comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

October 2026

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

Contents

Introduction by the Chief Executive 2
Corporate Affairs and Governance 3
Housing Services 11
Transportation Services 23
Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism 34
Rural Regeneration 39
Community Development 41
Planning 47
Climate Action and Environment 53
Libraries Services 57
Finance 59

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 Services

Scéim Scoláireachta Gaeltachta

Tá Oifig na Gaeilge ag déanamh athbhreithniú ar an scéim scoláireachta Gaeltachta Chomhairle Contae na Mí faoi láthair. Beidh an scéim don bhliain 2027 fógartha san athbhliain.

Próiseas Pleanála Teanga - Bailte Seirbhise Gaeltachta

Tá Comhairle Contae na Mi fógartha mar cheanneagraíocht don phróiseas pleanála teanga a mbaineann leis na mbailte seirbhíse Gaeltachta An Uaimh agus Baile Átha Buí. Faoi lathair tá Oifig na Gaeilge ag ullmhú doiciméid tairisceana le haghaidh sainchomhairleoir pleanála teanga a chur ar fáil ionas go mbeidh an taighde agus an obair eile a bhaineann leis an bpróiseas seo curtha i bhfeidhm.

Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme

The Irish language office is currently reviewing the Meath County Council Gaeltacht scholarship scheme at present. The scheme for 2027 will be announced in the new year.

Language Planning Process – Gaeltacht Service Towns

Meath County Council has been announced as the lead organisation for the language planning process concerning the Gaeltacht service towns of Navan and Athboy. The Irish language office is presently preparing tender documents to procure a language planning consultant so that the research and other work related to this process can be implemented.

An Cathaoirleach Briefed on Plans for New Council Chamber at Buvinda House



An Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council Cllr Sarah Reilly was recently briefed on plans for the new Council Chamber at Buvinda House by Director of Services for Economic Development, Rural Regeneration and EU Affairs Dara McGowan.

Over recent weeks, staff have been relocated to facilitate the project, and the contractor has now moved on site. The first phase of works will see the chamber area separated from the existing office environment, followed by the fit-out of the new chamber space.

Works are expected to be completed in Q1 2027 with the project representing an important investment in our facilities as it will provide a modern, fit-for-purpose space to support the democratic work of Meath County Council for years to come.



Council Delighted to Launch New Television Series *Writer's Way* on RTÉ Player and in the USA

Produced by Meath County Council, a new television series, *Writer's Way*, is now available to watch on RTÉ Player, bringing the beauty, heritage, culture and people of Meath and the Boyne Valley to a national audience.



Presented by Darragh McCullough, the series follows a number of acclaimed Irish and international writers as they explore Meath through personally curated journeys, discovering iconic landmarks, hidden gems, local businesses, craftspeople and visitor attractions along the way.

The series is also beginning its international journey, with broadcasts commencing on PBS in the United States, while an Australian release is planned for early 2027.

A fantastic showcase for County Meath, the Council is proud of *Writer's Way* as it highlights the stories, places and people that make the county such a unique destination for people living and working here, or visiting the county as a tourist.

All six episodes of *Writer's Way* are available to watch here - Writer's Way - RTE Player.

The second season of *Writer's Way* is currently in production in Meath.

National Recognition for Our Digital Pre-Planning Consultation Service



Meath County Council was pleased to learn in September that our Digital Pre-Planning Consultation Service was named a winner in the Local Government Category at the 2026 Ireland eGovernment Awards.

The award recognises excellence in digital innovation, public service transformation and customer-focused service delivery.

This success is the result of the collaboration between the Council's Information Systems and Planning teams, who came together in 2025 with a shared goal: to review, rethink and redesign how to deliver pre-planning services to the public.

The result is a single, integrated digital solution that has transformed the customer experience while making processes more efficient for staff. The service combines an instant pre-planning report generator, an online consultation request system and a real-time internal dashboard, creating a seamless end-to-end service for both customers and employees.

The impact of these efficiencies is substantial. Each year, Meath County Council processes approximately 600 pre-planning consultation requests and a further 1,500 general planning queries, making this a service that delivers real benefits for both customers and staff every day.

This achievement demonstrates how innovation and collaboration can deliver better services for the people of Meath while supporting staff in their day-to-day work.

Council Receives Multiple Nominations at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards and the Digital Transformation Awards



Meath County Council was pleased to receive word in September that a number of important projects taking place throughout the county were nominated for national awards.

The Council received nominations for four Excellence in Local Government Awards 2026, organised by Chambers Ireland and three nominations for the 2026 Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards.

The shortlisted projects for the Local Government Awards are:

Stay Up All Night Book Club – Diversity & Inclusion
Thrive Centre of Business Excellence – Promoting Economic Development
Meath Strategic Energy Site Study – Local Authority Innovation
Samhain Festival of Food & Culture – Festival of the Year

Meanwhile, our Digital Pre-Planning Consultation Service was nominated for two awards - Best ICT Project of the Year and Best Citizen/Customer Experience Award – at the 2026 Digital Transformation Awards, with our 12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety Campaign nominated for the Best Digital Marketing Campaign of the Year Award.

These nominations reflect the collaborative efforts of teams who continue to deliver projects and initiatives that make a real difference for Meath's communities, businesses and visitors.

Newest Episode of Local Lens, the Council's Podcast Series Explores Representation and Participation in Local Democracy



The latest episode of Local Lens, Meath County Council's podcast series, was released in September and shines a spotlight on an important conversation about participation, representation and the future of local democracy in Meath.

The episode brings together Meath County Council's longest-serving councillor, Brian Fitzgerald, and its first Black female councillor, Yemi Adenuga, to discuss their experiences in local politics and how representation has evolved over the years.

The discussion explores the progress made in increasing female representation on Meath County Council, the barriers that can discourage people from running for office, and why diverse voices are so important in shaping local communities.

The episode also features Claire McGing, leading gender and politics researcher and co-author of Women Beyond the Dáil: Access, Representation & Retention in Irish Local Government, who provides valuable context on the challenges women continue to face in political and public life.

Six Important Council Projects Receive Funding Under the New Towns and Cities Regeneration Fund



The Council was pleased to learn in September that six projects were approved under the new Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund, a national initiative from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The fund will support projects focused on town centre renewal, community infrastructure and public realm improvements across the country.

The approved Meath projects have the potential to secure up to €22.65 million in funding and include the Laytown-Bettystown Community Building, Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation in Navan, the proposed Ratoath Civic Centre, as well as development and regeneration projects at Old Spicers Mill, Railway Street in Navan and the Water Activity & Castle Connects project in Trim.

The announcement reflects the ongoing work taking place across the Council to deliver vibrant town centres, high-quality community facilities and sustainable growth throughout the county.

These projects will now progress to the next stage in partnership with the Department and other stakeholders, helping to shape the future of our towns and communities for years to come.

