



Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

April 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

Directorate for Finance, Information Systems and Water Services

Finance Services

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Save
the Date

MD Awards Presentation Night
(deadline for receipt of nominations 10 April 2024)
01 May 2024

~

Full Council Ordinary Meeting
13 May 2024

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Proposed Greenway Launch
(More details to follow)
14 May 2024

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Proposed Safe Routes to School Launch
Donnacarne
(More details to follow)
21 May 2023

~

Dates are subject to change

Corporate Affairs

Eagraíodh Imeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2024 idir na dátaí 1-17 le béim ar imeachtaí beo a tharla sna scoileanna, leabharlanna, agus in Amharclann an Grianstad.

Thíos, tá liosta agus cur síos na himeachtaí do Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2024 a tharla i gContae na Mí maoinithe ag Oifig na Gaeilge, chomh maith le grianghraif a mbaineann le cúpla imeacht. Bhí na

himeachtaí seo leanas maoinithe go hiomlán faoin gciste um Oifigeach Gaeilge – Comhairle Chontae na Mí.

Pop Up Gaeltacht le Konor Halpin – Amharclann an Grianstad

Tháinig teaghlaigh agus tuismitheoirí atá ag tógail a bpáisti trí Ghaeilge le chéile in Amharclann an Grianstad chun sult a bhaint as an seisiúin ag déanamh carachtair agus ainmhithe as balúin agus ag caint as Gaeilge ag an am céanna.

Ceacht Bodhrán le Shay trí Ghaeilge – Leabharlann na hUaimhe

Tháinig grúpa beag idir óg agus aosta le chéile i leabharlann na hUaimhe ar tráthnóna Sathairn 9 Márta le haghaidh ceacht bodhrán le Shay Casserley trí Ghaeilge. Bhain na daoine fásta a bhí i láthair an-tairbhe as bheith ag éisteacht le páistí óga ag labhairt Gaeilge agus gach duine ag foghlaim conas is féidir úsáid a bhaint as an bodhrán ag an am céanna.

Seisiúin Sean Nós le Máire Ni Churraoin - Leabharlann Bhaile Átha Troim

Seisiúin Sean Nós amhránaíochta idirghníomhach a bhí ann i Leabharlann Bhaile Átha Troim le haoi speisialta Máire Ní Churraoin as Ráth Chairn. Mhúin Máire na rannpháirtithe conas is féidir cúpla líne Sean Nós a chanadh i mbealach taitneamhach a bhain daoine idir óg agus aosta i láthair sult as.

Ceardlann Chartúin le Aidan Courtney – Leabharlann na hUaimhe

Chuir grúpa mór daoine óga spásanna in áirithint teacht go dtí Leabharlann na hUaimhe maidin Sathairn 9 Márta chun seisiúin ceardlann chartúin trí Ghaeilge a dhéanamh le Aidan Courtney. Bhain siad sult as an ócáid agus ag foghlaim focail agus frásaí nua trí Ghaeilge chomh maith.

Pop Up Gaeltacht – le hamhránaí Maria Nic Cumhaill

Bhí cuireadh tugtha don phobal aitiúil agus do chiorcail comhrá ar fud an chontae teacht chuig Ionad Oideachais na hUaimhe chun a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh in atmaisféar neamhfhoirmiúil. Chan Maria Nic Cumhaill, amhránaí ó Ghaoth Dobhair amhráin sa teanga dhúchais.

Tráth na gCeist

Thug an Oifigeach Gaeilge cuairt ar chúpla leabharlann brainse chun Tráth na gCeist a dhéanamh le daltaí ó rang 4 & rang 5. Ghlac scoileanna i nDamhliag, Seanchaisleáin, Ceanannas, Ráth Chairn agus an Uaimh páirt san imeacht seo. Bhí go leor spraoi bainte acu as an Tráth na gCeist go háirithe ag fáil na spotduaiseanna! Fuair gach buaiteoir dearbhán leabhair. Seo deis iontach i gcónaí d'Oifig na Gaeilge tacaíocht a thabhairt do na bunscoileanna an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc na bpáisti.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024 events were organised between 1-17 March with the emphasis on live events that took place in schools, libraries and in the Solstice Theatre.

Below is a list and description of the Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024 events that took place in County Meath funded by the Irish language Office, as well as photographs relating to some of the events. The following events were funded entirely under the Irish Officer fund – Meath County Council.

Pop Up Gaeltacht with Konor Halpin – Solstice Theatre

Families and parents who are rearing their children through Irish came together in Solstice theatre to enjoy the session making characters and animals from balloons and speaking Irish at the same time.

Bodhrán lesson with Shay through Irish – Navan Library

A small group between young and old came together in Navan library on Saturday afternoon 9 March for a bodhrán lesson with Shay Casserley through Irish. The adults present got great benefit listening to the younger children speaking Irish and all learning how to use the bodhrán at the same time.

