comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

March 2026

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

Contents

Introduction by the Chief Executive 2
Corporate Affairs and Governance 3
Housing Services 10
Transportation Services 21
Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism 30
Rural Regeneration 33
Community Development 34
Planning 39
Climate Action and Environment 45
Libraries Services 47
Finance 50

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

Plean Gníomhaíochta do Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge 2026 – 2028

D'fhógair an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, Dara Calleary Plean Gníomhaíochta nua an Rialtais 2026-2028 don Ghaeilge ar an 20 Eanáir 2026. Tá sé seo seolta mar thaca leis an bPlean Náisiúnta do sheirbhísí poiblí Gaeilge 2024-2030. Déanfar athbhreithniú ar an gcaoi a bhfuil an plean ag obair ag tús na bliana 2028.

Is iad cúig mhórthéama straitéiseacha an phlean gníomhaíochta a gcuirfear i bhfeidhm ar sheirbhísí poiblí ná: -

1. **Tionscnaimh Leathana & Neartú Struchtúrtha** - moil sheirbhíse i gceantair Ghaeltachta/seirbhís aistriúcháin roinnte/tacaíochtaí agus acmhainní ar leith d'Oifigeach na dTeangacha Oifigiúla/córas dámhachtainí do chomhlachtaí poiblí chun cur i bhfeidhm an Achta a spreagadh.

2. **Soláthar Seirbhísí Poiblí trí Ghaeilge** - Gaeilge 365 rolladh amach/réiteach saincheisteanna maidir le tabhairt faoin nGaeilge/bearta ardaithe feasachta don fhoireann maidir le dualgais teanga/cuideachtaí a earcaítear faoi sholáthar & 3ú páirtithe a dhearann / a sheolann seirbhísí don chomhlacht poiblí chun cloí leis an Acht

3. **Teicneolaíocht** – an Ghaeilge a leabú i bhforbairtí AI

4. **Oiliúint, Earcaíocht & Inniúlacht Teanga**

5. **Bailiú Sonraí** – feachtais earcaíochta lena n-áirítear ceisteanna maidir le hinniúlacht teanga/staitisticí le coinneáil ar chúrsaí oiliúna a dhéanann baill foirne/toilteanas obair trí Ghaeilge/ líon na mball foirne a earcaítear go bliantúil le Gaeilge.

BUAICPHOINTÍ: -

- Bunú buan aonad seirbhíse poiblí a fheidhmíonn trí Ghaeilge sna ceantair Ghaeltachta.

- Comhsheirbhís aistriúcháin a bhunú

- **Oifigigh Ghaeilge**: - Tacaíochtaí, oiliúint & acmhainní a fhorbairt. Córas dámhachtainí & searmanas a fhorbairt do chomhlachtaí poiblí chun nuálaíocht a spreagadh maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an Achta. Líonra tiomnaithe OIfigigh Gaeilge a bheith ann le nuachtlitreacha ráithiúla & seimineáir faisnéise. Measúnú a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht ról Oifigeach na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, arna cheapadh faoi alt 4B den Acht, a ailíniú le ról an Oifigigh Ghaeilge. Leibhéal B2 ar an CEFR le socrú faoi na caighdeáin teanga mar an t-íosleibhéal a theastaíonn do róil le Gaeilge.

- Cur i bhfeidhm an tionscnaimh Gaeilge 365. Chuir Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath tús leis seo agus cuireann sé féilte imeachtaí & tionscnaimh eile trí Ghaeilge i bhfeidhm i rith na bliana.

- Córas aontaithe a shainaithníonn baill foirne le Gaeilge & infhaighteacht seirbhísí Gaeilge.

- Bearta oiliúna feasachta a fhorbairt don fhoireann maidir le cearta agus dualgais teanga faoin Acht.

- **Earcaíocht & oiliúint**:- Ball foirne a shannadh mar oiliúnóir teanga faoi na caighdeáin teanga. Cuirfear oiliúint ar fáil don bhall foirne seo trí chúrsa creidiúnaithe chun tacú le daoine eile atá ag obair i ról Gaeilge. Seaimpíní teanga a aithint ar bhonn deonach freisin. Comhlachtaí poiblí le earcú réamhghníomhach & áitiúil a dhéanamh orthu siúd atá inniúil sa Ghaeilge. Gach comórtas le fógairt go dátheangach. Beidh ceisteanna ar an leibhéal cumais sa Ghaeilge san áireamh sna foirmeacha iarratais.

- **Teicneolaíocht**:- go dátheangach. Uirlisí promhaidh Gaeilge & comhéadain Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil go réamhghníomhach don fhoireann. An Ghaeilge a leabú i bhforbairtí AI.

- Ceadóidh caighdeáin nua teanga aiseolas a thabhairt don phobal ar bhealach sorochtana agus rúnda

- **Soláthar**: - comhlíonadh an Achta a shonrú mar a bhaineann sé le seachadadh nó dearadh seirbhísí poiblí mar chuid de phróisis soláthair.

Irish Language Action Plan 2026 – 2028

Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary announced the new Government Action Plan 2026-2028 for the Irish language on 20 January 2026. This is launched in support of the National Plan for Irish language public services 2024-2030 . A review of how the plan is working will be carried out at the start of 2028.

Five major strategic themes of the action plan to be applied to public services are: -

1. **Broad Initiatives & Structural Strengthening -** service hubs in Gaeltacht areas/shared translation service/specific supports & resources for Official Languages Officer/ awards system for public bodies to encourage implementation of the act.
2. **Provision of Public Services through Irish -** Gaeilge 365 roll-out/resolve issues re Irish language addressing/awareness raising measures for staff re language obligations/companies recruited under procurement & 3rd parties who design/ carry out services for the public body to be compliant re the Act
3. **Technology –** embed Irish language into AI developments
4. **Training, Recruitment & language Competence**

5. **Data Collection –** recruitment campaigns to include questions re language competence/ stats to be kept on training courses taken by staff/ willingness to work through Irish/ number of staff recruited annually with Irish

HIGHLIGHTS: -

- A permanent establishment of public service units operating through Irish in the Gaeltacht areas.
- Establishment of a shared translation service
- **Irish Language Officers: - Develop** supports, training & resources. The development of an awards system & ceremony for public bodies to encourage innovation around implementation of the act. To have a dedicated network of ILOs with quarterly newsletters & information seminars. Assess the potential to align the role of the Official Languages Officer, appointed under section 4B of the Act, with that of the Irish language Officer. B2 level on the CEFR to be set under the language standards as the minimum level required for roles with Irish.
- The roll out of the Gaeilge 365 initiative. This was started by Dubiln City Council & rolls out festivals & events & other initiatives through Gaeilge throughout the year.
- A unified system identifying staff with Irish & the availability of Irish language services.
- Develop awareness training measures for staff around language rights & obligations under the act.
- **Recruitment & training: -** Assign a staff member as a language coach under the language standards. This staff member to be provided with training through an accredited course so as to support others working in an Irish language role. Also identify language champions on a voluntary basis. Public bodies to carry out proactive & local recruitment of those competent in Irish. All competitions to be advertised bilingually. Application forms to include questions on level of competence in Irish.
- **Technology**: - to be bilingual. Make Irish language proofing tools & Irish language interfaces proactively available to staff. Embed Irish language into AI developments.
- New language standards will allow for public feedback in a readily accessible & confidential manner
- **Procurement: -** stipulate compliance with the Act as it relates to the delivery or design of public services as part of procurement processes.

