comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

April 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.

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Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

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

The report covers the following:

Directorate for Corporate Affairs and Governance, HR Management and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Directorate for Housing and Integration

Housing Services

Directorate for Transportation, Urban Regeneration & Asset Management

Transportation

Directorate for Planning & Strategic Projects

Planning and Development

Directorate for Financial Services and Information Systems

Finance Services

Directorate for Climate Action, Culture, Community & Gaeltacht Affairs

Climate Action and Environment

Library Services

Community Development

Directorate for Economic Development, Rural Regeneration & EU Affairs

Economic Development

Tourism

Rural Regeneration

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Scoláireachtai Gaeltachta

D'fhógair Comhairle Chontae na Mí sonraí faoina scéim scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta don bhliain 2026 ar an 21 Eanáir ar na meáin shóisialta na comhairle chontae , an suíomh gréasáin , an *Meath Chronicle*, agus sa 'An Páipéar' – nuacht as Gaeilge. Bhí an scéim seo oscailte do dhaltaí a bhí ag freastal ar mheánscoileanna sa Chontae agus dóibh siúd a bhí ina gcónaí sa chontae ach ag freastal ar scoileanna eile taobh amuigh den chontae. chomh maith. Cuireadh eolas maidir leis an scéim chuig gach meánscoil sa Mhí.n

Bhí fiche a heocht deontas Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh ar a bhfuil luach €150.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna dara leibhéal sa chontae.Bhí ocht deontas eile Máthair Columba Gibbons, ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí a bhí ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal; agus sé deontas eile Máire Ni Raghallaigh ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann ar fáil do dhaltaí a bhí ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal fosta. Is féidir na deontais a fhorchúiteamh in aghaidh táillí a íoctar do choláistí samhraidh cónaithe atá aitheanta i rith an tsamhraidh 2024.

Tá an Scéim Scoláireachta Gaeltachta á tacú ag Comhairle Contae na Mí, cláir Ghaeilge agus Éire Chruthaitheach.

Gaeltacht Scholarships

Meath County Council announced details of its Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme for 2026 on the 21 January on council social media, the website, the Meath Chronicle, and Irish language newspaper 'An Páipéar'. This scheme was open to students attending secondary schools in the County and also

to those living in the county but attending schools outside the county. Information regarding the scheme was forwarded to all secondary schools in Meath.

Twenty-eight Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh grants of €150.00 each were made available to students attending second level schools in the county. Eight Mother Columba Gibbons grants of €300.00 each were made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools; and a further 6 Máire Ní Raghallaigh grants of €300.00 each were also made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools. The grants will be recoupable against fees paid at recognised residential Irish colleges during the summer of 2026.

The Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme is supported by the Meath County Council, Irish Language and Creative Ireland programmes.



Seoladh 'Anseo' – Tuiscint Áite – Leabharlann Cheanannais

Fuair an Tionscadal seo maoiniú ón Roinn d'údaráis áitiúla chun tacú le tionscnaimh chomórtha agus taispeánann sé cruthuithe fisiceacha ealaíonta de logainm Gaeilge i gcodanna adhmaid agus taispeánadh i leabharlann Cheanannais. Is de rogha agus spéis an dalta féin gach logainm atá ar taispeáint agus ceann a bhaineann lena cheantar áitiúil féin.

Faoi stiúir an éascaitheora ealaíontóra Mark Smith, an t-oifigeach Gaeilge Nóirín Murphy agus an múinteoir Ealaíne Emma Byrne, fuair daltaí ón rang Ealaíne na 5ú bliana i bPobalscoil Naomh Ciarán i gCeanannas eolas ar an seanchló Gaeilge Cló Gaelach. Sean-stíl chló-aghaidh na comharthaíochta Gaeilge a bhí anseo a tugadh isteach ag tús an 20ú haois mar fhoirm agóide in aghaidh riail na Breataine in Éirinn, nuair a cuireadh suas comharthaí sráide dátheangacha glasa agus bán; agus

maireann sé ar go leor plátaí sráide, comharthaí siopa, oifigí poist agus foirgnimh scoile ar fud na hÉireann.

Ag gabháil do scileanna an ealaíontóra Mark Smith a rinne sainfheidhmiú ar léiriú ealaíonta an chló uathúil Ghaeilge seo, fuair na scoláirí léirthuiscint ar an bhféiniúlacht Ghaelach agus ar an nGaeilge agus spreagadh iad chun labhairt lena seantuismitheoirí agus baill eile den teaghlach leathnaithe faoi stair a gceantar féin sna blianta atá thart chun eolas a fháil ar an sean-logainm Gaeilge a bhaineann lena gceantar áitiúil.

Chuir an tionscnamh ar chumas agus ar spreagadh do dhaoine óga dul i ngleic go dearfach leis an nGaeilge lasmuigh de churaclam na scoile; ag iarraidh orthu féachaint ar an mbealach is fearr is féidir leo a leagan féin de chló-aghaidh a úsáid chun léiriú a thabhairt ar an áit as a dtagann siad; bíodh sin ainm páirce, tobar beannaithe, nó baile fearainn.

Launch of 'Anseo' – 'A Sense of Place' - Kells Library

This Project which received Department funding for local authorities to support commemorative initiatives displays artistic physical creations of an Irish language placename into sections of wood and was displayed in Kells library. Each placename on display is of the student's own choice and interest and one that is associated with their own local area.

Under the guidance of artist facilitator Mark Smith, Irish language officer Nóirín Murphy and Art teacher Emma Byrne, students from the 5th Year art class in Kells community school gained knowledge on the old Irish Language typeface Cló Gaelach. This was an old Irish language typeface style of signage which was introduced at the turn of the 20th century as a subtle form pf protest against British rule in Ireland, when bilingual green and white streetplate signs were erected; and it survives on many streetplates, shop signage, post offices and school buildings throughout Ireland.

Engaging the skills of artist Mark Smith who has specialised in the artistic expression of this unique Irish language typeface, the students gained an appreciation of Irish identity and the Irish language and were encouraged to speak with their grandparents and other extended family members about the history of their locality in years gone by so as to gain knowledge on the old Irish placename / logainm associated with their local area.

The initiative enabled and encouraged young people to engage in a positive way with the Irish language outside of the school curriculum; asking them to look at how best they can use their own

chosen version of a Gaelic typeface to represent where they come from; be that a field name, a holy well, or a townsland.





Visit of Minister John Cummins Showcases Council Progress



Meath County Council welcomed Minister John Cummins to the Thrive Centre of Business Excellence on Monday, 9 March 2026, as part of a visit highlighting the Council's delivery of housing and town centre regeneration projects across the county. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase collaborative working between elected members, senior management and housing teams.

A key focus of the visit was the Ashbourne Affordable Housing Scheme at Coach, Ashbourne, where the Minister received a briefing on the proposed development, which will deliver 92 affordable homes along with a crèche and retail units, with construction scheduled to commence in April 2026. The Minister also met with the Council's Senior Management Team and acknowledged the scale of work underway and the strong partnership approach being taken by Meath County Council.

The visit concluded with a tour of Brews Hill, Navan, a flagship town centre regeneration project that has transformed a derelict site into a high-quality residential development.