Sean Nós Singing Session with Máire Ni Churraoin – Trim Library

There was an interactive Sean Nós singing session in Trim Library with special guest Máire Ni Churraoin from Ráth Chairn. Máire taught participants how to sing a few lines of Sean Nós in a fun way that people young and old present enjoyed.

Cartoon Workshop with Aidan Courtney – Navan Library

A large group of young people booked places to come to Navan Library on Saturday morning 9 March to do a cartoon workshop through Irish with Aidan Courtney. They enjoyed the event whilst also learning new words and new phrases through Irish.

Pop Up Gaeltacht with singer Maria McCool – Navan Education Centre

An invitation was given to the local community and to Irish conversation groups throughout the county to come to the Navan Education Centre to practise their spoken Irish in an informal atmosphere. Maria McCool from Gweedore sang songs in the native language.

Quiz Time – Tráth na gCeist

The Irish Language Officer visited some of the library branches to do quiz time with pupils from 4th & 5th class. Schools in Duleek, Oldcastle, Kells, Navan & Ráth Chairn took part in this event. They really enjoyed the quiz time, especially getting the spot prizes! Every winner received a book voucher. This

is always a great opportunity for the Irish Language Office to give support to the primary schools to promote Irish amongst the children.



Balloon making - Solstice Theatre – 2/3/2024





Tráth na gCeist – Winners - Gilson N.S. Oldcastle

Firefighter Recruitment - Social Media Campaign

Throughout March, we ran a campaign to promote a series of Recruitment evenings in Kells, Trim, Nobber, Oldcastle, Dunshaughlin, Navan, and Ashbourne Fire Stations. This followed on from our video campaign, which was shot on location in Nobber, encouraging people to apply to become firefighters – you can see the video on Meath County Council social media channels or [watch the video here..](#)

With a budget of €80 on Facebook, the video reached almost 32,000 people, and received almost 17,000 engagements. The ad included a link that, if clicked, would direct those interested to the recruitment page on meath.ie, a total of 1,051 people clicked through on Facebook.

As part of this video campaign, an additional €50 was spent on LinkedIn; the ad reached 2,363 people with 33 link clicks.



International Women's Day

Meath County Council staff gathered on Friday, March 8 to celebrate International Women's Day.! There's so much to celebrate about women's achievements! Let's Inspire Inclusion to build a better world for women everywhere. We can all forge positive change through open mindsets and inclusive actions.



Think Meath First

Following on from the Christmas Think Meath First campaign, two separate campaigns ran during March, one ahead of St. Patrick's Day and one during the lead-up to Easter, to encourage people to Think Meath First to support local businesses for dining, shopping, and tourism.



Warning to Parents in Meath

The communications team assisted the JPC in developing and running a campaign warning parents in Meath of the dangers of Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas). Community Workers in Meath are finding

upward of 360 empty Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas) canisters per week across Meath. The campaign received coverage in both national and local media.



Climate Action and Environment



ReLove Fashion 2024

The Final of ReLove Fashion took place at the Rediscovery Centre on 21st March.

Meath was represented by Enfield Community College and Scoil Mhuire Trim, in this national competition which aims to encourage students to examine and improve their clothing choices.

Almost 100 million tonnes of clothing is landfilled around the globe each year, with 60% made from plastic.

ReLove Fashion gives young people to opportunity to explore the impact of Fast Fashion and the Textile Industry – water and waste pollution, energy use, carbon emissions, the exploitation of social and workers’ rights. It encourages young people to use their skills to upcycle their clothes, and to vote with their feet by purchasing good quality clothing, preloved outfits and to choose sustainability over the ‘throw away’ culture.



Green Schools 2024

Twenty five Meath schools applied for their Green Flag in March, on a variety of themes including Litter and waste, Water, Energy, Travel, Biodiversity, Marine Environment, Global Citizenship.

Each school undertook a comprehensive 7 step process to improve and enhance their schools environmental performance over a two year period. The submissions will be examined by An Taisce Green Schools and winners will be announced in May.



Making of the National Waste Management Plan For A Circular Economy 2024-2030

On the 21st February the Chief Executive and all other Chief Executives signed orders in respect of the making of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024 -2030 in accordance with Section 22 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

Climate Action

Community Climate Action Programme Fund

Empowering communities to shape and build low carbon communities and supporting innovative solutions to build climate resilience, energy efficiency and emission reduction.



Community one-to-one clinics on the Community Climate Action Programme Fund offered an opportunity to community groups to discuss their planned application and ask any clarifying questions. 37 community groups availed of these clinics. This Community Climate Action Programme Fund closed on the 28.02.2024 with 64 funding applications submitted and same are currently being considered.