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 Q3 2026:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q3 - 2026	87	1	0

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 Q3 2026 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q3- 2026	18	2	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 Q3 2026 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q3- 2026	9

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			
Main Street, Ashbourne	60	Q2 2028	Q4 2029
Blackcastle House, Navan	100	Q2 2029	Q2 2031
Robinstown	3	Q3 2027	Q3 2028
Riverside, Carnaross	5	Q3 2027	Q3 2028
Trim Road, Balreask	4	Q3 2027	Q3 2028
Friars Park, Trim	4	Q3 2027	Q3 2028
Church Street, Kells	3	Q3 2027	Q3 2028
Total	**179**		
PART 8 PLANNING & DETAILED DESIGN			
Ratoath Age Friendly Development	14	Q2 2027	Q4 2028
Johnstown Town Centre	21	Q2 2028	Q4 2029
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	Q2 2027	Q3 2028
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q3 2027	Q3 2029
Planning & Design Total	**104**		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q1 2027	Q3 2028
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q3 2026	Q3 2027
Total Tender for Construction	**26**		

CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q3 2025	Q1 2027
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2026	Q1 2027
Construction Total	8		
OVERALL TOTAL	**317**		
COMPLETED UNITS			**Completion Date**
Rathaldron Court, Navan	27		24/02/2026
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5		27/04/2026
Brews Hill, Navan	12		20/06/2026
Newtown, Drumconrath	1		21/06/2026

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

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	71
Athboy	Part V	4
Ballivor	Part V	2
Bettystown	Part V	4
Drogheda	Part V	26
Duleek	Part V	2
Dunboyne	Part V	59
Dunshaughlin	Part V	38
Enfield	Part V	5
Kells	Part V	12
Longwood	Part V	12
Navan	Part V	57
Oldcastle	Part V	8
Rathmolyon	Part V	9
Ratoath	Part V	39
Summerhill	Part V	4
Trim	Part V	33
Kells	Turnkey	8
Navan	Turnkey	7
Navan	CAS	12
Slane	CAS	1
Trim	CAS	2
Oldcastle	CAS	6
Total		**421**

Meath County Council Approved CAS, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 16th September 2026.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	30
Drogheda	Part V	4
Dunshaughlin	Part V	1
Enfield	Part V	22
Kells	Part V	1
Kilcock	Part V	4
Navan	Part V	29
Oldcastle	Part V	5
Ratoath	Part V	2
Summerhill	Part V	17
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Navan	Turnkey	62
Total		**207**

Starter Home Purchase Scheme

Meath County Council currently have 4 affordable housing schemes open for applications and a further 1 (The Furrows, Ratoath, 14 units) to be re-launched in September

Current Live Schemes		
PROJECT NAME	**Scheme Status**	**NO. OF UNITS**
Bennetstown Dunboyne	Portal opened 7th May, assessing applications	55
Gilson Avenue Oldcastle	Portal opened 25th June – 2 allocated	3
Brackinrainey Wood Longwood	Portal opened July 2nd – 2 allocated	4
The Hollies Ballivor	Portal opened July 9th – 1 allocated	2

Upcoming Schemes approved by the Department		
Limebrook, Navan	Q 4 2026	9
Coach, Ashbourne	Q 1 2027	92
The Furrows, Ratoath	Q4 2026	14
Cluain Lionn Grove Oldcastle	Q 2 2026	6
Foxwood Kells	Q 4 2027	2
Fosterfields Athboy	Q 4 2027	12
Submitted to the Department		
The Commons, Duleek	Expected to advertise Q 4 26	1
Larrix Grove Duleek	Expected to advertise Q2 27	1

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 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	**121**	
Applications awaiting works to date for 2026	**77**	
Works underway	**04**	**€ 39,827.26**
Works completed to date in 2026	**38**	**€ 348,104.46**
Remaining funding		**€ 17,941.91**

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

Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for Older People and People with Disability				
Claim Period	Claim Amount €	Individual Grant	Recoupable	
Jan- Feb 26	€612,974.63	77	€520,084.91	Up to End of Feb
Mar - April 26	€835,601.93	106	€710,261.69	Up to End of April
May - June 26	€648,627.69	79	€551,333.54	Up to 29th June 26*
July Aug 26	€982,737.71	125	€835,327.05	30/08/2026
Sept Oct 26				
Nov Dec 26				
Total	€3,079,941.96	387	€2,617,007.19	
Balance Remaining	**€2,594,129.04** *Combined*		**€2,205,953** *Department*	

815 grants awarded totalling €6,553,249.49

Active files ready to issue grant awards: -

For recommendation 40 €279,962.86

OVERALL TOTAL 855 €5,898,977.20

Awaiting final inspection / payment & not recouped

179 €1,424,673.23

Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy retrofit works on occupied properties are ongoing. Up to 15th September 2026 7 claims have been submitted for 61 properties for a total of €2,218,206 of which €1,614,448 has been fully recouped from the department. Recent circulars from the Department outlined that energy retrofits are no longer to be carried out on void properties and will only be carried out on occupied properties. Similarly, only basic works will be carried out on void properties to bring them up to minimum rental standards.

Appointment of Obligated Parties is ongoing. These contractors will provide Meath Co Co with detailed energy reports to determine what retrofit works are required on the relevant property. When in place this tender should considerably speed up the time taken to receive energy reports on stock houses.

Standards in Rented Accommodation/Rental Tenancy Board Inspections

2,127 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath in 2026 up to 11th September. Of this and in 2026, 954 were first inspections and 103 properties passed after their first inspection. 111 Improvement Notices and 19 Prohibition Notices were served to date. 43 Improvement Notices have been withdrawn as the matters referred to in the Improvement Notices were remedied.

Multi-Unit Developments (MUDs)

The tender documents for the Property Management Contract have been assessed and Contractor Notification letters have been issued. Appointment of the successful tenderer is imminent.

Local Authority Planned Maintenance

1003 Stock Condition Surveys have been completed in Meath from 1st January 2026 to 15th September 2026. An overall total of 2489 surveys have been completed on stock houses to date. Information gathered from these surveys will form the basis of planned maintenance works.

Radon detectors continue to be placed in stock houses. Collection of these detectors is ongoing and results are being collected. Two houses so far have shown slightly higher than accepted levels of Radon, both houses have had works completed to address this.

Contracts:

- A contractor has been appointed to carry out retrofit works in 3 houses in Cherryhill Court, Kells – works are ongoing
- Following inspections a surveyor has issued a report regarding the party/fire walls between properties. A tender for remedial works to these houses is being prepared
- Contractor has been appointed for the energy upgrade works in Claremont Estate; a pre-start meeting will be held soon
- Appointment of a contractor for the energy upgrade works in Magdelene Court, Kells has been completed, a pre-start meeting will be held soon
- The heat pump servicing tender has been assessed and the winning contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks

Documents are being prepared for tender for the following:

- St Mary's Villas, Donore – energy upgrades on 11 houses
- St Benildus Villas, Navan – energy upgrades on 4 houses

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

A first Voids Claim for 2026 was submitted on 27th April 2026 in the amount of €176,000 for 16 properties which has since been recouped. Claim 2 for 18 properties in the amount of €198,000 has been submitted and is awaiting recoupment.

As of 15th September 2026, we are progressing works on 61 voids. Table 1 below shows a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted as of 15th September 2026. 7 units were completed this month, 11 units were added this month

Table 1

	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	7	3	2	3	9
Navan	6	8	12	14	12
Ashbourne	1	3	0	0	4
Laytown/Bettystown	7	2	1	1	9
Ratoath	1	0	1	1	1
Trim	2	4	1	2	5
TOTALS	**24**	**20**	**17**	**21**	**40**

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

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Bailey Hill, Navan	5	Cluid - CALF	Q2 2027
Dunboyne Heights, Dunboyne	52	Iveagh Trust - CALF	Q2 2027
Frederick Court Ashbourne	26	NEHA - CALF	Q2 2027
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	Q4 2026
Slane	1	St. John of Gods	Q1 2027
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	**150**		

Homelessness – August 2026

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 31st July 2026	200 (212 Adults)	84 (121 Adults & 158 Children)	284
Placements at 30th August 2026	197 (213 Adults)	92 (133 Adults & 177 Children)	289

Of the households with children, 82 families are placed in short-term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention, 10 Families in Family Hubs.

94% bed allocations were availed of by service users

6% 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.

