comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

May 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

New Local Lens Episode Highlights Age Friendly Initiatives in Meath



The latest episode of *Local Lens* (released 7 April 2026) focuses on age friendly communities and supporting people in County Meath to live longer, healthier lives.

The episode features Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer of Age Friendly Ireland (hosted by Meath County Council), alongside contributions from Valerie McHugh, Age Friendly Meath Programme Manager, and Brian Hora, Senior Executive Officer. The discussion highlights how age friendly principles are embedded across Council plans and delivered through strong partnerships and community-led initiatives.

Civic Dollars App Launched in Meath



Meath County Council has launched the Civic Dollars app, with Meath joining a growing national network of participating counties.

The free app rewards users for visiting parks, public spaces and community areas by earning Civic Dollars, which can be redeemed for rewards or donated to local community and voluntary groups. The initiative supports increased community engagement and active living, aligning with the objectives of Healthy Meath, Meath LCDC and the Meath PPN, while encouraging greater use of the county's outdoor amenities.

Major Investment Secured for Fire Service Infrastructure in Meath



In early April, Meath County Council welcomed the announcement of a record €15.8 million investment under the Fire Services Capital Programme 2026–2030, representing a significant boost for fire service infrastructure across the county.

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

A detailed feasibility study and concept design have already been completed, placing the Council in a strong position to progress the project. The redevelopment, to be delivered on the existing site, will provide modern facilities, enhanced training and welfare spaces, improved operational capacity, and upgraded emergency access.

This investment reflects the strong preparation and collaboration across teams and will deliver lasting benefits for fire services, staff and communities across County Meath.

Ablefest 2026 Launched with Continued Council Support



Meath County Council welcomed the launch of Ablefest 2026 at a special event in Fairyhouse Racecourse on 17 April and is pleased to continue its partnership with the festival for a second consecutive year following the success of 2025.

The launch was attended by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Wayne Harding, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Helen McEntee TD, and featured live performances from Jake Carter and Mundy.

Now in its seventh year, Ablefest has become Ireland's largest music and arts festival for people with additional needs, celebrating inclusion, accessibility and community. The festival will return to Fairyhouse Racecourse on 25 July 2026, with acts including Jake Carter, Mundy, DJ Mark McCabe and Irish Elvis confirmed to date.

In addition to its music programme, Ablefest offers a wide range of art and activity stations, providing an inclusive and engaging experience for people of all abilities, alongside their families and carers.

Rás Tailteann to Bring World-Class Cycling to Dunboyne



Meath County Council welcomed the launch of the 71st edition of Rás Tailteann, which will take place from 20–24 May 2026, covering 785km across five stages with 21 categorised climbs.

Beginning in Portlaoise, the route will pass through Kilmallock, Banteer, Enniscorthy and Baltinglass, taking in challenging terrain including the Caha Pass and Wicklow Gap.

Meath will host the final stage of the race, with the overall winner set to be decided in Dunboyne following three laps of a demanding finishing circuit.

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
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
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2026	Q1 2027
Construction Total	51		
OVERALL TOTAL	**181**		
COMPLETED UNITS			**Completion Date**
Rathaldron Court, Navan	**27**		**24/02/2026**

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 16th April 2026.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	31
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		**432**

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 16th April 2026.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	13
Drogheda	Part V	4
Dunshaughlin	Part V	1
Enfield	Part V	20
Kilcock	Part V	1
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Total		**69**

Affordable Housing Delivery

Meath County Council currently have two affordable housing schemes opening for applications.

- Foxwood Park Kells – The online portal for applications for these affordable housing units closed on 23rd April 2026 at 12 noon, all 8 properties allocated.
- Cherryvalley Rathmoylon – The online portal for these affordable housing units (8) will open for applications on 30th April 2026.
- Bennetstown Dunboyne – The online portal for these affordable housing units (60) will open for applications on 7th May 2026.

Upcoming Schemes approved by the Department

- The Hollies Ballivor – 2 units – Q2 2026
- Brackinrainey Wood Longwood – 4 units – Q3 2026
- Gilson Avenue Oldcastle - 3 units - Q3 2026
- The Furrows Ratoath (Approval in principle) – 14 units – Q3 2026
- Cluain Lionn Grove, Oldcastle 6 units Q4 2026
- Coach, Ashbourne 92 units Q1 2027

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 unpaid claims for works completed in 2025 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

485 grants awarded to the value of €4,085,893.91 up to 22/04/2026. 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

320 Stock Condition Surveys have been completed in Meath so far in 2026 (up to 14th 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 (54 no.) before they can be re-tenanted, as of 14th April 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	2	2	6	2
Navan	9	6	11	21	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	**25**	**10**	**19**	**37**	**17**

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 – March 2026

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 28th February 2026	196 (211 Adults)	77 (103 Adults & 153 Children)	273
Placements at 31st March 2026	185 (195 Adults)	85 (119 Adults & 156 Children)	270

Of the households with children, 75 families are placed in short-term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention, 10 Families in Family Hubs.

95% bed allocations were availed of by service users

5% 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.

39 Presentations on homelessness were made. This comprised 9 Families.

Reason for EA Presentations	Total Numbers
NTQ	11
Family Circumstance	12
Hospital | Prison | Care	3
Couch Surfing | Cannot Afford	8
Rough Sleeping	2
Other	3
Total	39

EA Exit Figures:

- **Families:**
  - 4 Families exited EA in March. This comprised 5 Adults & 9 Children in March.

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

- **Singles/Couples:**
    - 28 Singles/Couples exited EA in March.

Reason for EA Singles/Couples Exit	Total Numbers
MCC Allocation	1
Not availing of Bed	10
Return to Family / Friend	2
HAP	2
Private Rented	0
Hospital/Treatment/Prison	3
Terminated	9
Other	0
Declined EA	0
AHB Allocation	1
Total	28

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 31/03/2026

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	119				27	59	33	0
Couples	20				9	2	7	2
Singles	175				29	49	87	10
Children	156	67	59	30				
Total	470	67	59	30	65	110	127	12

Homeless HAP Placefinder 01/03/2026 – 31/03/2026

Total	7
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	4
Homeless Prevention	3
In Progress	4

Tenant Liaison Team March 2026

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	102	33
Occupancy of dwelling	79	51
Garden upkeep/maintenance	45	29
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	3	1
Total	229	114

ASB Investigations on going at (month end)	80
ASB Investigations completed (month end)	34
Number of Pre Tenancies completed in March 2026	41
Abandonments for March 2026	0
Houses taken back into stock for March 2026	4