Community Trip

A Fact-finding trip was recently made to the Connaught GAA Centre of Excellence today, also known as Connaught Dome. The visiting group learned about sustainable practices that can support sports and community groups. The group were informed about how the centre came about and insights on how the campus operates.



Climate Action Forum (CAF)

Climate Action Forum Meeting was held on the 20.03.2024. at which the Councils Environmental Education Awareness Officer gave a very informative presentation on the Re-turn Scheme <https://re-turn.ie/>



Urbact In4Green

Meath County Council are participating in the URBACT In4Green Project. The project is a collaborative project with 9 European city partners under the URBACT IV programme. The aim of

project is to empower and build the capacity of local stakeholders to overcome the barriers that prevent the transition to greener economies while remaining competitive and inclusive.

The project involves the development of an Integrated Action Plan. The IAP will be developed through an integrated and participative approach. A local committee called the URBACT Local Group has been formed. The group is made up of representatives from local Industry, local communities and representatives from Meath County Council, Cllr. Edward Fennessy is chair to the URBACT Local Group.



The ULG held its 1st meeting on Monday the 11th of March, this was an introductory meeting informing of the In4Green Programme and linking the project to Meath County Councils Climate Action Plan and Decarbonising Zones.

The 2nd meeting was held on the 25th of March. The ULG analysed issues and challenges associated with Decarbonising Navan and also discussed possible testing actions for the town.

EPA Climate Change Lecture Series

The EPA is committed to increase public awareness of climate change, its causes, consequences and how we tackle it. The focus for this EPA Climate Change Lecture is Climate Change and Human Health.

The first lecture of this series will take place on Tuesday 23rd April 2024.

The Guest Speaker, Professor Lea Berrang Ford is Head of the UKHSA Centre for Climate and Health Security and a Research Chair in Climate and Health at the Priestley International Centre for Climate. Prof. Ford is an expert in climate change impacts on health, adaptation to the health effects of climate change, and the health implications of decarbonisation.

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			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Total	88		
SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS & DETAILED DESIGN			
Nangle Close, Navan	12	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q4 2024	Q2 2026
COMBINED PLANNING STAGE & DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL	109		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q3 2025

Connaught Grove	47	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Total	75		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Yellow Ford, Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Total	219		
OVERALL TOTAL	491		

Carrick Street, Kells

An application for the construction of 36 new residential units, and refurbishment of 9 existing derelict units to provide 11 new units, giving a total of 47 residential units in Carrick Street in Kells was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 29th of July 2022 and was approved by the Bord on the 12th of February 2024.

Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells

An application for the construction of 22 new residential units comprising 6 no. two-bed, single storey units, 6 no. two-bed, two-storey houses & 10 no. three-bed, two-storey houses at Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells, was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 22nd of November 2022 and was approved by the Bord on the 1st of February 2024.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 27th March 2024

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	9
Athboy	Part V	7
Bettystown	Part V	9
Carlanstown	Part V	2
Clonee	Part V	7
Drogheda	Part V	8

Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	39
Enfield	Part V	6
Kells	Part V	7
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Navan	Part V	12
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Slane	Part V	4
Stamullen	Part V	2
Bettystown	Turnkey	76
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Donacarney	Turnkey	11
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Navan	CAS	12
Trim	CAS	4
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		325

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 27th of March 2024.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Part V	1
Dunshaughlin	Part V	2
Enfield	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	3
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	2
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		20

Affordable Housing

The 2023 allocation of 70 houses for Affordable Housing Delivery are all finalised. This consisted of 10 no. 2-bed houses, 57 no. 3-bed houses, and 3 no. 4-bed houses – giving a total of 203 bedrooms to date housing 179 people in 70 confirmed purchased properties. All the units were constructed to

an “A” energy rating. The Housing Department are working with Developers to identify Affordable turnkey units for purchase or rent for 2024.

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.

Refurbishment Projects

St. Francis Park Scheme

The site consists of 10nr. residential units. Scheme is progressing well but has experienced a delay in the programme. The Scheme is now estimated for completion in Q2 2024.

Alverno Court Refurbishment:

- Phase 4 was fully completed on 30th Jan 2024.
- Phase 5 has commenced. Contractor has possession of 6nr of the Phase 5 units.
- Project completion currently estimated for Jun 2024

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €563,533 including VAT submitted for approval to DHLGH for 2024 covering 51nr. properties.
- To date for 2024, 3nr. LAAWS are complete and another 8nr. LAAWS are under construction.
- Tender advertised 29th Feb for a contract for 18nr. additional LAAWS.

