



Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

February 2024

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, Climate Action and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Climate Action and Environment

Directorate for Housing, Community and Cultural Development

Housing Services

Community Development

Library Services

Directorate for Infrastructure, Project Management, People Management and Development

Transportation

Directorate for Planning, Economic and Tourism Development

Planning and Development

Economic Development

Tourism

Directorate for Finance, Information Systems and Water Services

Finance Services

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Save *the* Date

Breakfast launch of the Meath Local Economic and Community Plan
Buvinda House
26th February at 9.30am

~

Women for Election Campaign Launch
Buvinda House
1st February at 7.30pm

~

LAMA Awards
Dublin Royal Convention Centre
17th February at 6.30pm

~

Launch of Meath Climate Action Plan
Buvinda House
23rd February (TBC)

Dates and Times subject to change

Women for Election Campaign Launch

Meath County Council and Meath Women's Caucus have partnered with Women for Election to bring women in Meath, Westmeath, Louth, Cavan, and Monaghan a FREE comprehensive online and in-person training programme in preparation for the 2024 Local Elections.

Events are open to women residing in the above counties, to local female community leaders and activist, representatives from community organisations and members of Meath County Council,

Monaghan County Council, Westmeath County Council, Cavan County Council and Louth County Council.

Online events will take place each Thursday in February from 7.15pm to 8.30pm starting on Thursday, February 8th, with the last module being held online on Thursday, February 22nd. One in-person event will be held on Saturday, February 24th from 1.30pm in Buvinda House, Navan.

An in-person launch event will take place in Buvinda House on Thursday, February 1, from 7.30pm. Minister Helen McEntee TD will be making the keynote address.

To find out more or to register for an event please visit www.womenforelection.ie/meath



Supporting More Women for Local Election
in Meath, Westmeath, Louth, Monaghan and Cavan

Training Programme

- ✓ Why Local Politics Matter
- ✓ Making the Most of your Local Media
- ✓ Maps, Tally's, Targets and Votes
- ✓ Canvassing
- ✓ Social Media

comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Register for FREE today!

#MoreWomen
WOMEN
FOR ELECTION

LMFM Outside Broadcast

On Monday, January 15, also known as 'Blue Monday,' the Sinead Brassil 11 to 1 show broadcast live from iDesk Cormmen. Sinead was joined by representatives from Athboy Convent Community centre, Deerpark Community Hub & Park, Kilskyre Community Activity Centre, Halla Bhaile Ghib, hub users Tara Carolan, Ryan Henson and Jenny Pringle and Leas Chathaoirleach Cllr. Paul McCabe and Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe.

It was the ideal opportunity to raise awareness of the Connected Hub network throughout Meath and to encourage more users. Working from one of Meath's Connected hubs is not just about providing a desk and internet access but also provides access to physical and social facilities that allow users to shake off those workday blues and enjoy a better work-life balance.



Information for Check the Register

The last dates for receipt of applications to vote in the Referendum on Friday, 8th March, 2024 are;

Special/Postal Votes: Monday, 12 February 2024, by post only.

All other applications: Tuesday, 20 February 2024.

Applications can be submitted online at www.checktheregister.ie or by completing a hard copy application which are available at;

- www.checktheregister.ie (forms can be downloaded)
- Your local library
- Your local Garda Station
- Your local Post Office
- By contacting Meath County Council on 046 9097000
- By emailing customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Launch of Economic and Enterprise Funding Support 2024

Applications are being invited for receipt of economic and Enterprise Funding Support for an event you are planning in County Meath during 2024.

Festivals and events offer many economic, social and cultural benefits to the county while providing growth for the local economy.

Applications will be considered from organisations, groups or clubs only. Unfortunately we cannot accept applications from any individuals.

Closing date for receiving completed applications is Friday, February 16 at 5.00pm. Applications must comply with the guidelines outlined on the application form.

To apply visit [-leomeath.submit.com/show/138](http://leomeath.submit.com/show/138)

Storm Isha Updates



On Sunday, January 21, Meath County Council received a significant number of calls in relation to fallen trees throughout the county during #StormIsha; these were received through the out-of-hours emergency phone and social media platforms.

Updates were published across the Meath County Council social media platforms, we members of the public engaging and sharing information on local incidents.

Irish Language Initiatives

Preab-Ghaeltacht – Amharclann an Grianstad, An Uaimh

D'éagraigh Oifig na Gaeilge Preab-Ghaeltacht le téama na Nollag ar an Sathairn 2 Nollaig ag am lóin in Amharclann an Grianstad, An Uaimh. Bhí Comórtas Dathúcháin na Nollag agus spotduaiseanna ar fáil ar an lá. Mar is gnách, bhí an ócáid dírithe ar theaghlaigh ón gceantar áitiuil agus ó Rath Chairn agus Baile Ghib agus ar mhuintir atá ag togáil a bpáistí trí Ghaeilge.

Pop Up Gaeltacht – Solstice Theatre, Navan

The Irish Language Office organised a Christmas themed Pop Up Gaeltacht on Saturday 2 December at lunchtime in Solstice Theatre, Navan. There was a colouring competition and spotprizes available on the day. As always, the event was focused on families from the local district and from Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib and for people who are rearing their families through Irish.

Gaeltacht na Mí - Ráth Chairn & Baile Ghib – Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga Nua Ceaptha

Tá Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga nua ceaptha ag Gaeltacht na Mí – Ráth Chairn agus Baile Ghib. Bhí foluntas poist ann ó mhí an Mhárta ó shin. Bhí cruinniú ar zoom leis an Oifigeach Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mí tús mí Eanáir chun plé conas is féidir Oifig na Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mí comhoibriú leis an Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga Gaeltacht na Mí i gcomhair maoiniú d'imeachtaí agus tionscnaimh eile chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn in Ráth Chairn agus sna bailte seirbhíse Gaeltachta.

Meath Gaeltacht – Ráth Chairn & Baile Ghib – New Language Planning Officer Appointed

There is a new Language Planning Officer appointed for the Meath Gaeltacht – Ráth Chairn and Gibbstown. There was a zoom meeting with the Council’s Irish language Officer at the beginning of January to discuss how the Meath County Council Irish Language Office can cooperate with the Gaeltacht na Mí Language Planning Officer towards funding for events and other initiatives to promote the Irish language in Rath Chairn and the Gaeltacht service towns.