Warnings Issued 2026

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

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
March	1	0	2	1	0	3
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	13	0	6	5	4	6

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 March 2026 – 31st March2026

- 166 applications received for Social Housing
- 70 applications approved onto the Social Housing List
- 35 applications unsuccessful

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	**Number**
MCC Direct Allocations	35
Transfers	4
Approved Housing Bodies	2
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	23
Long Term Leasing (inc Private MTR)	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
TOTAL	**64**

Housing Assistance Payment – 23 Hap tenancies commenced in March 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 - €2.0M	Land & Property Valuer- Avison Young to be appointed shortly. Initial Ecology walkover surveys completed in March. Tender documents for Archaeology services contract drafted and under review.
N52MH_034.0 Balrath Cross RSIS	Design report currently being progressed.
N51 Tullaghanstown Bog Rampart Scheme	Phases 1 to 4 – tender documents for consultants being finalised.
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 Local Tertiaries €450,000 Community Involvement Scheme €327,369 Restoration Maintenance
Total	**€6,055,999**
Scheme	Update
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Tender under evaluation
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing):	Tenders under evaluation
Phase 3 (Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Tenders under evaluation
Phase 4 (Wearing Course):	Tenders under evaluation
Community Involvement Scheme	Programme selection ongoing
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 progressing. Draft tender documents for construction contract expected Q3 2026.
R155 Curragha	Tender for Consultants published for scheme which includes potential realignment of R155 south of village and traffic calming through the village.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme	Constraints Public Consultation closed 30th March 2026. Option Selection process progressing.
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	Further Information request received from An Coimisiún Pleanála – response required by 15th May 2026.
R108 / L16111 Bey More Junction safety scheme	Draft Option Selection Report being reviewed.

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

Grant Allocation	**€500,000**
Scheme	**Update**
L-5614 Bettystown (Garra Road)	Drainage, resurfacing, lining and signage works now complete.
L-5018 Ballybin	Proposals currently being finalised and landowner agreement being negotiated.
L-16111 Platin (Mounthanover Junction)	Works at L16111/L56131 Junction (Mounthanover Junction) have commenced on site.
R-152 Platin	Location is being reviewed and options being considered

R-147 Tara (Ross X)	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-147 Philpotstown (Garlow X)	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-148 Kilmurry	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-152 Duleek at Prioryland	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-154 Piercetown	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-162 Lisnagrow	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-159 Rathmolyon	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-152 Riverstown	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-152 Keenoge	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-159 Jordanstown	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-161 Balgill	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-161 Manorland	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
L-1006 Cabinhill	Location is being reviewed and options being considered

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

Grant Allocation	**€742,000**
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	Works tender documents being finalised
L6833 Ballybeg Bridge	Consultants' tenders received and are being assessed
L8603 Edengora Bridge	Consultants' tenders received and are being assessed
Minor Bridges Works	Minor bridge works and repairs ongoing on various bridges around the county

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation	**€205,000**
Scheme	**Update**
R160 Clongowan €185,000	Consultants recommendations report due 17th April 2026.
Headfort Park €40,000.00	Tree cutting carried out and trash removed from culvert screen.
L-80045-5 Church Road, Athboy €25,000	Pipe lining works ongoing in locations where pipes or joints are defective.
R130 Greenogue Flood Alleviation Scheme €80,000.00	Scheme tendered for external contractor. Tenders due in 23rd April
R108 Clintstown Flood Alleviation Scheme €80,000.00	Scheme tendered for external contractor. Tenders due in 23rd April

2. (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation	**€750,000.00**
Scheme	**Update**
R-147-36 Navan to Kells Road at Martry	Tender under evaluation

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	**NTA**
Grant Allocation	€10M allocated for 2026
Scheme	**Update**
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	Drainage and services works at Academy Street junction were ongoing during the period, construction works across the Maxol Filling Station entrance were completed. Culvert extension to the Swan River was completed, and new RC parapet poured. A new riverside footpath is substantially complete between Circular Road and Academy Street. The footway between Circular Road and Martha's Bridge has been re-opened to pedestrians. Foundations and blockwork to the new boundary to the Ardboyne Hotel have commenced. Works to the new retaining wall at Springfield House commenced. Traffic management arrangements remain effective on the R147, with traffic currently diverted to the southbound side of the R147, and no major changes are anticipated in the coming weeks.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	Progress continued during the period on the development of Phase 3 deliverables for the scheme. Concept proposals for the LDR4 tie-in towards Blackwater Retail Park have been reviewed by Meath County Council, with comments issued to the consultant for further development. To support this additional scope, procurement of supplementary topographical survey data is currently underway.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Flower Hill Public Realm Enhancement Scheme A pre-consultation stage with internal MCC departments was completed. The Desing Team provided an overview of the proposed scheme to the Navan MD meeting on 22nd April, in advance of the planned Part 8 process. Flowerhill Roundabout A draft detailed design drawing pack has been received from the Consultants and is currently under review. A draft delivery phasing plan has also been developed and

	is also under review, and potential funding and delivery time scales are being explored. N51-R147 A revised option and set of drawings have been drafted for the emerging preferred option showing a two-way cycle lane on western side of N51 road have been developed and are currently being reviewed. TII reports are being updated to reflect this option.
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.	The contractor continued to address snag items during this period. Outstanding works items continued to be addressed.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	The consultant has commenced preliminary design work on a 'shared space' option the Kentstown Road section, linking Elm Park with Bothar Hodgett.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beechmount to Balreask Manor	Appointment has been completed for the Consultant for the Detailed Design, Tender, and Construction Stages.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	Design work is continuing on a Shared Space option linking Balreask Manor with Balreask Cross (including the upgrade of the junction).
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 assessed for engineering consultancy services for the detailed design of the scheme. Appointment of Consultant in process. 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	Scheme has been extended to include Castle Way, St. Declan's NS and Alderbrook Road. Feasibility and route options selection report being workshopped with the NTA prior to finalising the route.
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. Preliminary design due to be presented to the Navan MD meeting in May.
BusIt2School	The BusIt2School scheme is funded by the DOT and aims to encourage primary school pupils to travel to and from school by bus. Participating schools included Navan Educate Together, Scoil Naomh Eoin Clonmagadden and St. Stephens Johnstown. Scheme now complete and the close-out report has been submitted to the Department of Transport.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities	Continuing works on the required enabling or advance works contract as well as liaison with landowners on agreements.
Newtown Road, Trim footpath	Civil works are progressing well, including new and improved public lighting.
Bus Stop Improvement Programme	Tenders received on proposed works to 40 new and upgraded bus stop, assessment now in progress with award anticipated in mid-May.
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 over the Spring and Summer which will be necessary to support the development application. Engagement with landowners and stakeholders is ongoing in developing the design.