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability on the 29/02/2024

- To date 269 applications approved to the value of €1,720,904.41

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as of 20th March 2024. For the period from 19th February 2024 to 20th March 2024, works were completed on 13 vacant units, while 10 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 yet with Contractors
Ashbourne	1	0	0	0	1

Kells	5	3	2	6	4
Laytown/Bettystown	1	1	0	1	1
Navan	7	1	2	4	6
Ratoath	3	1	0	2	2
Trim	12	0	1	3	10
TOTALS	29	6	5**	16	24

**Note: All five of these pre-let properties are major refurb which includes energy upgrades to bring the property to B2 BER rating or better.

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

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Swanbrook, Navan	7	Tuath	Q2 2024
Dunville House, Metges Road*	45	Tuath	Q2 2024
Cluain Adain Clonmagaddan Navan	36	Cluid	Q2 2024
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	29	Respond	Q2 2024
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	39	Cluid	Q4 2024
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q4 2024
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q3 2024
St. Loman Street, Trim	4	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q1 2025
Total Number of Approved Units	177		

*Delivery Method had moved from Leasing to CALF

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects Delivered in 2024 Year to date:

None delivered so far in 2024

Leasing - (including Part V)

The previous Leasing Projects Aylesbury Clonee & Dunville Navan are now Turnkey and CALF projects respectively.

Cost Rental

59 Cost rental units due to be delivered in Woodstream, Bailis, Navan, Co. Meath by Q4 2024.

Homelessness February 2024

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st of January (Previous Reported Figure)	156 (168 Adults)	68 (115 Adults 110 Children)	224
Placements at 29th of February 2024	166 (178 Adults)	66 (116 Adults 106 Children)	232

Of the households with children, 57 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team’s intervention and 9 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

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

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 29.02.2024

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	116	-	-	-	35	44	36	1
Couples	24	-	-	-	5	6	10	3
Singles	154	-	-	-	19	48	77	10
Children	106	33	37	36	-	-	-	-
Total	400	33	37	36	59	98	123	14

Families – 21 adult children

Adult children range from 18 - 23

Place finder 01/02/2024- 29/02/2024

Total	2
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	2
Homeless Prevention	0

Tenant Liaison Team February 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	81	28
Occupancy of Dwelling	51	47
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	26	24
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	3	2
Total Received 01/02/2024 -29/02/2024	161	101

Standards in Rented Accommodation

648 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of February 2024. Of this figure, 400 were first inspections, 19 properties passed after their first inspection. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

Social Housing Supports

- 313 social housing applications were received for the period 1st January to 29th February 2024.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st to 31st January 2024

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	42
Transfers	5
Approved Housing Bodies	86
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	28
Long Term Leasing	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	

Choice Based Lettings Advertised February 2024

No. of Bed rooms	Ashbourne MD No. of properties	Laytown/Bettystown MD No. of properties	Kells MD No. of properties	Navan MD No. of properties	Ratoath MD No. of properties	Trim MD No. of properties
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	2	42	2	5
3	0	22	2	3	0	4
4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	0	22	4	46	2	9

Community Development



Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

43 free health checks have been delivered through the Healthy Meath Chronic Disease Risk Management Programme in 2024. 18 participants are taking part in a Yoga 4 Health programme in Kells. 15 men from Kells Men’s Shed commenced a healthy lifestyle programme in March. A further 15 groups have signed up for the Healthy Meath, Healthy Lifestyle Campaign, bringing the total to 40. Healthy Meath has developed a new monthly mental health events calendar for Louth and Meath in collaboration with Healthy Louth and Connecting for Life available to view [here](#).

Grants and Funding.

The following grant and funding schemes were advertised for applications:

Grant Scheme	Closing Date
Community Grant Scheme	Friday 5 th April (Extended closing date)
Community Amenity Project	CLOSED
Pride of Place School Gardening	CLOSED

Meath Age Friendly

The first Age Friendly Alliance of the year was held on 7th March. An overview of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, was delivered to the Alliance by Mary Carey and Eimear McCormack, HAFH.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg members addressed the March full Council Meeting. They shared the ‘Positive Mental Health’ video which was made by the members of Meath Comhairle na nOg and the service users from Prosper Meath. In addition, they discussed projects that they will be focusing on throughout the year, including mental health issues for young people and vape recycling.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 26th April 2024.

At the Full Council meeting held on 4th March, 2024, two members were appointed as members of the Meath LCDC and LAG – Garret O’Brien from North East Sand Sculptures, representing the Community & Voluntary Pillar and Nicky Bowman, also representing the Community & Voluntary Pillar.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 26th April 2024.

Joint Policing Committee

The next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for 20th May 2024.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

A meeting of the ICLC is scheduled for 13th March to assess the 39 applications received under the Carranstown Environment Projects Grant Scheme 2023.

Public Participation Network

First round of linkage groups took place with community, environment and social inclusion having 20 each in attendance.

Grants and funding workshops were held in Dunganny for the Meath GAA Healthy Club officers on February 26th and in Kentstown Hall for Womens Sheds, Teach na Mná and ICA’s on March 5th.