Focusing on Housing



From Monday, January 19th, to Friday, January 23rd, as part of a national campaign led by the LGMA with all local authorities in the country, we placed a major focus on our communications regarding Housing.

Meath Community Preparedness Alliance –
Aimed at People Who Require Extra Support During Adverse Events



On 26th January, Meath County Council, in partnership with An Garda Síochána Meath Division, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Meath Partnership, announced the launch of the Meath Community Preparedness Alliance, a new initiative aimed at anyone who feels their household would need additional support during an emergency.

Registering with this initiative means support can be coordinated more efficiently, ensuring households with additional support needs can be identified, contacted, and supported quickly and safely when an adverse event occurs. A press release with accompanying social media was issued, letting the people of Meath know about the alliance and how to sign up.

New Episode of Local Lens Talks Being Emergency Ready in Co. Meath



Featuring contributions from Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe, Keith Leonard, National Director for Fire & Emergency Management, Chief Fire Officer Sheila Broderick, and Meath Civil Defence Officer Shane Quinn, the new episode of Local Lens is an information packed episode giving insights insight into how national structures and plans link in with regional and local resources.

“Emergency Ready: Meath Response” lets listeners know what Meath County Council does to be ready for all sorts of emergencies, and what they can have in the house in order to be emergency ready.

Construction Set to Begin at Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney



In February, Meath County Council announced the signing of contracts for the construction of two-bed bungalows within the Blackhill Crescent estate.

These new homes will help meet the growing demand for single-storey accommodation in Donacarney, particularly for tenants with mobility needs and those looking to right-size.

Small infill developments like this allow us to add homes with minimal disruption, helping residents stay close to their communities and support networks.

Boyne Community School Students Honoured at Buvinda House

For Award-Winning Project



Meath County Council was delighted to welcome three outstanding students from Boyne Community School, Trim to Buvinda House in February. David Kincius, Jack Turner and Kipras Samoska recently received the inaugural Stripe Young Scientist Democracy and Elections Award for their innovative project, “Emoji Politics.”

Their research explored how informal, emoji-based communication can influence young people’s perceptions of politics and civic engagement. The students’ findings offered fresh, thought-provoking insights into how today’s youth discuss public issues—and how public bodies like ours might adapt to communicate more effectively with younger audiences.

During their visit, the students met with An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Wayne Harding and Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe, who congratulated them on their achievement and thanked them for sharing their perspectives. Their work has already sparked valuable conversations about developing more youth-friendly engagement approaches across the county.





Major Upgrade Works Completed at Trim Bowling Green



Also in February, Meath County Council was delighted to announce the completion of major upgrade works at Trim Bowling Green.

The project, delivered in conjunction with Trim Aura Leisure Centre and Meath Bowling Club, included the full removal of the existing bowling surface and underlay, followed by the installation of a new high-quality playing surface. Bowls in Meath is a growing sport with a dedicated following, transitioning from a solely "sedate, retiree" image to a more inclusive, all-ages activity. While traditionally dominated by older players, it now attracts diverse age groups and has seen membership increases post-COVID.

Housing Services



Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE			
Robinstown	3	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Riverside, Carnaross	5	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Trim Road, Balreask	4	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Friars Park, Trim	4	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Church Street, Kells	3	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Ratoath Age Friendly Development	14	Q3 2026	Q3 2027
Total	**33**		
PART 8 PLANNING & DETAILED DESIGN			
Kells, Archdeaconry*	22	TBC	TBC
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells*	47	TBC	TBC
Planning & Design Total	**69**		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q2 2026	Q4 2027
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q1 2026	Q1 2027

Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2026	Q4 2026
Total Tender for Construction	**28**		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q1 2026
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q1 2026
Rathaldron Court, Navan	27	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q1 2026
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q3 2025	Q4 2026
Construction Total	51		
OVERALL TOTAL	**181**		

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

High Court Judicial Review lodged March 2024 and struck out November 2025. Negotiations underway to re-engage Design Teams and recommence projects.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 18th February 2025

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	**44**
Athboy	Part V	**4**
Ballivor	Part V	**2**
Bettystown	Part V	**4**
Drogheda	Part V	**26**
Dunboyne	Part V	**9**
Dunshaughlin	Part V	**39**
Enfield	Part V	**26**
Kells	Part V	**13**

Kilcock	Part V	**3**
Longwood	Part V	**12**
Navan	Part V	**76**
Oldcastle	Part V	**13**
Rathmolyon	Part V	**10**
Ratoath	Part V	**41**
Summerhill	Part V	**21**
Trim	Part V	**33**
Drogheda	Turnkey	**30**
Kells	Turnkey	**8**
Navan	CAS	**12**
Slane	CAS	**1**
Trim	CAS	**2**
Oldcastle	CAS	**6**
Total		**435**

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 18th February 2026.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Kilcock	Part V	1
Total		**1**

Affordable Housing Delivery

Meath County Council currently have three affordable housing schemes **open** for applications.

- Beaufort, Boyne Village, Navan – The online portal for these affordable housing units opened for applications on 18 September 2025 at 12 noon, 8 units allocated, **1 remaining** to be filled.
- Robinrath Navan – The online portal for these affordable housing units opened for applications on 27th November 2025 at 12 noon, 3 units allocated, **4 remaining** to be filled.
- Foxwood Park Kells – The online portal for these affordable housing units opened for applications on 29th January 2026 at 12 noon, assessing applications. **8 units**

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 €872,165.76 including VAT was submitted for approval to DHLGH on 20th January 2026.
- This includes 60 disabled persons grant units for €549,650.76 and 3 disabled persons grant extension units for €322,515.00.
- This brings the total to 63 LAAWS applications scheduled to be completed in 2026.
- 6 LAAWS applications are completed YTD

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

301 grants awarded to the value of €2,561,961 up to 31/01/2025

Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy retrofit works on energy occupied and void properties are ongoing. The Department provides capital funding to local authorities under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, which supports the Programme for Government commitment to retrofit 36,500 existing social housing units. The Department confirmed in November 2025 that local authorities may undertake work up to a maximum value of 65% of their 2025 allocation in 2026, as notified in Circular 05/2025. Meath Co Co's requirements for 2026 were submitted on 19th December 2025 – these requirements were an estimate of 58 dwellings to be completed in 2026. There was also a carry-over from 2025 of 25 dwellings for a total of 83 dwellings for 2026 (both void and occupied). The Department has not yet notified Meath Co Co that these figures have been approved.