81 Presentations on homelessness were made. This comprised 23 Families.

Reason for EA Presentations	Total Numbers
NTQ	26
Family Circumstance	9
Hospital | Prison | Care	12
Couch Surfing | Cannot Afford	28
Rough Sleeping	6
Other	0
Total	**81**

EA Exit Figures:

- **Families:**
  - 3 Families exited EA in August. This comprised 4 Adults & 2 Children in August.

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

Other	1
AHB Allocation	0
Total	**3**

- **Singles/Couples:**
    - 26 Singles/Couples exited EA in August.

Reason for EA Singles/Couples Exit	Total Numbers
MCC Allocation	3
Not availing of Bed	11
Return to Family / Friend	1
HAP	1
Private Rented	2
Hospital/Treatment/Prison	1
Terminated	6
Other	0
Declined EA	1
AHB Allocation	0
Total	**26**

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 30/08/2026

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	**133**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**29**	**68**	**36**	**0**
Couples	**22**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**3**	**13**	**2**
Singles	**191**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**41**	**46**	**90**	**14**
Children	**177**	**72**	**67**	**38**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total	**523**	**72**	**67**	**38**	**74**	**117**	**139**	**16**

Homeless HAP Placefinder 01/08/2026 – 30/08/2026

Total	**2**
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	1
Homeless Prevention	1
In Progress	2

Tenant Liaison August 2026

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	128	42
Occupancy of dwelling	71	53
Garden upkeep/maintenance	60	39
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	10	5
Total	269	139
ASB Investigations on going at (month end)	97	
ASB Investigations completed (month end)	42	
Number of Pre Tenancies completed in August 2026	53	
Abandonments for August 2026	0	
Houses taken back into stock for August 2026	4	

Warnings Issued 2026

Warnings	Jan'25	Feb'26	Mar'26	Apr'26	May'26	Jun'26	July'26	Aug'26
Verbal	1	6	1	3	1	3	0	1
Written	2	4	0	5	0	0	0	4
2nd Written	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Statutory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advisory	34	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Total	38	10	2	8	1	3	3	6

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	4	0	3	1	1	0
May	4	0	5	0	0	3
June	8	0	0	2	3	0
July	1	0	5	1	0	1
August	3	0	6	3	0	2
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	33	0	25	12	8	12

Social Housing Supports - for period 1st August – 31st August 2026.

- 138 applications received for Social Housing
- 59 applications approved onto the Social Housing List
- 17 applications unsuccessful

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	**Number**
MCC Direct Allocations	49
(of which) Transfers	9
Approved Housing Bodies	8
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	**66**

Breakdown of Social Housing list by Citizen Status

Citizen Status	Total	% of Overall
Irish	1,950	72.7%
Other EEA	519	19.4%
Non-EEA	196	7.3%
UK	17	0.6%
Total	2,682	**100%**

Breakdown of Allocations by Citizen Status for 1st January 2026 – 31st August 2026

Citizen Status	Total	% of Overall
Irish	252	69.8%
Other EEA	82	22.7%
Non-EEA	25	6.9%
UK	2	0.6%
Total	361	**100%**

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.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - €650K	High Court Hearing took place on the 15th and 16th of January 2026. A decision on the Judicial Review came out on the 28th of April dismissing the challenge from Mr John Rogers. On May the 11th Mr Rogers stated his intent to apply for leave to appeal. Awaiting a date for the leave to appeal hearing.
N52 Grange to Clontail - €2.0M	Enabling works contracts expected to commence in the coming months. Land compensation agreements ongoing.
N2 Rath to Kilmoon	Phase 3 works ongoing, preparing statutory documents.
N52MH_034.0 Balrath Cross RSIS	Design report currently being progressed.
N51 Tullaghanstown Bog Rampart Scheme	Phases 1 to 4 – successful tender appointed.
N51 Pavement Schemes	Tenders received. Tenders currently beng assessed.
N2 Glassallen Pavement Scheme	Tender documents issued.

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)	€9,278,630 Local Tertiaries €450,000 Community Involvement Scheme €327,369 Restoration Maintenance
Total	**€10,055,999**
Scheme	Update
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	28 of the 31 schemes completed
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing):	Contract Complete
Phase 3 (Overlay & Surface Dressing):	33 of the 36 schemes completed
Phase 4 (Wearing Course):	15 of the 17 schemes completed
Community Involvement Scheme	Works scheduled to be completed by the end of October
Local Tertiaries	39 of the 42 schemes completed.
Local Improvement Schemes	Works scheduled to be completed by the end of September

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

Grant Allocation	**€1,225,000**
Scheme	Update

R156/R125 Mullagh Cross	Detail design progressing. Discussions re land acquisition still ongoing. Draft tender documents for construction contract expected Q4 2026.
R155 Curragha	Consultants appointed and initial review of data underway. Site visit completed and options being considered.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme	Option Selection process progressing. Public Consultation re potential options closed 31st August. Submissions being reviewed along with technical assessment of potential options.
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	Awaiting confirmation of decision from An Coimisiun Pleanala re NIS application.
R108 / L16111 Bey More Junction safety scheme	Emerging preferred Option identified and engagement underway with directly affected landowners.

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

Grant Allocation	**€500,000**
Scheme	**Update**
L-5018 Ballybin	Proposals currently being finalised and landowner agreement being negotiated.
L-16111 Platin (Mounthanover Junction)	Works at L16111/L56131 Junction (Mounthanover Junction) substantially complete.
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	Signing and lining tenders being assessed.
R-154 Piercetown	Signing and lining tenders being assessed.
R-162 Lisnagrow	Location is being reviewed and options being considered
R-159 Rathmolyon	Signing and lining tenders being assessed.
R-152 Riverstown	Signing and lining tenders being assessed.

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	Signing and lining tenders being assessed.
R-161 Manorland	Signing and lining tenders being assessed.
L-1006 Cabinhill	Signing and lining tenders being assessed.

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	Works substantially complete
L3405 Aclare Bridge	Works substantially complete
L28013 Graultys Bridge	Works substantially complete
R164 Piercetown Bridge	Contractor appointed. Programme being finalised.
L6833 Ballybeg Bridge	Consultants appointed. Repair works requirements being compiled
L8603 Edengora Bridge	Consultants appointed. Repair works requirements being compiled
L7418 Knockumber Bridge	Consultants appointed. Repair works requirements being compiled
Minor Bridges Works	Minor bridge works and repairs ongoing on various bridges around the county

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation	**€540,000**
Scheme	**Update**

R160 Cloncowan €185,000	Significant Improvement Grant application has been made to the Department of Transportation and confirmation of application received.
Headfort Park €40,000.00	AA screening report for further works on-going
L-80045-5 Church Road, Athboy €25,000	Works near completion
R130 Greenogue Flood Alleviation Scheme €80,000.00	Construction to commence in September
R108 Clintstown Flood Alleviation Scheme €80,000.00	Substantially Complete
L-34036 Kearnstown, Drunconrath €25,000.00	Tender figure has been received; more funding will be required.

