

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

7th July 2025 @ 1.30p.m.

Buvinda House, Navan (and online via zoom)

Presiding: An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Wayne Harding

Councillors Present:

Councillors Fionnán Blake, Joe Bonner, Peter Caffrey, Eugene Cassidy, Padraig Coffey, Francis Deane, Sean Drew, John Duffy, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Carol Lennon, Gerry O'Connor, Caroline O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly and Emer Tóibín

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Mike Bray, Yvonne Everard, Suzanne Jamal, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Paul O'Rourke, Amanda Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan and Conor Tormey.

Apologies:

Councillors Dave Boyne, Eddie Fennessy, Helen Meyer, Ronan Moore and Maria White

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Kieran Kehoe

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Dara McGowan, Martin Murray, Fiona Fallon, Pádraig Maguire, Gerry Boyle

Meetings Administrator: Elaine Daly

Apologies: Barry Lynch, Director of Service

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on June 9, 2025

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on June 9, 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on June 9, 2025

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on June 9, 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

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2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Nick Killian and Joe Bonner queried the current position on the zoned lands in Ashbourne that were recently the subject of a Part 8 application. The Chief Executive responded to queries raised.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

3.1 Expressions of sympathy were extended to:

The family and friends of the late Lord Henry Mount Charles.

To Kerr County, Texas, and its residents following the devastating flash floods that have resulted in numerous fatalities and widespread damage.

The family and friends of the late Finian Englishby, former Chairman Meath County Hurling Board.

4.0 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- 4.1 To consider the disposal of 0.0164Ha of land by way of transfer of a freehold interest at Donore, Co. Meath, in accordance with Statutory Notice dated 21st May 2025.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on 21st May, 2025 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

- 4.2 To consider the disposal of 0.0049Ha of land by way of transfer of a freehold interest at Cakestown Glebe, Kells, Co. Meath, in accordance with Statutory Notice dated 16th May 2025.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on 16th May, 2025 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Affairs and Governance

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- 5.1.1 Appointment of Councillor to Meath Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee following the resignation of Cllr Stephen McKee

As proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**, seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew** and unanimously agreed, **Councillor Padraig Coffey** was appointed to Meath Comhairle na nÓg.

- 5.1.2 Appointment of Councillor to the Regional Health Forum following the resignation of Cllr Sarah Reilly

As proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**, seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew** and unanimously agreed, **Councillor Paul O'Rourke** was appointed to the Regional Health Forum.

5.2 Finance

- 5.2.1 To consider the report of the Chief Executive prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022

For the purpose of resolving as follows:

- a) Vary the basic rate and set a local adjustment factor that will apply for a period as specified by the resolution, or
- b) Not vary the basic rate

Ms. Fiona Lawless, Director of Finance, provided details of the four reports that were to be considered in accordance with the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022. It was noted that as a revaluation was taking place in 2025, the Revenue Commissioners required confirmation of whether or not the basic rate was to be varied before 31st August 2025. It was also noted that the public consultation period took place from May 28, 2025 to June 26, 2025 and 61 submissions were received. It was further noted that every 1% variation would impact the budget in the sum of €231,376 and that there was a preliminary gap of €528,730 in the estimate of income and expenditure for next year. The Chief Executive's recommendation to vary the basic rate of +15% was noted.

There were interventions from **Councillors Michael Gallagher, Gerry O'Connor, Padraig Fitzsimons, David Gilroy** and **Alan Lawes**. The impact of the revaluation, including increases in the base rate and the widening of valuation bands, was noted.

Councillor Michael Gallagher proposed to decrease the basic rate by 10%, this was seconded by **Councillor Fionnan Blake**.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor proposed to not vary the basic rate, this was seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.

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There were no further proposals.

In accordance with Section 18.7 of the Standing Orders, the motion proposed to not vary the basic rate was put to a roll call vote.