Local Authority Planned Maintenance

118 Stock Condition Surveys have been completed in Meath so far in 2026 (up to 9th February 2026). Information gathered from these surveys has resulted in arranging for replacement of smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms in stock houses.

A contractor has been appointed to carry out retrofit works in 3 houses in Cherryhill Court, Kells – works are expected to commence in the coming weeks.

Tendering for other planned works is ongoing as per below:

- Claremont Estate, Navan – Energy upgrades to include external wall insulation
- Magdalene Court, Kells – Energy upgrades
- Blackwater Park, Enfield – Survey of firestops

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 (50 no.) before they can be re-tenanted, as of 9th February 2026.

	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	3	3	3	6
Navan	5	9	12	15	11
Ashbourne	0	0	2	2	0
Laytown/Bettystown	3	0	1	3	1
Ratoath	0	1	1	2	0
Trim	1	5	1	3	4
TOTALS	**12**	**18**	**20**	**28**	**22**

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

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Bailey Hill, Navan	5	Cluid - CALF	Q2 2026
Dunboyne Heights, Dunboyne	50	Iveagh Trust - CALF	Q1 2027
Frederick Court Ashbourne	26	Circle - CALF	Q3 2026
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q3 2027
Oldcastle	1	DePaul Housing - CAS	Q3 2026
Slane	1	St. John of Gods	Q4 2026
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q3 2028
St. Loman Street, Trim	2	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2027
Total Number of Approved Units	**102**		

Homelessness – January 2026

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 31st December, 2025	185 (190 Adults)	86 (121 Adults & 152 Children)	271
Placements at 31st January, 2026	188 (194 Adults)	87 (122 Adults & 152 Children)	275

Of the households with children, 76 families are placed in short-term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention, 11 Families in Family Hubs.

97% bed allocations were availed of by service users

3% beds were available (Kells, Athboy, Navan, 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 Local Authorities will also engage with these Local Authorities. This includes Dublin, Louth, Fingal, Westmeath & Kildare.

43 Presentations on homelessness were made. This comprised 12 Families.

Reason for EA Presentations	Total Numbers
NTQ	5
Family Circumstance	8
Hospital | Prison | Care	12
Couch Surfing | Cannot Afford	12
Rough Sleeping	2
Other	4
Total	43

EA Exit Figures:

- **Families:**
  - 5 Families exited EA in January. This comprised 7 Adults & 7 Children.

Reason for EA Family Exit	Total Numbers
MCC Allocation	0
Not availing of Bed	0
Return to Family / Friend	0
HAP	4
Private Rented	1
Total	5

- **Singles/Couples:**
    - 27 Singles/Couples exited EA in January

Reason for EA Singles/Couples Exit	Total Numbers
MCC Allocation	0
Not availing of Bed	6
Return to Family / Friend	3
HAP	1
Private Rented	1
Hospital/Treatment/Prison	4
Terminated	10
Other	2
Total	27

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 31/01/2026

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	122				25	57	40	0
Couples	16				4	3	7	2
Singles	178				21	51	88	18
Children	152	53	57	42				
Total	468	53	57	42	50	111	135	20

Homeless HAP Placefinder 01/01/2026 – 31/01/2026

Total	**5**
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	3
Homeless Prevention	0
In Progress	2

Tenant Liaison Team January 2026

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	**91**	**40**
Occupancy of dwelling	**60**	**44**
Garden upkeep/maintenance	**69**	**63**
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	**1**	**1**
Total January 2026	**221**	**148**

ASB Investigations on going at (month end)	**104**
ASB Investigations completed (month end)	**44**
Number of Pre Tenancies completed in January 2026	**66**
Abandonments for January 2026	**0**
Houses taken back into stock for January 2026	5

Warnings Issued 2026

Warnings	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	Total
Verbal	**4**	**0**	**1**	**5**
Written	**1**	**1**	**2**	**4**
2nd Written	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Statutory	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Advisory	**0**	**1**	**34**	**35**
Total	**5**	**2**	**38**	**45**

Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme						
2026	Applications Received	Invalid	Offers Issued	Offers Accepted	File to Solicitor	Sale Closed
January	6	0	1	2	2	2
Total	6	0	1	2	2	2

Standards in Rented Accommodation

499 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of January 2026. Of this figure, 222 were first inspections and 19 properties passed after their first inspection. 19 Improvement Notices and 5 Prohibition Notices were served in January 2026. 8 Improvement Notices have been withdrawn in January 2026 as the matters referred to in the Improvement Notices were remedied.

Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

Social Housing Supports - for period 1st January 2026 – 31st January 2026

- 138 applications received for Social Housing
- 86 applications approved onto the Social Housing List
- 28 applications unsuccessful

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st January 2026 – 31st January 2026

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	29
Transfers	3
Approved Housing Bodies	4
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	14
Long Term Leasing (inc Private MTR)	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
TOTAL	**50**

Housing Assistance Payment – 14 Hap tenancies commenced in January 2026

Transportation Services



1. National Roads

Funding Source	**TII**
Grant Allocation	**To be confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 - €2.7M	Snagging work remain in progress, with completion still anticipated in the coming weeks. The contractor has been reminded of the need to expedite the close out.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - €650K	High Court Hearing took place on the 15th and 16th of January 2026. Awaiting the direction from the Judge.
N52 Grange to Clontail - €1.3M	ROD/ AECOM appointed to complete phase 5 to 7 of the scheme.
N52MH_034.0 Balrath Cross RSIS	Design report currently being progressed

2. Non - National Roads

Funding Source	**DoT**
Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**

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

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**

Own Resources (Local tertiary roads)	**To Be Confirmed**
Total	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	Update
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Programme selection underway
Community Involvement Scheme	Programme selection underway
Local Tertiaries	Programme selection underway
Own Resources Roads	Programme selection underway
Local Improvement Schemes	Programme selection underway

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

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	Update
R156/R125 Mullagh Cross	Detail design and discussions re land acquisition progressing.
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	NIS application lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) October 2025. Decision currently expected Q2 2026.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme	Constraints being identified and mapped. Public Consultation re constraints to run from 16th Feb to 30th March 2026.
R108 / L16111 Bey More Junction safety scheme	Topographical Survey completed and Option Selection process progressing.

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

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**

Scheme	**Update**
R-108 Bey More	Works ongoing
R-125 Grennoge	Works ongoing
R-125 Collinstown	Works ongoing
R-155 Curragha	Works ongoing
R-162 Nobber	Works ongoing
R-195 Fennor Oldcastle	Works ongoing
R-195 Springhall	Works ongoing
L-1603 Lobinstown	Works ongoing
L-4007 Clonmalevan	Works ongoing
L-5054 Kentstown	Works ongoing
L-5614 Bettystown	Works ongoing
L-5018 Ballybin	Proposals currently being finalised and landowner agreement being negotiated.