2. (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation	**€750,000.00**
Scheme	**Update**
R-147-36 Navan to Kells Road at Martry	Works on-going 75% complete

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	**NTA**
Grant Allocation	€10M allocated for 2026
Scheme	**Update**
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	The scheme continues to progress, with the new traffic signals at Martha's Bridge Junction now commissioned and operational. Binder surfacing has been completed along a substantial section of the route, including through the Martha's Bridge junction. Works have continued at the junction quadrants, including footpaths, tactile paving, drainage and associated infrastructure works. Works have also been completed on the Bothar Sion Bridge as part of the delivery of the scheme's active travel infrastructure. Preparatory works

	are underway for the installation of the segregation kerbing that will define the boundary between the new cycle track and the adjacent footpath along the R147.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	Preliminary design work continues on the proposed two-way cycle scheme on the riverside of the R147 from Poolboy Bridge to the LDR4 Junction. Works are progressing on the section from the LDR4 Junction to link with Blackwater Retail Park, which includes cycle facilities and an upgrade to the adjacent existing bus stop to a wheelchair-accessible standard.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Flower Hill Public Realm Enhancement Scheme Design work is continuing with coordination with adjoining MCC site development on potential impacts, opportunities for integrated access and maximising public realm improvements. Work is also continuing finalisation of the drawings and documents for the upcoming Part 8 process for the Flowerhill Public Realm Enhancement Scheme (Watergate Street/Poolboy junction to the Round 'O' roundabout). An internal review of the draft Part 8 documents by various sections of the Council have concluded, and the submissions are currently being reviewed. Separately, preliminary design work is continuing on the section from the R147/N51 junction to the Round 'O' roundabout.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	Funding for the proposed Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation Scheme of €7.2 million was announced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund.
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen Carpark.	The Contractor continued to address snag items and and minor outstanding works items during this period. CCTV cameras in Fairgreen car park, Bakery Lane and Old Cornmarket laneway were commissioned. Progress continues on the preparation of the project Safety File to facilitate the completion of the contract.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	The Consultant finalised draft preliminary design drawings for a 'shared space' option on the Elm Park Road section of scheme, along with a narrowing of junction radii and the inclusion of a raised table at the Convent Road and Elm Park Road junction.

	The drawings are currently being reviewed in advance of the commencement of an internal pre-Part 8 consultation process.
Trim Road Phase 2 – Circular Road Solstice Roundabout to R147	The Consultant continued to finalise the Gateway 5A documentation for submission to the NTA, following review and feedback from MCC. In parallel, the Consultant is finalising the tender documentation for the section of the scheme between the Solstice Roundabout and the Circular Road/R147 Junction, including the R147 Junction and Academy Street Junction, with a view to progressing to tender in Q4 2026.
Tara Na Ri Junction Upgrade	A review workshop with MCC was completed. Comments and feedback are currently being considered by the Consultant, who is continuing to update and develop the design drawings in advance of the preparation of a tender package.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beechmount to Balreask Manor	The Consultant continued with background data collation and the preparation of design documents. Tender documents for a non-intrusive GPR survey are currently being reviewed.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	The Consultant has updated the preliminary design drawings for the revised layout on the Trim Road (R161) from Balreask Manor to the Borallion junction (Balreask crossroads) to take account of the proposed local distributor road, LDR2A. The drawings are currently being reviewed in advance of the commencement of an internal pre-Part 8 consultation process.
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. Scheme 1 – Dunboyne to Clonee – Consultant appointed for Phase 5-7. Currently working on detailed design until October 2026. Scheme 2 – Dunboyne Cycle Network - Work is progressing on the Preliminary Design. Land take required in a number of locations, maps drawn up and issued to affected owners. Dunboyne active travel network to be brought forward for Part 8 planning approval Q4 2026 / Q1 2027.

Castle Street Ashbourne	Gateway 2 drawings and documents issued to NTA for approval prior to progressing to Phase 3 Preliminary Design.
Johnstown Village Active Travel Scheme	Active Travel, Public Realm and Housing combined projects ready for Part 8. Awaiting comments from the Department of Housing on funding and if and changes are required.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities	Continuing work on the required enabling or advance works contract, as well as liaison with landowners on agreements. Main scheme detailed design also proegressing.
Newtown Road, Trim footpath	Works complete.
Bus Stop Improvement Programme	Works currently in progress by contractor on upgrade of 40 stops. A further package of bus stops upgrades is in design development.
Safe Routes to School	
Round 2 St. Colmcilles and Our Lady Of Mercy, Kells	Chief Executives Report presented to elected members for consideration. The Active Travel Section attended recent Kells MD meeting to answer queries.
Round 3 Schools Duleek Boys' National School, Scoil Naomh Seachnall, St Oliver Plunkett's National School, Navan St Paul's National School, Navan	Technical consultant OCSC has visited all schools and will engage with all stakeholders over next months to identify and develop options for each front-of-school.
Round 4 Schools Gilson National School, Oldcastle Navan Educate Together NS Scoil Naomh Bríde, Boardsmill St Ultan's NS Bohermeen	An Taisce finalising the Delivery Plans for each school on interventions required.

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
Grant Allocation	(covered under TII)
Greenway Resurfacing	Plan to overlay the Greenway from Nobber to Kilmainhamwood in Q3/Q4 2026.
Boyne Greenway	
Navan to Oldbridge	Extensive ecological, environmental and archaeological surveys are continuing into the Autumn which will be necessary to support the development application. Wide engagement with landowners and stakeholders is progressing to develop the design. Public Consultation will follow later.

5.Other/Projects

Scheme	Update
Broadmeadow Riverwalk Ratoath	Works contract commenced on the 3rd of September. Due for completion Q2 2027
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	MCC have acquired land for a new car park to serve the town centre. RRDF application for funding submitted in July 2026
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. Tobins working through MCC and TII comments on initial draft of Option Selection documents.
Trim Pedestrian Bridge	Bridge manufacture and painting complete. New bridge will to be installed 17th September and expected to be opened to the public by mid October 2026 once paving etc completed.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme	Works recently completed at Racehill Ashbourne and in Navan. Works have commenced on new footpath on the Boyne Road.
New footpaths to Community Centres	Contract awarded for new footpath at Skyrne, contractor to commence work as soon as available.

New footpaths to Schools	Designs progressing on new footpaths at SN Ultan Naofa Baile Ghib and Kilbride NS (Trim MD), road safety audit on design underway.

6. URDF

Scheme	**Update**
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	No further updates since the last report
Frontage Improvement Works Flowerhill	Frontage Improvement Works began on the first property on 26th May 2026 (predominately painting) and are continuing in relation to further properties that are participating in the scheme. 16 properties are substantially complete and consultations with all property owners will continue

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**
Ratoath Civic Centre	URDF, Cat1B €7.5m funding allocation. Project proceeding to full design
Solstice – Frontage	No further updates since the last report

10. National Speed Limit Review

Scheme	Update
National Speed Limit Review	Ongoing due for completion June 2027

11. Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund Schemes

Scheme	Update
Dunboyne Eastern Distributor Road	Detail design, planning compliance and tender doc preparation progressing.
Dunboyne Business Park link to the R157	Tobins Consulting Engineers progressing detailed design and drafting tender documents for the construction contract. Land acquisition and Developer Agreements being progressed.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road Phase 2	Detail design progressing and Uisce Eireann requirements being reviewed.
Kells Frontlands	Discussions ongoing with landowners re progressing the detailed design.
LDR1A Navan	Progressing detailed design and drafting tender documents for the construction contract.

Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism



Meath Business & Tourism Awards launch



Awards launch image: (Back row from left): Oisín, Brendan Eimear and Oran Doughty, Benny Sheridan, Sheridan Insurance; Kelly Grimes and Shauna Tierney, Trim Castle Hotel; Dara McGowan, Meath County Council; Diane Mackintosh and Sarah Ryan, Meath Chronicle. (Front row from left): Conor Corry and Stephanie McManus, AIB; Miriam Sheridan, Sheridan Insurance; Catherine Fox, Dunboyne College of Further Education & Training; Kieran Kehoe, CEO Meath County Council; Cllr Sarah Reilly, Cathaoirleach, Meath County Council; Gavan Becton, Editor Meath Chronicle; Michelle Goodwin and Majella Farrell, Meath County Council and Mary Bisgood, Celtic Media Group.