Corporate Governance

Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests

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 Q4 2023:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q4 - 2023	27	0	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 Q4 2023 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q4 - 2023	13	0	0

The Council’s Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q4 2023 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR’s:

Subject Access Requests	SAR’s
Q4 - 2023	9

Out of Hours Telephone Line

The emergency line is operated by Otonomee, who takes the message from the caller and, based on the scripts provided by Meath County Council, refers the calls accordingly. Calls are logged on the Portal detailing the call and who took the call or if it was logged for the office. Meath County Council

outdoor staff are rostered on the list and immediately action the call if appropriate. Otherwise, the matter is logged with the relevant department on the next business day. The total number of calls received by Otonomee in 2023 was circa. 1925 calls.

Climate Action and Environment



Brown Bins to be rolled out to all households in Ireland

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications has signed new legislation which means that every household in the state will be provided with a brown bin for food waste and light garden waste. These changes will enable all households with access to a waste collection service to segregate their waste, minimise the amount of waste that goes to landfill, and reuse waste through measures such as recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion, thereby making a positive contribution to our national recycling rates.

IBAL Litter League 2023

Navan has retained its 'Clean to European Norms' status in the IBAL Litter League 2023. Work will continue to improve the town's placing, and we would like to acknowledge the work already being carried out by our outdoor crews, local resident associations and tidy town groups.

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems – Increase in Grants.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced that grants available for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (commonly known as Septic Tanks) will be increased to €12,000 from €5,000. The Minister also announced that the qualifying condition that the septic tank must be registered with the local authority prior to 1st February 2013, will be removed.

The Department is in the process of finalising the new regulations and the Council await the terms and conditions relating to the revised scheme which take effect from the 1st January 2024

Priority for inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems by officials of Meath County Council will focus on those areas where the greatest risk exists and as provided for in the EPA Inspection Programme

Blue Flag Application – Bettystown Beach

Meath County Council has applied for the Blue Flag for Bettystown Beach.

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognized awards for beaches. The mission of the programme is to promote environmental education, sustainable development of tourism, environmental management systems and ensure safety and access for beach users. An Taisce, the National Trust for Ireland, operates the programme in Ireland on behalf of the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE). The Blue Flag programme is funded in Ireland by the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Green Coast Award – Mornington Beach and Bettystown Beach

Meath County Council has applied for a Clean Coast Award for both Mornington and Bettystown Beaches.

The aim of the Green Coast Award is to recognise beaches of high environmental quality. To achieve the award, beaches must have excellent water quality and have effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment. The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence and has been established to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of our beaches. The award is for beaches which have excellent water quality, but which are also prized for their natural, unspoilt environment. Applicant sites must be managed in partnership with the local community to be considered for the Green Coast Award. The Green Coast Award in Ireland is operated by An Taisce and funded by the Department of the Housing, Local Government & Heritage and Fáilte Ireland.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

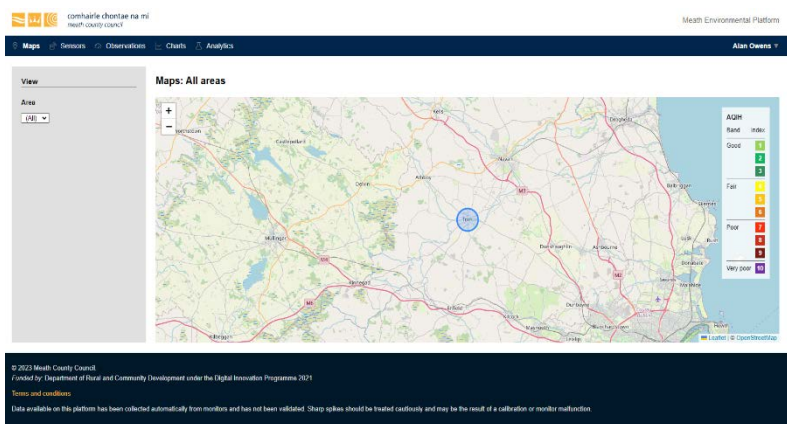


An Taisce
The National Trust for Ireland



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

Air Quality Environment Platform



Meath Environment Platform www.airquality.meath.ie linked from our www.meath.ie webpage is a new resource for the people of Co. Meath, and has been launched for general use. Trim residents and those from further afield can access hyperlocal air pollution information from two sensors in the town (sensors placed on Market Street and Patrick Street), along with insights on traffic levels and their health consequences, as well as the best and worst times of day for air quality.

Secondary students took part in a workshop, to learn how they can use the platform to take action and promote change. The students learned how to measure, discuss and learn about air pollution and its effects on health and wellbeing in Trim.



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

STRAND 1 & STRAND 1A FUNDING STREAMS

The Community Climate Action Programme Fund - €811,000

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities and Strand 1A: Shared Island Community Climate Action opened for applications on 6th December, 2023. The closing date is 28th February, 2024. In advance of the closing date for receipt of applications, community groups who are interested in applying for funding under this programme may seek to have a one to one information session with the Community Climate Action Officer to discuss their project proposal. To date there have been 25 scheduled meetings for community groups interested in this funding.



Meath County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The statutory consultation phase for our Climate Action Plan ended on the 8th of January. A total of 17 valid submissions and observations were received.

The Draft Climate Action Plan will be presented to Meath County Council's Elected Members for adoption at the Council Meeting on the 29th of January 2024.

Housing Services



1.0 Social Housing Investment Programme

Meath County Council is committed to realising the ambition of Housing for All at County level, for the benefit of those in need of social housing support, and those impacted by the affordability constraints that exist for many in certain areas of the County. 2023 is another record year for delivery in Meath with significant exceedance of our target. The Housing for All 2022-2026 summary of target and delivery is outlined in Table 1 below and social housing delivery is listed in Table 2 below.

Social Housing Build Target 2022-2026						
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Target	340	243	249	267	273	1,372
Delivered to date	447	446				
Affordable Target 2022-2026						
Target	10	28	41	36	36	151
Delivered to date	0	70				

Table 1: Housing For All Targets

2023 Social Housing Delivery		
Scheme Type	Nr. Units Delivered	€
AHB CALF Acquisition	1	168,000
AHB CALF Turnkey	278	92,642,201
AHB Long-Term Leasing	38	524,280
AHB Mortgage to Rent	1	184,000
CALF Part V	9	2,473,546
CAS Acquisitions	2	411,000
LA Acquisitions	25	6,815,500
LA Part V	92	27,781,912
Part V Leasing	4	56,100
MCC Direct SHIP Construction	42	11,288,970
SHIP Construction Turnkey	24	7,157,000
SHIP Renewal	1	221,250
Grand Total	517	149,723,759

Table 2: Summary of Housing For All 2023 Delivery for Meath as at 19/01/2024

1.1 Social Housing – Direct Construction

Construction works were completed in Lagore Lawn, Phase 2, Dunshaughlin, with the delivery of 42 social units.