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

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
BAMS Bridge Inventory and Maintenance Inspection (2025)	2026 inspections to commence Q1 2026
Verdons Bridge	Contractor appointed. Works now scheduled to commence in July 2026

Aclare Bridge	Design stage ongoing
Graultys Bridge	Design stage ongoing
Piercetown Bridge	Design stage ongoing

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
R160 Clongowan €200,000	Site investigation has been completed awaiting site investigation report and consultants design proposals due by end of February 2026.
L-80045-5 Church Road, Athboy €25,000	Pipe lining works ongoing in locations where pipes or joints are defective.

2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation	**€10.0m**
Scheme	**Update**

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	**NTA**
Grant Allocation	€10.0m allocated for 2026
Scheme	Update
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	Works continued to progress well on site during the month. Construction activities were ongoing along the R147 Dublin Road and focused on the section from Academy Street to St Marthas Bridge, including kerbing, ducting, footpath construction, bus stop foundation works, and boundary wall works. Kerbing and footpath works at the Maxol Fuel Station were also progressed. Temporary traffic management measures were maintained on the R147. Site clearance, including tree felling, at the Ardboyne Hotel and at the Swan Bridge

	culvert was completed. Works to the extend the culvert are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	The consultant continues to work on the preliminary design of this scheme, with a view to commencing a Part 8 process in Q3 of this year. Additional design elements now include a two-way cycle facility between the Balmoral junction and the recently constructed LDR4 southbound junction, along with active travel facilities extending between the LDR4 southbound junction and Blackwater Retail Park.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Preliminary design work continued this month on the scheme. Detailed design work on Round 'O' roundabout element of the scheme, based on a previous Section 38 for the roundabout, is currently being progressed. Interim options for the upgrade of the existing N51 crossing are being considered. Public lighting adjacent to the crossing was upgraded.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	The Consultant Team is continuing to work on finalising the Preliminary Business Case and final Gateway 3 documents for submission to the National Transport Authority (NTA), which are anticipated to be submitted in Q1.
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Works have reached substantial completion at Fairgreen Car Park, Church Hill, and Old Cornmarket Laneway. Paving works in Bakery Lane have also been completed, concluding all major paving works under the scheme. The contractor continued to address snag items during this period. Paving works at Kennedy Plaza were also completed during this period. Snagging works were completed on Paddy O'Brien Street.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	A proposal from the consultant for a potential further concept option (relying on a shared space) has been received and is under review.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beachmount to Balreask Manor	Tender assessment has been conducted, and the tender assessment report has finalised. Letters to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers have been issued.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	Design work (Preliminary Design) continued this month. A meeting was held with the design team representing a Developer with lands on the Trim Road (relating to

	LDR2A) to discuss potential integration with planned Part 8 cycle scheme on the Trim Road.
Dunboyne and Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	Part 8 planning permission for the Dunboyne to Clonee Active Travel Links Scheme was adopted with modification at the January 2026 Ratoath MD Meeting. Tender documentation issued for an engineering consultancy service to prepare the detailed design for the scheme. Delivery Plan for the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne was reviewed with the NTA. The next section of the overall Dunboyne active travel network to be brought forward for Part 8 planning approval will be the Rooske Road, Mill Farm and Navan Road scheme.
Castle Street Ashbourne	Consultant appointed to develop an Active Travel Scheme along Castle Street Ashbourne, route selection process now commenced. Scheme has been extended to include Castle Way, St. Declan's NS and Alderbrook Road. Option Selection Report is due in late February.
Johnstown Village Active Travel Scheme	The scheme will now be progressed through the Part 8 planning process with plans to enhance the public realm of the village core and plans to redevelop the Mrs. Butterly's site. The option selection process is currently ongoing.
BusIt2School	The BusIt2School scheme is funded by the DOT and aims to encourage primary school pupils to travel to and from school by bus. Scoil Naomh Eoin Clonmaggaden and St. Stephens Johnstown have completed the implementation phase. The close-out report is currently under review.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities	Appointment of consultant in for Phase 5 -7 ongoing. Continuing engagement with landowners and Valuers for necessary land acquisition as well as with ESB for the necessary major overhead line alteration.
Newtown Road, Trim footpath	Works progressing.
Bus Stop Improvement Programme	The list of bus stops upgrades has been agreed with the NTA (who are the funder and responsible authority for bus stops)

	Final preparations of the construction tender pack for 38 new or upgraded bus stops at Gormanstown, Stamullen, Athboy, Crossakeel, Kells, Donacarney, Donore, Mornington, Navan, Dunderry, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne Clonee, Kilsmessan, Clonard, Kildalkey, Longwood, and Summerhill.
Safe Routes to School	
St. Stephen's NS, Navan (Round 1 school)	New footpath to school complete and new pedestrian gate installation commencing.
Beaufort College, Navan (Round 2 school)	Civil works complete. Positive progression with Lidl on design for the permeability link.
Round 3 Schools Duleek Boys' National School, Scoil Naomh Seachnall, St Oliver Plunkett's National School Navan and St Paul's National School, Navan	Meath County Council appointing technical consultant to develop design for the interventions identified by An Taisce.

4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	**Primarily DoT & NTA**
Grant Allocation	(covered under TII)
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibbstown Car Park	Works progressing on the footpath from the Gibbstown Greenway crossing to Kilberry. Works due to be completed in early February.
Greenway Resurfacing	TII funding has been secured to apply a bituminous surface to the Gibbstown to Wilkinstown section of the Greenway. Works are scheduled to take place in February.
Boyne Greenway	
Navan to Oldbridge	Ecological and environmental surveys continuing. Initial Preliminary design of the horizontal and vertical

	alignment as well as structures of the Boyne Greenway route well progressed.

5.Other/Projects

Scheme	**Update**
Broadmeadow Riverwalk Ratoath	Tender documents currently being developed for the delivery of the riverwalk.
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. Workshop held with the TII after which it was agreed to extend the scheme further along the N51 to address known safety issues.
Trim Pedestrian Bridge	Army due to remove the temporary Bailey Bridge end Feb / early March 2026. Finalising appointment of Contractor for new bridge installation.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme	Works progressing in Elder Grove and St John's Trim; College Park Dunshaughlin and Ard Rí in the L-B MD.
New footpaths to Community Centres	Designs commenced on new footpath to Skyrne GFC
New footpaths to Schools	Designs commenced on new footpath to Newtown-Creevagh NS and SN Ultan Naofa Baile Ghib. Finalising design at Ughtyneill NS.