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 are finalising the acquisition of 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 Kells, Trim, Dunshaughlin and the Laytown-Bettystown MDs. Tender award in progress for 2026 works in the Navan MD. Tenders for 2026 works in Ashbourne MD under assessment.
New footpaths to Community Centres	Public Consultation (Section 38 of the Roads Act) to commence for new footpath at Skyrne. Design of the footpath extension at Millbrook, Oldcastle in progress.
New footpaths to Schools	Works awarded to contractor for Ughtyneill NS (Moynalty) and Gaelscoil Bhradain Feasa (Mornington). Designs progressing on new footpaths at Newtown-Creevagh NS, SN Ultan Naofa Baile Ghib, Kilbride NS (Trim MD).

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, tender assessment complete, clarification process on going

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	The Ratoath Municipal District Members received the Part VIII Planning Report on the 5th March 2026. At the Ratoath Municipal District held on 15th April 2026, the Members resolved to proceed with the proposed development with modifications.
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



Economic Development

Shopfront Improvement and Age Friendly Grant

On 17th April, Economic Development launched a Shopfront Improvement and Age Friendly Grant for all businesses along the main throughfares of Meath's town and villages.

The grant supports existing independent businesses to enhance their shopfronts and commercial facades, helping our towns and villages look more welcoming, be more accessible, and vibrant, using local suppliers where possible.

The grant also promotes the use of incorporating age friendly measures into businesses where there are almost 1 million older (60+) people living in Ireland. Successful applicants will also be eligible for free Business Recognition Training as part of the National Age Friendly Initiative.

Main Points:

- Up to €5,000 (ex VAT) or 50% of eligible cost
- Application timeframe: 4pm Friday 17th April to Sunday 31st May 2026
- Work must not begin before approval

Enterprise

Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	
Mentoring Assignments Approved	29
Attended Online Training Courses	89
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	11
Attended AI for Business Clinics	5
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	5
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	3
Digital for Business	3
LEAN for Micro	2

Business Mentoring & Training Activity

During April, 29 mentoring assignments were approved, supporting businesses across a wide range of growth, operational and developmental challenges. Demand for skills development also remained high, with 89 participants attending online training courses, reinforcing the importance of flexible, accessible formats for enterprise support.

Targeted clinics addressing specific business needs also saw positive uptake:

- **Digital Marketing Clinics:** 11 attendees
- **AI for Business Clinics:** 5 attendees
- **Website Health Check Clinics:** 5 attendees
- **Finance Advice Clinics:** 3 attendees

Grant Supports Approved

Activity across financial supports progressed during the month, with the following approvals:

- **GREEN for Micro:** 3 approvals
- **Digital for Business:** 3 approvals
- **LEAN for Micro:** 2 approvals

These supports are enabling businesses to invest in sustainability, digitalisation and process improvement, supporting both competitiveness and resilience.

Decarbonising Zones Engagement

In April, LEO presented at the **Decarbonising Zones launch**, focusing on the supports available through the Local Enterprise Office to assist retailers and small businesses in reducing carbon emissions while also cutting operating costs. Following this event, a commitment has been made to attend **all nine Decarbonising Zone locations**, delivering on-the-ground LEO information sessions. These sessions will ensure businesses are fully aware of available supports and can access practical guidance to support their sustainability transition.



Management Development Programmes

This month also marked the launch of the **Visual Merchandising Management Development Programme**, which commenced on Monday 20th April. The programme is designed to support retailers in enhancing in-store presentation, customer experience and sales performance, delivering tangible improvements at local level.

Equine Succession Planning event

Meath Local Enterprise Office, in collaboration with Horse Sport Ireland recently hosted a dedicated seminar at the Thrive Centre focused on the future of the equine sector. The event addressed the unique challenges faced by family-run businesses, which make up the vast majority of the industry. Attendees received expert guidance on tax strategies and legal planning to ensure a smooth transition between generations. This initiative reinforces our commitment to supporting the long-term sustainability of Ireland's world-class sport horse and racing sectors.



Boyne Valley Tourism

Rural Pub Campaign

Boyne Valley Tourism is currently developing a 'Rural Pubs of the Boyne Valley' initiative for participating rural pub and gastropub members across the destination. The initiative will include a printed visitor map and supporting social and digital promotion aimed at larger population centres. Work is ongoing, with the aim of supporting rural tourism dispersal and increasing visibility for member businesses.

Press Visit


Ya Boyne thing!

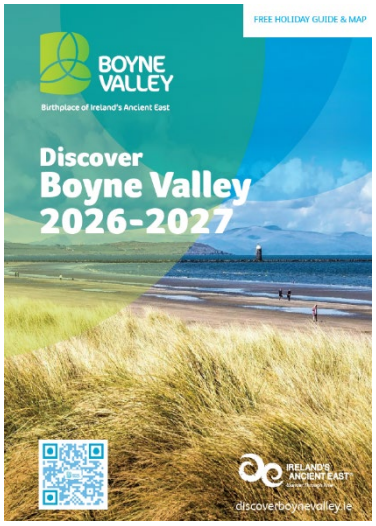
TRAVEL

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

The Boyne Valley offers fun and adventure in abundance for adults and children alike, writes RACHEL BERESFORD

Journalist Rachel Beresford visited the Boyne Valley in March on an adventure-themed itinerary. The programme showcased a mix of activity, heritage and hospitality experiences across Laytown, Julianstown and Trim, including Ariosa by the Sea, Seaview Saunas, Matt the Thresher, the Glenside Hotel, The Zone and Emerald Park. The resulting feature has been published in *the Irish Star Daily Chic Magazine and the Irish Daily Mirror*. The visit supports ongoing destination marketing and media engagement activity.

Boyne Valley Tourism 2026–2027 Holiday Guide



The Boyne Valley Tourism 2026–2027 Holiday Guide has been finalised and sent to print. The 60-page publication presents the destination offering across heritage, activities, food and drink, gardens, golf and equestrian tourism. Distribution is planned in the coming weeks through the Boyne Valley Tourism network of over 200 businesses and at key promotional events.

New Members

Boyne Valley Tourism has welcomed 26 new members to date in 2026, including pubs, coastal tourism businesses, tour guides, and transport providers. This growth strengthens the overall visitor offering and reflects continued sector engagement.