New Local Lens Episode Goes Inside Thrive

March 2026 also saw the release of a new episode of Local Lens, *Inside Thrive: Enterprise, Food and MeathMade*. The episode explores the role of Thrive, Meath County Council's Centre for Business Excellence, in supporting enterprise, food innovation and the creative sector, and includes contributions from Economic Development, the Local Enterprise Office, Boyne Valley Flavours and Meath-based businesses.

In the episode, Dara McGowan, Director of Economic Development, outlines how Thrive is attracting new investment and supporting both start-ups and established businesses in the Royal County. Rebecca Meade, Food Development Officer with Boyne Valley Flavours, is joined by Áine Farrelly of Urbo Milk to discuss the organisation's contribution to its members and to Meath's culinary heritage.

The episode also features Caoimhe Delany from the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and artist Anita Reynolds, who explore the MeathMade initiative and the growing creative cluster supported by LEO Meath.

The episode, which also includes remarks from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Peter Burke and reflections from Meath-based businesses already benefiting from the centre, is available now on all major podcasting platforms.



€15.8m Investment for Meath Fire Services

Meath County Council has welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of €15.8 million in funding for Fire Services in County Meath under the national Fire Services Capital Programme 2026–2030.

The allocation includes €13 million for the refurbishment and expansion of Navan Fire Station Headquarters, which has been identified as a national priority project, €2.8 million for upgrade works at Oldcastle Fire Station, and funding for one new fire appliance.

The Navan project will deliver a modern replacement headquarters facility on the existing site, with continuity of service maintained throughout construction. Subject to statutory processes, planning is anticipated in 2026 with construction expected to commence in late 2027.

This investment forms part of a €328.5 million national programme, the largest ever for fire service infrastructure, aimed at strengthening emergency response capacity, improving firefighter safety and ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose.



Oldcastle Fire Station Upgrade Takes Key Step Forward

March 2026 also saw Meath County Council host a contract signing event with Van Dijk Architects, formally advancing the extension and upgrade of Oldcastle Fire Station.

The signing was attended by Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe, An Cathaoirleach Cllr Wayne Harding, Director of Services Des Foley and Chief Fire Officer Sheila Broderick, marking an important milestone in the progression of the project.

The development will deliver a modern, future-ready fire station for the Oldcastle community, supporting improved facilities, enhanced training capacity and the long-term resilience of Meath County Council's Fire & Rescue Service.



Frederick Bourne Park Officially Unveiled in Ashbourne

March 2026 saw the official unveiling of a new sign renaming Phase 1 of Ashbourne Linear Park as Frederick Bourne Park. The unveiling, attended by Ashbourne Municipal District Elected Members, Council staff and members of the Ashbourne Historical Society, coincided with Founder's Day on 4 March and honours Frederick Bourne's contribution to the development of Ashbourne.

The initiative also reflects Meath County Council's ongoing investment in celebrating local heritage while enhancing high-quality public spaces for the community.



Contract Signed for €2.3m Kilcloon Community Centre

March 2026 marked a positive milestone for community development in Meath, with the formal contract signing for the new €2.3 million Kilcloon Community Centre. The agreement was signed by Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe with CF Hoey Construction, progressing a project delivered through strong cross-departmental collaboration within the Council.

Designed by McKevitt King Architects, the 480sqm facility will include a multi-purpose hall, dedicated youth space and flexible meeting rooms. Located at Ballynare Cross, alongside the award-winning community playground, the centre will provide a vibrant and welcoming hub for local groups, schools and families into the future.





Supporting Inclusive Communication Across Meath

Meath County Council has recently collaborated on a new video series titled *"Communication is Beyond Words"*, developed by the HSE Meath Speech and Language Therapy Department and supported by Meta.

Building on the introduction of communication boards in playgrounds across Meath since 2021, the series highlights the many ways people communicate — spoken, visual and non-verbal — and reinforces the importance of creating inclusive, accessible spaces for children, families and communities.



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 Q1 2026:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q1 - 2026	79	5	1

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 Q1 2026 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q1- 2026	16	0	0

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 Q1 2026 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q1 - 2026	7

Housing Services



Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE			
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	Q4 2026	Q3 2027
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q1 2027	Q1 2029
Planning & Design Total	**69**		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q3 2026	Q1 2028
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q3 2026	Q3 2027
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2026	Q1 2027
Total Tender for Construction	**28**		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q2 2026
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q2 2026

Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q3 2025	Q1 2027
Construction Total	51		
OVERALL TOTAL	**181**		

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE
Rathaldron Court, Navan	**27**	**Q3 2024**	**24/02/2026**

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 1st April 2026.

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	**38**
Enfield	Part V	**6**
Kells	Part V	**13**
Kilcock	Part V	**3**
Longwood	Part V	**12**
Navan	Part V	**76**
Oldcastle	Part V	**13**
Rathmolyon	Part V	**9**
Ratoath	Part V	**41**
Summerhill	Part V	**21**
Trim	Part V	**33**
Kells	Turnkey	**8**
Navan	Turnkey	**62**
Navan	CAS	**12**
Slane	CAS	**1**
Trim	CAS	**2**
Oldcastle	CAS	**6**
Total		**445**

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 1st April 2026.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Drogheda	Part V	**4**
Dunshaughlin	Part V	**1**
Enfield	Part V	**20**
Kilcock	Part V	1
Drogheda	Turnkey	**30**
Total		**56**

Affordable Housing Delivery

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

- Foxwood Park Kells – The online portal for these affordable housing units opened for applications on 29th January 2026 at 12 noon, 7 properties allocated, offer letter issued for the remaining property.

Upcoming Schemes approved by the Department

- Cherryvalley Rathmolyon - 8 units - Q2 2026
- The Hollies Ballivor – 2 units – Q2 2026
- Gilson Avenue Oldcastle 3 units Q3 2026
- Cluain Lionn Grove, Oldcastle 6 units Q4 2026
- Coach, Ashbourne 92 units Q1 2027
- Bennetstown Dunboyne (Approved 02/04/2026) – 60 – Q3 2026
- The Furrows Ratoath (Approval in principle) – 14 units – Q3 2026

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)

The Department has confirmed that €227,734.37 in unclaimed 2025 completed works must be deducted from the 2026 LAAWS allocation. After this deduction, the available funding and current commitments for 2026 are set out below.

☐

Status of LAAWS for 2026		**Funding (90% including VAT)**
LAAWS Funding Grant 90% including VAT		€ 633,608.00
Total completed brought forward from 2025	18	€ 227,734.37
Total No. to date of applications for 2026	78	
Applications awaiting works to date for 2026	35	
Works underway	28	€ 244,123.18
Works completed to date in 2026	15	€ 153,572.51
Remaining funding		**€ 8,177.94**

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

418 grants awarded to the value of €3,387,475.98 up to 31/03/2026. 2026 Combined budget is €5,674,071

Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy retrofit works on energy occupied and void properties are ongoing. 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). Recent circulars from the Department will necessitate a change in approach to void properties energy retrofits will no longer be carried out on void properties and will only be carried out on occupied properties going forward.

Local Authority Planned Maintenance

311 Stock Condition Surveys have been completed in Meath so far in 2026 (up to 2nd April 2026). Information gathered from these surveys has resulted in arranging for replacement of smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms in stock houses.

Radon detectors are now being placed in stock houses. Collection of these detectors has commenced, and results are being received. One house so far shows slightly higher than normal readings and this house will have remedial measures carried out as soon as possible.