	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
ADENUGA, Yemi	✓			
BLAKE, Fionnan		✓		
BONNER, Joseph	✓			
BOYNE, Dave				✓
BRAY, Mike	✓			
CAFFREY, Peter		✓		
CASSIDY, Eugene	✓			
COFFEY, Pdraig	✓			
DEANE, Francis	✓			
DREW, Sean	✓			
DUFFY, John	✓			
EVERARD, Yvonne		✓		
FENNESSY, Eddie				✓
FITZGERALD, Brian	✓			
FITZSIMONS, Pdraig	✓			
FOX, Joe	✓			
FRENCH, Noel	✓			
GALLAGHER, Michael		✓		
GILROY, David	✓			
HARDING, Wayne	✓			
JAMAL, Suzanne	✓			
KEOGAN, Geraldine	✓			
KILLIAN, Nick	✓			
LAWES, Alan				✓
LENNON, Carol	✓			
McKEE, Stephen	✓			
MEADE, Paddy	✓			
MEYER, Helen				✓
MOORE, Ronan				✓
MURPHY, Maria	✓			
O'CONNOR, Gerry	✓			
O'REILLY, Caroline	✓			
O'ROURKE, Paul	✓			
REILLY, Sarah	✓			
SMITH, Amanda				✓
TOBIN, Alan				✓
TÓIBÍN, Emer	✓			
TOLAN, Sharon	✓			
TORMEY, Conor	✓			
WHITE, Maria				✓

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Results: For – 28, Against – 4, Abstain – 0, Absent - 8

In accordance with the results of the roll call vote above the Elected Members resolved to not vary the basic rate, for a period of one year from the next Local Property Tax liability date.

5.3 Community

- 5.3.1 To approve funding allocations to community groups/organisations under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme as recommended by the Elected Members of the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The funding allocations were proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

5.4 Planning

- 5.4.1 To consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning & Development Act, as amended, on submissions to Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, and to consider making, not making or modifying the Proposed Variation.

Variation No. 4 comprises the replacement of the Maynooth Environs Written Statement in the Meath CDP 2021-2027 with the adopted Maynooth Joint LAP 2025-2031 Written Statement.

Mr. Alan Russell, Senior Planner outlined the salient details of the proposed variation.

On the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**, the Elected Members unanimously resolved to make the proposed variation no. 4 comprising the replacement of the Maynooth Environs Written Statement in the Meath CDP 2021-2027 with the adopted Maynooth Joint LAP 2025-2031 Written Statement.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Management Report

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian, Sean Drew, Brian Fitzgerald, Michael Gallagher** and **Alan Lawes**:

Matters raised included County Meath's high ranking in recent benchmarking social housing delivery figures, high level of housing inspections, challenges associated with purchasing land for social housing and opportunities for increased cost-rental delivery. The success of the recent Hinterland Festival was also noted.

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On the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**, it was unanimously agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to seek funding to enable local authorities to purchase unzoned land for housing construction.

6.2 Report from Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator noted that the CPG met on Monday, June 30 2025, to consider the draft agenda and arrangements for the July Council Meeting.

She noted that the CPG members had considered arrangements for the nomination to the presidential election and it had been agreed to hold a special meeting in September, once the Presidential Order has been signed.

She further outlined that the report of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, EU Affairs and Rural Regeneration SPC were approved and uploaded to the Resources Section of Decision Time.

Finally, it was noted that the Conference and Training Schedules were approved and circulated.

7.0 Correspondence

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.0 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"To ask the executive to provide a summary of upcoming funding application that are available to all communities in the Co Meath area for 2025?"

Response

The Council is currently updating a previous document which outlines details of community grants available within the County. This will be circulated to all Elected Members when it is complete.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

"Please provide in tabular format a schedule detailing the location and size of the 41 sites of zoned development lands owned by Meath County Council that were liable to RZLT during May 2025 of €498,600. Please also list the stage of design/planning/construction for residential development, that each of these 41 Meath County Council owned sites is currently."

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Response

Table included in Appendix 1.
Noted by the Elected Members.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Yvonne Everard

"How many unresolved cases are Planning Enforcement currently dealing with?"

Response

Unauthorised Development- Enforcement Overview- Year to date.

- ♦ 94 complaints recorded on the complaints register and triaged accordingly. (This figure does not include internal referrals received)
- ♦ 72 new cases set up in 2025.
- ♦ 104 Warning Letters issued.
- ♦ 13 Enforcement Notices issued.
- ♦ 1 file referred for legal action.
- ♦ 29 UD Files Closed.

Cases in Court for period 01/01/2025 up to end of June 2025 is 33 cases. To clarify that this figure does not reflect the number of Court cases attended by MCC witnesses but is the number of planning enforcement cases that were listed for Court, be it for mention or hearing or to be withdrawn. This number does not include cases for JR's etc or MCC as Notice party.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"Could Meath County Council give an update on its plans to move community grant applications online and time-lines related to this?"