Centre of Food Culture

Meet the Maker Event

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland hosted its first Meet the Maker event of the year in Kinsale, County Cork with Kinsale Mead. This event marked the first of twelve events taking place across Ireland highlighting different crafts including beekeeping, cider making, brewing and cheesemaking.

Dairy Connect

Ella Ryan, Development Manager for The Centre of Food Culture Ireland was invited to speak at Dairy Connect, which took place in Bia Innovator Campus in Galway on 16th April.

RDS Agricultural and Rural Awards

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland was shortlisted in the RDS Agricultural and Rural Awards under the Sustainable Rural Social Impact category. The team was delighted to attend the awards on the 16th April in the RDS, where the award went to a very worthy initiative; Social Farming Ireland.

Boyne Valley Flavours

Storytelling for Food Businesses Workshop

As part of our ongoing support for member development, the Storytelling for Food Businesses Workshop took place in Drogheda on 13th April and it was very well received, with 12 participants in attendance. It provided practical tools and insights to help food producers and providers communicate their story more effectively, strengthen their brand identity, and build stronger connections with both customers and trade buyers.

Continued growth in network

We are also pleased to report continued growth in the network, with 16 new members joining Boyne Valley Flavours to date this year, as well as 110 membership renewals bringing us to a current total of 126 which is a 15% increase on 2025 membership.

Regional Food & Drink Producer Showcase

The Regional Food & Drink Producer Showcase took place on 30th April in Emerald Park. Boyne Valley Flavours led on the delivery of this event, bringing together producers from across Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Cavan and Monaghan. 58 producers registered to attend, including 15 businesses from Meath, alongside over 150 trade registrations. The showcase provided a key platform for regional producers to connect with buyers, retailers, chefs and distributors, supporting increased visibility and new commercial opportunities.

Rural Regeneration



Derelict Sites	2026 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	35
No. of statutory orders issued	18
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2026	0
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2026	3

Vacant Homes	2026 total
Vacant Homes Identified	2
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2026	4
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2026	4

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2026 total
Approved Applications	197
Approved in Principle Applications	79
Applications In Progress/Info Requested (not commenced)	15
Rejected Applications	4
Withdrawn Applications	83
Completed / Paid Applications	128
Total Applications Received	377
Total Approved Grant Funding	€15,800,380
Total Paid Grant Funding	€6,947,988

Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process (April'26)	
Dunville Park - Johnstown Navan (Started)	MCC
Kells Sensory Garden (Completed)	MCC/TVRS
Works Commenced (April'26)	
Fencing of commerical site sold at Liscarton	MCC
Rathcairn Footpath	ORIS
Deerpark - Resurfacing of walking routes	ORIS

Works Completed (April'26)	
Longwood Playground	TVRS
Tenders assessment for Drumconrath House (Doyles Garage)	TVRS
Tenders assessment for Design in Kells (Kenlis Place / SVP)	RRDF
Tenders assessment for Roof construction/Repairs to Athboy Community Centre	CRF / MCC

Community Development



Public Participation Network

Along with Healthy Meath, the launch of the Civic Dollars App took place in Bective GFC on April 2nd. The event was well attended by various community groups, with demos and competitions on the day.

As part of National Spring Clean month with An Taisce, a clean-up of Jamestown Bog was organised with the local bog development group an residents on Saturday, April 11th. It also provided a valuable networking opportunity and discussion around grants and funding, as well as promote the Civic Dollars app.





Meath PPN membership currently stands at 851.
Community Pillar: **711**
Environment Pillar: **26**
Social Inclusion Pillar: **114**

Comhairle na nÓg

At the Meath Comhairle na nÓg meeting held on the 14th of March, members continued their conversations on addressing school stress and the development of a proposed charter agreement between teachers and students. The charter has now been sent to all Meath schools and young people involved in the initiative have also worked on a press release with LMFM contacted to help raise awareness of the campaign.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme
A meeting of the Indaver Community Liaison Committee was held on 2nd April to assess the 42 applications received under the Carranstown Environment Projects Grant Scheme 2025. Funding recommendations was presented to the Laytown-Bettystown MD Members for approval at their April meeting. The recommendations will be on the agenda for the May meeting for final approval.

Community Amenity Project Scheme 2025
Recommendations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme were presented at each Municipal District April meeting. Final recommendations will be submitted at the May Full Council meeting for approval.

Pride of Place 2026
The Pride of Place initiative launched on April 1st, with six new pillars introduced this year to support a range of community-led projects. Applications close on May 22nd.



Meath Local Community Development Committee

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
The latest meeting of the LCDC took place on 27th March. The LCDC:

- Approved the Allocations under the 2026 Local Enhancement Programme.
- Approved a submission to the Public Consultation on the next Healthy Ireland Framework

The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 24th April 2026 in the THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence, Johnstown Business Park, Navan.

Local Action Group (LAG)
The latest LAG meeting took place on Friday, 27th March 2026 in the THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence, Johnstown Business Park, Navan. 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 is scheduled to take place on Friday 24th April 2026 in the THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence, Johnstown Business Park, Navan.

Local Enhancement Programme
The Local Enhancement Programme 2026 recommendation report was presented to the LCDC members at the March LCDC meeting held on 27th March 2026 for their consideration. LCDC members

voted in favour of approving the recommendations report. A departmental return to the DRCDG has been submitted for their review and approval.

Healthy Meath

The Healthy Meath Microfund Grant Scheme closed on 19th April. Applications are currently being assessed and will be brought forward for approval by the Meath Local Community Development Committee at its next scheduled meeting on Friday 24th April 2026.

Following the successful launch of the Civic Dollars initiative in Bective GFC on the 2nd of April, promotion of the programme is ongoing through posters, newspaper advertising and social media activity.



The Meath LCDC Health and Wellbeing Subgroup in April. An update on CommUnity Connect Louth and Meath was provided, including a presentation delivered to Meath GAA Healthy Club Officers at their Annual Gathering, an overview of the CommUnity Connect Louth and Meath website currently in development, and an update on Champion training, which is planned for September.

The Healthy County Coordinator for Meath was invited to participate in both the national and local Act Belong Commit Steering Groups to support the implementation of the initiative across Meath.

The April edition of the Healthy Meath newsletter can be viewed here.

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

In conjunction with the Meath Public Participation Network (PPN), an information session was hosted for community groups that have agreed to act as designated Community Support Centres during adverse events. The session provided participating groups with an overview of their role within the local emergency and humanitarian response framework, outlined activation and support arrangements, and facilitated information sharing to ensure preparedness, coordination and consistency across communities countywide.