On 7th September Thrive Centre for Business Excellence hosted the launch of the 17th Meath Business & Tourism Awards. The 2026 awards will be held in Trim Castle Hotel in a glittering event hosted by Meath Chronicle in partnership with Meath County Council and Boyne Valley Tourism on Friday November 20th. The awards celebrate the incredible businesses, entrepreneurs and organisations that make our county thrive.

Student Enterprise Programme (SEP)

Idea Generation Day had a full house at the Swift Theatre and attendance exceeding 200 students each day. The event generated strong engagement from participating schools and students and marks an important milestone as preparations continue for the County Final in March. The high level of participation demonstrates the continued strength and reach of the programme across County Meath.

Entrepreneurship Programme for Persons with Disabilities

Following the success received for the inaugural programme, the second Entrepreneurship Programme for Persons with Disabilities was launched last week. The programme commenced with six participants, reflecting continued demand for inclusive enterprise supports and reinforcing Meath LEO's commitment to widening access to entrepreneurship opportunities for underrepresented groups.

National Women's Enterprise Day 2026

Preparations are underway for Meath's first standalone National Women's Enterprise Day event, providing an opportunity to showcase the county's commitment to supporting and celebrating female entrepreneurship. The event features an exceptional speaker line-up, including broadcaster Bláthnaid Ní Chofaigh, entrepreneur Clare McKenna, Laura McDermott and Amy Bracken.

Client Success – Aura Sports Recovery Cream

Meath LEO are delighted to see the continued success of Aura Sports Recovery Cream, who are representing Meath LEO at the National Ploughing Championships this week. The company continues to build significant momentum, following a recent appearance on Ireland AM, providing valuable national exposure for both the business and its innovative Irish-made product range.



Image: Aura at their stand at the National Ploughing Championships

LEO Activity Report-August

Grants Approved and Training:

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	
Mentoring Assignments Approved	48
Attended Online Training Courses	40
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	-
Attended AI for Business Clinics	-
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	-
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	6
Digital for Business	6
LEAN for Micro	3
Energy Efficiency Grant	3
LEO Grants	-

Boyne Valley Tourism

Siamsa Glas Festival 2026



Siamsa Glas Image 1: Emma Gill, Boyne Valley Tourism Officer and Cllr. Sarah Reilly, Cathaoirleach Meath County Council





Siamsa Glas Image 2: Irish dancers performing at the closing concert of the Feile Siamsa Glas, which took place last weekend on the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway

Siamsa Glas Image 3: Judging the Comórtas Arán Tíre , in conjunction with Martry Mill and Drummonds Ltd

Boyne Valley Tourism supported the development and promotion of Féile Siamsa Glas 2026, which took place from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th of September 2026 at locations along the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway, Navan to Kilmainhamwood. The festival featured more than 30 events, including cycling, theatre, music, markets, crafts and wellbeing activities, celebrating Irish language, culture, heritage and nature. A post-event report, including visitor attendance figures, will follow.

Boyne Valley Tourism exhibits at The National Ploughing Championships

Boyne Valley Tourism exhibited at the National Ploughing Championships, held in Screggan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly from Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th of September 2026. With attendance expected to exceed 250,000 visitors over the three-day event, the exhibition provided a valuable platform to promote the Boyne Valley as a year-round destination, with a particular focus on the region's autumn experiences and the Home of Halloween campaign.



Ploughing Championship image: Anita Corrigan (Bellinter House, Helen O'Connell (Boyne Valley Tourism) and Olivia Duff (Headfort Arms)

Boyne Valley Tourism launch a Boyne Valley Business Events Brochure



Business Events Brochure image: Launch of the Boyne Valley Business Events Brochure in Thrive Centre of Business Excellence with Cathaoirleach Sarah O Reilly

The brochure promotes the region as a premier destination for meetings, conferences and incentive travel, showcasing the diverse venues, accommodation and unique experiences available across the Boyne Valley.

Boyne Valley Flavours

AGM & Board Update

The Boyne Valley Flavours AGM took place on 8th September in Sheridans Shop & Café. The meeting provided an opportunity to review activity over the past year and outline priorities and plans for the year ahead.

There were a number of changes to the BVF Board. Sally Anne Cooney and Chris Brownlow stepped down as Directors, and we welcomed two new Directors: Eimear Reynolds and Conor Halpenny.

Kevin Sheridan remains as Chairperson, with Helen McManus, Jennifer Provan, Gerry Scullion and Alan Phillips continuing as Directors alongside the newly appointed members.

Boyne Valley Dining Week

Preparations are continuing for the inaugural Boyne Valley Dining Week, taking place from 9th–18th October 2026.

Boyne Valley Flavours are working closely with food service businesses across Meath and Louth to develop their plans for the week and encourage increased use and promotion of locally produced food and drink.

A dedicated marketing and PR campaign is underway to promote participating venues and encourage consumers to dine out and experience local food during the week. Businesses are being supported with promotional materials, photography, sourcing information and ideas for dishes, menus and events.

Food Tourism – Oslo

Boyne Valley Flavours recently attended a tourism trade event in Oslo, Norway, in partnership with Tourism Ireland.

The event provided an opportunity to promote the Boyne Valley as a food tourism destination directly to Norwegian tourism and travel representatives, highlighting the region's strong food and drink offering, producers, food experiences and wider visitor appeal.

The Boyne Valley food tourism offering was very well received, with positive interest in the region and its potential as a destination for visitors seeking authentic Irish food and drink experiences.

Centre of Food Culture

National events

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland held a host of nation-wide sold-out events over the past month, visiting cheesemakers in Leitrim and Tipperary and Beekeepers in Longford, with just three events remaining as part of the series, it will have welcomed an estimated 400 people to its events across the country and contributed to raising awareness of The Centre of Food Culture Ireland

Food Networks Gathering

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland is due to host an All-Island Food Networks Gathering on 22nd September in the Midlands Park Hotel in Co. Laois, with 140+ attendees expected and 20 of Ireland's regional food networks in attendance.

Rural Regeneration



Derelict Sites	2026 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	32
No. of statutory orders issued	30
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2026	0
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2026	5

Vacant Homes	2026 total
Vacant Homes Identified	16
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2026	4
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2026	5
CPO - Housing Act - Withdrawn by MCC in 2026 (action taken by owner)	5

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2026 total
Approved Applications	210
Approved in Principle Applications	95
Applications In Progress/Info Requested (not commenced)	24
Rejected Applications	7
Withdrawn Applications	90
Completed / Paid Applications	160
Total Applications Received	418
Total Approved/Approved in Principle Funding	€16,896,484
Total Paid Grant Funding	€8,724,220

Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process (Sept'26)	
Dunville Recreational Park - Part 8 process completed	MCC
Laytown Community Building & Park - Part 8 process completed	MCC
Works Commenced (Sept'26)	
New Chamber works in Buvinda House	MCC
Site investigation works - Kilmessan Church	TVRS
Tender process for construction of Sensory Garden in Kells	TVRS
Site investigation works - SVP Hall Kells	RRDF
Works Completed (Sept'26)	
Tender process for the appointment of consultants for Clonkeehan House Slane	RRDF
Contract signed for refurb works at Claddy Hall, Dunderry	TVRS

Community Development





All About Youth, held at the Solstice Arts Centre on 20th September, celebrated the talent, creativity and potential of young people across Meath. The event provided opportunities for over 250 young people to engage with local services, supports and activities, while showcasing their positive contributions to communities throughout the county.

The initiative was delivered through a partnership involving Meath Local Community Safety Partnership, Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), Foróige, Youth Work Ireland Meath, Jigsaw, An Garda Síochána, Meath Sports Partnership, LMETB, Meath Partnership, Meath Traveller Workshop and the Involve Youth Project. Funding was provided by Meath County Council, Healthy Meath and CYPSC.