Meath PPN held elections for reps on Meath LCDC, with 2 Community & Voluntary reps and 1 Social Inclusion rep being selected.

National PPN staff retreat is being held in Trim on April 25th & 26th, with a focus on the celebration and promotion of PPNs 10th anniversary.

652 groups are registered with Meath PPN.

Meath Digital Strategy Public Consultation

The public consultation to identify the priorities for residents, businesses, community groups and tourists to the County has been launched. Everyone is requested to complete the survey to ensure that as much representation is gathered, and that the strategy reflects the needs of all citizens. The consultation can be completed at <https://www.meath.ie/county-meath-local-digital-strategy>.



National Broadband Plan

Work has been progressing but changes to deployment plans and additional works to complete areas are delaying completion.

	AMD	KMD	LBMD	NMD	RMD	TMD	#N/A	Grand Total
AVAILABLE_TO_PRE_ORDER	151	103			214			468
DA_NOT_ASSIGNED	34	142	23	13	39	74	55	380
MOVED_INTO_IA	1	1	15		72		2	91
NETWORK_BUILD_IN_PROGRESS	831	5170	626	963	723	3768		12081
READY_FOR_SERVICE	711	598	2043			89		3441
Active	246	163	612			33		1054
Ceased	8	1	4			1		14
Pending Connection	17	12	39			2		70
(blank)	440	422	1388			53		2303
SURVEY_COMPLETE	943	468	587		1977	16		3991
SURVEY_PENDING	13	3	12		36	237		301
SURVEY_PLANNED	11	12	5			1	7	36
Grand Total	2695	6497	3311	976	3061	4185	64	20789

BCP/Coding Initiatives

New clubs in Drumree and Ballinacree are progressing well, but a taster session in Rathkenny in March was cancelled due to low numbers. Better communication is needed to reach out to interested parents. A revised date will be set for later in the year to run the programme in Rathkenny.

Connected Hubs GoRemote Campaign

The Connected Hubs Meath GoRemote Free Vouchers Campaign has been extended until Mid-May on request from the Hubs. Anyone interested in trying a day in one of the hubs can apply for a voucher at www.meath.ie/Goremote/

Local Authority Integration Team

The newly created Local Authority Integration Team links new arrivals (International Protection (IP) applicants, Programme Refugees and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP)) with mainstream support services to enable them to live in the community.

Integration Support Workers provide information, advice, and guidance to individuals; linking individuals with mainstream and NGO services; and identifying gaps in supports or services.

Actions - January to date:

- 20 introductory meetings with accommodation providers.
- 5 clinics held in 4 accommodation centers.
- 64 Cases logged.

- 34 in progress.
- 28 resolved.
- 6 stakeholder engagements.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme

Age Friendly Ireland's, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme has recently launched in Meath with the appointment of **Mary Carey** as **Local Coordinator**. The programme is aimed at supporting older people to live in their home for as long as possible. The programme's ambition is based on four key objectives:

1. Enable older people to continue to live in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs.
2. Live with a sense of independence and autonomy.
3. Feel part of, and be part of, their community.
4. Support the avoidance of early or premature admission to long-term residential care.

As **Local Coordinator, Mary** will carry out a **home visit, free of charge, to anyone aged 65+ years** and in conjunction with the older person, will identify and design a range of supports around:


- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Housing | 4. Health |
| 2. Community Social | 5. Technology |
| 3. Financial | 6. Energy Warmer Homes |

The bespoke support package, designed and managed by the Local Coordinator, will enable the older person to live in their home with dignity and independence, for as long as possible.

The programme **accepts referrals from a variety of sources** including from the older person themselves; family and friends; Elected Representatives; Local Authority Staff; Public Health Nurses; Occupational Therapists; GP's; Community Organisations etc.

Please note, consent from the older person (verbal) must be obtained before the referral is submitted. Once the referral has been received, the Local Coordinator will be in-touch with the older person to arrange a home visit.

Alternatively, the older person themselves may wish to contact our national office for further information:

 **046-924 8899**



healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

Libraries Services



Ceann Scribe Baile Ghib

Comhairle Contae na Mí is delighted to have supported the work of Máire Nic an tSithigh, Eilin Nic an tSithigh, Máirín Ní Shiadhail, Máire Ní Chonchúir, Anraí Mac Garaidh, and Máire Uí Chasaide in their work over the past number of years which reached fruition on 10 March 2024 with the publication of the monumental book *Ceann Scribe Baile Ghib/Destination Gibbstown* (ISBN 9781399973441) which tells the stories of the fifty-nine families who came from Cork, Donegal, Kerry and Mayo to take up Land Commission farms on the Gerrard estate in Gibbstown in 1937. Following the tremendous welcome which the book received in Gibbstown, launches are planned for Kerry and Donegal. The volume is not only an important addition to the Meath Local Studies collection but an important addition to the history of the early days of the Irish state.