The process of developing the Meath Local Community Safety Plan has begun, with public consultation scheduled to start in May.

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)

The previously postponed event in February due to weather conditions under the theme of "Walk and Talk" was undertaken by the team for 2 centres in the County with a walk in the Ramparts, Navan.

The first 2 sessions of a culinary cooking event were held in April by the LAIT at Lismullin Cookery School showcasing recipes from Somalia and Ukraine. Participants came from Ukrainian and International Applicant centres in the county. The finale in May will focus on traditional Irish offerings in the spirt of sharing cultures.

The LAIT was notified by the Department of Justice about the impending closure of the Ukrainian accommodation facility known as Ma Dwyers in Navan to occur in early May. The Community Integration Forum has been notified.

13 Clinics in the accommodation centres took place in March

Customer Service Cases Logged 2026:

Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	**10**
Number of Customer cases closed	**89**

Figures for Accommodation Centres

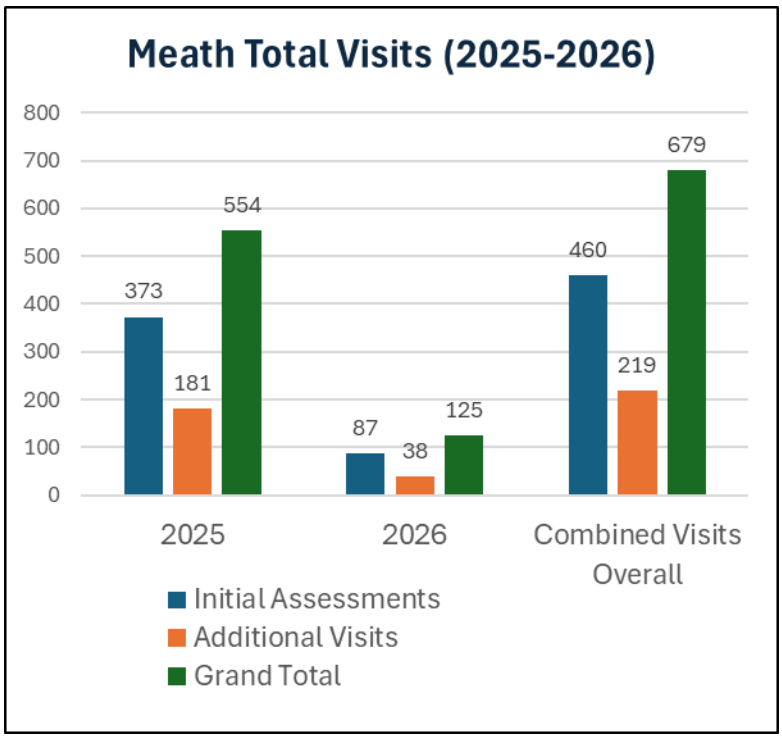
UKR	**510**
IP	**1093**

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service



Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme continues to support older people, over 65 years of age across County Meath, to live in their home for as long as possible and to reduce the need to transfer to long-term residential care. Healthy Age Friendly Homes is a free service which is available to homeowners, private, Approved Housing Body and Local Authority tenants. Local coordinators play a critical role in ensuring older people receive timely and appropriate support and reinforce the Councils commitment to the development of age friendly communities through measurable social benefit. The Health Age Friendly Homes Programme collaborates with a broad spectrum of local agencies, including Local Government, Elected Members, Health Services, SEAI, Community and Voluntary Groups, Gardai.

Since the 1st January 2025 to the 30th April 2026, 460 older people across County Meath have benefited from support from Healthy Age Friendly Homes. During the course of the period January to end of April 2026, 87 new participants were visited for the first time, and 38 additional visits were completed. At present there are 143 participants in County Meath awaiting an assessment.



A networking event for Age Friendly Programmes and NGOs in the ageing sector took place in Dublin on 15th April. The purpose was to support collaboration between local government and the voluntary sector in the context of supports for older people.

Alison Lynch, Project Co-ordinator for Women's Health Community Linkage Project, gave a poster presentation to the International Conference on Integrated Care [ICIC26] in Birmingham in April about the work she is doing with nursing homes in Ireland to improve links to services in the community for residents.

Age Friendly Ireland held meetings with the Welsh Commissioner for Older People Rhian Bowen-Davies and the Older People's Rights Branch of the Welsh Government in April.

Kildare Age Friendly Programme and Kildare County Council launched the first Age Friendly and Climate Friendly Village in Ireland at Ballymore Eustace. The event was attended by An Tánaiste Simon Harris TD

The Decision Support Service and Mental Health Commission of Ireland have launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the importance of setting up Enduring Power of Attorney and Advanced Health Care Plans. Dorothy Prendergast, Older People's Council Chair from the Dublin Central area, supported the campaign with a short video message.

Louth County Council launched Greenhills Grange Age Friendly Housing in Drogheda on 1st May.

A walkability audit was carried out at Wexford Garda Station on 30th April. Two Garda stations in Ireland are currently working through the process for Age Friendly Recognition.

A meeting of the Transport Working Group of the National Network of Older People's Councils took place on 10th April. This working group enables older people's engagement on transport and road safety issues, particularly with the Road Safety Authority, National Transport Authority and An Garda Síochána.

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

422 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2026 to 31.03.2026. This is compared to **349** in the same period in 2025.

81.04% of the applications received in 2026 have been lodged via the online portal – ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

54 Valid Commencement Notices and 5 Valid Seven Day Notices were received in the period 01/03/2026 to 31/03/2026. This is compared to 44 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	16
Multi-Units	202** Units
Extensions	22
Other*	7

The Seven Day Notices can be broken own as follows:

Development Type	Number
Multi-Units	46** Units
Other*	4

* 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.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

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

Receipt Period:	**Jan – Mar 2026**
Total Receipts	€ 2,130,999
Recoupments received	€ 4,826,736

Total Received	**€ 6,957,735**
Target Collection Jan - Dec 2026:	€ 8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan - Mar 2026:	€ 6,957,736
% collected:	87%

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann receipts (€2,327) and Irish Rail receipts (€874,394).

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2025 was € 1,059,015.

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

- 120 Planning Enforcement complaints received since 01/01/2026
- 40 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2026 to 31/03/2026

New Cases to be Investigated	13
Warning Letters	48
Enforcement Notices	28
Referred for Legal Proceedings	2
Closed	31
Court Attendances* This number does not include cases for Judicial Review or Meath County Council as Notice party	9

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

5. Forward Planning

The Draft Variation No.5 incorporating NPFs revised Housing Targets went on public display from Tuesday 31 March Friday 1 May 2026 at 4.00pm.
The Draft Variation is available for viewing online at https://consult.meath.ie and at all Municipal District Offices.