The event demonstrated the value of multi-agency collaboration in supporting young people and aligns with the objectives of both the CYPSC County Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), particularly in promoting participation, wellbeing, inclusion and community engagement.

Building on this year's success, partners hope to expand the initiative, creating further opportunities for young people to access services and supports while celebrating their achievements and contributions to community life.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

September saw a significant increase in calls and emails to Meath PPN as community groups returned from the summer break. Support was provided through volunteer training, group facilitation, and information on grants and funding opportunities. These supports remain vital in helping groups continue their work and maintain a positive impact within their communities.

PPN staff delivered training and information workshops at the Healthy Louth and Healthy Meath Community Connect Champions Days. The training equips Community Connect Champions with the skills and knowledge to engage effectively with people in their local areas and develop programmes with other volunteers to support mental health and wellbeing.

PPN staff and members of the Secretariat were invited by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to attend the National Ploughing Championships in Screggan, County Offaly. Representing PPN networks nationally, the event provided an opportunity to promote the work of PPNs and highlight supports available to community and voluntary groups across rural Ireland.

Meath PPN membership now stands at 883 groups, an increase of eight groups since August.

PPN Pillar	No of Registrations - August 2026	No of Registrations – 15 September 2026
Community Pillar	728	735
Environment Pillar	27	28
Social Inclusion Pillar	120	120
Total	875	883



STAFF FROM MEATH & OFFALY PPN AT THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP

Comhairle na nÓg

Meath Comhairle na nÓg members took part in the Dublin Regional Networking Event and helped develop recommendations for the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive 2026-2028. Planning is also ongoing for the Annual Youth Conference on 22 October 2026, which will focus on issues affecting young people and setting priorities for the coming year.

Meath Age Friendly

Planning and arrangements for the annual Meath Cares About Older People Event on 7 October 2026 have been advance with the event publicised and invitations issued.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme

The Carranstown Grant Scheme Award Night took place on 17 September in the Duleek Bellewstown and District Community Facility. The 22 successful groups were presented with their grant awards by the Cathaoirleach of the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Cllr Maria White.

Funding for National Governing Bodies of Sport in Meath

The closing date for applications under the Funding for National Governing Bodies of Sport in Meath Scheme was 11 September 2026**.** 17 valid applications were received, and these will now be assessed with programmes commencing in January 2027. The scheme supports sports development and increased participation across County Meath through Programme Development Grants and Development Officer Post Supports. Priority will be given to projects that increase participation among disadvantaged communities, women and girls, ethnic minority communities, people with disabilities, and men aged over 35 years.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

There was no meeting of the LCDC held in August 2026.

The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on 25 September 2026.

Local Action Group (LAG)

The Local Action Group met on 24 July 2026 and considered recommendations from the Independent Evaluation Committee relating to applications received under the LEADER 2023-2027 Programme.

The next meeting is scheduled for 25 September 2026

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Meath Local Community Safety Partnership met on 16 September to review, progress and further develop the actions and priorities that will form the Meath Local Community Safety Plan, which is scheduled for publication later this year. The meeting provided an opportunity for partners to collaborate on key community safety issues and ensure that the emerging plan reflects the needs and concerns identified through stakeholder engagement and community consultation. The continued commitment and cooperation of partner organisations will be central to the successful

implementation of the plan, which aims to enhance community wellbeing, strengthen inter-agency collaboration and support safer, more inclusive communities across Meath.

Healthy Meath

Healthy Meath delivered its second CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath Champion Training Programme at Deepark Community Hub on 14 September.

Thirteen participants completed the training, which raised awareness of mental health and wellbeing supports, services, community groups and activities across Louth and Meath. Contributions were provided by the HSE, PPN, Meath Library Service, Mental Health Ireland, Yoga & Mindfulness and Rathkenny Community Centre.

The training was well received and marks an important milestone ahead of the launch of the CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath website on 8 October.



COMMUNITY CONNECT CHAMPION TRAINING

Healthy Meath partnered with Housing, the Local Community Safety Partnership, Meath Library Service and Meath Local Sports Partnership to deliver a successful Playful Communities event for residents of the Wood Grove and Tara View estates in Ballivor. The event promoted social connection and positive mental health through fun, inclusive children's activities and received excellent attendance and positive feedback.

Healthy Meath also supported Healthy Louth in delivering the Community Connect Together for Hope event in Monasterboice on World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September), raising awareness of mental health and suicide prevention supports while encouraging community engagement.

September saw the return of several Healthy Meath-funded initiatives, including Yoga for Health programmes in Duleek and Bettystown and five Community Health Check Days across the county, supporting healthier lifestyles and access to local health and wellbeing services.

The September Healthy Meath Newsletter was also published, highlighting recent activities, upcoming events and local health and wellbeing opportunities.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT continues to support new arrivals with 31 referrals resolved last month. Seven cases remain active and progressing, while 312 cases have been successfully resolved year to date, reflecting strong collaboration and operational effectiveness with partner agencies.

LAIT strengthened local support services by meeting with the Willow Migrant Support Worker in Navan and Outcomers Drogheda to enhance collaboration and improve essential supports for migrants across the county.

LAIT Clinic Work

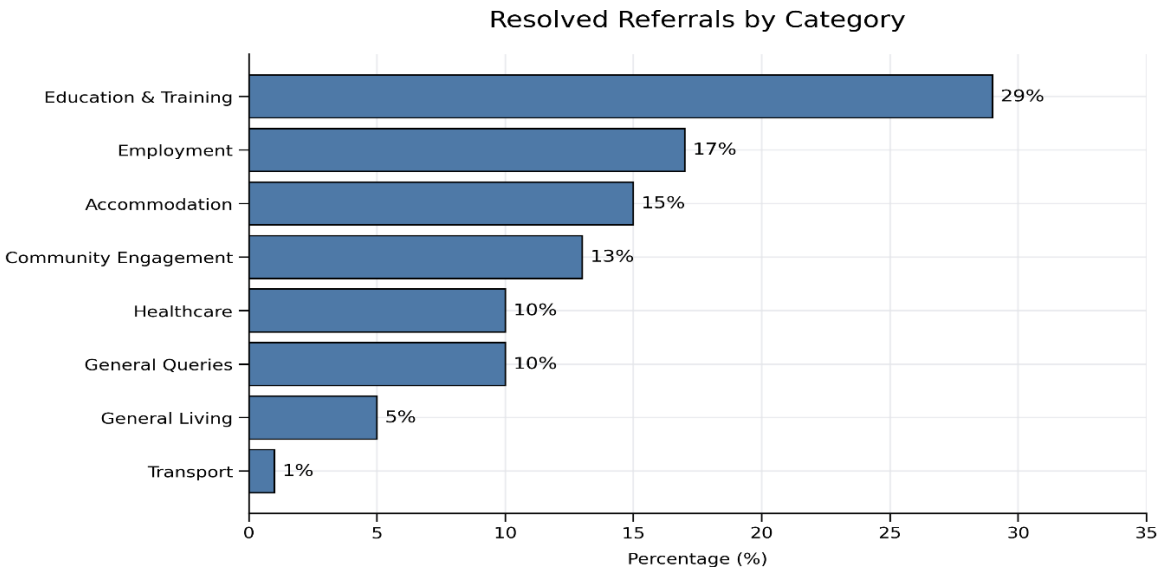
15 outreach clinics in local accommodation centres, providing on-site support to residents took place August & September.