Response

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The Community Department has completed an initial scoping exercise to identify the essential functionalities for the development of a new online Community Grants System.

An online system is proposed to streamline the grant application, assessment, and reporting processes for all community grants operated by the Community Department. The system will enhance efficiency, transparency, and data analysis capabilities. We are collaborating with our IT Department on the design and system configuration, and it is intended that the system will be rolled out for the 2026 community grant schemes.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes

"I am calling on Meath County Council to ensure that all emergency accommodation facilities have a current fire certificate."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

A "Minimum Standard for Emergency Accommodation" is currently being prepared and if agreed and where applicable, the need for a valid fire certificate can be included in the minimum criteria. It is anticipated that the draft document will be presented at the next meeting of the Housing and Integration SPC.

Councillor Alan Lawes introduced the motion and he welcomed the response. He also sought clarification in relation to applicable properties. Clarification was provided by Ms. Fiona Fallon. The motion, together with supporting information, was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Lawes** and seconded by **Councillor Carol Lennon**.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"That Meath County Council amends the design of parking tickets issued from its public parking machines to include an adhesive strip or section, similar to those used in other local authorities, to allow motorists to securely affix the ticket to the inside of their vehicle windscreen. This small change would ensure better visibility for traffic wardens, reduce the number of disputed fines due to dislodged or misplaced tickets, and improve the overall efficiency of parking enforcement across the county."

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Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Parking Services has been advised that instances of tickets blowing away or falling down are very rare, and fines issued in these cases can be appealed and resolved with proof of payment.

New meters were installed in the 3 towns in 2020. The type of ticket cannot be changed without removing and replacing all meters.

Meath County Council is endeavouring to maximise the use of modern technology, and as the life cycle of our current meters ends, we will replace the current meters with “Modern Smart Parking Meters”, allowing options such as:

Contactless and multi-payment options: Accepting coins, credit/debit cards, mobile wallets, and apps. **negating the need for a ticket altogether.**

License Plate Recognition (LRP): Enhancing enforcement and reducing the need for physical permits.

Dynamic pricing: Facilitating adjusted rates based on demand, time of day, or special events.

Energy efficiency: Many new meters are solar-powered and designed for low energy consumption.

Our Parking Team checked with other Local Authorities and was advised that none of them use adhesive tickets at present.

Councillor Emer Tóibín introduced the motion and she welcomed the response, noting the provision to appeal parking fines with proof of payment. The motion, together with supporting information, was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

10.0 General Interest Motions

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

"That this Council supports the call for the creation of a National Public Holiday in honour of St Colmcille and, if the motion is agreed, Meath County Council will write to the Minister of Enterprise, Tourism & Employment."

Councillor Sean Drew introduced the motion, and noted that Donegal County Council approved a

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similar motion recently. There were interventions from **Councillors Peter Caffrey, Padraig Fitzsimons, Noel French, Gerry O'Connor** and **Joe Bonner**. It was noted that Ireland was below the EU average for the number of bank holidays during the year. The costs for employers and businesses were also noted.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor proposed an amendment, which was seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and agreed as follows:

"That this Council supports the call for the naming of a National Public Holiday in honour of St Colmcille and, if the motion is agreed, Meath County Council will write to the Minister of Enterprise, Tourism & Employment."

The amended motion was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

10.2 Submitted by Councillor Yvonne Everard

"In instances where the Department of Agriculture holds a right of way over a road, they should be responsible for funding the maintenance of the road, rather than residents having to rely on the provisions of a Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)."

Councillor Yvonne Everard introduced the motion noting that the Dept. of Agriculture should fund maintenance of roads where they have a right of way.

The motion was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Yvonne Everard** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

11.0 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

11.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation
Noted by the Elected Members

11.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment
Noted by the Elected Members

11.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing
Noted by the Elected Members

11.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community
Noted by the Elected Members.

12.0 Any Other Business

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There were interventions from **Councillors Gerry O'Connor, Brian Fitzgerald, Wayne Harding, Nick Killian, Joe Bonner, David Gilroy, Joe Fox** and **An Cathaoirleach**. Matters raised included CIS Schedule of Works, recent decision by An Coimisiún Pleanála to grant approval for Slane By-Pass, Rath to Kilmoon roadworks, in-house training for elected members, Task Force on Local Government and Security Allowance for Elected Members.

Both the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive extended their best wishes to the Elected Members for the forthcoming Summer recess.