A Retail Strategy for Meath is currently underway. A Retail Survey commenced 6th April to help Meath County Council understand how people shop and use local town centres. The survey expected to run for 3-4 weeks.

The Draft Meath CDP 2027-2033 chapters and other associated supporting assessments remain under preparation. Housing Needs Demand Assessment has been completed and will inform the Housing Strategy.

6. Heritage

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2026:

The Community Monuments Fund provides for conservation, maintenance and protection of archaeological monuments. Funding was awarded to 4 Meath projects in April.

- **Stream 1 (Conservation Works)**: Ardcath Church and Graveyard, Ardcath **€130,000**
- **Stream 2 (Conservation Management Plans/Surveys)**: Newhaggard Gatehouse, Trim **€28,615.95** and St Peter and St Paul Church, Dunboyne **€29,660.00**
- **Stream 3 (Access and Interpretation)**: St Patrick's Cathedral, Trim **€29,822.80**

County Heritage Plan Fund:

Funding was received from the Heritage Council for the implementation of work programme from *Meath County Heritage Strategy 2024-2030* for the following projects/initiatives:

- Urban Archaeology Survey: County Meath Phase I- Update and publish Urban Archaeology Survey of County Meath in partnership with Maynooth University
- Kells Printing Works: Commissioning and operational phase
- Heritage Awareness Programme: Curate and co-ordinate Heritage Week 2026 in collaboration with Meath County Library and local community groups; heritage interpretation project; reprint of the Heritage Colouring book; Heritage Team Community Seminar
- Audit of Historic Street Signage: To identify, record, assess and provide conservation recommendations for historic street signs, street furniture and traditional shop fronts in two streets in Navan Town Centre.

Creative Ireland Funded Projects:

€25,000 funding awarded for Community Heritage Grant Scheme and Kells Printing Works in 2026.

Irish Walled Town Network Fund-Capital*:*

The Heritage Council awarded €46,565 to undertake vegetation management and condition surveys for sections of town wall in Navan, Trim and Athboy.

Irish Walled Town Network Fund-Interpretation-

The Heritage Council awarded €5,000 for an interactive story map based on the recent publication *The Medieval Walled Towns of Meath*.

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.

Community Heritage Grant Scheme *2026*:

20 applications were received and assessed in accordance with scheme guidelines.

Burial Grant Scheme 2026:

A total of 44 projects were assessed under the burial grant scheme.

Culture Team:

Meath County Council were awarded €39,500 from Culture Ireland/Department of Culture, Communications and Sport to support cultural projects/initiatives in Meath as part of *EU Presidency Culture Programme – Local Authority Programming Scheme.*

Biodiversity



Figure 1. Coastal Biodiversity Workshop – Saturday 28th March – Bettystown

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme (LBAPS) Projects: Funding has been received by Meath County Council from the Heritage Council totaling €20,000. This will help to deliver regional training events for local authority staff, engagement and outreach activities for the public and it will also assist Meath County Council to provide support through a small grant scheme to community groups to implement actions from local community biodiversity action plans.

Biodiversity Working Group of the Meath Heritage Forum: Q2 meeting scheduled for May in Bettystown Library.

Conservation:

Historic Structures Fund 2026: Convent of Mercy Churches was awarded an HSF grant this year €81,000.00

Climate Action and Environment



Climate Action

Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) Progress Report

Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) Progress Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders: Meath County Council continued to deliver its Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029, with strong progress across mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, community engagement and resource efficiency. This is the second report based on the 2024-2029 CAP and was presented to the April Full Council Meeting. This report is available online at Climate Action | Meath.ie.

2025 at a Glance:



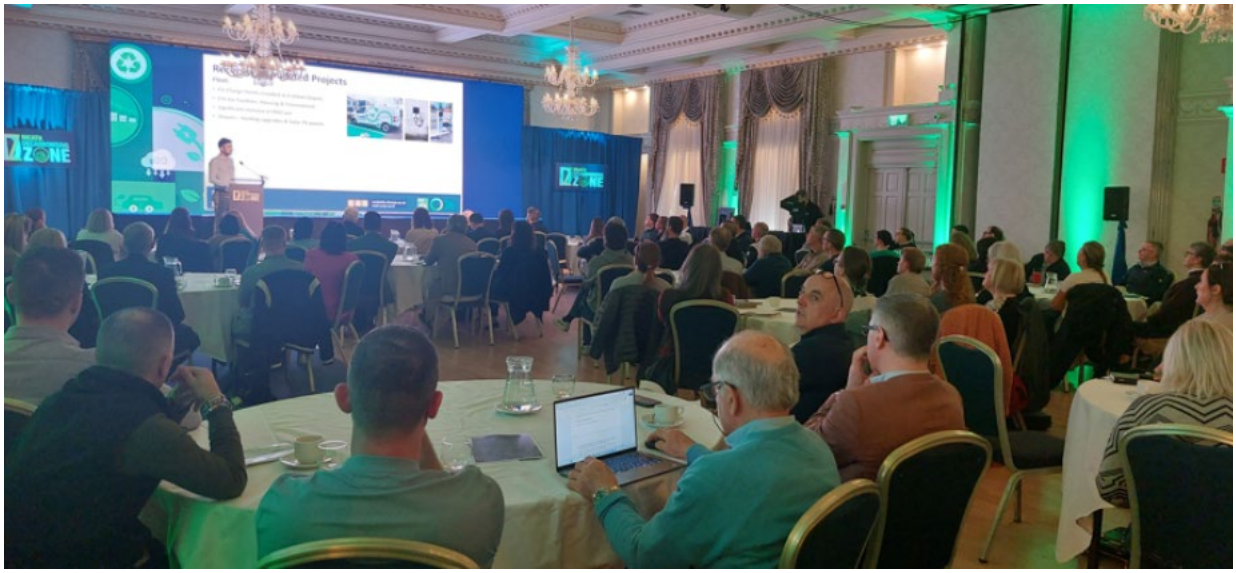
Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Update



DZ Networking Event 20th April 2026

Meath County Council hosted Meath's Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Networking Event at the Newgrange Hotel, Navan, bringing together a strong line-up of expert speakers and showcasing a range of projects underway across the county.