6.URDF

Scheme	**Update**
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	No further updates since last report

Frontage Improvement Works Flowerhill	MCC are continuing consultations with the property owners for the implementation of the works

7.THRIVE

Scheme	**Update**
County Archive and Community Hub	Works stage 2 tender documents have been published on eTender

8. Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)

Scheme	**Update**
Upgrade & Development of the existing Seafield Sports Facility at Corballis, Laytown, Co. Meath	No further updates since last report

9. Meath County Council Projects

Scheme	**Update**
New Library/Community Building, Amenity Area, and Age Friendly Housing, Ratoath	Part 8 submission closing date 12th January 2026
Solstice – Frontage	No further updates since last report

10. National Speed Limit Review

Scheme	**Update**
National Speed Limit Review	No further updates since last report

Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism



Business Networks

Following on from the Business Network meetings held on January 14th, 21st and 28th, the Economic Development team are progressing the following actions:

Management Development Programme: Leadership	Economic Development is liaising with the Local Enterprise Office to develop a new Management Development Programme for Leadership – designed for employees of Meath SMEs. Commitment of 4 mornings across 1 month
Trades & professional services booklet	Booklet being developed in conjunction with the network members to promote the trades, jobs, and career progression opportunities available in the county.
Trade shows as a collective	Network members have requested that MCC take a leading role in researching appropriate events/trade shows/expos and facilitate travelling as a group.

BASSE (Business Advantage for Sustainability, Scaling & Exports) Northeast Programme

The Economic Development team were pleased to hold an information session for local businesses on the BASSE Regional Leadership Programme which is being funded by Enterprise Ireland and facilitated by The Mill Enterprise Hub, Drogheda for the Meath, Louth, Cavan & Monaghan region. The BASSE Northeast programme is a tailored initiative to address key capability gaps in sustainability, scaling, and export readiness. It supports regional SMEs to become resilient, competitive, and internationally focused, helping participants grow stronger, greener, and more globally connected. Expressions of interest closed on 20th February and 16 businesses from the region will be chosen to take part in the 3-year programme.

Local Enterprise Office

Meath LEO is actively planning for Local Enterprise Week 2026 with an ambitious and exciting catalogue of events throughout the week, set to kick off with a launch event on Monday, March 2nd, 2026, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at Thrive, Centre of Business Excellence, C15 E8KV.

The event will feature Newstalk Business Editor Joe Lynam as MC in a high-energy showcase which brings together industry leaders who are shaping the next wave of business transformation. The panel discussion will include Kieran Kehoe, Chief Executive of Meath County Council, Louise O'Conor, leading the way in Digital Transformation & Innovation advisory, Gerry McDonnell, Fusion Technologies with special guest appearance from Robot Sam Ireland's newest AI-powered guest.



Other events taking places during Local Enterprise Week are:

Tuesday 3rd March - Student Enterprise Awards

Wednesday 4th March - Wellness Wednesday with a series of wellness training programmes

Thursday 5th March - Tech & Protect Thursday where smart tech meets real business results

Friday 6th March - International Women's Day with the Meath Women in Biz & Tech Network

The Entrepreneurship programme for persons with a Disability

The pioneering enterprise course tailored specifically for people with disabilities has successfully concluded at Meath County Council's Thrive Centre of Business Excellence. Delivered by Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Meath, the programme began in October 2025 with four participants who aspired to become self-employed but had previously lacked access to the supports needed to take that step.

All four participants have now completed the course and are preparing to launch their own businesses across a range of sectors, including counselling services and software development. Their achievements mark an important milestone for inclusive entrepreneurship in Meath and demonstrate the impact of targeted supports in helping individuals turn their skills and ambitions into viable enterprises.



Centre of Food Culture

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland is currently engaging with CHL & Associates on the development of a five-year strategy for Samhain Festival of Food and Culture. The objective of this strategy is to pave a clear roadmap for the festival over the next five years, following its notable growth over the past few years.

The Centre of Food Culture is currently working on the launch of its 2026 educational events programme consisting of farm walks and meet the maker events across the country from March – September 2026. The organisation is also looking forward to welcoming the University of Gastronomic Sciences from Italy for a return study trip to the region in March, for a week-long visit to 20+ producers and hospitality providers in the region.

Boyne Valley Flavours

Regional Producer Showcase – 30th April 2026

Planning is well underway for the Regional Producer Showcase at Emerald Park.
Led by Boyne Valley Flavours, this B2B event will bring together commercially ready food and drink producers from Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Cavan and Monaghan to showcase directly to food service and retail buyers.

The event aims to strengthen regional supply chains, create new routes to market for producers, and position the Boyne Valley as a leading food cluster through cross-county collaboration.

Boyne Valley Bites – Implementation

Progress continues on Boyne Valley Bites, distributor mapping is in progress, and we are now engaging priority venues. Participating businesses will benefit from structured marketing and PR support, photography, training opportunities and enhanced producer connections.

Local Enterprise Week Food Event
Food Businesses: Real Producer Journeys

As part of the upcoming Local Enterprise Week programme BVF have organised and will host an event in the Ardee Food hub in collaboration with Louth and Meath LEO. MC Darragh McCullough will be joined by several BVF members for a panel discussion. The event is designed for people thinking about starting a food business or at the initial stages.

Rural Regeneration



Derelict Sites	2026 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	38
No. of statutory orders issued	7
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2026	0
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2026	3

Vacant Homes	2026 total
Vacant Homes Identified	0
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2026	4
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2026	4

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2026 total
Approved Applications	181
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	73
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	19
Rejected Applications	3
Withdrawn Applications	81
Completed / Paid Applications	113
Total Applications Received	353
Total Approved Grant Funding	€14,450,380
Total Paid Grant Funding	€6,154,472

Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process (Feb'26)	
Kells Sensory Garden (on display from 25th Feb)	TVRS
Works Commenced (Feb'26)	
Lough Lane Ratoath	ORIS
Rathcairn Footpath	ORIS
Works Completed (Feb'26)	
Painting in Mornington House Trim	MCC

Community Development



Meath Community Preparedness Alliance



Meath County Council, in partnership with An Garda Síochána Meath Division, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Meath Partnership, launched the Meath Community Preparedness Alliance, a new initiative aimed at anyone who feels their household would need additional support during an emergency. Adverse events – such as severe storms, power outages, or flooding - can disrupt services and affect people across the county including older adults, people with mobility or health challenges, or anyone living alone.

The Meath Community Preparedness Alliance, open to all people living in Co. Meath, is voluntary, confidential, and designed to keep people safe and provide support during such events. Registering with this initiative means support can be coordinated more efficiently, ensuring households with additional support needs can be identified, contacted, and supported quickly and safely when an adverse event occurs. People can register via the below link Meath Community Preparedness Alliance (Comhghuaillíocht Ullmhachta Pobail na Mí). – Fill in form

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

Ireland's first National Strategy for Improving Community Safety is currently being developed under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 by the National office for Community Safety. This strategy aims to respond to the needs and concerns of communities and to support public services and local communities in working collaboratively and effectively to enhance community safety.