Construction works are ongoing on the following sites:

- Gort na Glaise, Farganstown, Navan
- Millrace, Castle St., Ashbourne
- Yellow Ford, Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy
- Swan Lane, Balreask, Navan
- St. Francis Park, Navan

Meath County Council advertised a tender to establish a framework for Design Build Contractors for schemes valued between €5m and €35m for Meath, Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Westmeath, and Longford County Councils. The initial contract called off this framework will be Connaught Grove Phase 2, Athboy.

In addition to the schemes that commenced on site in 2023, tenders were advertised for Rathaldron Court Navan and Pitcher Lane, Kells.

Detailed Designs were progressed for schemes at New Lane, Navan; and Nangle Court, Navan. Design of smaller schemes was commenced inhouse for sites at Blackfriary, Trim; Friars Park, Trim; Woodview Heights, Dunboyne; and Robinstown, Navan.

Meath County Council gave notice of its intention to commence Housing Developments under Section 179A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2022 for schemes at New Lane, Navan; and Haggard Street, Trim.

There were 50 potential sites and/or turnkey opportunities investigated during 2023. A planning and engineering assessment to determine suitability for development or acquisition was carried out on all sites. A number of Turnkey deliveries were identified and agreed upon with developers.

A summary of all Construction and Turnkey schemes is provided in Table 3.



Photo 1 & 2: Meath County Council Site Direct construction – Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin

The RTE Show Super Garden - Lagore

5 budding designers wowed RTÉ audiences with their ambitious garden designs for the residents of Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin, a brand-new development built by Meath County Council for social housing.

Each designer had a budget of €15,000 and three weeks to build their garden, with €5,000 of the budget allocated to Irish grown plants.



Photo 3 – 'Garden of the Senses' by Kells sculptor, Betty Newman Maguire, for Martin who is recovering from an acquired brain injury.

A summary of all Direct Construction Schemes is provided in Table 3

Project Name	Nr. Units	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
Preliminary Design Phase			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Total	79		
Planning Lodged with Aa Bord Pleanala			
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	Q3 2023**	Q4 2024**
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q3 2023**	Q2 2025**
** will be updated when decision is received from ABP			
Planning Process & Detailed Design			
Nangle Close, Navan	12	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Planning Stage & Detailed Design Total	115		
Tender for Construction			
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q2/2025
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q2/2025
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q1 2024	Q4 2024
Connaught Grove	47	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Total	92		
Construction Stage			
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Millrace, Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Yellow Ford, Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Lagore Lawn, Phase 2, Dunshaughlin	42	Q1 2022	Completed.
Total	244		
Overall Total	525		

Table 3: Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects at 31/12/2023

1.2 Part V & Turnkey Social Housing

A summary of Part V & Turn Key Schemes is provided in Table 4.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	4
Drogheda	Part V	11
Dunshaughlin	Part V	6
Kells	Part V	5
Trim	Part V	20
Navan	Part V	34
Donacarney	Part V	2
Kilcock	Part V	2
Slane	Part V	3
Enfield	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Total Part V		92
Kells	Turnkey	12
Donacarney	Turnkey	12
Total Turnkey		24
Grand Total		116

Table 4: Summary Profile of Part V & Turn Key Social Units 31/12/2023

1.3 Approved Housing Bodies

A summary of Approved Housing Body schemes is provided in Table 5.

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Glen Boann, Donacarney	12	Cluid Housing	Completed Q3/2023
Cois Glaisin	5	Cluid Housing	Completed Q2/2023
Oak Village, The Willows, Dunshaughlin	20	Cluid Housing	Completed Q2/2023
Effernock, Trim	20	Cluid Housing	Completed Q2/2023
Baker Hall	26	Tuath Housing	Complete Q4/2023
Maudlin Vale	31	Tuath Housing	Completed Q4/2023
Applewood Court, Beaufort Place, Navan	21	Tuath Housing	Completed Q4/2023
Swanbrook, Trim Road Navan	112	Tuath Housing	Completed Q4/2023
Swanbrook, Trim Road Navan (last Phase)	7	Tuath Housing	Q2/2024
Mine View, Navan Phase 1	34	Respond	Completed Q1/2023
The Arches, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath	Completed Q1/2023
Mine View, Navan Phase 2 & 3	29	Respond	Q2/2024
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	39	Cluid Housing	Q3/2024
Park Avenue Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2/2025
Tailteann, Navan	8	Meath Women's Refuge	Q4/2025
Total Number of Approved Units	375		

Table 5: Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects At 31/12/2023

1.4 Refurbishment Project – Alverno Court, Laytown

This project consists of 28Nr.units to be refurbished and 2Nr. New Builds. Works commenced on site in Aug 2021, to be completed over 5Nr. Phases. Although the project has experienced significant delays, works are now progressing better. Phase 4 of the project is planned for completion in January 2024. The final Phase (7Nr. units) is expected to be complete in Q2 2024. The two new builds are complete.

1.5 Affordable Housing

Two Affordable Housing Schemes which generated a huge amount of interest were launched in 2023. 20 houses in The Willows, Dunshaughlin and 50 houses in conjunction with the LDA in Baker Hall, Navan.

Successful applicants are at various stages of the conveyancing process.



Photo 4: Affordable Purchase - Baker Hall, Navan



Photo 5: Affordable Purchase – The Willows, Dunshaughlin

1.6 Housing Capital Expenditure

Claims in the amount of €78,958,326 were made for Housing capital expenditure during 2023 to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under the following headings: Acquisitions, Buy & Renew, Construction, Traveller Accommodation, Part V, LAAWS, Turnkey, Voids, Turnkey Admin Costs, EERP, NTW – Wages, EERP Project Management Fees.

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

In 2023, 463 Households received Grant aid under the various Grants schemes in 2023 to the value of €3,272,432.08 including VAT. Grant funding of €2,617,945.60 (80%) was received from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage towards these works.

1.8 Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

In 2023, 74 projects were completed on existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €645,356.18 including VAT. Grant funding of €580,820.56 (90%) was received from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage towards these works.

1.9 Private Rental Inspections

A new Housing Inspections Team was put in place in 2023. 4,745 inspections of private rental accommodation were carried out for the period January-December 2023. 2,730 Improvement Letters, 93 Improvement Notices and 59 follow up letters on Improvement Notices were issued. This was a significant improvement on the 2022 inspection figure of 1,560.

First inspection targets of 1,827 set by the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage were exceeded by carrying out 1,956 first inspections.

The pass rates were as follows: 1st inspections 16.15%, 2nd inspections 19.3%, 3rd inspections 19.0%, 4th inspections 28%.