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 (55 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	4	3	1	4	4
Navan	7	6	14	22	5
Ashbourne	1	0	1	1	1
Laytown/Bettystown	4	0	1	2	3
Ratoath	2	0	1	1	2
Trim	5	2	3	6	4
TOTALS	**23**	**11**	**21**	**36**	**19**

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	Q4 2026
Dunboyne Heights, Dunboyne	50	Iveagh Trust - CALF	Q1 2027
Frederick Court Ashbourne	26	Circle - CALF	Q3 2026
An Dreoilin, Block B, Bettystown Town Centre	46	Tuath - CALF	Q4 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	**148**		

Homelessness – February 2026

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 30th January, 2026	188 (194 Adults)	87 (122 Adults & 152 Children)	275
Placements at 28th February, 2026	202 (210 Adults)	89 (127 Adults & 157 Children)	291

Of the households with children, 79 families are placed in short-term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention, 10 Families in Family Hubs.

96% bed allocations were availed of by service users

4% 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 LA's will also engage with these LA's. This includes Louth, Fingal, Westmeath & Kildare.

36 Presentations on homelessness were made. This comprised 13 Families.

Reason for EA Presentations	Total Numbers
NTQ	10
Family Circumstance	8
Hospital | Prison | Care	5
Couch Surfing | Cannot Afford	9
Rough Sleeping	0
Other	4
Total	**36**

EA Exit Figures:

- **Families:**
  - 9 Families exited EA in February. This comprised 13 Adults & 12 Children.

Reason for EA Family Exit	Total Numbers
MCC Allocation	0
Not availing of Bed	0
Return to Family / Friend	2
HAP	4
Private Rented	1
Other	1

AHB Allocation	1
Total	**9**

- **Singles/Couples:**
  - 24 Singles/Couples exited EA in February

Reason for EA Singles/Couples Exit	Total Numbers
MCC Allocation	2
Not availing of Bed	8
Return to Family / Friend	2
HAP	1
Private Rented	0
Hospital/Treatment/Prison	1
Terminated	8
Other	1
Declined EA	1
Total	**24**

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 28/02/2026

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	127				**27**	**59**	**41**	**0**
Couples	16				**4**	**3**	**7**	**2**
Singles	194				**23**	**57**	**96**	**18**
Children	157	**55**	**60**	**42**				
Total	**494**	**55**	**60**	**42**	**54**	**119**	**144**	**20**

Homeless HAP Placefinder 01/02/2026 – 28/02/2026

Total	**3**
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	3
Homeless Prevention	0
In Progress	6

Tenant Liaison Team February 2026

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	53	28
Occupancy of dwelling	70	54
Garden upkeep/maintenance	26	24
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	2	2
Total	151	108

ASB Investigations on going at (month end)	76
ASB Investigations completed (month end)	32
Number of Pre Tenancies completed in February 2026	55
Abandonments for February 2026	0
Houses taken back into stock for 2026	4

Warnings Issued 2026

Warnings	January 2026	February 2026
Verbal	1	6
Written	2	4
2nd Written	1	0
Statutory	0	0
Advisory	34	0
Total	38	10

Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme						
2026	Applications Received	Invalid	Offers Issued	Offers Accepted	File to Solicitor	Sale Closed
January	6	0	1	2	2	2
February	6	0	3	2	2	1
Total	12	0	4	4	4	3

Standards in Rented Accommodation

1148 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of March 2026. Of this figure, 518 were first inspections and 68 properties passed after their first inspection. 76 Improvement Notices and 15 Prohibition Notices were served in YTD. 21 Improvement Notices have been withdrawn in YTD 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 February 2026 – 28th February 2026

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	29
Transfers	3
Approved Housing Bodies	4
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	9
Long Term Leasing (inc Private MTR)	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
TOTAL	**45**

Housing Assistance Payment – 9 Hap tenancies commenced in February 2026

Transportation Services



1. National Roads

Funding Source	**TII**
Grant Allocation	**8,816,244**
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	Land & Property Valuer- Avison Young to be appointed shortly. Ecology walkover surveys to commence from Mid-March.
N52MH_034.0 Balrath Cross RSIS	Design report currently being progressed.
N51 Tullaghanstown Bog Rampart Scheme	Phases 1 to 4 commencing.
N51 Pavement Schemes	Proposals being prepared for submission to TII.

2. Non - National Roads

Funding Source	**DoT**
Grant Allocation	**€26,862,000**

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

Grant Allocation	€14,672,500 Restoration Improvement €3,467,000 Restoration Maintenance €750,000 Strategic Rehabilitation Regional Road (Former National Road)
Own Resources (Local tertiary roads)	€5,278,630 LT €450,000 CIS €327,369 RM
Total	**€6,055,999**
Scheme	Update
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Tender competition closed Monday 23rd March. Tender evaluation ongoing.
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing):	Tender closing on Wednesday 25th March
Phase 3 (Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Tender closing on Monday 30th March
Phase 4 (Wearing Course):	Tender closing on Wednesday 1st April
Community Involvement Scheme	Programme selection complete
Local Tertiaries	Programme selection complete
Local Improvement Schemes	Programme selection complete

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

Grant Allocation	**€1,225,000**
Scheme	Update
R156/R125 Mullagh Cross	Detail design and discussions re land acquisition and utility diversions progressing.
R155 Curragha	Tender Documents for Consultants drafted and being reviewed for scheme which includes potential realignment of R155 south of village and traffic calming through the village.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme	Constraints being identified and mapped. Public Consultation re constraints to run from 16th Feb to 30th March 2026. Option Selection commenced.
R108 / L16111 Bey More Junction safety scheme	Option Selection process progressing and potential options identified being reviewed.

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

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
R-108 Bey More	Works substantially complete
R-125 Grennoge	Works substantially complete
R-125 Collinstown	Works substantially complete
R-155 Curragha	Works substantially complete
R-162 Nobber	Works substantially complete
R-195 Fennor Oldcastle	Works substantially complete

R-195 Springhall	Works substantially complete
L-1603 Lobinstown	Works substantially complete
L-4007 Clonmalevan	Works substantially complete
L-5054 Kentstown	Works substantially complete
L-5614 Bettystown	Works substantially complete
L-5018 Ballybin	Proposals currently being finalised and landowner agreement being negotiated.
L16111 Platin	Proposals for works at L16111/L56131 Junction (Mounthanover Junction) being progressed

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

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
BAMS Bridge Inventory and Maintenance Inspection (2025)	2026 inspections ongoing
L16011 Verdons Bridge	Contractor appointed. Works now scheduled to commence in July 2026
L3405 Aclare Bridge	Works tenders being assessed
L28013 Graultys Bridge	Works tenders being assessed
R164 Piercetown Bridge	Design stage ongoing
L6833 Ballybeg Bridge	Consultants Being procured
L8603 Edengora Bridge	Consultants Being procured

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation	**€205,000**
Scheme	**Update**
R160 Clongowan €185,000	Draft Site investigation report submitted awaiting Consultants recommendations.
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	**To be confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	**NTA**
Grant Allocation	€10m allocated for 2026
Scheme	Update
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	Construction works continued to progress well on site despite the inclement weather. Approximately 1,000m of footpath has been completed along the southbound (riverside) of the R147. Kerbing and drainage works at the Academy Street junction (northbound) have also been completed. Continued on Swan Lane and at the Swan Bridge Culvert, where precast units for the culvert extension have been installed, and a new RC parapet wall poured. Temporary traffic management remains in place along the R147, at the Academy Street junction and at the Swan Lane/R147 junction and continues to operate effectively. Blockwork to the foundations to the new boundary to the Ardboyne Hotel on Swan Lane commenced.

NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	The Consultant has prepared draft concept drawings for additional elements associated with the Poolboy Bridge Scheme, including the potential extension of active travel facilities from the original LDR4 tie-in towards Blackwater Retail Park. The concept design proposes amendments to the previously approved Part 8 layout, including the provision of a continuous two-way cycle facility from Poolboy Bridge, through the N51 Fire Station and Balmoral junctions, to the LDR4 southern junction. Meath County Council is currently reviewing the proposed geometric changes required to accommodate these proposed facilities. In parallel, the consultant is undertaking traffic modelling to assess the feasibility and operational impacts of the proposed arrangements.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Preliminary design work continued this month on the overall scheme, and detailed design work on the Round 'O' roundabout element of the scheme also continued to be progressed. Traffic modelling work for the proposed Fire Station junction signals upgrade and reconfiguration of the Poolboy junction was completed, and the information will inform the design reports. A meeting was held with the Design Team to review current proposals for the Flowerhill Public Realm Scheme.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	No update this month.
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. Outstanding works items continued to be addressed.
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 - Beechmount to Balreask Manor	Documentation from the Successful Tender received and the formal appointment process has commenced.

Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	Design work (Preliminary Design) continued this month. An additional topographical survey commenced. The design interface with the proposed LDR 2A was reviewed.
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. Tenders have been received for engineering consultancy services to prepare the detailed design for the scheme. Tender assessment in progress. Work is progressing on the next section of the overall Dunboyne active travel network to be brought forward for Part 8 planning approval, which includes Rooske Road, Mill Farm, Navan Road, soccer club footpath, R157 bypass, Greenway and Castle Stream Greenway.
Castle Street Ashbourne	Consultant appointed to develop an Active Travel Scheme along Castle Street Ashbourne. Scheme has been extended to include Castle Way, St. Declan's NS and Alderbrook Road. Feasibility and route options selection report currently being finalised.
Johnstown Village Active Travel Scheme	Preliminary design for the public realm, active travel, Mrs. Butterly's community facility and adjacent residential development currently being progressed and due to be complete in late April.
BusIt2School	The BusIt2School scheme is funded by the DOT and aims to encourage primary school pupils to travel to and from school by bus. Participating schools included Navan Educate Together, Scoil Naomh Eoin Clonmaggaden and St. Stephens Johnstown. Scheme now complete and the close-out report has been submitted to the Department of Transport.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities	A technical consultant has been appointed, and the detailed design is now in development, as well as the necessary enabling works.
Newtown Road, Trim footpath	Civil works are well progressed, and the necessary new and improved public lighting will commence.
Bus Stop Improvement Programme	No update this month.

Safe Routes to School	
St. Stephen's NS, Navan (Round 1 school)	The civil works are complete, with new and upgrades to existing public lighting underway.
Beaufort College, Navan (Round 2 school)	Civil works are complete. Engaging with Lidl on the design for the permeability link.
Round 3 Schools Duleek Boys' National School, Scoil Naomh Seachnall, St Oliver Plunkett's National School Navan St Paul's National School, Navan	No update
Round 4 Schools Gilson National School, Oldcastle Navan Educate Together NS Scoil Naomh Bríde, Boardsmill St Ultan's NS Bohermeen	Meath County Council supporting An Taisce who administer the Safe Routes to School programme on the engagement with the schools, parent surveys, etc.

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 are now complete, with snagging works remaining.
Greenway Resurfacing	Works are now complete, with snagging works remaining.
Boyne Greenway	

Navan to Oldbridge	Extensive ecological, environmental and archaeological surveys are continuing, which will be necessary to support the development application. Landowners have been informed of the preferred route, and the Council are engaging with them on their requirements. Engagement with the oversight authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), is ongoing. Engagement on the design with statutory bodies, community groups and a public consultation to follow presently.

5.Other/Projects

Scheme	**Update**
Broadmeadow Riverwalk Ratoath	Tender documents are currently being developed for the delivery of the riverwalk. Consultation is required with adjacent residents impacted by the proposed scheme.
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	Tobin Consultant Engineers Ltd. is actively progressing the detailed design. MCC is exploring options to acquire land for a 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. This scheme has been extended along the N51 to address known safety issues. Workshop held with the TII, feasibility report currently being developed for the TII.
Trim Pedestrian Bridge	Temporary Army Bailey Bridge removed. Contract for new bridge awarded. Awaiting confirmation of construction program – currently expected new bridge will be manufactured and installed circa end Q2 2026.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme	Works progressing in Trim, Dunshaughlin and the Laytown-Bettystown MDs. Tender issued for works in the Navan MD
New footpaths to Community Centres	Preliminary design is complete for the footpath at Skyrne; the design will require an independent road safety audit.

	Design of the footpath extension at Millbrook, Oldcastle has commenced.
New footpaths to Schools	Design and administrative orders complete for new footpaths at Ughtyneill NS and Gaelscoil Bhradain Feasa. Procurement of a contractor has commenced. Designs progressing on new footpaths at Newtown-Creevagh NS, SN Ultan Naofa Baile Ghib, Kilbride NS (Trim MD). Finalising design at Ughtyneill NS.

6. URDF

Scheme	**Update**
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	No further updates since the last report
Frontage Improvement Works Flowerhill	MCC are continuing consultations with the property owners for the implementation of the works. Application Forms and documentation packs have now been issued to property owners who have expressed interest in participating in the scheme.

7. THRIVE

Scheme	**Update**
County Archive and Community Hub	Works stage 2 tender documents have been submitted by the contractors via 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 the last report

9. Meath County Council Projects

Scheme	Update
New Library/Community Building, Amenity Area, and Age-Friendly Housing, Ratoath	No further updates since the last report
Solstice – Frontage	No further updates since the last report

10. National Speed Limit Review

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

Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism



New Signage Mullaghboy Industrial Estate
A contractor has been successfully appointed for the upgrade of signage in Mullaghaboy Industrial Estate, Navan, with works due to commence in April.

Business Networks
The next round of Business network meetings are running on 15th, 22nd and 29th of April in the Thrive Centre of Business Excellence.

A Training Needs Analysis Survey will be completed with the networks to further support the members and progress on the previous actions around training and continued professional development.

Business Beyond Borders: USA & Barbados
Economic Development attended the Business Beyond Borders seminar at The Mill Enterprise Hub, Drogheda on the 31st March 2026 to hear from international experts and organisations supporting Irish companies as they explore entering new markets, navigate legal and regulatory considerations, and access networks that support export growth.