The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback from members of the public to help inform the development of the strategy. The survey is open to all residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Further information, as well as a link to the online survey, can be found here: National Strategy for Improving Community Safety online survey





Our Local Community Safety Partnership Coordinator Gemma Ryan, the LCSP Chairperson Ciaran Flynn and the LCSP Administrator Deirdre Healy were delighted to attend a networking session at the Department of Justice Thursday 5th of February, alongside Chairs and LCSP teams from across Ireland. A valuable opportunity to engage with colleagues, share insights, and strengthen collaboration in our collective efforts to support community safety nationwide.

The Property Marking Machine is available to groups who are fully trained. Groups can contact communitysafety@meathcoco.ie if they are interested in borrowing the machine or interested in arranging an event in their area.

Community Development

Public Participation Network

Meath PPN is partnering with Healthy Meath and Meath Chamber of Commerce to bring together businesses, community groups and health services to explore the Civic Dollar app where individuals and groups can receive support services just by exploring the great outdoors around the county. The Secretariat are continuing the development an emergency response toolkit for communities, focussing on the micro tasks that can be undertaken by groups in the immediate aftermath of an emergency.

Climate focused groups and leaders are supporting the Climate Action team in delivering goals in the identified Decarbonisation Zones across the county.

Meath PPN membership currently stands at 828.

Comhairle na nÓg

Meath Comhairle na nÓg members are currently drafting a letter to Meath secondary schools regarding the development of a charter regarding the right for students to disconnect outside of school hours. Two members will address the March Full Council meeting on the 2nd March. Five members will attend Dáil na nÓg in May, while two are currently participating in online Inclusivity Consultations involving Comhairle na nÓg groups nationwide with the aim of establishing a Youth Advisory Group of eight young people.

Community Amenity Project Scheme 2025

The closing date for applications under the The Community Amenity Project Scheme 2025 23rd January 2026. 76 applications were received totalling €3,051,358.55**.** The total available funding is €600,000 (€100,000 per Municipal District). Applications are current bring assessed.

Summary of projects received per Municipal District

Municipal District	Total Projects	Total Requested	Funding Available
Ashbourne	12	€508,585.09	€100,000.00
Kells	20	€652,532.66	€100,000.00
Laytown Bettystown	11	€443,643.93	€100,000.00
Navan	12	€546,460.00	€100,000.00
Ratoath	9	€408,650.55	€100,000.00
Trim	12	€491,486.32	€100,000.00
Total	**76**	**€3,051,358.55**	**€600,000.00**

Community Grants Scheme
The Community Grant scheme launched the week ending 30th January, the closing date for applications is Friday 13th March.
The Burial Ground Grant scheme also launched the week ending 30th January, the closing date for applications is Friday 6th March.
The Failte Ireland Regional Festivals & Participative Events grant launched the week ending 30th January, the closing date for applications is Friday 20th March.

Meath Local Community Development Committee

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
The LCDC met on 23rd January 2025 and approved the Health Meath annual report for 2025 and 2026 Annual Work Plan.
The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 27th February 2026 in the THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence, Johnstown Business Park, Navan. The Committee will receive details of the SICAP End of Year Performance for 2025 and the SICAP Annual Plan for 2026. It will also receive a presentation from Cultur Migrant Centre on the Community Development Programme 2025 and the LCDC 2025 Annual Report.

LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027 – Local Action Group (LAG)
The January meeting of the LAG took place on Friday, 23rd January 2026. The LAG received a comprehensive progress report on the LEADER 23-27 Programme.
The next LAG meeting will take place on Friday, 27th February 2026.

Local Enhancement Programme
Applications are now invited from Community and Voluntary groups in County Meath for capital funding from the Local Enhancement Programme 2026. The total allocation of funding for capital projects is €222,535.73. Closing date for receipt of applications is 27th February 2026.

Healthy Meath
The Healthy Meath Work Plan for 2026 was approved by the LCDC on 23rd January 2026.
Healthy Meath is working with Healthy Louth and the HSE on the new CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath website, scheduled to launch in Summer 2026. The team is also collaborating with the PPN and Meath Chamber on the rollout of the Civic Dollars app, which encourages outdoor activity and enables users to donate earned rewards to local community groups.
Support is being provided to Foróige for their Creative Ireland Youth Nurture Fund application. A workshop on nutrition and lifestyle strategies for endometriosis took place in Bettystown Library on 17th February. Healthy Meath also supported Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital with its Fibre February promotional event.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

- 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 to address issues as they arise. There have been a number of joint clinics/outreach sessions in the month across the country

- Cumulative Yearly total of Clinics Held: **7 in January 2026**

Customer Service Cases Logged 2026:

Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	**5**
Number of Customer cases closed	**35**