2.0 Housing Maintenance

2.1 Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

92 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2023 resulting in expenditure of €2,928,726. A total of €2,505,622 of this was eligible to be claimed from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under Void Maintenance and Energy Efficiency Retrofit works.

Table 6 is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as of 12th January 2024. For the period from 16th November 2023 to 12th January 2024, works were completed on 13 vacant units, while 16 units became vacant during this period.

	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 with Contractors
Ashbourne	0	0	0	0	0
Kells	5	1	4	6	4
Laytown/Bettystown	2	1	0	2	1
Navan	6	6	2	12	2
Ratoath	5	2	0	3	4
Trim	10	3	1	4	10
Total	28	13	7**	27	21

Table 6: Current Vacant Properties

**Note: These seven pre-let properties are major refurb which include energy upgrades to bring the property to B2 BER rating or better.

2.2 Response Maintenance

6,571 response maintenance cases were logged in 2023 and subsequently dealt with by Housing Maintenance.

3.0 Estate Management and Settlement

3.1 Homeless Service

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st October 2023 (Previous Reported Figure)	146 (157 Adults)	69 (111 Adults, 109 Children)	215
Placements at 31st December 2023	151 (163)	68 (115 Adults, 110 Children)	219

Table 7: Summary of people in Emergency Accommodation

Of the households with children, 61 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team’s intervention and 7 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is family breakdown; relationship breakdown; Notice to Quit; unable to find property to rent; domestic violence; overcrowding; couch surfing; addiction; mental health; house fire; unsuitable accommodation; rough sleeping.

81 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Place finder Service for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

531 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council in 2023 (271 individual/couples and 260 families).

Summary of the overall EA movements for the year

As at the 1st of January 2023, 186 households were accommodated in Emergency Accommodation (EA).

There were a total of 310 placements in EA over 2023, this includes repeat placements, (6 families moved to the family HUB from EA. 11 singles or couples moved to a Simon House, DHA house or became a family).

260 households exited EA over 2023, some of the exits would include people who were in EA on the 1st of January 2023. As at the 31st of December 2023 we had 219 households in placements in EA.

Impact of the end of the eviction ban

The eviction ban was lifted on the 31st March 2023. MCC did not have a huge number of presentations as homeless at any one time.

On average 8 households a month contacted MCC as a result of a Notice to Quit. 14 households made contact in May and September.

The reasons for presentations were:

- NTQ – 162;
- Family Circumstances - 151 (family breakdown 78; relationship breakdown 32; domestic violence 27; addiction 8; mental health 5; family home sold 1)
- Aftercare – 5
- Leaving Hospital / Treatment / Prison – 34
- Various reasons - 102 (couch surfing - 31; unsuitable living conditions / overcrowding - 41; rent arrears - 3; unable to afford rent 17; unable to source private rented accommodation 6; left HAP tenancy - 3; left MCC tenancy 1)
- Financial assistance / placefinder assistance requested – 27
- Rough sleeping – 8
- Barring / Protection Order – 8
- Other – 34 (came to Ireland 10; illegal occupiers of MCC property 2; house fire 16; family reunification 1; family circumstance 2; referred from other LA 2; requesting Simon House referral 1)

260 households exited emergency accommodation in 2023 with 38.1% of households exiting into private rented / Local Authority / Approved Housing Body tenancies / Housing First tenancies.

3.2 Tenant in Situ

183 people contacted Meath County Council enquiring about the Tenant in Situ Scheme.

We had 16 Tenant in Situ acquisitions completed by the end of December 2023 with a further 16 properties sale agreed and going through the conveyance process.

Presentations	Total
Acquisitions complete (including pre April 2023)	16
Acquisitions in conveyancing	16
Potential acquisitions identified	6
Social Housing Allocations made in lieu of TIS	31
Assessment in progress	44
HAP	14
HAP Only	8
CRTIS	7
Deceased	2
Over the Income Limits	4
Other miscellaneous reasons	35
Total	183

Table 8: Tenant in Situ Acquisitions

The quality of properties that are being submitted as tenant in situ now is much worse than at the beginning of the scheme. We have had 2 properties that could not proceed as they did not pass the technical inspection.

3.2 Tenant Purchase Scheme

Four units were acquired by tenants of Meath County Council in 2023 under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2023, at a cumulative discount of €301,503.

3.3 Traveller Accommodation

Progress was made in delivering the 5 Year Traveller Accommodation Programme. Year Four of the programme saw

- 27 No. social housing allocations to housing applicants from the Traveller community (target 9)
- 7 No. LAAWS applications completed for Housing People with a Disability (target 3)
- The Refurbishment of St Francis' Park commenced.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met in March, June and December 2023.

LTACC Research Project Report was completed and the report was presented to the LTACC at the January 2024 meeting.

3.4 Tenant Liaison

Estate Management 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023

ASB Complaints	Totals
ASB Complaints received	1408
ASB complaints received per MD	
Ashbourne	150
Kells	221
Laytown / Bettystown	129
Navan	438
Ratoath	331
Trim	139

Table 9: Complaints

ASB Investigation Cases (One case can include multiple complaints)	Totals
ASB investigation on going	23
ASB investigation completed	1,385

Table 10: Investigations

Action Taken (one case can receive multiple actions)	Totals
No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	7
Advice / Instruction given	1,271
Verbal warning issued	22
First breach of Tenancy Notice	17
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	8
Statutory warning issued	3
Notice to Quit served	0
Referrals to other agencies	17
Exclusion Orders Sought	1
House taken back into possession (No legal fees nor security fees were used in these cases)	69
Total Action Taken	1,415

Tables 11 : Actions Taken

Tenancy Outcomes	Totals
Repossession commenced (due to ASB & other reasons)	7
Repossession completed	13
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	1
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	0
Number of pre-tenancies conducted	333
Rightsizing	
No. of Tenants identified: 26	Achieved 6

Table 12 : Tenancy Outcomes

In excess of 333 tenants completed pre-tenancy training during 2023, obtaining a variety of information concerning their tenancy with Meath County Council.

Tenant liaison team are playing an active part in the Alverno refurbishment project. Tenant Liaison Officers are providing support for the decanting of tenants and assisting return to properties, liaising with housing maintenance team.

Estate Management Policy

The Estate Management Policy was implemented to provide an overall framework to promote and achieve better estate management outcomes within Meath County Council's estates.

The Tenant Liaison team encourage all new tenants to participate in existing resident's association or set up new resident's association for new estates. The Tenant Liaison Team outline what supports are available from the Public Participation Network (PPN). The Tenant Liaison Team assist and attend resident's association meetings throughout the year and encourage estate management initiatives and explain what funding is available.