Archives

Meath County Archive were successful this month in their bid for funding to the Heritage Council. The funding will be given under their Heritage Stewardship Fund and the archive will receive €13,159.00.

The project will focus on the development of an online catalogue for the Archive and the creation of an Archives and Local Studies section on the Meath County Council website.

The archive will purchase its first online cataloguing software, Axiel. This software will allow the archive to bring uniformity to their growing collections, and ensure each collection is fully searchable. It has a public facing aspect that will allow the collections to be searched remotely by researchers.

The archive will work with Meath Council's communications team on the creation of Archive and Local Studies pages, bringing the archive online for the first time. The new cataloguing software will be integrated into these pages.

The archive will employ a professional photographer to take photographs of the collection, for use on the website. Finally, the archive will consult with a design team to work with them on the content of the webpages to create a seamless flow to that section of the website.

Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy Collaboration & Innovation Fund 2023

The Collaboration and Innovation Fund 2023 supported adults to improve their literacy, numeracy, and digital literacy skills. Meath County Council Library Service and Trim Family Resource Centre CLG received ALL funding of €18,600 to develop a Digital Skills Café for older persons in the community and to run a series of Embodied English classes for non-nationals living in Ireland.

The Free Digital Café Drop-In service ran from September 2023 to January 2024. The service ran on Tuesday mornings at Trim Library, Wednesday mornings at Trim FRC Offices, and Wednesday afternoons at Athboy Library. The service was available to any member of the public. Those who availed of the service ranged from older adults with limited digital skills to adults who required a little assistance with online shopping, sending emails or using their new smartphone. The project created a safe and encouraging space where older adults were supported to learn new skills and develop their confidence in using smart devices.

The Embodied English courses took place on alternate Saturdays in Trim Library and Swift Cultural centre. The sessions ran from October to December 2023 with separate sessions for tutors and students. Participants included adults from the Fáilte Isteach English groups at Trim Family Resource Centre. Tutors increased their confidence in using different methods and activities to increase student engagement and increased their versatility and adaptability. Students enjoyed the creativity and exercises they worked on in class and increased their confidence around pronunciation.

The 2024 Collaboration and Innovation Fund is now open for applications.

Enfield Library

Since opening in Mid-October 2023, Enfield Library has registered 1,885 library members, has c10k books and has loaned over 9,300 books. The library is currently open 30 hours per week and has established a comprehensive programme of regular events including adult and children's book clubs, STEAM Saturdays, Parent and Toddler Storytimes, a weekly Ciorcal Comhrá, a chess and games club for children, and a knitting and crochet club for adults. The library offers study spaces, a bookable meeting room for community groups, free Public PCs, a reasonably priced printing and photocopying facility, Wifi and eduroam. eduroam is a Wi-Fi service which enables students, researchers, and staff from participating institutions to securely access the internet at their college/university whilst visiting Enfield library. Following a successful trial period of *My Open Library*, the library is now offering this service to users following an induction session. The new *My Open Library* service means that registered My Open Library users will be able to use Enfield Library from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week.

Ireland Reads

Libraries across Meath celebrated Ireland Reads in February. RTÉ's news2day spent the morning of February 22nd in Navan Library recording an event with Junior Infants from St. Anne's Primary School Navan and author & illustrator Tatyana Feeney.

<https://www.rte.ie/kids/news2day/2024/0226/1434471-news2day-23-february-2024/>

Laureate na nÓg, Patricia Forde, launched Ireland Reads in Meath and visited Ashbourne and Navan Libraries. She read from her picture books, sparking imaginations, and engaging with students from Educate Together, Trim, and Gaelscoil Na Mí, Ashbourne.

Transportation Services



1. National Roads 2024 - Funding from TII - Grant Allocation €18,254,967 (including Greenways €3,140,000)

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 closed on the 16th of February 2024. Submission responses due back to the Board by the 2nd of April a total of 56 submissions 39 relating to the EIAR and 17 relating to the CPO. • Dedicated website available https://www.n2slanebypass.ie detailing the project.
N52 Grange to Clontail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral hearing set by An Bord Pleanála for the 9th of April 2024 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"> • 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 – currently out to tender.

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: New drainage 90% complete. New Kerbing 30% complete and footpath works progressing. Road reconstruction currently expected to commence in late April.
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy: Consultants have been appointed for this scheme for phases 1 to 4, which will bring the scheme up to completion of the planning stage. The Consultants are currently in the final stages of the optioneering process for the scheme and the project team have commenced liaising with potentially affected landowners.
R156 Mullagh Cross: MCC Transportation will be contacting potentially directly affected landowners shortly to discuss the emerging preferred option. Once an emerging preferred option has been identified and subject to approval, we will proceed to the Planning phase where statutory public consultation is expected as part of a Part VIII Planning process.