Figures

UKR	**563**
IP	**1024**

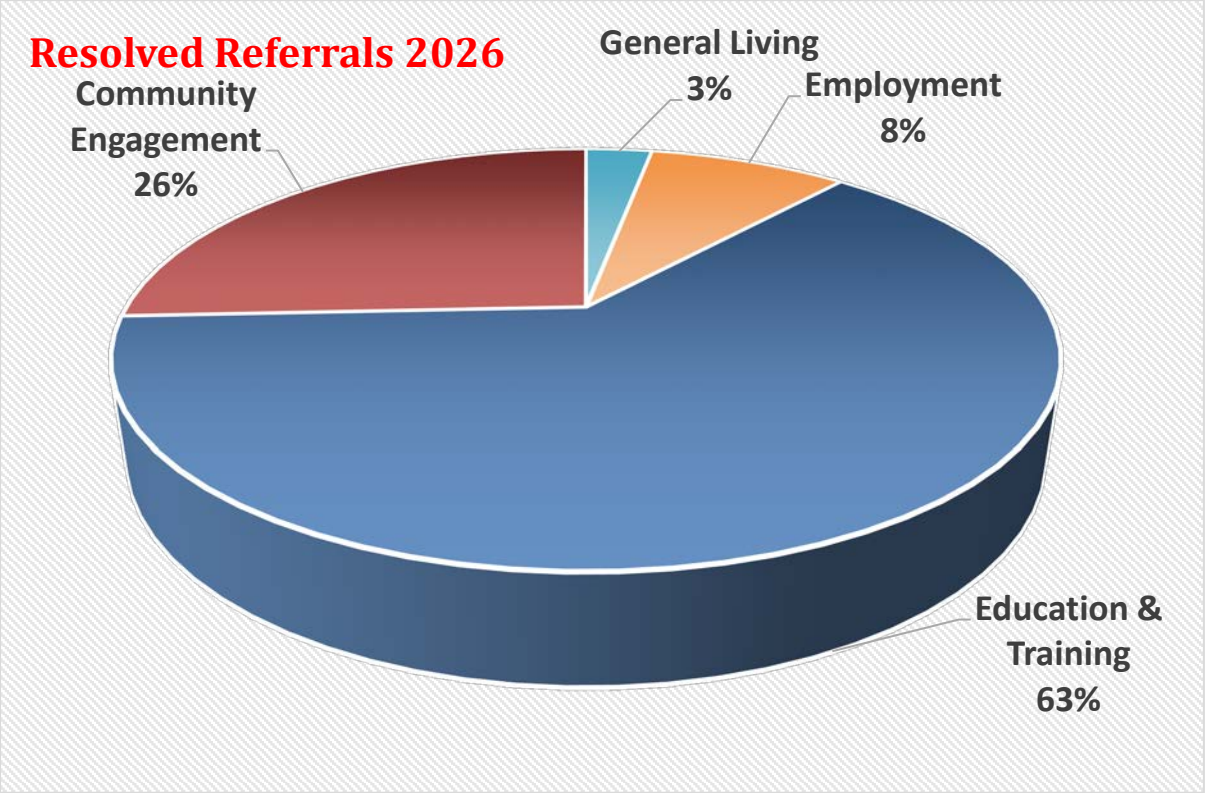
Initiatives/Outreach

- stakeholder meetings with Sanctuary of Schools Ireland to establish and engagement plan to reach out to schools and with Hinterland project in Kells to explore opportunities for colabouration.

- collaboration with Meath Local Sports Partnership to identify appropriate programmes with IPAS centres (International Protection Applicants).

- Engagement with Meath Partnership in holding the first of quarterly networking meetings.

- Linking in with the LEO (Local Enterprise Office) regarding the needs of newly arrived migrants in terms of employment opportunities.



Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

141 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2026 to 31.01.2026. This is compared to **93** in the same period in 2025.

58.86% of the applications received in 2026 have been lodged via the online portal – ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

63 Valid Commencement Notices and 6 Valid Seven Day Notices were received in the period 01/01/2026 to 31/01/2026. This is compared to 25 commencement notices and 1 Seven Day Notice in the same period in the previous year.

The Commencement Notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	18
Multi-Units	198** Units
Extensions	14
Other*	13

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

The Seven Day Notices can be broken own as follows:

Development Type	Number
Multi-Units	8** Units
Other*	5

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

**This includes a resubmission of a Seven Day Notice for which the initial valid Seven Day Notice has since been withered.

No commencement notice or Seven Day Notice has been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2026 to 31.01.2026.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

The collection figures for development contributions for the period January 2026 are as follows:

Receipt Period:	**Jan 2026**
Total Receipts	€ 267,792
Recoupments received	€ 4,826,736

Total Received	**€ 5,094,528**

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2024:	€ 8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan 2026:	€ 5,094,528
% collected :	64%

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann receipts.

The collection figures shown above are **inclusive** of Uisce Eireann receipts of € 470.

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2025 was € 315,022.

Circular PL04 2023: Temporary Time Limited Waiver Scheme 25/4/2023 to 31/12/2024. Final recoupment submitted 31/7/2025.

The total units recouped under the Waiver Scheme are as follows:

Total	**Units**	**Value**
Sept – Dec **2023**	558	3,895,702
Jan 2024	47	363,510

Feb 2024	66	472,000
Mar 2024	110	943,758
April 2024	120	862,771
May 2024	102	789,090
Refund paid to Dept. for social units	-36	-216,000
June 2024	99	686,780
July 2024	296	1,888,270
August 2024	276	1,792,500
September 2024	336	2,233,500
October 2024	318	2,164,010
November 2024	689	4,496,200
December 2024	333	2,154,297
January 2025	45	367,811
February 2025	31	272,500
March 2025	504	3,198,429
April 2025 (submitted May 2025)	134	871,495
May 2025	66	427,030
June 2025	16	126,000
July 2025	679	4,826,736
December 2025 Refund to Dept		**-1,415,500**
TOTAL	**4,789**	**31,200,889**

Please note that further refunds will be processed as more social units are identified.

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

- 40 Planning Enforcement complaints received since 01/01/2026
- 14 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 31/01/2026

New Cases to be Investigated	21
Warning Letters	25
Enforcement Notices	8
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	13
Court Attendances* This number does not include cases for Judicial Review or Meath County Council as Notice party	2

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

5. Forward Planning

Implementation Plan for Revised Housing Targets set out in new National Planning Framework Guidelines.	The variation to incorporate NPF Revised Housing Targets into the Meath CDP 2027-2033 is currently undergoing environmental assessment and due for public consultation end Feb/early March 2026. Work on variation to zone additional lands in South Drogheda will be subsumed into this Variation.
Review of Meath County Development Plan 2027-2033	The Chief Executives Report on Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper was distributed to Elected Members on 22nd January 2026. Report to be considered by Elected Members up to 2nd April 2026. A Workshop will be held in coming weeks on Strategic Issues and Guidance on the preparation of Notice of Motions. The appointment of consultants to undertake the assessments required to inform the new County Development Plan is underway. Background work on the Draft Meath CDP 2027-2033 is ongoing.
Masterplans	The Following Masterplans are under preparation and under review: • Masterplan 13 - Balreask Old, lands between Trim Road and Commons Road. • MP 31 - Lands to the west of Trim which include the OPW building and buildings which front onto Emmet Street. • MP19 – Rath, North Ashbourne. • MP12 - Boyne Village Masterplan

6. Heritage

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2026: Submissions closed on 30/01/2026 and eleven applications were received. All applications were assessed in line with CMF Scheme Guidance and submitted (where appropriate) to the Department.

Country Heritage Plan Fund: Funding has been sought from The Heritage Council to support delivery of projects and initiatives from the County Meath Heritage Strategy 2024-2030.

Creative Ireland Funded Projects: Funding for Community Heritage Grant Scheme and Kells Printing Works awarded for 2026.

Irish Walled Town Network Fund-Capital & Interpretation–Scoping and preparing project applications ongoing.

Kells Printworks Project: Commissioning Phase of Kells Printing Work continues with restoration of wood furniture, sourcing and securing additional furniture (drawers, drying racks and archival chests), branding, health and safety for printers and activities and development of programmes (workshops and public tours) and design of initial merchandise.

Conservation

Historic Structures Fund 2026: Applications to the Department submitted on the 6th of February (3 in total). Structures submitted are St Shiria's Church in Crossakiel, Moynalty Church of Assumption and the Convent of Mercy Churches in Kells.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Thatch Buildings 2026:

There were 21 successful applications between both schemes with total funding of €260,135.02.

Historic Thatch Buildings: Two successful applications in Tara and Castletown, both receiving €6,349.51.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: Nineteen successful applicants with a total of €247,436.00 divided between them.

Ratoath MD: St. Martins of Tours Church.

Ashbourne MD: St. Mary's Church in Kenstown and Clashford House in Naul.

Laytown/Bettystown MD: St. David's Church, Syddan, Duleek House, Boyne Canal Cottage and Fullam Thatch.