Customer Service Cases Logged 2026:

Customer Service Cases	August	September
Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	9	7
Number of Customer cases closed	212	312

Figures for Accommodation Centres:

Accommodation Type	Number accommodated Aug	Number accommodated Sept 2026
UKR	424	412
IP	1023	1034



Recent LAIT Events

A range of initiatives delivered by the LAIT supported social inclusion, community participation, and cultural exchange across County Meath during the past month. "Meet and Greet" sessions in Trim and Kells Libraries connected new arrivals with local services and supports.

The weekly cookery programme at the Unity Centre, Navan, continued to perform well, attracting 28 participants.

As part of National Heritage Week, cultural tours to Slane Castle and Dunboyne attracted 20 and 33 participants respectively, helping to increase awareness of local history and heritage.

A "Songs and Stories" session, delivered in partnership with the Library Service at the Ashbourne Court Hotel, engaged eight young participants.



Culinary Delights at Unity Centre, Navan



Participants at the Dunboyne Heritage Walk

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

1256 planning applications were lodged in the period **01.01.2026 to 31.08.2026.** This is compared to **1066** in the same period in 2025.

84.2% of the applications received in 2026 have been lodged via the online portal – ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

47 Valid Commencement Notices and 6 Valid Seven Day Notices were received in the period 01/08/2026 to 30/08/2026. This is compared to 44 commencement notices and 6 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	20
Multi-Units	172 Units
Extensions	12
Other*	4

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

The Seven Day Notices can be broken own as follows:

Development Type	Number
Multi-Units	0 Units
Other*	6

* 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 notices or Seven Day Notice has been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01/08/2026 to 30/08/2026.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

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

Receipt Period: Jan – Aug 2026

Total Receipts € 4,412,322

Recoupments received – refund €1.6 m € 3,256,861

Total Received € 7,669,183

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2026: € 8,000,000

Actual Collected Jan - Aug 2026: € 7,669,183

% collected: 96%

Please note the collection figures shown above are **inclusive** of Uisce Eireann receipts (€ 27,805) and Irish Rail receipts (€874,394).

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2025 was € 8,098,894.

Further refunds will be due to the Department as more units are delivered as social/affordable units or are incomplete at 31/12/2026.

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

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

- 269 Planning Enforcement complaints received since 01/01/2026

- 82 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2026 to 31/08/2026

New Cases to be Investigated	19
Warning Letters	148
Enforcement Notices	65
Referred for Legal Proceedings	4

Closed	69
Court Attendances* This number does not include cases for Judicial Review or Meath County Council as Notice party	24

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

5. Forward Planning

- Work is progressing on Extension of County Development, which will form Variation 7 of the County Development Plan 2021-2027, and it is anticipated to be on public display in late November. The aim of which is to bring forward land suitable for zoning Residential, Employment, Community, Open Space, Tourism and other land uses for future County Development Plans and County Development Plan

- Manorland, Trim Masterplan 31 is under development.

- Spire of Lloyd Recreation and Amenity Plan submission period ended 10th September and submissions are being reviewed.

6. Heritage

Work Programme Updates

Biodiversity

Engagement and Outreach events:

- National Hedgerow Week took place from 29th August – 6th September. The Biodiversity Section organised and facilitated an event on a local farm in conjunction with Hedgerows Ireland to recognise the initiative and raise awareness of best practice hedgerow management.

- Other:
  - The Biodiversity Section was involved in supporting the delivery of citizen science workshop in Kells and Girley Bog in conjunction with partners, the National Biodiversity Data Centre.
  - A visit to Girley Bog was facilitated and co-arranged in conjunction with the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Sarah Reilly, to Girley Bog with Dutch Ambassador to Ireland, Maaike van Koldam.



Figure 1. Images of recent outreach and engagement activities.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) Projects: Total funding offered by NPWS amounts to €96,757 for projects in Meath. Procurement has begun on a number of 2026 projects supported by this fund, such as:

- County Meath Wetland Survey Phase II – **In progress** - Tender assessment complete, tender awarded for 3 year project, field survey work has commenced.
- County Meath Tree and Woodlands Survey Phase II – **In progress / delayed** – MCC working with FERS Ltd to agree a technical specification and methodology for a multi-annual countywide Tree and Woodland Survey. Completion of this task has delayed procurement and initiation of the main survey.
- County Meath Grasslands Survey Phase I – **Delayed** – A specification for the tender and procurement of services remains to be completed for this project.
- Invasive Alien Species Project – Lough Sheelin – **In Progress** – Field work currently ongoing and being led by Aquens Ltd & UCD.
- Development of the Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey – **In Progress** – Field work completed for 2026; report due.
- Biodiversity and Conservation Agriculture Project – **In Progress** – Ecologist commissioned to develop an annual monitoring plan for the “Hill of Lloyd” 14-acre field at the foot of the Spire. Meath County Council are also engaged with Hedgerows Ireland and are planning a programme of sensitive hedge management.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme (LBAPS) Projects: Funding has been received by Meath County Council from the Heritage Council totaling €20,000. Projects supported include:

- Biodiversity Working Group of the Meath Heritage Forum meetings – **In Progress** – three out of the total 4 meetings for 2026 have been facilitated. The 3rd meeting of the Biodiversity Working Group, organised in conjunction with OPW and NPWS, took place on 11th September and focused on the management of farmland in public ownership.
- Meath Biodiversity Action Plan Monitoring Tool – **In Progress** – A tool to assist monitoring implementation of actions in the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan and actions to be implemented which align with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan is in development.
- Community Biodiversity Initiatives and Outreach Support – **In Progress** – *The Community Biodiversity Action Plan* and *Biodiversity Awareness Initiative* Small Grant Schemes are supported by the Biodiversity Section. Groups and organisations supported under these schemes in 2026 include:
    - Bettystown TT
    - Ratoath TT
    - Dunshaughlin TT
    - Ashbourne TT
    - Johnstown TT
    - Trim Climate Action
    - Birdwatch Ireland Meath Branch
    - Solstice Arts Centre
- Capacity building and training – **Completed** – Training events supported and delivered for local authority staff include:
    - From Policy to Practice: Building Better for People and Biodiversity - Workshop
    - Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) Conference

Creative Ireland Grant Funded Projects: The Biodiversity Section was offered €10,000 by Creative Ireland in 2026. This will allow Meath County Council to commission the following:

- Services of architects, urbanists and policy specialists for the purposes of initiating discussion on the development of an *Urban Nature Plan for Navan* – **In Progress** – Sub-group of the Biodiversity Working Group of the Meath Heritage Forum has been formed to progress this project. Currently the scope of the project is being refined and the aim is to present a proposal to Elected Members of the Navan Municipal District in the near future.

MCC Funded (Biodiversity & Climate Action) Project: A total of €60,000 is available in this budget for a number of biodiversity and climate action related projects in 2026.

- ReFarm – **In Progress** - 22 EOIs received for the construction of large ponds on farms in Meath. The aim is to construct 15 ponds by the end of September. This may be increased if further funding becomes available.
- Urban Biodiversity Audits – **In Progress** – Baseline habitat surveys completed for Navan, Kells and Trim. GIS mapping outputs and written reports remain to be completed.

Other:

- Forestry Working Group: Site Feasibility Assessment – **In Progress** – 70-80 sites circulated to staff for comment – Biodiversity & Heritage Assessment completed. Further contributions are to be made in September by the Biodiversity section to ensure a list of recommended sites for woodland and/or agroforestry creation is submitted to MCC Senior Management for consideration.
- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: Meadow Management in Meath – **In Progress** – The Biodiversity Section has met with staff from each of the Municipal Districts to understand where Meath County Council is currently managing green space in line with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and where the local authority can consider altering mowing regimes to grow our number of meadows managed locally.
- Community Dune Action Training – **In Progress** – The Biodiversity Section is assisting in the planning of Dune Action training on the 25th September in Bettystown Library. Further training will take place on 10th October.