LEO Activity Report - March 2026 - Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	
Mentoring Assignments Approved	37
Attended Online Training Courses	255
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	10
Attended AI for Business Clinics	3
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	6
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	10
GREEN for Micro Applications	6
Digital for Business	8
LEAN for Micro	-

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	
Energy Efficiency Grant	-
LEO Grants	5
234 people attended events over Local Enterprise Week	

Local Enterprise Week 2026 was a highly successful week, bringing together entrepreneurs, start-ups and business owners for a dynamic series of events focused on learning, networking and growth. The week commenced with a Breakfast Launch on Monday, with Joe Lynam from Newstalk as MC interviewing a panel of speakers which set a positive tone and provided valuable networking opportunities and insights for attendees. On Tuesday, the Student Enterprise Programme County Final showcased the creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of young participants.

On Wednesday and Thursday, a range of training sessions were delivered with practical and insightful content, particularly in areas such as cyber resilience, imposter syndrome training, Al courses, Green Wellness and intellectual property, equipping businesses with essential knowledge to protect and grow their operations. On Friday the Women in Business & Tech event, held in celebration of International Women's Day, highlighted leadership, innovation, and collaboration among women across industries.



Centre of Food Culture

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland hosted a delegation the University of Gastronomic Sciences from Italy for a return study trip to the region 7th – 12th March, for visits to 21 producers and hospitality providers in the region. Visits included a morning visiting heritage sites in the region, a foraging walk at Sonairte Eco Centre, a visit to Martry Mill, Sheridans Cheesemongers and The Cider Mill Slane.





The Centre of Food Culture Ireland launched it's 2026 educational events programme consisting of farm walks and meet the maker events across the country from April – October 2026, making a significant milestone in our development with events scheduled in Clare, Laois, Tipperary, Cork and of course Meath and Louth.

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland was delighted to win "Innovator of the Year" at the Irish Restaurant Awards for County Meath, and are looking forward to representing the county at the national finals in Dublin in May.

Boyne Valley Tourism

AI Training
Boyne Valley Tourism held a free AI training session for members. Meath LEADER outlined funding supports for tourism businesses. Members were introduced to a range of AI tools and how they can use them in their work. It was great to see such a strong turnout.

Agent FAM Trip
Boyne Valley Tourism hosted 22 tour operators and business agents for a two-day visit to the Boyne Valley. The group explored heritage sites including Trim Castle, Slane Castle and the Spire of Lloyd, and enjoyed craft experiences at Sonas Craft Studio and Boyne Valley Wools. Distillery visits to Slane and Boann were also included. Food stops featured Bective Tearooms, Sage & Stone, Trim Castle Hotel, Bread with Benefits and Sheridan's Cheesemongers and Café. The aim is that these businesses will be included in future tour packages.

Member FAM Trip
A members' FAM trip also took place, including a tour of the Hill of Tara, a showcase of Bellinter House new spa facilities, and a craft workshop with Anita Reynolds at the Swift Cultural Centre. Lunch was hosted at Brogan's in Trim.
The day concluded in Enfield with an update on the National Famine Way and a visit to The Johnstown Estate. It was a valuable opportunity for members to experience local offerings and connect with other providers.



Sector Meetings
Sector meetings were held recently at the Thrive Centre of Business Excellence. These sessions supported networking between members across categories such as vintners and gastropubs, tour guides, retail, transport, tourist office, family fun, bike hire, attractions, angling, wellbeing, spa and specialist accommodation.

Boyne Valley Tourism Brand Review
Boyne Valley Tourism has appointed a designer to carry out a brand review and refresh to align with upcoming projects under the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy. The aim is to future-proof the brandmark and ensure consistency across sister brands and sub-projects. Completion is expected by May 2026.

Speed Networking Event
Boyne Valley Tourism held a speed networking event at the Monasterboice Inn, giving members the chance to meet one-to-one and share information about their businesses. Speakers included digital marketing expert Helen Leddy (Back Office Marketing) and LEO Meath consultant Mary Dunne (Iregan Advisors), who outlined supports available to tourism businesses.

Tourism Ireland Roadshow
Emma Gill, Tourism Officer, took part in Tourism Ireland's 'Experience Ireland' events in Milan, Paris, and Madrid from 9–13 March. These events offer Irish tourism providers the chance to meet, network and do business with key tour operators, travel agents and media across the three cities. Turnout and engagement were very strong, with many new contacts made, and Boyne Valley Tourism will continue to nurture these relationships with a view to increasing the number of European visitors to the Boyne Valley.


Ireland week
BOYNE VALLEY

Rural Regeneration



Derelict Sites	2026 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	35
No. of statutory orders issued	13
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2026	0
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2026	3

Vacant Homes	2026 total
Vacant Homes Identified	1
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2026	4
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2026	4

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2026 total
Approved Applications	187
Approved in Principle Applications	77
Applications In Progress/Info Requested (not commenced)	16
Rejected Applications	4
Withdrawn Applications	83
Completed / Paid Applications	118
Total Applications Received	366
Total Approved Grant Funding	€15,100,380
Total Paid Grant Funding	€6,444,472

Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process (Mar'26)	
Works Commenced (Mar'26)	
Kilcloon Community Centre	CCIF
Design & Tender doc's for Duleek Library	MCC
Consultant appointed for St Marys Church Kilmessan	TVRS PDM
Design works on propsoed chamber	MCC
Works Completed (Mar'26)	

Community Development



Meath Age Friendly

The new Meath Older Person's Council Executive Committee held their first meeting of 2026 on 4th March, at the Thrive Business Centre of Excellence. Members represent a broad spectrum of groups including the ICA, ALONE, Agewell, Men's Shed, St. Vincent de Paul and Tara Walking Group



Public Participation Network

A Community Support Hubs information workshop was held on March 24th along with Meath LCSP. Bringing together the centres/organisations that have completed the EOI, providing them with updated information and confirming their continued interest in being an local community support hub.

Meath PPN attended the Apprenticeship Expo in Trim along with Healthy Meath, to promote the APP and showcase how young people can get involved in their communities and engage in transferable skills and collaboration with local volunteer group.

Two Best Practice and Governance trainings were held for community groups, with 24 attending each evening.

Staff attended the Meath Chamber WellCharter launch and presented on how businesses can get involved in the Civic Dollars APP and how this aligns with their Corporate Social Responsibilities remit.

Staff attended the Social Prescribing open day in Ashbourne on March 23rd for migrant support groups. Also in Ashbourne on March 7th, presented at the SEAI Energy Hub information workshop, outlining grants available to community groups.

Meath PPN membership currently stands at 839.

Comhairle na nÓg

At the most recent Meath Comhairle na nÓg meeting on the 21st of February, members met with Senator Linda Nelson Murray to discuss their work on addressing school stress and the development of a proposed charter agreement between teachers and students regarding contact times outside of school hours. The charter has now received support from Senator Linda Nelson Murray, Darren O'Rourke TD and the full council of Meath County Council, with two young people also presenting the initiative at the recent full council meeting. Members additionally participated in a podcast with The Local Lens and contributed to a consultation around education. Letters regarding the charter are being sent to secondary schools across Meath this week to encourage engagement.

Community Grants Scheme

The Community Grant scheme closed for applications on Friday 13th March.
The Burial Ground Grant closed for applications on Friday 6th March.
The Failte Ireland Regional Festivals & Participative Events closed for applications Friday 20th March.
Assessment of applications is ongoing, and a recommendation will be prepared and presented to the Community Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs SPC and onward to full council for approval.