In 2023 we supported an initiative with Youth Work Ireland Meath and The Men's Shed Navan . They built flower beds, cut grass for older people, general clean up in council estates in the Navan Area. 50 individual young people took part in this initiative over the summer months. The young people created a video of the works they completed. A presentation by the Cathaoirleach and Mayor of Navan took place in Buvinda House on the 2nd of November 2023 to acknowledge their hard work.



Photo 6: Connaught Grove Athboy – Examples of Estate Management Funding

3.5 Disability Strategy

Meath County Council's 'Strategy for Housing People with a Disability was reviewed in under the auspices of the Housing Disability Steering Group following the publication of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. A National Implementation Plan was published in 2023 from which local actions were identified and are being progressed.

In 2023 the Housing Disability Steering Group progressed the establishment of a Disability Housing Action Team which focuses on the specific needs of applicants. The Disability Housing Action Team convened four times in 2023.

4.0 Social Housing Supports

1,086 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st December 2023.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st January to 31st December 2023.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	371
Approved Housing Bodies	317
RAS	4
HAP	367
Long term Leasing	18
MTR (AHBS)	1
TOTAL	1078

Table 13: Housing Supports

Work has been undertaken with the software provider during 2023 to improve the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system.

A new system for assessing and allocating properties has also been introduced, to streamline the processes.

Community Development



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 26th January 2024 with the next LCDC meeting due to take place on Friday 23rd February 2024.

Meath Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029

On 26th January, directly before the LCDC meeting, the new Meath Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 was launched in the Simply Honest Restaurant, Buvinda House. This plan is informed by the knowledge and input of community members and stakeholders across Meath. The seven High Level Goals provide direction for the objectives and actions in the LECP, with ambitious, achievable and realistic targets.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 26th January 2024 with the next LAG meeting due to take place on Friday 23rd February. The new LEADER funding is now in place and new programme ready to commence.

CLAR

Following recent announcements by the Minister of Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries TD, Meath has been allocated funding of €240,000 under the CLAR scheme for projects in Ballinlough GFC, Moylagh GFC, Carnaross GFC, Kilskyre & Newcastle.

Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

Prosper Meath held an event to launch the positive mental health awareness video project on January 4th, 2024, co-funded by Healthy Meath. It was a great success, with participants from Prosper, Meath Comhairle na nÓg, MCC, and Youth Work Ireland Meath in attendance. The Healthy Meath, Healthy Lifestyle Campaign was launched, with over 20 groups and locations signing up to be part of the campaign. The Healthy Meath Chronic Disease Risk Management Programme Project was shortlisted for the Best Community Health Initiative at the LAMA Awards 2024. The award ceremony will take place on February 17th at the Convention Centre in Dublin. The Meath LCDC Health and Wellbeing Subgroup met on January 25th. The HIF Round 4 2024 annual workplan was submitted to Pobal for approval.



Pride of Place Initiative

The Pride of Place Initiative was launched the week ending 26th January, closing date for applications is 31st May. Categories have been updated resulting in a strong focus on community groups and volunteers. Judging is due to take place during June, July & August.

Meath Age Friendly

Meath OPC met with Louth OPC on 24th January in Netwell Casala in Dundalk. A discussion was held around ageism and the two groups were shown around the centre, followed by lunch.

Joint Policing Committee

The dates for the 2024 JPC meetings were approved for 19th February 20th May, 26th September (Public Meeting) and 9th December.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

The Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme is now open to receive applications with a closing date scheduled for Friday 26th January 2024.

Connected Hubs GoRemote Campaign

Meath County Council are working with the 6 Connected Hubs that offer remote working desks to reach out to the communities that need this kind of resource to make their lives better.

We want to encourage people to try out these 6 hubs in the county and are therefore offering free vouchers for people who haven't used one of these sites to try it out for up to 3 days until the end of March 2024. To launch the initiative LMFMs were held an outside broadcast in iDesk Cormeen on the 15th January 2024.

Anyone interested can register at www.meath.ie/goremote and they will be provided with details on how to book their desk at one of the 6 hubs in Killskyre CAC, Deerpark Community Hub, Flatout Coworking + Coffee, Idesk Cormeen, Athboy Digital Hub or DigiTeic Bhaile Ghib.

BCP/Coding Initiatives

OurkidsCode held a taster session for families in Dunshaughlin, Batterstown and Kiltale in Drumree GAA Club on the 27th January. Further events will be organised based on demand in 2024. If other families are interested, they should contact Broadband@meathcoco.ie to be informed when a workshop will be offered in their area.

Libraries Services



Housing Finance Agency - Social Investment Fund

Meath County Council Library service has received funding of €10,250 towards the provision of a 'Magic Table' and library materials at the Unity Centre, Navan. The 'Magic Table' (Tovertafel) is a fun care innovation designed for use by people with autism, dementia and additional learning needs or a cognitive impairment. It consists of a series of interactive light games, projected onto a table, with infrared sensors to respond to hand and arm movements of the players. Funding will also cover costs of sensory and tactile books and toys.

The Housing Finance Agency awards funding for community initiatives through its Social Investment Fund. The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) announced funding of €250,000 to support Approved Housing Bodies and Local Authorities in the delivery of community-enhancing initiatives and facilities.

Funded projects include play spaces and community gardens, wellbeing and biodiversity programmes and the refurbishment of community hubs. Thirteen initiatives across 11 different counties were chosen, including the Meath library project at the Unity Centre.

The HFA, which provides financing to support the delivery of social and affordable housing, awards community project funding to customers each year through its Social Investment Fund.

The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that will complement the communities in which HFA-financed homes are built.

Ireland Reads

Ireland Reads will be back for a fourth year in February 2024. The annual campaign will run throughout February, leading up to 'Ireland Reads Day' on Saturday February 24th and aims to encourage as many people as possible to get reading and to visit their local library. Issues have increased across the county network by 35% in 2023 and the Ireland Reads campaign is an important means of maintaining this upwards momentum.

During February the Library Service will be actively raising awareness and motivating people to read and to plan to visit their local library. A programme of events and activities aimed at all audiences is planned, and schools and preschools will be encouraged to visit the library during the campaign.

This year each County will have a spotlight event highlighted on the Ireland Reads website. Meath's Spotlight Event is **Monster Reads for Ireland Reads with Tatyana Feeney**: An introduction to Navan Library for Junior Infant classes, including time to browse, a special Storytime and Monster Doodle session and a free book for each child.

The recommended reads section of the Ireland Reads website will be updated with new titles. People will be encouraged to share their own book recommendations and ask for recommendations at their local library. National and local ambassadors will be promoting the library service through a series of short videos.