Trim MD: Blackshade Thatch, Boggan's Bar, Rathcore Church, Trim Convent, Talbot Castle and Agher Church.

Kells MD: Convert of Mercy Churches, Headfort House, 14 Carrick Street, St Columba's Church, Kenlis House and Rowen House.

Biodiversity

Creative Ireland Funded Projects: In line with Action 23 of the MBAP, the Biodiversity Officer has been approved €10,000 in funding to initiate the first steps in developing an Urban Nature Plan for Navan. The project will take place between April & November 2026.

Meath Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP): A work plan for 2026 has been drafted

Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) Projects: An application for funding has been sought from NPWS for a number of projects which align with the aims of the MBAP, including continuation of the Meath County Council's wetlands survey, tree and woodlands survey, commencement of a grassland survey, commencement of a hedgerow survey, the Commons of Lloyd biodiversity and conservation agriculture project, Project ReFarm, invasive species surveys and woodland bat monitoring

Climate Action and Environment



Climate Action

URBACT – In4Green

The Launch of the Navan Integrated Action Plan took place in the Thrive Centre of Business Excellence on Monday 26th January with Cathaoirleach Cllr. Wayne Harding and Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe in attendance alongside Navan's local elected members, local traders and a number of climate and community leaders. The plan provides a clear, locally-driven pathway for Navan to reduce carbon emissions, foster innovation, and build a resilient and sustainable economy, while enhancing quality of life for the town's businesses, communities and residents.



Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)

Meath's SEC Mentors are continuing to support Meath communities to develop SEC's, and 2 more areas are in the process of completing EMP's. SEAI have not completed a framework for consultants, so this is causing delays nationwide.

SEAI are holding a home energy upgrade event in the Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne, **Saturday March 7th, 1-4pm.**



Community Climate Action Programme

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the programme has seen significant progress, with 15 projects completed and 12 currently in progress due for completion by April 2026.

Phase 2

Over 90 groups expressed interest following a social media and in person information campaign from August to October. An additional number of email and phone queries were dealt with from October to December from interested parties. The application period is closed on the 9th of December 2025.

	# applications Received	Total value of applications	Total Allocation to MCC
Small grants	29	€ 385,308.55	€81,100.00
Medium grants	25	€ 954,158.39	€324,400.00
Large grants	21	€ 1,804,892.25	€405,500.00
Totals	75	€ 3,144,359.19	€811,000.00

MD Area	#applications received
Ashbourne	12
Kells	19
Laytown Bettystown	14
Navan	12
Ratoath	8
Trim	10

The applications have been evaluated by Meath County Council and will be send to DCEE for final approval by 17th February with a final decision due by 31st March 2026.

SEAI M&R

The Monitoring and Reporting system is a web-based software system through which public bodies and schools report energy, emissions and related data to SEAI each year. This enables SEAI to track each organisation's progress towards energy and climate policy targets. Phase one deadline for meter point reconciliation has passed on January 30th. A submission was completed on behalf of Meath County Council for phase 1, with phase 2 due in April. After which, a provisional scorecard will be available.

Libraries Services



Bettystown Library at East Meath Civic Centre

Bettystown Library will mark its first anniversary on February 24th, celebrating an exceptional year that has firmly established it as a vibrant community hub. In just twelve months, over 67,000 visitors have passed through its doors, and the branch has registered over 5.300 members since opening. From its first week, when more than 1.300 people joined, the library has delivered a dynamic programme of activity. Over 57,000 books and other items have been borrowed, 569 events and room bookings have taken place, and over 1,500 users have availed of the sensory room bookings (excluding class group use). Weekly programmes include Magic Tummy Time, Parent & Toddler Group, storytimes, school visits, and creative workshops continue to thrive, while adult initiatives including the Open Book Craft Group and Cookbook Book Club have expanded significantly, requiring larger meeting spaces.

Anniversary celebrations on Tuesday February 24th will reflect the library's community focus, featuring Storytime & Monster Doodle, a Bedtime Story session, a performance by the Buvinda choir, and all-day exhibitions showcasing the library's journey and the work of the Open Book Craft Group. Competitions for adults and children will further engage the library community.

Youth Libraries Group Conference

The 2026 Youth Libraries Group Conference 'Recommending with Confidence' was proudly hosted at Bettystown Library on February 11th, welcoming 55 library staff from across Ireland and featured a range of speakers. The event marked a significant occasion for the library service, reflecting the strength, collaboration and professionalism of the national public library network. Delegates gathered to share expertise, strengthen professional practice and enhance their confidence in supporting young readers. The conference programme showcased the breadth and impact of youth library services with sessions exploring diversity and inclusion through StorySacks, innovative creative engagement projects, and the celebration of Irish children's literature. The conference underscored the essential contribution libraries make to children, families and communities nationwide.



Laureate for Irish Fiction

Meath County Council Library Service, in partnership with The Arts Council's *The Island of Imagination: A Literary Tour of Ireland* programme, hosted an engaging author event in Trim Library and Swift Cultural Centre on January 20th.

Laureate for Irish Fiction Éilís Ní Dhuibhne was joined in conversation by Meath authors Oisín Fagan (*Hostages, Nobber, Eden's Shore*) and Roisín O'Donnell (*Nesting*).

Roisín and Oisín shared thought-provoking insights into their work, early influences and experiences and their creative processes. Audience interaction was a highlight with both authors taking questions from the very engaged crowd.



Ireland Reads

Ireland Reads Day will take place on Saturday, February 27th.

The key objective of Ireland Reads is to create national awareness of libraries and to promote the many benefits of reading. To mark the occasion, Meath County Council Library Service will host events across all Meath libraries, aimed at encouraging visits, increasing membership registrations, and boosting borrowing. All events will be promoted in-branch and across social media channels.

Each library will host a STEAM-themed story time and activity session for children on the day, featuring one of a selection of engaging themes.

In addition, a family-friendly scavenger hunt will take place in all branches. Participants will search for well-known book characters hidden throughout the library, with a prize awarded to successful entrants.

A new adult reading initiative, *The Great Reading Reset*, will be launched on Ireland Reads Day. This challenge is designed to encourage more people to read and to inspire those who may have fallen out of the habit to rediscover the joy of books. The focus is on reading as a restorative activity — an opportunity to step away from the pace and pressures of daily life. Participants will be entered into monthly draws to win book vouchers, and at the end of the year, there will be a grand prize which will consist of an overnight stay in a Meath hotel, including a spa treatment for two guests.

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1st January 2026 to 11th February 2026		
Applications Received	5	2026 applications
Fully Completed Applications	2	2026 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	1	2026 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	2026 application
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	2	2026 applications
Active Approvals	9.57	7.83 relate to 2025, 0.7 relate to 2024, 1.04 relate to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2026 to 11th February 2026 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023, 2024 and 2025. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.