Meath Local Community Development Committee

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The February meeting of the LCDC took place on 28th February. The LCDC

- Approved the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Annual Plan
- Approved the 2025 LCDC Annual Report
- Approve an extension to the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 Local Strategy
- Received a presentation from Cultur Migrants Centre on the Migrant Community Development Programme

The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 27th March 2026 in the THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence, Johnstown Business Park, Navan.

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

The February meeting of the LAG took place on 28th February. The LAG received and considered recommendations of the Independent Evaluation Committee in relation to applications received under rolling calls under the LEADER 23-27 Programme.

The next LAG meeting will take place on Friday, 27th March 2026 in the THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence, Johnstown Business Park, Navan.

Local Enhancement Programme

126 applications were received, with a total request for funding of €622,295.78**.** The total of €222,535.73 in funding has been allocated to Co. Meath by the Department of Rural & Community Development & the Gaeltacht for the 2026 scheme. Applications are current bring assessed, with a report being prepared for presentation at the March LCDC meeting on 27th March 2026.

Healthy Meath

The 2026 Micro fund Grant Scheme opened in March, inviting applications from community groups for small health and wellbeing initiatives. A total fund of €15,000 is available. This year's Micro fund is the first grant scheme to be delivered through the Council's new online grant application portal system.



Development has begun on a new positive mental health and wellbeing website for Louth and Meath as part of the CommUnity Connect Louth and Meath project.

Healthy Meath participated in the Annual Meath GAA Health and Wellbeing Gathering in Dunganny and presented on the CommUnity Connect Louth and Meath project. Several Healthy Club Officers committed to becoming project Champions. Healthy Meath also attended the Meath Chamber Apprentice Expo to promote the Civic Dollars app and engage with local businesses and stakeholders. The March edition of the Healthy Meath newsletter is now available here.

The national consultation for the new Healthy Ireland Framework is now open until 22 April. The consultation materials are available here.

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The LCSP Coordinator represented Meath County Council and the Local Community Safety Partnership at the launch of Willow Domestic Abuse Services, participating as a panel speaker at the organisation's rebrand event, *Courage & Hope*, held at the Solstice Arts Centre. This engagement strengthened inter-agency collaboration with Willow and highlighted the LCSP's ongoing commitment to supporting domestic abuse prevention and early-intervention initiatives across the county. The coordinator contributed to discussions alongside sectoral partners, reflecting the LCSP's role in promoting community safety through partnership working.



The LCSP, in partnership with the Trim Community Gardai, hosted a Property Marking Event at Trim GAA on 14 March. The initiative provided members of the community with the opportunity to have valuable items—such as tools, bikes, laptops, and power tools—marked with their Eircode, supporting theft prevention and aiding recovery of stolen property. Several items were marked on the day, reflecting strong public engagement and the growing demand for practical crime-prevention supports.





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.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

Wear RED DAY 20th

Meath County Council Local Authority Integration Team were privileged to host oner 75 staff community groups and stakeholders from the Community Integration Forum at an event this morning to celebrate Wear Red Day. Wear Red Day is an annual initiative Nationally led by the Immigrant Council of Ireland #immigrancouncilofireland as part of the Show Racism the Red Card programme.



Group Photo with Barry Lynch DOS, Meath Partnership and Cultur Migrant Centre alongside our staff to "Show Racism the Red Card" on International Wear Red Day



A team from Finance show their solidarity on the day.

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: 18

Customer Service Cases Logged 2026:

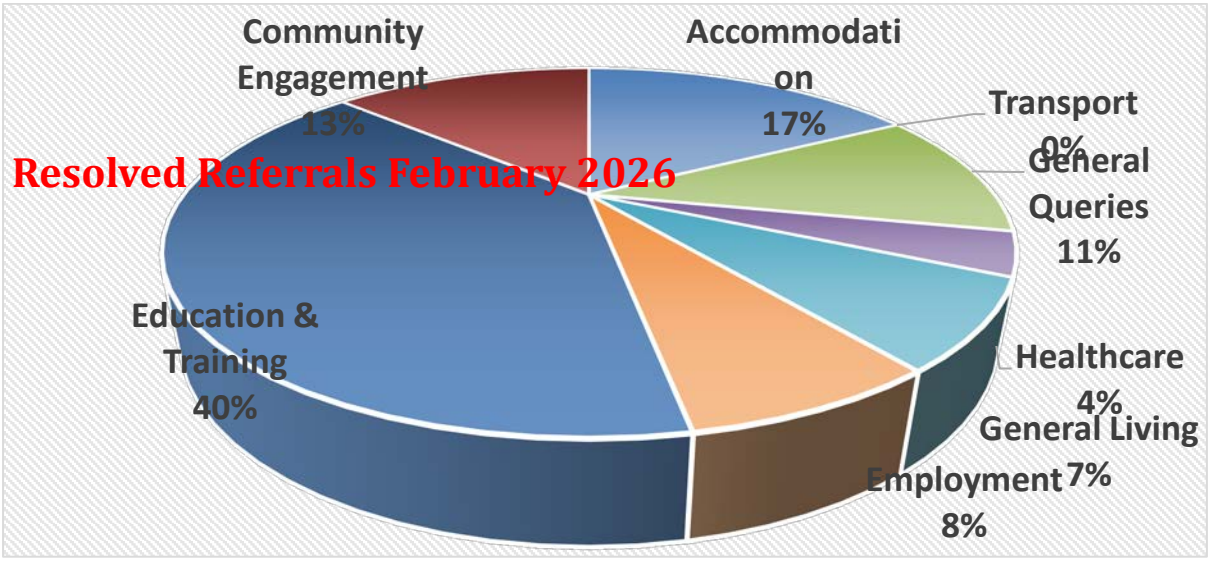
Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	**10**
Number of Customer cases closed	**61**

Figures

UKR	**580**
IP	**1018**

Meath County Council (LAIT) was selected to present as an example of best practice at the LGMA National Integration Conference with presentation on collaboration between LAIT's and Local Development Companies delivered by Brian Hora SEO Community and Linda Mackey, Community Link Worker, Meath Partnership.

Road Safety Workshops were delivered in conjunction with the Council's Road Safety Officer at 2 centres in Meath.



Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service



Age Friendly Ireland was part of the MCC delegation to Harvard University, Boston, on 13th March to discuss how research teams in both organisations are focusing on the needs of the ageing population.

A delegation from the Age Institute of Finland attended meetings in Buvinda House on 31st March, meeting with Age Friendly Ireland, the Meath Age Friendly Programme, and Exwell, as well as MCC Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach Wayne Harding.

An online meeting of the National Network of Older People's Councils took place on 10th March. Members were consulted about An Garda Síochána's Community Policing Strategy.

A second PhD student has started working with Age Friendly Ireland under a partnership with Maynooth University. Alejandro Mosquera will be focusing on a data governance framework for the shared service national office.

AFI is collaborating with TU Dublin on Age-Friendly AI: Ireland's National Artificial Intelligence Literacy Initiative. This was formally launched in March 2025 by TU Dublin and the Research Ireland ADAPT Centre to foster conversations about artificial intelligence with older adults and co-create tailored AI literacy training. The initiative aims to equip 1,200 older adults with knowledge about AI through workshops, an online portal, and community events over a two-year period.

Regional Managers for the core programme are co-ordinating the organisation of regional events for Older People's Councils, including road safety days, sports days and communications training.