“The Short Story Dispenser”

“The Short Story Dispenser is a stand-alone kiosk that delivers fiction to the public, while breathing new life into the art of storytelling. The dispenser is a creative & innovative way to boost reading for fun, encourage creative idleness and improve waiting experiences.

The Dispensers are connecting readers across countries and cultures by publishing contemporary short stories, free of charge, at the push of a button (1min, 3min, 5min reading times, by audience or language)

There are more than 300 Dispensers installed around the world from San Francisco to Melbourne, Hong-Kong, Paris, London, and Philadelphia... and in total more than 5.6 million readers have enjoyed fiction on the fly, for free!

Short Édition partners around the world are curating local content to publish & showcase writers from their communities, on their Dispensers. Meath Libraries are planning to add works from local Creative Writing Groups to dispense at their unit in Navan Library and to dispense Reader Recommendations in time for Ireland Reads Day on February 24th.

Archives

Meath County Archives are putting forward a bid for funding to the **Heritage Stewardship Fund 2024**. If successful, the project will see the installation of a new cataloguing system for the archive and will include staff training.

This system is called Axiel, and it will form part of a larger project for the archive in 2024, to bring the archive onto the Council’s website. The catalogue will sit in a dedicated archives section of the website and researchers will be able to access archives catalogues remotely for the first time.

Meath County Archive has some large permanent collections that are very well used and form part of a wider country wide set of records. The Poor Law Union records are a good example of this.

So much of Irish life was detailed on in these records and the records are one of the most important primary sources into life in Ireland from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries.

County Council minute books, Hospital records and Estate collections are other examples of records that would be uploaded onto this new catalogue and would benefit researchers for remote research.

There will be opportunities for drop-in sessions to trial the software when the catalogue goes live later in 2024.

Transportation Services



1. National Roads 2023 - Funding from TII - Grant Allocation €9,139,967 (including Greenways €1,364,000)

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor accommodation works finalised.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents were lodged with An Bord Pleanála. The Public submission period is open until the 16th February 2024. Dedicated website available https://www.n2slanebypass.ie/ detailing the project.
N52 Grange to Clontail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanála on this CPO.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary design work is ongoing to refine the preferred option corridor for the scheme at the tie in junction locations. To inform this work the Ground Site commenced in August 2023
National Road Resurfacing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N52 Reask to Carlanstown – resurfacing contract completed N51 Slane to County Boundary resurfacing - contractor commenced work prior to Christmas and programmed to be complete by end of April 2024 N51, N52, N2 and M2 Ballybin Road Overbridge – pavement and bridge joint repair works contract is substantially complete N52 Woodtown to Co. Boundary Pavement Scheme – scheme ready for tendering

2. Non- National Roads 2023 - Funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €26,053,080

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

Road Works Programme**Works were completed on the following:****Ratoath MD:**

R-125 Culmullen (Restoration Improvement)

2.(b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant**R162 Kilberry Phase 2B:**

Drainage progressing on west side of R162. Expected to be completed circa end Q1 2024.

L6210 Newtownmoyaghy:

Topographical, ground investigation and ecological surveys completed. Hydrological study being finalised and review of potential options being assessed.

2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads –Allocation for 2023 schemes - €390,500**2023 Schemes Road****2023 schemes** – discussions and design works ongoing

L4007 Shambo Cross – works ongoing

R147 Dalgan – works complete

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads - Allocation for 2023 schemes - €670,000

2023 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works substantially complete, remaining footpath works expected to commence in the coming weeks.
Mellifont Bridge (L5606)	Works complete
Clonguiffin Bridge (L4020)	Works complete
Springhall Culvert (R195)	Works scheduled to commence Monday January 22 nd
Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	Works complete
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	De-vegetation advance works complete. Required repair works being assessed.
BAMS Surveys and Inspections 2023	Works complete
Minor Bridge Works 2023	Works ongoing
Obelisk Bridge, Oldbridge	Works ongoing, contract being administered by Louth Co Co

2.(e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – Allocation for 2023 schemes - €532,500 – 7 schemes funded :

L-80045 Church Street Athboy – Design complete

R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall – options being considered

L-7411 Oristown - complete

R-160 Flood Alleviation – Works complete

L-3405 Drumconrath Flood Works – Works complete

L-6814 Fennor - complete

R-941 Mullingar Rd, Kells – works complete
 L16184 Mill Road Stamullen – additional scheme – works complete