Conservation

Planning Referrals – Conservation: Ongoing

Planning Compliance – Conservation: Ongoing

Section 57s – Conservation: 17 applications for 2026. 5 of the 17 complete so far. 7 have been cancelled due to seeking grant advice and not planning advice. The remaining 5 have scheduled site visits across the month of August.

Enforcement – Conservation: UDs 2026 - approx. 10 live cases. Section 59s- 0 requests.

BHIS & HTB 2026: Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Thatch Buildings awarded for 2026 are ongoing. Some projects have completed and are awaiting final visit from Robert.

Historic Structures Fund 2027: Grant Applications have gone live for 2027 with application submission deadline set for the 27th of November 2026.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Thatch Buildings 2027: Grant Applications have gone live for 2027 with application submission deadline set for the 30th of October 2026.

Creative Ireland Funded Projects: Land Commission Cottages Survey 2026- Contract awarded, project to commence following acceptance and timeline.

RPS: List of proposed additions, deletions and amendments for next CDP currently being worked on including draft Heritage Chapter for CDP

Climate Action and Environment



Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

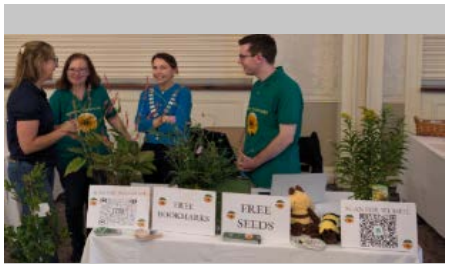


Meath County Council is progressing the development of place-based Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Implementation Plans across the county. Local taskforces have been established in each of Meath's nine Decarbonising Zones to support delivery at community level and to help identify practical, locally relevant climate actions.

The Climate Action Section welcomes the continued involvement of community members, business representatives and citizens interested in climate action. Meetings have taken place with DZ taskforce members to develop proposed actions for inclusion in the DZ Implementation Plans. These actions have been informed by the DZ Baseline Emissions Inventories and by local knowledge from taskforce members.

Internal meetings have also been held with relevant Council sections to further develop the action lists. The refined actions will be brought back to the DZ taskforces for review in October.

DZ Family Fun Climate Action Days





The Climate Action Section hosted nine DZ Family Fun Climate Action Days during May, June and September. The events were designed to engage families and communities in practical climate action through accessible, hands-on activities. Activities included a toy library, clothes swaps, furniture repair, bike repair, visits from an energy retrofit van, jewellery repair workshops and biodiversity talks. The events also included family-friendly activities such as face painting, helping to create an inclusive and engaging environment for all attendees.

All nine events have now been delivered successfully, with strong attendance across the county. This was the first year of the DZ Family Fun Climate Action Days and the positive response provides a strong basis for continued delivery in future years.

Community Climate Action Programme – Phase 2

Three of the 27 approved Phase 2 projects are now complete, with a further four projects currently in progress. Details of the completed projects are set out below.

Organisation	Summary of Project	Approved allocation
Coiste Halla Baile Ghib	Ceiling insulation, new LED lighting, fire sensors and cavity wall insulation	€13,196.43
Bettystown Tidy Towns	E-cargo bicycle and trailer to transport equipment	€12,569.30
Kiltale Hurling & Camogie Club	Clubhouse retrofit including solar PV, a bike maintenance station, community composting bin and rainwater harvesting system	€65,809.65

Climate Action Week Funding



Meath County Council received 28 applications to the Climate Action Week Fund 2026. The fund supports community groups to organise events during Climate Action Week, which will take place from 12th to 18th October 2026. All events will be posted via MCC's Climate Action webpage "What's on" [What's On ? | Meath.ie]

MD Breakdown	Applied
Ashbourne	2
Laytown Bettystown	6
Kells	5
Navan	6
Ratoath	4
Trim	5
Total	28

SDG Week, 19th–27th September

Meath County Council marked SDG Week from 19th to 27th September, with events delivered across Meath County Libraries and staff-focused initiatives to promote and inspire sustainability across the county.



This year's programme focused on SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. SDG 12 promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns, which are essential to protecting resources and supporting the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Thirty-five staff attended SDG training workshops on 16 and 17 September. The workshops covered the following areas:

- **Developing a deeper understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals.**
- **Connecting the work of local government and local authorities to the SDGs.**
- **Identifying appropriate SDG resources to support further learning on Agenda 2030.**

A staff competition was also held on the MCC App to raise awareness of the SDGs, with daily prizes available.

Further information on the library events is available here: Sustainable Development Goals Week | Meath.ie

Stamullen Burial Ground and Playground

The Contract signing for the Stamullen Burial Ground and Playground took place on the 7th of September 2026. The Project which comprises of the construction of a new multi-denominational burial ground, playground, and woodland walk at Stamullen Co Meath is being undertaken by the Contractor Dancor Civil Engineering Ltd. Dancor commenced on Site on the 9th of September 2026 and the Works are due for completion on the 27th of August 2027.



Libraries Services



Public Libraries Small Scale Capital Investment 2026

Meath County Council Library Service has been approved for funding of €120,407.70 under the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht's Public Libraries Small Scale Capital Investment Fund 2026.

The funding was provided at a 100% rate of aid and will support targeted improvements across library branches, including new shelving, furniture, age-friendly seating, sensory supports and related equipment.

An age-friendly seating area has been created in Trim Library as part of this investment, providing a more comfortable and welcoming space for library users.



Trim Library

Trim Library is expanding its community programme with new conversation, poetry, cultural and accessibility initiatives beginning from September.

A new Irish Conversation Group will meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 7pm, alongside the existing Monday group at 3pm. A monthly Open Mike Poetry Group will begin on the second-last Tuesday at 7pm. On Friday 18th September, Culture Night featured Boyne Writers Group and Dr Michael Farry, who presented an illustrated talk and reading after hours.

Adult Literacy for Life CIF Funding

The Healthy Finances/SAFE (Savings and Financial Equality) project commenced in Navan Library on Thursday 3rd September. Delivered in partnership with MABS and Willow, formerly Meath Women's Refuge, the project is now in its fourth week and has received a very positive response from participants.

The tutor has noted the strong level of engagement from attendees, who are also using the library as a resource to access further information on budgeting and on supporting positive financial skills with their children.

National Public Libraries Open Day

National Public Libraries Open Day will take place on Saturday 26th September, with Meath County Council Library Service hosting a range of free family-friendly events across the county.

Highlights include magic shows in Bettystown, Navan and Trim Libraries, while Dr Brain's Fun-believable Science Show will entertain and inspire audiences in Ashbourne Library.

As part of the celebrations, every library in Meath will host a STEAM Saturday session, offering children and adults an opportunity to explore, create, play and learn together. Library staff will also be available throughout the day to introduce visitors to the wide range of free clubs, events, services and activities available to library members year-round.

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1st January 2026 to 20th September 2026		
Applications Received	31	2026 applications
Fully Completed Applications	24	2026 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Invalid Applications	5	2026 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	2	2026 applications
Approved by Credit Committee	20	2026 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	4	2026 application
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	16.65	15 relate to 2026, 0.49 relate to 2025, 0.48 relate to 2024, 0.68 relate to 2023
Expired	7	2 relate to 2026, 5 relate to 2025
Drawdown by Customer	5.96	3 relates to 2026, 2.34 relates to 2025, 0.22 relates to 2024, 0.40 relates to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2026 to 20th September 2026 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023, 2024 and 2025. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.