AFI is supporting the organisation of the 3rd World Congress on Age Friendly Cities and Communities that will take place in San Sebastian, Spain in June. AFI is on the steering committee and has been involved in the review and selection of abstracts for presentation at the conference. A number of abstracts from AFI have also been accepted for presentation at the conference.

A meeting of the National Advisory Group for the shared service took place on 25th March.

National Age Friendly Ambassadors Day took place 4th March, hosted by Kerry County Council and the Kerry Age Friendly Programme in the Rose Hotel Tralee. The event raised awareness about working in later life and age diversity in the workplace.

The 36th meeting of the Commission on Care for Older People took place on Friday 27th February.

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

272 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2026 to 28.02.2026. This is compared to **221** in the same period in 2025.

72.4% of the applications received in 2026 have been lodged via the online portal – ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

53 Valid Commencement Notices and 10 Valid Seven Day Notices were received in the period 01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026. This is compared to 31 commencement notices and 5 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	32
Multi-Units	160** Units
Extensions	8
Other*	5

* 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 down as follows:

Development Type	Number
Multi-Units	43** Units
Other*	7

* 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 – February 2026 are as follows:

Receipt Period:	**Jan - Feb 2026**
Total Receipts	€ 1,993,495
Recoupments received	€ 4,826,736

Total Received	**€ 6,820,231**
Target Collection Jan - Dec 2024:	€ 8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan 2026:	€ 6,820,231
% collected :	85%

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann & Irish Rail (S49) receipts.

- Uisce Eireann receipts of € 933 and
- Irish Rail €874,394.

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2025 was € 772,202.

Circular PL04/2023: Temporary Time Limited Waiver Scheme 25/4/2023 to 31/12/2024.

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

Total	**Units**	**Value**
Sept – Dec 2023	558	3,895,702
Jan – Dec 2024	2,756	18,630,501
Jan – Dec 2025	1,254	8,674,501
TOTAL	**4,568**	**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)

- 88 Planning Enforcement complaints received since 01/01/2026
- 23 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 28/02/2026

New Cases to be Investigated	8
Warning Letters	27
Enforcement Notices	9
Referred for Legal Proceedings	1
Closed	21
Court Attendances* This number does not include cases for Judicial Review or Meath County Council as Notice party	7

*please note these figures relate to actions taken on files in the year 2026 only

5. Forward Planning

Draft Variation No.5 incorporating NPFs revised Housing Targets going on public display from Tuesday 31 March to 4pm Friday 1 May, 2026. Draft Variation available for viewing online at https://consult.meath.ie and at all Municipal District Offices.

Retail Strategy for Meath currently under preparation. A Retail Survey will commence 6th April to help Meath County Council understand how people shop and use local town centres. Survey expected to run for 3-4 weeks.

6. Heritage

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

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.

Culture Team: Input into development of Meath County Council application proposal for Department's EU Presidency Culture Programme – Local Authority Programming Scheme.

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Officer was involved in organising and delivering two events to celebrate World Wetlands Day in early February.

- Wading Birds of Mornington – Sunday 1st February – Mornington Cemetery
- Rooted in our Landscape – Monday 2nd February – BOOK MARKet Café



Creative Ireland Funded Projects: In line with Action 23 of the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan, the Biodiversity Officer has been approved €10,000 in funding to initiate the first steps in developing an Urban Nature Plan for Navan. This will involve the organisation and delivery of a number of public engagement events aimed at facilitating input by the public and interested individuals in the plan making process. The project will take place between April & November 2026.

Meath Biodiversity Action Plan (MBAP): A work plan for 2026 has been drafted. This includes a number of actions/projects that carry over from 2025. However, a number of additional actions require implementation, including among others:

- Formation of an internal cross-departmental biodiversity working group.
- Review of content in the County Development Plan.
- Initiate and support a training programme for staff.
- Development of a tree management strategy.
- Development of a pesticide reduction strategy.

Conservation:

Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Thatch Buildings 2026: Acceptance of funding returning from successful applicants. Works for applicants beginning this month

Climate Action and Environment



Climate Action



Location: Newgrange Hotel
Date: 20th April
Time: 9:30am - 1:30pm
Event themes:

- Governance & Leadership
- Built Environment
- Sustainable Travel
- Biodiversity
- Community Resilience
- Resource Management

Register via MCC webpage "What's on"

SEC Update

Meath County Council continues to support Sustainable Energy Communities across the county by providing bridging loans for the preparation of Energy Master Plans (EMPs), with costs recouped from SEAI on completion.

Meath have 35 SECs: 10 EMPs complete, 2 in progress, 21 at learning stage and 2 newly joined.

https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/environment/climate-action/sustainable-energy-communities

Indicator	Number
Total SECs in Meath	35
Energy Master Plans complete	10
Energy Master Plans in progress	2
Learning stage	21
Newly joined	2



Meath Climate Action participated in the SEAI event at Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne on March 8th to discuss home energy upgrades and promote the Home Energy Saving Kit. The event, organized by Meath SEC Mentors, saw strong attendance, showing growing public interest in renewable energy and efficiency.

Community Climate Action Programme Fund

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the Programme has seen significant progress, with

- 20 projects completed and
- 6 currently in progress.

All projects under Phase 1 are approved to continue to completion up to 1st May 2026 with the final drawdown in June 2026.

Reallocation of funding to complete the €811,000 allocation was assigned to:

- Bettystown Tidy Towns of the amount €29,852.55 as a reserve project;
- Athboy Celtic FC of the amount €9,508.11 for additional items to their approved project

Phase 2

Meath County Council received 75 applications in total (29 small, 25 medium, 21 large scale projects).

A total of €811,000 has been allocated to County Meath, while the total value requested amounted to over €3.1 million, resulting again in oversubscription to the Community Climate Action Programme.

CCAP Phase 2	# 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
Total	75	€ 3,144,359.19	€811,000.00

Meath County Council has completed its internal evaluation of project proposals. A multidisciplinary panel—including representatives from climate action, biodiversity, planning, and community development—assessed eligible projects according to the established criteria and geographical considerations. These recommendations have been forwarded to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) for final endorsement. Applicants should anticipate a final determination by April 2026.

Energy

Fleet

- 6 out of 7 sites completed
- Duleek awaiting ESB 3-phase commissioning

Depot	Number of chargers required	Type of charger
Kells	2	22kW with load management
Dunshaughlin	2	22kW with load management
Duleek	2	22kW with load management (single phase with possible future 3 phase)
Mullaghboy	4	22kW with load management
Loman Street	1	22kW
Ashbourne Cemetery	1	7kW (single phase)
Blackwater Park	2	7kW (single phase with possible future 3 phase)

ISO 50001

- Internal Audits Completed in March





Energy Performance Contract (EPC) – Update

- Contract development in progress

Libraries Solar PV Project

- 4No. Libraries
  - Enfield ✔ Nobber ✔ Slane ✔
  - Trim
  - Kells Depot ✔
  - Mullaghboy Salt Yard – Potential



Libraries Services



Radon Monitor Loan Scheme

Meath County Council Library Service is now participating in the Radon Monitor Loan Scheme, a Healthy Ireland at Your Library initiative supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This scheme enables members of the public to borrow a digital radon monitor to check radon levels in their homes.

