Planning Department through the identification of lands zoned for residential and mixed use, that have access to the necessary services to develop the land, and are not subject to exclusionary criteria that would render the site undevelopable. Such criteria include contaminated, inaccessible lands, lands containing recorded

monuments, lands in use for recreational, or infrastructural purposes amongst other exclusionary criteria.

The RZLT process has two parts:

- 1) Identification and mapping of the land in scope for the tax. This is undertaken by local authorities through the publication of annual draft and annual final maps
- 2) Administration of the tax. This will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners.

The draft map for 2026, published on 1 February 2025, identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026.

### Liability

A Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) will be charged each year on land that:

- Is zoned for residential or mixed use and;
- Has access to necessary services such as water supply, roads and lighting
- Is not subject to any exclusion criteria, and is therefore, placed on the annual RZLT map.

For land that becomes liable to RZLT, the tax begins to be charged in the third year following the year it is zoned and serviced. For example, land that came under the rules for RZLT in 2022 will be charged RZLT for the first time in 2025.

RZLT does not apply to existing residential properties. If a property is liable for Local Property Tax, it is a residential property and is not liable to pay RZLT. Notwithstanding this, guidance issued to Planning Authorities requires the RZLT Annual map to include existing residential zoned lands.

The rate of RZLT is 3% of the market value of the land. The market value is self-assessed by the landowner.

Meath County Council currently have 41 sites on the register with the 2025 RZLT liability totaling €498,600. The bulk of this liability related to 6 land parcels.

The Meath Residential Zoned Land Draft Map 2026 is available to view:

<https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/residential-zoned-land-tax-annual-draft-map-2026>

The RZLT Map must be reviewed and published annually for public consultation and is required to:

- Add newly serviced land parcels to the RZLT map annually
- Remove land parcels that have been developed and therefore are no longer subject to the tax.

Separately to this exercise, the Council must maintain an up-to-date register of all lands within their ownership, purchased and disposed of within any given year, to ensure accuracy of RZLT payments.



# Climate Action and Environment

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## Climate Action

### Community Climate Action Programme Fund

Support and empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities to contribute to national climate and energy targets.

The projects focus on five key themes: Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, and Local Climate and Environmental Action.

Of the 25 approved Meath projects:

7 Projects are complete.

11 Projects are in progress.

7 Projects are not started but due to start in the next 3 months.

€309,703.13 of the approved €810,908.17 for the Community Climate Action Projects in Meath has been paid out to community groups to date.

### EcoGrow Campaign





The EcoGrow Campaign ran from Saturday, May 17th to Friday, May 30th with an event held in each Decarbonising Zone. Led by Craig Benton from Benton Eco Solutions, the training involved a series of events to teach community mentors and members of the public on how to reduce food waste, compost and grow food.



*Picture 1 Attendees at an EcoGrow Event*



*Picture 2 Composting information at an EcoGrow Event*

## 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.

Since then, there have been nine additional clothing swaps and fifteen upcycling & sewing workshops through quarter two. To date a total of over 420 people have attended the events with 1,200 items of clothing swapped. Inferred data regarding carbon savings, water savings and plastic savings will be available for the following monthly report.

### **Water Sensor Project**

The Climate Action Section are commencing a pilot project using soil moisture sensors to reduce overwatering in the Navan Area throughout Summer 2025.

The methodology behind the project is that the sensors will inform Climate Action of the moisture levels letting us know where needs water and if areas are being overwatered to reduce water usage. Climate Action will then work with the Navan MD to ensure the watering schedules are created to reduce overwatering. A similar project was conducted in Wrexham in Wales and saved them approx. £32,000 and 1,000 litres of water daily over a 7-month period using fifty sensors.

At present, approx. twenty sites have been identified for the sensors, a trial sensor has been ordered, and a dashboard has been created and connected to the LoraWAN network for the data to be communicated to the MD.