Learn more about Meath's nine DZ at the following link: [Decarbonising Zones | Meath.ie]



Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Implementation Plans and Taskforces



Meath County Council is making significant progress towards a greener and more sustainable future through the development of place-based Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Implementation Plans across the county. In each DZ, local taskforces are currently being formed to drive these efforts forward. These local DZ Taskforces will benefit from a range of supports, including workshops, networking events, and regular review meetings. This structure is designed to ensure the effective delivery, ongoing monitoring, and long-term engagement of businesses, communities, and stakeholders in the implementation of climate actions.

The Climate Action Section of Meath County Council welcomes the involvement of additional community members, business representatives, and citizens who are interested in climate action. Individuals across each DZ are encouraged to join the existing DZ taskforces, contribute their perspectives, and help co-design plans for climate actions that will shape a more sustainable Meath. Get involved and be part of the movement for change!
Contact: climateactionmcc@meathcoco.ie

DZ Family Climate Action Days

Meath County Council will host nine Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Climate Action Days. These dedicated days are designed to engage the entire community, offering a range of enjoyable and impactful climate action activities for families. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in initiatives such as a toy library, clothing swaps, furniture repair, bike repair, gardening workshops, visits from an energy retrofit van, and biodiversity talks. The events also feature face painting, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy while contributing to a more sustainable future.



Summer Edition		
10/05/2026	Navan	Simonstown GAA
17/05/2026	Ashbourne	Donaghmore Ashbourne GAA
24/05/2026	Laytown/ Bettystown	Scoil Oilibheir Naofa Bettystown
07/06/2026	Ratoath	Ratoath Community College

14/06/2026	**Trim**	**Trim GAA**
Autumn Edition		
06/09/2026	**Dunboyne**	**TBC**
13/09/2026	**Kells**	**TBC**
20/09/2026	**Dunshaughlin**	**TBC**
27/09/2026	**Duleek**	**TBC**

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**

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.

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 and are awaiting their approval.

Retrofit for homeowners – NZEB (Near Zero Energy Building) truck

Meath County Council hosted the NZEB demonstration truck at Buvinda House from 7 to 9 April. Six interactive sessions were delivered, focusing on retrofit pathways for existing homes, practical measures to improve energy performance and BER ratings, and approaches to enhance long-term comfort and cost savings.

A total of 49 participants engaged with experts from the National Construction Training Campus, Mount Lucas. Of these, 13 staff completed Fundamental Awareness Training, while 36 members of the public and community groups attended homeowner retrofit sessions. The strong participation reflects growing interest.







IKC3 Networking event

Meath County Council engaged with participants of the IKC3 Community Climate Innovation Programme, delivered in partnership with IKC3, Trinity College Dublin, and MTU from September to December 2025.
The session included a tour of the NZEB demonstration truck, followed by a discussion on the actions identified through the programme's learning outcomes. The event also provided a valuable networking opportunity, highlighting the range of climate action initiatives being undertaken across the county by various groups and individuals.

There was strong engagement throughout, with participants contributing a variety of ideas and perspectives. These insights will be considered in the development of Decarbonising Zone (DZ) plans and in preparations for Climate Action Week scheduled for October.





Environment Awareness

Rubbish Film Festival County and National Awards 2026

Hundreds of Transition Year (TY) students from across County Meath gathered at the Solstice Arts Centre on Wednesday, 12th March, to celebrate their achievements at the 2026 Rubbish Film Festival Awards.

The Rubbish Film Festival, an award-winning national initiative, challenges TY students to create one-minute films tackling key environmental issues, including climate change, sustainability, and waste reduction. The festival, funded by Meath County Council, empowers young people to create impactful short films that spotlight environmental challenges and drive meaningful change.

This year, students from 15 Meath schools took part in onsite workshops, each with 12 students per class, where they developed their filmmaking, editing, and storytelling skills under the guidance of industry professionals. Their final films were screened and celebrated at the event, where students also presented their projects and discuss the inspiration behind their films.

Cllr Ronan Moore, Cathaoirleach of Trim Municipal District Council welcomed the teachers and students to the event and delivered a rousing speech highlighting the important role young people play in the future of our planet.

Coláiste na hInse who won best film in the County Awards represented Meath at the National Awards in the Light House Cinema in Smithfield on Wednesday 22nd April and they were awarded the Runners Up Award.

Peter Baxter, the Founder and Director of Createschool recognised, in his speech at the National Awards, the key role Meath County Council has played in the success of the Rubbish Film Festival and in particular Meath County Council's former Environmental Awareness Officer, Bernadine Carry.

This year's Rubbish Film Festival has engaged over 1,900 students in 160 schools nationwide.

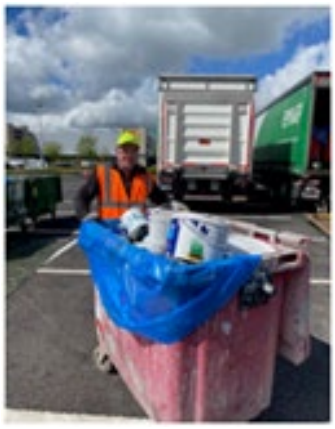
The Rubbish Film Festival has been widely recognised for its impact, winning the Green Stakeholder Award at the All-Ireland Sustainability Awards and receiving high commendations at the Digital Education Awards and Media Literacy Ireland Awards.



(Coláiste na hInse – Best Film in County Awards and Runner Up in National Awards – Rubbish Film Festival, 2026)

Bulky Waste Mattress Collection Days

There were four mattresses drop off events across the county in April 2026, collecting over 800 mattresses. Wood, metal, textiles will be recovered from the material, with the residual waste going for safe disposal.





Paint Collection at Ashbourne Recycling Event

Meath County Council provided a Free Paint Collection Service to the Ashbourne Recycling Event on 11th April, in Ashbourne Retail Park. The event also collected WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment), household bulky waste and provided compost from Thornton's Compost Facility to visitors.

Food Waste Prevention Cookery Demonstrations with Catherine Fulvio

Catherine Fulvio shared some amazing insights on Wednesday 15th April in the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan during two cookery demonstrations on how to make the most of our local produce and reduce food waste at home.

The National Stop Food Waste campaign focuses on reducing bread waste, with 48% of Irish households throwing bread away most often. Catherine's Crumbs to Crust Cookery Demonstrations showed multiple ways of reducing bread waste and she highlighted the importance of using our brown composting bins.