3. Active Travel Grants 2023 from NTA – €14,135,000

<p>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cladding works to the wall at the rear of the new ESB substation at Kennedy Plaza were completed. • New traffic and pedestrian signals were commissioned at Kennedy Road/Trimgate Street junction in advance traffic reversal (scheduled for 28th of January). • Traffic bollards installed at various locations, including in Kennedy Plaza. • New feature lighting was commissioned in Kennedy Plaza. • Removal of redundant public lighting on Kennedy Road was undertaken. • New tactiles paving was installed at the pedestrian walkway adjacent to Dunnes Stores in Kennedy Plaza. • CCTV fibre cabling was installed on Kennedy Road. • New traffic signage and poles were installed at various locations (note, some sockets and poles were installed in advance of the traffic reversal -signage to be erected on 28th of January). • Road markings were installed at the new FASTER E-charger and to the car parking bays adjacent to Singer Shop. • Substantial Completion Certificate was issued on 20th of December. • Snagging works commenced.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Storm Water Drainage Network on Railway Street commenced and is continuing. • Footpath and kerb construction works is continuing on Railway Street adjacent to Level Crossing. • Footpath and kerb construction works continuing on Trim Road at Woodlands junction, Flowerfield School and on a section on the western side of road to the South of Flowerfield School. • A large quantity of service ducting was laid on Western side of road to the South of Flowerfield School. • Gully construction works continued on the Trim Road Section. • Footpath works commenced on the section from the CIE Bus Depot/Trian Station to the level crossing on eastern side of the street. • Major additional sections of kerbing and footpath construction works were completed on Connolly Avenue section on the western side of the street. Landscaping and fencing was installed along the boundary of Trim Road and Connolly Avenue. • Additional Excavation/site clearance works on Trim Road section (west side of road) commenced.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Railings and stone piers at Old County Hall Building were restored and re-constructed along the new set-back boundary. New stone piers are to be constructed to tie the railings into the existing stone boundary wall at each end early in 2024. • A Temporary Traffic Management Plan (TTMP) and diversion route for the Trim Road from Carriage Road to Dan Shaw Road is being maintained in place. • Plans in place for road surfacing works, including final surface course layer in late January/early February on 2 No. sections of the scheme, 1) Railway Street and 2) Woodlands to Flowerfield School. Road markings, parking spaces etc are due to be completed on Railway Street in February following the road surfacing works, which are scheduled for the end of January 2024.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant/Designers are continuing with the Detailed Design of a cycle and pedestrian scheme from Solstice Roundabout to the R147 (Circular Road) to link with the Athlumney Road (i.e. Athlumney – Trim Road Phase 2) • Ground Investigation Works to identify the extents of existing retaining walls and structures along R147 to the south of New Bridge have been completed and the data is being collated and assessed. • The final design of boardwalk design is continuing. • Design Workshops to take place for various works packages in advance of the final preparation of Tender Documents for the Construction Phase of Athlumney to Trim Road Phase 2.
Navan GDA Cycle Network NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants working on Phase 5 Detailed Design process. • All 3rd party survey/investigations works are now complete. • Communications ongoing with affected landowners. • Designer has commenced producing works packages of the tender documents for review by the project team. • A coordination meeting was held Irish Water to discuss planned IW works and preliminary discussion on possible inclusion of elements in the cycle scheme works.
Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender process was completed, and a Successful Tenderer identified. • Gateway 4 approval was received from NTA. • ‘Letter of Intent’/‘Letter to Successful’ to preferred bidder is anticipated to issue in January 2024.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants continued design work associated with Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations are ongoing for the identification of a preferred option to be delivered to stakeholders ahead of the Statutory process. • Options, to include a route on the N51, are currently being examined. • It is anticipated that a Preferred Option will be identified by end of Q1 2024.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary design works in relation design elements and stakeholder impacts is being finalised. • Designer to progress final design and produce deliverables for NTA approval of progression to Part 8 application, anticipated for Q1 2024. • A further meeting is to be scheduled with St Marys Parish in January 2024.
Navan Public Realm: Academy Street Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design work continuing on potential options, including the proposed upgrade of the Academy Street/R147 junction.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The non-statutory public consultation process for the Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) for the Beechmount to Balreask Manor Section was completed in mid-December 2023 • Selection Report is at final draft stage and Gateway 2 Report is being produced.
Pathfinder Scheme – R161, Navan to Trim Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointed Designers/Consultants are currently working to deliver this project through the Concept Development/Option Selection Process. • Information gathering including topographical, traffic count, landowner, land use surveys is progressing.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting formal confirmation of the NTA’s 2024 allocation for the scheme which will determine timeframe for tender and construction of Contract 1, which includes works on R155 Fairyhouse Road, Woodland Road, R125 Dunshaughlin Road, R125 Main Street and the Super Valu Junction. Design works continuing on remainder of the scheme, including the urban greenway along the Broadmeadow.
N51 Park & Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final elements (cctv system, parking meters) installed and commissioned. • Signage installed. • Works to N51/L3416 junction completed. • Works to the proposed new pedestrian crossing on the N51 adjacent to the roundabout junction at the R147/N51 (‘Woodies roundabout’) commenced
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred routes updated following workshop with the NTA on the 9th November. Works progressing on documentation for non-

	statutory public consultation on the routes and public realm plans for Dunboyne and Clonee.
Safe Routes to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works complete at Realt Na Mara Donacarney, SN Pheadair agus Phoil Drumconrath and Ashbourne Community schools with public lighting to be completed.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities, Bettystown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design complete including and final preparations for Part 8 Planning application.
Newtown Road Trim Walking Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 8 planning lodged and in public display and submissions period progress.
Greenogue Bus Stop (on R125)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 8 planning lodged and in public display and submissions period progress.
Donacarney Footpath and Cycleway Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works 90% complete, anticipated completion by mi9d February 2024.

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes 2023 - Funding other than primarily DoT & NTA

Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works substantially complete up to Rath Lodge. Works progressing between Rath Lodge and south of Ballybin Road junction. This month works will mainly focus on the delivery of new footpath and cycle lanes on the eastern side of the R135 between Circle K Filling Station and Ballybin Junction. Works on commissioning the traffic lights at Castle Street and St. Johns Wood are now at an advanced stage, site commissioning to take place in the coming weeks.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	<p>The greenway is now complete from Navan to 2.5km north of Kilmainhamwood. This provides 25km of continuous greenway, with the remaining 5km 80% complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilkinstown to Castletown This section of Greenway is now open to the public. Works are currently ongoing at the road crossings; the contractor plans to have all outstanding works complete in the next 6 weeks. Nobber to Kingscourt Nobber to Kilmainhamwood Opened 25th October 2023. Kilmainhamwood to 500m south of Poles Cross (Crystal Maze) Opened 08th December 2023. Poles Cross to Kingscourt (5Km) 80% complete.
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-statutory consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route ongoing including public consultation, liaison with landowners, national organisations and other stakeholders.
Dunshaughlin Public Realm Main Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 8 process has concluded (AAO for 'Notices' issued).

Kilberry Looped Walking Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work substantially complete apart from minor elements.
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5. Other Actions/ Projects

Housing Estate Road Surfacing	Ratoath MD: Contractor completed works in Beechdale Dunboyne, Crestwood, Ashbourne and Village Drive Stamullen.
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening determination referred to An Bord Pleanála. Part 8 process stalled as a result. Further information submitted to ABP.
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New road from Kells road to Ratholdren Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction contract awarded to John Craddock Ltd in December 2023. Preconstruction ecological surveys carried out and contractor mobilising on site. Expected completion Q4 2025.
Traffic Calming Ramps	Works substantially completed. One additional site added – Castletown, works scheduled for early December.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works	Ongoing works at Clonmageddon Road, Navan. Completing minor works remaining at Kilbride, Dunshaughlin and East Meath.
Traffic Signals Upgrade and new junctions added	<p>Upgrades of existing sites: 10 pedestrian crossing upgrades, 6 junction small upgrades, 4 junction large upgrades.</p> <p>New sites commissioned: 4 new junctions, 4 new zebra crossings and 7 new pedestrian crossings</p>

Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

1685 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023. This is compared to 1744 in the same period in 2022.

2. Commencement Notices

643 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023. This is compared to 580 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	264
Multi-Units	1108** (units)
Extensions	124
Other*	59

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31st December 2023 show a collection of €10,363,884. This is compared to €14,029,439 collected in the same period in 2022. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

Temporary Waiver Scheme

In addition to the above, development contributions covered by the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver Circular introduced in April 2023 are being recouped from the DHLGH. There are 834 units to date eligible for this Scheme, totalling €5,596,773 (including approximately €1.74m for the November and December recoupment of waived contributions, not included in the receipts above). *Please note: MCC can only recoup the waived contribution on receipt of a signed and witnessed undertaking from each applicant.*

The new Development Contribution Scheme 2024-2029 was adopted at the December Council meeting and has become effective from 1st January 2024.