### **Energy**



Following ISO 50001 Certification in 2024, NSAI conducted the first annual surveillance audit on Meath County Council's Energy Management System (EnMS) in May to ensure ongoing compliance. The audit revealed no non-conformities, and the auditor commended the work being completed by Meath County Council and its staff. Auditor's comments on the management system included *"Well managed EnMS management system"* and *"a lot of progress being made and a lot of good plans in place."*

### **Animal & Food Controls Update**

Environment Section are in the process of transferring services undertaken by Local Authorities under its SLA with the FSAI over to the DAFM. Engagement is ongoing with the DAFM in relation to inspection duties associated with the Dog Breeding Establishments and reviewing the recent update in relation to the Control of Dogs (XL Bully) (Amendment) Regulations 2025.

## Libraries Services



### My Open Library

The My Open Library service (MOL) has launched in Slane Library. MOL is already successfully operating in Trim and Enfield Libraries where it has been embraced by both local communities.

Slane library is a welcoming space at the heart of the local community, and it is even easier to visit now with the introduction of the new My Open Library service. The service is available daily from 8AM -10PM 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It's perfect for commuters, students, families and adults looking for a quiet space at a time that suits them.

MOL members can connect to the Wi-Fi, access library PCs, study, print/ photocopy and enjoy the library space. Adults over 18 and students over 16, with guardians' permission, may join the service.

Pictured is Slane's first MOL user, Deborah Harding who reports she finds the service 'very easy to use and convenient'. Slane Library Assistant, Carol Donnelly, has had lots of feedback from users since the launch and reports that users 'love the quietness and peace of the place'.





## Summer Stars and Summer Events Programme

Meath County Council Libraries launched the Summer Stars Reading Adventure at Trim Library, on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Cathaoirleach of the Trim Municipal District Cllr Ronan Moore launched the programme.

Children from all over the county are encouraged to join and receive an activity book and a seeded bookmark. This year's programme also sees the return of the ever-popular reading rewards.

To complement the Summer Stars Reading Adventure, a programme of over 70 facilitated events is planned across all libraries for July and August. These include local crafters from the MeathMade collective, workshops from Our Kids Code, magician Billy Bubbles, book-themed Science workshops from Anyone4Science, and more. Alongside the facilitated events, library staff will also lead a host of in-house Storytimes and workshops.



## Library Literacy Initiatives

- Literacy initiatives led by Meath Libraries include four outreach Family Literacy workshops in community settings, workshops for upcoming DEIS school camps in July, and a collaboration with LMETB Adult Education to support Adult Learners in accessing the library on a term-by-term basis. By giving bespoke training to Adult Educators, library skills and library visits will be embedded into their workplan.
- Meath Libraries has worked with the Local Area Integration team to do outreach at IPAS Centres to identify needs and promote library services for residents.

- All Meath Library staff are completing literacy and Plain English awareness training as part of their continuous professional development.

### **Creative Ireland - Cruinniú na nÓg 2025**

Cruinniú na nÓg Meath 2025 saw a vibrant celebration of youth creativity, with a total of 1,618 children participating in a diverse programme of events and projects. Activities began in April and culminated in a dynamic day of free creative experiences on Saturday, June 7th.

In the weeks leading up to the main event, an extensive programme took place across primary schools in East Meath. Highlights included:

- The creation of an original comic written by children, developed in collaboration with Louth County Council. Now available in all Meath Libraries.
- Dance workshops, percussion sessions with the National Concert Hall, and cartoon drawing through the Irish language.

Engagement extended beyond schools to involve a range of youth and community groups including a creative project with Foróige's Navan Young People's Development Project, a circus and literature outreach programme with young people from the East Coast Family Resource Centre, an Act Out Youth Theatre Meath Casting/Audition workshop and a community mural project developed with Jigsaw Meath and Trim Family Resource Centre.