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Libraries Services

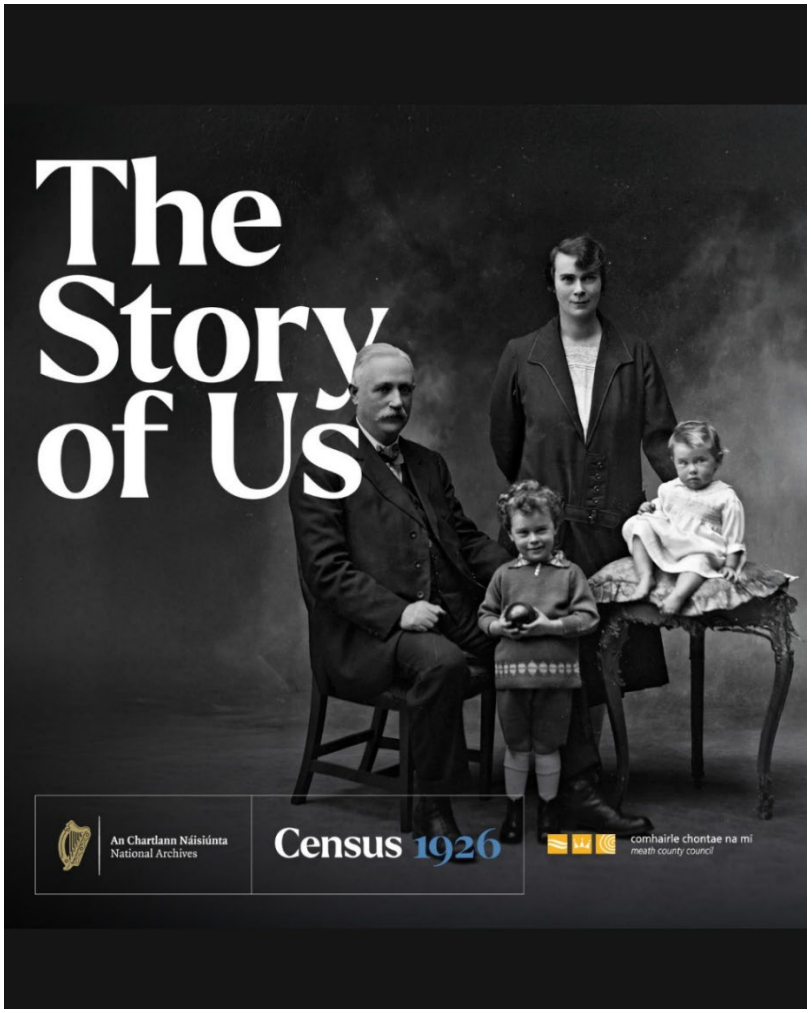


Archives

The Story of Us: **Independent Ireland and the 1926 Census exhibition**

Presented by the National Archives in association with Meath County Archive, the exhibition will explore the first census of the Irish Free State and provide an insight into the millions of lives captured within its pages. *The Story of Us* provides a fascinating insight for anyone researching their family roots, diving into local history or simply exploring the past.

The exhibition will be in St Mary's Community Centre, Trimgate Street, Navan and will run from Saturday 13th June – Sunday 28th of June.



Local Studies

History & Commemoration: One Hundred & Ten Years On From The Rising - A lecture by Dr Peter Connell

A public lecture will be delivered in Navan library on May 19th by leading historian Dr. Peter Connell on history and commemoration. The lecture will be accompanied by an illustrated publication containing the text of the lecture and images of 1926 throughout the county.

About the speaker:

Peter Connell is a native of Navan and holds an M.A. in Geography from St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. He is author of *The Land and People of County Meath, 1750-1850* (Dublin, 2004) and has published widely on the history of County Meath in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He was a founding member of the Meath History Workshop and was editor of Meath Archaeological and Historical Society's renowned journal *Ríocht na Midhe* from 2014-2025. In 2017 he completed a PhD in Trinity College Dublin on the history of public housing in Irish provincial towns. In 2023 he was awarded a Royal Irish Academy bursary to research the 1922 £1 million housing programme.

Local Authority Commemorative Grant Funding

Meath County Council received a funding allocation of €15,000 from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport to support commemorative initiatives in 2026. The funding will support a number of history initiatives including a public lecture and illustrated pamphlet on 1926; a publication on The Parish of Bohermeen in collaboration with St. Ultan's Historical Society; the America250 programme during the Hindsight at Hinterland Festival; and a performance and lecture in Ballivor Library in celebration of Matt Kiernan's contribution to Irish musical heritage.

Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) 2026

Meath County Council Library Service has been awarded funding of just over €15,000 from The Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) 2026.

CIF provides the opportunity to fund projects and activities that support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy, digital and financial literacy needs.

Meath County Council Library Service will run the following projects during 2026, each of which will help to create a more literacy friendly and equal society.

- Family Literacy – Dyslexia Awareness training for Library staff
- Financial Literacy – Healthy Finances project working with Meath Women's Refugee
- Digital Literacy - Inniúlacht Dhigiteach sa Ghaeltacht / Digital Literacy in the Gaeltacht
- Media Literacy – Our Stories, Our Voices – working with Navan Travellers Workshop
- Adult Literacy – Age Friendly health, financial, media and digital Literacy Course in Ballivor Library

Creative Ireland – Cruinniú na nÓg 2026

Funded by the Creative Ireland Programme, Cruinniú na nÓg Meath 2026 will take place on the 6th of June, delivering a comprehensive programme of free creative activities for children and young people up to 18 years across all Municipal Districts. Events will be hosted in key venues including Ashbourne Library, Kells Courthouse and Tourism Centre, Oldcastle Library, East Meath Civic Centre,

Navan Library and Swift Cultural Centre, ensuring accessibility countywide. Targeted initiatives will also take place including Cruinniú @ Féile na Gealaí in Leabharlann Ráth Chairn and a dedicated programme in Mosney Accommodation Centre. A complementary schools' programme will be delivered in national schools throughout the month of May.

The programme has been informed by a countywide consultation with children and young people and spans a broad range of artforms, including magic, drama, dance, circus, science, and creative workshops. A key highlight will be the Garageland Galaxyz Music Festival for ages 12–19 at the Swift Cultural Centre, incorporating a national live online broadcast. Full programme details will be promoted via Meath County Council channels, with bookings opening online from 25th May.

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1st January 2026 to 27th April 2026		
Applications Received	14	2026 applications
Fully Completed Applications	10	2026 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	1	2026 applications
Invalid Applications	2	2026 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	2026 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	9	2026 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	0	
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	15.06	9 relate to 2026, 4.83 relate to 2025, 0.48 relate to 2024, 0.75 relate to 2023
Expired	2	2 relate to 2025
Drawdown by Customer	1.49	1 relates to 2025, 0.15 relates to 2024 0.34 relates to 2023

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