Library users can borrow a digital radon monitor for 3 weeks, just like a book. The monitors are available from Athboy, Bettystown, Duleek, Enfield, Kells, Nobber, Ráth Chairn, Slane or Trim libraries but can be requested by all Meath users.

The monitor provides a snapshot of radon levels in the home. Monitors are portable, battery-operated, and easy to use. It is not a replacement for the recommended three-month test, but it is a useful first step in identifying potential radon issues.



Meath County Council Library Service awarded €40,000 by Meta for Science Festival

Meath County Council Library Service has been allocated €40,000 for a Science Festival at the end of 2026, after applying to the Meta Data Centre Community Action Grants Programme.

Awarded under Clonee Data Centre, the money will fund a festival entitled 'Full STEAM Ahead!', which will run in October and November 2026. Aiming to stimulate curiosity and to highlight the areas of our daily lives in which Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths play a key role, the festival will comprise five family fun days across the county, as well as a fortnight-long programme for schools and the general public, coinciding with Science Week.

Festivals will take place in Ashbourne, Bettystown, Kells, Navan and Trim, and each one will be centered around a letter in the word 'STEAM'.

Representatives of Meath County Council and Meath County Council Library Service have been invited to celebrate the award at the Data Centre at the end of April.

Bettystown Library shortlisted for 'Library of the Year' Award

Just ahead of its first birthday, Bettystown Library was selected as an Island of Ireland Regional & Country Finalist for the Library of the Year Award.

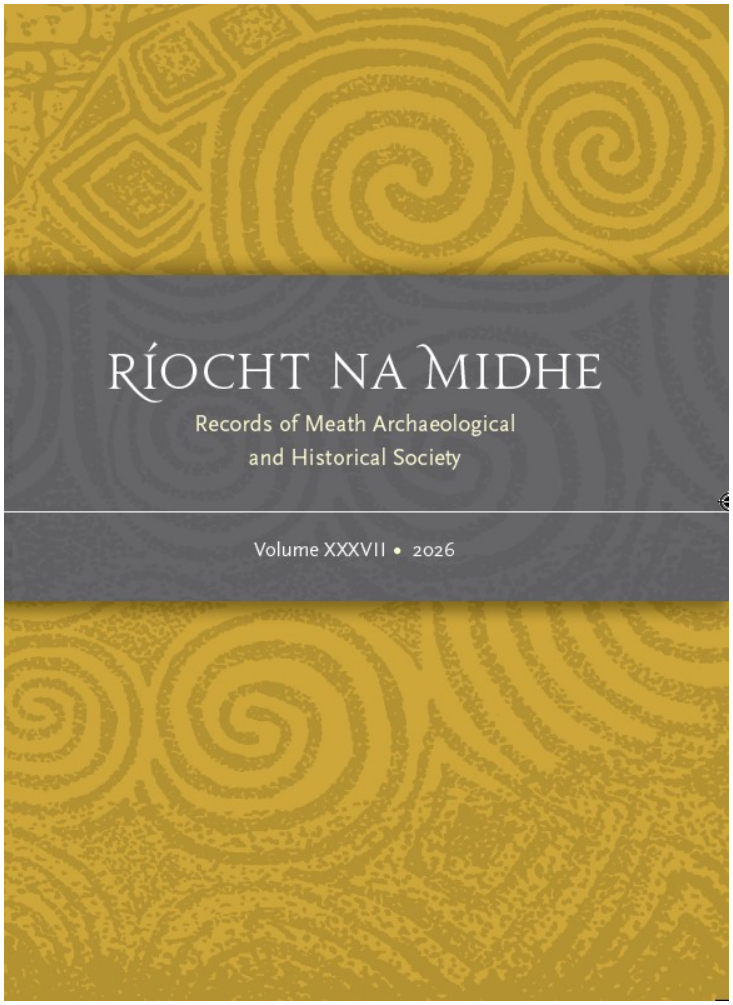
One of just three Irish regional finalists, Bettystown Library's application outlined the huge response that the library has received from its community since its opening in February 2025. It detailed the services on offer, including book clubs, hobby groups and events, as well as giving an insight into the footfall and issues recorded.

Library of the Year is just one category under the British Book Awards – or Nibbies – which are sponsored by DK, in association with The Reading Agency. The awards celebrate all aspects of the book industry, including libraries, publishers, bookshops, authors and titles.

Riocht na Midhe: Records of Meath Archaeological and Historical Society Vol. XXXVII 2026

The launch of the latest volume of the journal took place on Wednesday March 25th in the Ardboyne Hotel. The event was attended by the County Librarian Maedhbh Rogan-McGann and the Local Studies Librarian Tom French.

Contributors to the journal include Peter Connell, Jonathan Battye, Naomi Oziel, Killian Downing, Una Palcic, Caren Mulcahy, Clare Ryan, Edward Walsh, David Dingemans, Michael Nolan, Arthur Russell, John McCulen, and Frank Cogan. The subjects they write on range from the Quakers in Oldcastle 1660-1800, The Hussey Barons of Galtrim, to Rev. John Evans Preston's Julianstown Rectory Railway and Ireland's response to the Ethiopian Famine in 1984. The volume is supported by Meath County Council annually. After the launch, Dr. Ciarán Wallace delivered a talk on Meath-The Irish Revolution 1912-23 with closing words from Seán Boylan.


RÍOCHT NA MIDHE
Records of Meath Archaeological
and Historical Society
Volume XXXVII • 2026

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1st January 2026 to 27th March 2026		
Applications Received	9	2026 applications
Fully Completed Applications	7	2026 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Invalid Applications	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	2026 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	7	2026 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	0	
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	15.57	7 relate to 2026, 6.83 relate to 2025, 0.78 relate to 2024, 0.96 relate to 2023
Expired	0	
Drawdown by Customer	1.13	1 relates to 2025, 0.13 relates to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2026 to 27th March 2026 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023, 2024 and 2025. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Summary of Changes to Local Authority Loan Schemes (Effective 1 April 2026)

Circular 14/2026 – Local Authority Home Loan Scheme (LAHL) - The Housing Loans (Amendment) Regulations 2026 (S.I. 83 of 2026) came into effect on 1 April 2026. These regulations increase the property price limits, maximum borrowing amount, and the single-income eligibility threshold under the LAHL scheme. A Local Authority Home Loan continues to provide up to 90% of the market value of a property, subject to the revised limits below.

Key changes:

- Property price limit (Meath): Increased by €45,000 to **€375,000**.
- Maximum mortgage amount: Increased by €40,500 to **€337,500**.
- Single applicant income limit: Increased from €70,000 to **€80,000**.
- Joint applicant income limit: Remains at €85,000.

Circular 15/2026 - Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Scheme (LAPR) - The Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loans (Amendment) Regulations 2026 (S.I. 84 of 2026) also commenced on 1 April 2026, increasing the end-of-works value limits and income limits that apply under the LAPR scheme. LAPR loans continue to provide up to 90% of the end-of-works value of the property. There is no change to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant amount.

Key changes:

- End-of-works value limit (Meath): Increased by €45,000 to **€375,000.**
- Maximum mortgage amount: Increased by €40,500 to **€337,500.**
- Single applicant income limit: Increased from €70,000 to **€80,000.**
- Joint applicant income limit: Remains at €85,000.
- Note: The combined value of the annuity loan and bridging loan may not exceed the maximum loan amount outlined above.