The culmination of the festival on June 7th featured a day-long programme across multiple venues, including Bettystown Library and Trim Library. A morning of activities also took place in Mosney Accommodation Centre, in collaboration with Louth County Council.

Cruinniú na nÓg Meath 2025 successfully highlighted the power of youth creativity and community collaboration, providing inclusive, accessible, and inspiring opportunities for children and young people across the county.



### **Creative Ireland – “A Voice” - Foróige Music and Visual Art Project with Artists Mark Smith and Alun Smyth**

As part of an exciting creative Cruinniú na nÓg initiative, young people from Foróige’s Navan Young People's Development Project collaborated with artists Mark Smith and Alun Smyth to produce a compelling body of work combining music and visual art. Over the course of the project, participants explored themes of identity, community, and expression through a series of guided workshops.

The outcome of this project includes six original visual art pieces, which are currently on public display in the window of Navan Library, offering visibility and recognition for the young creators in their local community. In addition, a powerful audio-visual piece developed during the project has been shared across the Meath County Library social media platforms, reaching a wider audience and showcasing the depth of talent and creativity involved.

Looking ahead, these artworks will form part of the 2025 Kells TypeTrail, ensuring the work receives further exposure. This project not only fostered artistic skills and confidence among participants but also strengthened their connection to their community through meaningful creative expression.



### **Local Studies**

Bettystown Library will host Meath Archaeological & Historical Society's July event in its 2025 programme. Teacher, local historian and chairperson of Bellewstown Heritage Group Colin Byrne will deliver a lecture entitled *The Story of Old Mosney*.

Tom French's new book from Meath's own Gallery Press, entitled *The Convent of Mercy*, will be launched at the West Cork Literary Festival (13 July) and at a Gallery Press event in O'Connell House, Merrion Square, Dublin 2 on 17 July.

*He does not say  
they kept their edges sharp.  
He says they carried stones  
to keep them tuned.*

— 'A Scythe'

Tom French has steadily built a distinct, consistent and coherent body of work. His clear lyrics and narrative poems display a virtuosity of sentence and stanza. Poems embrace domestic and historic subject matter and touch on contemporary global unrest. From field notes at the back of his house to his daughter's school tour, from a poem centred on an image of joy in the immediate aftermath of a school's rugby final to a Tipperary epithalamion, Tom French reaches far. But 'The Road from Schiphol', a harrowing account of a pilgrimage to the site of a family tragedy, is a new kind of achievement.

*The Convent of Mercy*, blending wry humour and deep empathy, is the work of a poet 'in complete command of his materials' (Thomas McCarthy, *Dublin Review of Books*).



Tom French was born in Kilkenny in 1966 and raised in Tipperary. *Touching the Bones* (2001) was awarded the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. The Gallery Press has also published *The Fire Step*, *Midnightstown*, *The Way to Work*, *The Last Straw*, shortlisted for the *Irish Times Poetry Now Award*, *The Sea Field* and *Company*, winner of the 2023 Pigott Poetry Prize in association with Listowel Writers' Week.

He lives with his family close to the coast of County Meath where he works in the local studies department of the County library service. He received the Dermot Healy Award in 2015 and the O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry in 2016.

'Sailor Torso (Hunting)' (2013) by John Kindness  
lime frescoe on reinforced plaster  
Author photograph by Siella Wynne

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Tom French **THE CONVENT OF MERCY** Gallery Books

# THE CONVENT OF MERCY

Tom French





## Finance



### Housing Loans :

LAHL Data 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025		
Fully Completed Applications Received	20	2025 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	1	2025 application
Invalid Applications	2	2025 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	2025 application
Approved by Credit Committee	16	1 relates to 2024, 15 relate to 2025
Refused by Credit Committee	2	2025 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	16.14	13 relate to 2025, 1.78 relate to 2024, 1.36 relate to 2023
Expired	14	14 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	12.87	4 relate to 2025, 5.22 relate to 2024, 3.65 relate to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023 and 2024. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.