The meeting concluded at 2.55pm

RZLT Meath CoCo Owned Sites							
Land Parcel ID	Site Location	Site Address /Townlands	Folio Number	Site Area in Hec. (Est)	Zoning	Update	Zoning
MHLA00270963	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH42664F	0.10	A1 - Existing Residential	Construction due to start 2025	
MHLA00270599	Navan	Abbeylands	MH151F	0.03	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270598	Navan	Abbeylands, Navan, Co. Meath,	MH46739F	0.04	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270607	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH46738F	0.02	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270605	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH26463F	0.02	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270605	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH26464F	0.01	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270605	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH54154F	0.01	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270605	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH26462F	0.02	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270603	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH11610F	0.05	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270602	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH32943F	0.03	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270601	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH4603F	0.03	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270600	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH53161F	0.03	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270604	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH56011F	0.02	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270606	Navan	Abbeylands Navan Lower	MH33731F	0.02	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270970	Navan	Townparks, Navan Lower	MH9457F	0.01	B1 - Commercial Town or Village	Unusable for Housing Development due to size	
MHLA00270955	Navan	Meath County Fire & Rescue Service, Meath County Council, Navan Fire Station, Abbey Road, Navan, Co.	MH9833F	2.3	C1 - Mixed Use		
MHLA00000371	Ashbourne	Dunreagh	MH81156F	2.21	A2 - New Residential	Design Stage PT8MH194 - NOT granted /being Mofified on HOLD- 79 units	
MHLA00370339	Trim	Townparks North, Navan Upper	MH67779F	0.27	A1 - Existing Residential		
MHLA00370064	Trim	Townsparks North	MH24819N	0.01	A1 - Existing Residential		
MHLA00370393	Trim	Townsparks South	MH24819N	1.97	B1 - Commercial Town or Village Centre		
MHLA00370393	Trim	Townsparks South	MH60682F	0.82	B1 - Commercial Town or Village Centre		
MHLA00370381	Trim	Townsparks South	MH60682F	0.02	B1 - Commercial Town or Village Centre		

MHLA00370403	Trim	Townsparks North	MH71776F	0.04	C1 - Mixed Use		
MHLA00170115	Kells	Townsparks, Kells Upper	MH37658F	0.07	A1 - Existing Residential	On hold	
MHLA00170118	Kells	Townsparks, Kells Upper	MH34903F	0.12	A1 - Existing Residential	On hold	
MHLA00040101	Mornington	Morningtown, Duleek Lower	MH72655F	0.17	A1 - Existing Residential	FZA	
MHLA00040060	Mornington	Morningtown, Duleek Lower	MH5059N	0.08	A1 - Existing Residential	FZA	
MHLA00040627	Donacarney	Donacarney Little, Duleek Lower	MH65336F	2.04	A2 - New Residential	Design process ongoing	
MHLA00320036	Ratoath	Ratoath	MH23103N	0.3	A1 - Existing Residential		
MHLA00320257	Ratoath	Ratoath	MH23103N	0.1	B1 - Commercial Town or Village Centre		
MHLA00320040	Ratoath	Ratoath	MH16014F	0.22	A1 - Existing Residential		
MHLA00320259	Ratoath	Ratoath	MH16014F	0.14	B1 - Commercial Town or Village Centre		
MHLA00290112	Oldcastle	Oldcastle, Fore	MH78126F	1.62	A2 - New Residential	In development- preliminary design stage	
MHLA00100003	Drumconrath	Rathtrasna, Slane Lower	MH38072F	0.74	A1 - Existing Residential	Preliminary Feasibility Complete	
MHLA00280036	Nobber	Nobber, Morgallion	MH63345F	2.49	A2 - New Residential		
MHLA00280036	Nobber	Nobber, Morgallion	MH77623F	0.2	A2 - New Residential		
MHLA00270599	Navan	Abbeyland, Navan Lower	MH151F (newly added)	0.03	A1 - Existing Residential		This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270607	Navan	Abbeyland, Navan Lower	MH20037F	0.011	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270607	Navan	Abbeyland, Navan Lower	MH5210F	0.11	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00270605	Navan	19 Flower Hill, Navan, Co. Meath,	MH26462F	0.06	A1 - Existing Residential	For sale	This land is zoned C1 Mixed Use in the CDP 2021-2027 Mapped information - was categorised as A1 in RZLT records
MHLA00040060	Donacarney	Mornington, Duleek Lower	MH5059N	0.08	A1 - Existing Residential		