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

176 planning enforcement cases were opened to 31.12.2023

New Cases to be Investigated	18
Warning Letter	88
Enforcement Notice	13
Referred for Legal Proceedings	3
Closed	54

*please note these figures relate to cases opened in 2023 only

5. Planning Projects

Large Residential Developments (LRDs)	<p>28 LRD applications received since introduction of process.</p> <p>Q4 2023, LRD opinions issued for proposals at Farganstown and Trim Road Navan.</p> <p>Appeal submission prepared for LRD 3, Planning reference 23/849, 716 units in Dunboyne</p> <p>Appeal submission prepared for LRD 15, planning reference 23930, 107 units in Trim.</p>
SIDs	<p>Dart + North, pre application discussions ongoing with Irish Rail.</p> <p>Submission being prepared in respect of ABP-318677-23, 110kV substation etc at Fieldstown, Co. Dublin.</p> <p>Submission being prepared in respect of ABP-318759-23 110kV Substation etc at Cloneymeth, Summerhill.</p>
Village Core Redevelopment & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme for Old Johnstown Village, Navan.	<p>Pre-draft public consultation survey closing 26/01/24.</p> <p>Navan MD briefed at Dec meeting.</p> <p>Details of project can be found at Old Johnstown Village Public Realm Meath.ie.</p>
Flowerhill Frontage improvement Scheme, Navan	<p>URDF funded Project D-Building Frontage Scheme, consultant procured to finalise proposed interventions and implement same.</p>
Duleek Heritage Led Regeneration Plan	<p>Regeneration Plan currently being edited for public display.</p>
Laytown Park	<p>Part X application being considered by An Bord Pleanála since July 2023.</p> <p>Further Information requested and response issued in December 2023.</p>

Recreation and Amenity Plan, for Council lands at the Tower of Lloyd, Kells	<p>Plan preparation ongoing.</p> <p>Initial public consultation has taken place.</p> <p>Consultation ongoing with MCC internal departments regarding draft proposals.</p> <p>Kells MD briefed at Dec meeting.</p>
Dunshaughlin Multi-Purpose Community Facility & Public Realm Enhancement Project	<p>Part 8 process complete</p> <p>RRDF funding application being prepared.</p>
County Heritage Strategy	<p>Final Strategy complete, to be translated prior to publication.</p>

6. Forward Planning

Settlement Capacity Audit	<p>Settlement Capacity Audit required by NPF, Development Plan Guidelines & High Court Order</p> <p>Countywide SCA underway for all 38 settlements</p> <p>Set for completion by April 2024 to coincide with NPF Review</p>
Variations to Meath County Development Plan 2021 - 2027	<p>Work on Variation Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4 ongoing.</p> <p>Variation Nos. 1 & 2 – will go on public display in Quarter 1</p> <p>Variation Nos 3 & 4 – will go on public display in Quarter 2</p>
Residential Zoned Land Tax	<p>Tax will now apply from February 2025</p> <p>First annual review commences February 2024 – revised map for public consultation - reviewed annually thereafter</p> <p>Landowners can make requests to rezone their lands</p>
Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	<p>Publication of Draft Maynooth & Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030, alongside supporting documents, to happen in March/April 2024</p>
Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan	<p>Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper to be published by end of January by Louth & Meath County Councils with period for submissions/observations open until early March.</p>
Navan Local Area Plan	<p>Work has commenced on reports to inform the Navan LAP</p> <p>Formal commencement of the preparation of the plan will follow by Q2 of 2024</p>
Land Value Sharing	<p>MCC will publish a map demonstrating all areas impacted by Land Value Sharing in March 2024</p> <p>Landowners falling within the scope can submit self-assessments by July 2024</p>

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Measure 1 Grant Approvals in December	3
Trading Online Voucher Approval	3
Mentoring Assignments Approved	5
Attended Online Training Courses	16
LEAN for Micro Applications	5
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	3
Digital for Business Applications	1

The Planning & Economic Development team have awarded a contract to carry out a Skills Audit for County Meath. This was identified as essential to inform potential investors on the availability of key qualifications and skills within the county. The work on this is well underway with a view to having the final report at the end of February 2024.

The team facilitated a visit from representatives of the Hunan Province government in China. This was attended by our CE and Cathaoirleach and initial discussions were held in relation to potential opportunities for collaboration in the future in the area of agri-tourism.

The team is currently organising a Business Profiling exercise for the County, outlining the numbers of businesses in each Sector, as well as capturing details of the geographical spread of these companies.

This data analysis will assist when attracting interest from foreign investors, who may wish to locate in an area where similar or complimentary businesses are established already.

The next meeting of the Meath Economic Development Forum was held on 25th January 2024, where the Chief Executive was introduced to the members of the Forum. An update was received from each of the sectoral workstreams and the upcoming tender for the Economic Development Strategy was discussed. The preliminary findings from the Consultant carrying out the Skills Audit were presented.

The Economic Development Section is advertising the 2024 Economic & Enterprise Funding Support for events being held in the County which will benefit the local economy. Applications will be assessed on a list of criteria and successful groups/committees will be required to sign up to the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme. The initial call for applications will close on 16th February 2024.

Tourism



Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2024-2030 Consultation

Consultation on the new 7-year tourism strategy has been complete with over 500 surveys received and a significant number of individual meetings with the tourism industry and agencies. It is anticipated that a draft of the Executive Summary will be available in February with final strategy by April.

Input to 2024 Annual Boyne Valley Tourism Plan

Input was sought via the December and January Board meetings of Boyne Valley Tourism and via a meeting with the Boyne Valley Hotel Group of 16 hotels to seek their views on activities to promote and raise awareness of the Boyne Valley nationally and internationally.

Holiday World Shows

Boyne Valley Tourism hosted a stand over 2 weekends at the Holiday world Shows at the Titanic Exhibition Centre in Belfast from 19th – 21st January and in the RDS, Dublin from 26th – 28th January. Both shows collectively attract an attendance of 65,000 consumers.

Finance



Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2023 to 31 st December 2023		
Fully Completed Applications Received	81	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	3	
Approved by Credit Committee	62	49 relate to 2023, 13 relate to 2022.
Refused by Credit Committee	18	15 relate to 2023, 3 relate to 2022 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	1	2023 application
Active Approvals	38.79	37.79 relate to 2023, 1 relates to 2022
Expired	30	24 relate to 2022 & 6 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	27.99	15.21 relates to 2023, 11.86 relate to 2022 applications, 0.92 relate to 2021 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 and in some cases relate to applications from 2022 and 2021. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.