2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads –Allocation for 2024 schemes - €362,500

2024 Schemes Road
2024 schemes – options currently being considered. R149 – Stirling R132 – Keenoge R163/L7141 Junction Gibbstown L4010 – Bective Junction L1006 Cabinhill Crossroads.

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

2023-2024 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works substantially complete, remaining footpath works expected to commence in the coming weeks.
Priory Gate Wall	Works complete
Stoneyford Bridge (L-4021)	Works complete
Springhall Culvert (R195)	Works complete

Coolfore Culvert (L5008)	Works complete
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	De-vegetation advance works complete. Required repair works being assessed.
Minor Bridge Works 2023	Works complete
Obelisk Bridge, Oldbridge	Works ongoing, contract being administered by Louth Co Co

2. (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – Allocation for 2023 schemes - €545,500 – 11 schemes funded:

- R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall – options being considered.
- L10021 Timooole
- L3414 Commons Road, Navan.
- L68221 Robinstown
- L34036 Kearnstown Drumconrath Flood alleviation works.
- L7403 Carrickleck, Kingscourt Flood Alleviation
- L2803 Cormeen Flood Alleviation
- R148 Enfield Flood Alleviation
- Griffin Park Flood Alleviation
- L4003 Flood Alleviation
- L8031 Flood Alleviation

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

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further bollards and parking signs installed in Kennedy Plaza. • Art Sculpture repairs and water feature ‘fit -out’ to pump kiosk unit completed. • ESB cables installed to traffic signs on Trimgate St and PL on Abbey Road. • Paving repairs/reinstatement to plaza upper car park area (adjacent to Dunnes Stores) completed. • Capping to retaining wall adjacent to location of proposed Kiosk building. • Stage 3 Road Safety Audit completed. • Tactile paving extended at Paddy O’Brien Street junction. • Bollards to Plaza and at Shopping Centre installed. • Metges Lane watermain valve connection isolated and paving works completed in area. • Paving works to footpath at Old Cornmarket entrance completed. • CCTV cable installation and camera installation commenced. • Snagging including snags to Shopping Centre related works. • Completion inspection held with Navan Town Shopping Centre/ DTIL Ltd. • EV Rapid Charger in Kennedy Plaza commissioned.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works on Railway Street Section are substantially complete. All kerbing, footpath and road surfacing is complete. Final

<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</p>	<p>surfacing to cycle lanes is outstanding. All other road markings in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All kerbing, footpath, and road surfacing on section from Woodlands Estate to Flowerfield School is complete. • Kerbing, ducting, chamber construction etc and footpath works on western side of carriageway from Flowerfield School to Beechmount Garden Centre is substantially complete. • Works continuing ducting, drainage, kerb, and footpath construction on eastern side of section from Flowerfield School to Lidl junction. • Works on site clearance, drainage, ducting etc on section from Dan Shaw Road junction to Beechmount Avenue (western side of carriageway) have commenced. • Works on site clearance, ducting, and drainage in the junction of Trim Road with Dan Shaw Road have commenced. • 2nd phase of road surfacing works in 2 locations; a) Level Crossing XK020 to Woodlands and b) Flowerfield School to Lidl Junction, are planned for mid-April. • Temporary Traffic Management plan and diversion route in place on Trim Road from Carriage Road to Dan Shaw Road is being maintained in place. • Consultant/Designers continuing with Detailed Design of cycle and pedestrian scheme of Phase 2 from Solstice roundabout to R147 (Circular Road) junction to link (via the R147) with the Athlumney Road (R153 – Cantilevered Bridge). • Consultant/Designers are continuing with Preliminary Design process for cycle and pedestrian scheme of Phase 3 of Athlumney to Trim Road Scheme (NA7) from Beechmount Avenue to Balreask Manor.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non -Statutory Public Consultation event for part of NA3 route from Convent Road to Metges Road took place in early March and the consultation period is continuing until early April 2024. • Consultant/Designers shall then complete the Route Option Selection process and commence with Phase 3 Preliminary Design process thereafter.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants/Designer working on Phase 5 Detailed Design process. • Consultants/Designer have produced elements/sections of the tender package for review by the Project Team. • Revisions and updates are continuing. • Engagement with affected landowners is continuing.

Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following confirmation of NTA 2024 funding allocations, a Letter of Acceptance has been drafted and is anticipated to issue this month. • A pre-award meeting was held with the Consultants.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants continuing design work associated with Phase 2 - Concept Development & Option Selection. • Engagements with Consultants/Designers continuing in relation to options for the River Boyne crossing and the junction of Flowerhill and Ratholdren Road.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing engagement with representatives of St Marys Parish in relation to proposed accommodation works. • Final draft design for proposals in St Marys Parish completed and issued for comment with a view to reaching agreement to proceed as part of Statutory process for the overall scheme. • Stage 2 Road Safety Audit Completed. • Designer progressing with final design, aiming to produce deliverables for NTA approval of progression to Part 8 application.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-statutory public consultation completed for the section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor on the Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) for the scheme. Consultants/Designer continuing with Phase 3 preliminary design process. • Non-statutory public consultation event for the section from Athlumney Castle (Convent Road) To Metges Road on the on the Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) took place in early March. The consultation period extends to early April. Consultants/Designer to complete Phase 2 process and progress to Phase 3 Detailed design thereafter.
Pathfinder Scheme – R161, Navan to Trim Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging preferred route option has been identified and Consultants/Designer has completed the Option Selection Report. • Option Selection Report under review before submittal to NTA.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender documents for construction of Contract 1 have now been issued and the closing date for tender submissions is 15th April 2024. Contract 1 includes works on R155 Fairyhouse Road, Woodland Road, R125 Dunshaughlin Road, R125 Main Street and the Super Valu Junction. • Design works continuing remainder of the scheme, including the urban greenway along the Broadmeadow.
N51 Park & Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park and ride operational from 27th of January 2024 (date of traffic reversal and extension of NX bus services to the Moathill Park and Ride

Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The non-statutory public consultation process on the emerging preferred routes and public realm plans for Dunboyne and Clonee is due to commence in early April. • In advance of the non-statutory public consultation process the Ratoath MD councillors will be invited to a meeting where the emerging preferred routes will be presented. • MCC has written to residents who lands, or parking may be directly impacted by the scheme. MCC are currently holding meetings with these residents to discuss the potential impacts of the scheme, in advance of the non-statutory public consultation process commencing.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities, Bettystown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Design has been approved and final preparations of the 'Part 8' Planning application.
Newtown Road Trim Walking Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At final stage of 'Part 8' planning process, the project planning report with elected representatives for their consideration.
Greenogue Bus Stop (on R125)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At final stage of 'Part 8' planning process, the project planning report with elected representatives for their consideration.
R132 Active Travel Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A non-statutory public consultation has taken place on preliminary design, the submissions received are now being considered in preparing the options report.

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

Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works between Circle K Filling Station and Ballybin Road will be completed this month. Road resurfacing between Rath Lodge and Ballybin junction now scheduled for late April. • The footpath and cycle track have now been completed in front of the Fire Station access. Bus shelters currently being installed within the works area, outside N2 Electrical. • Site testing of the traffic signals at Castle Street junction is scheduled to be completed the first week in April.
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 95% complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan A contractor has now commenced the delivery of a 4m shared surface along the Ratholdren Road between the New LDR4 junction and the Greenway. The LDR4 contractor will deliver the remaining section between the LDR4 junction and Blackwater Park. These two packages of work will effectively link the Greenway and the Blackwater Park.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Parking Facilities Car parking facilities are currently being designed for Gibbstown, Nobber and Poles Cross. Part 8 Planning requirements currently being reviewed. • Traffic Calming Section 38 approval is currently being sought for traffic calming at Poles Cross and Gibbstown Greenway crossing, the latest date for submissions is 5pm on Wednesday the 3rd April, scheme details are available at: https://consult.meath.ie/en/browse. It is intended to deliver these works in April. • Kilberry to Gibbstown Greenway Crossing footpath link Part 8 planning application currently being finalised. It is planned to submit this application in April 24.
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All submissions received on the non-statutory consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route are being duly considered, in preparation of the preferred route selection and report.
Dunshaughlin Public Realm Main Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application has been made to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, RRDF for construction funding (note: a joint application with the Dunshaughlin Courthouse project by Planning Section).
Athboy Public Realm and Bus Stop Facility, Western end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application has been made to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, RRDF for construction funding. The project is 'shovel ready' with additional funding sources from the National Transport Authority, NTA as well as Meath County Council being secured.

5. Other Actions/ Projects

Housing Estate Road Surfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and further information submitted to ABP. • For the Fairgreen aspect of the project we have received Part 8 approval in Nov 23 and proceeded with detail design. Application made to RRDF in Feb 2024.
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New road from Kells road to Ratholdren Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of old OPW building on Kells Road 90% completed. Site fencing progressing and site compound set up. Topsoil strip with Archaeological oversight commenced.
Trim Millenium Pedestrian Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft planning reports received and being reviewed in advance of formal NIS application to An Bord Pleanála.

Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing works at Moynalty, Oldcastle, Dunboyne and commenced in Mill Race Duleek. Further works being awarded and in preparation for 2024 for all Municipal Districts.
Traffic Signals Upgrade and new junctions added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades of existing sites: 10 pedestrian crossing upgrades, 6 junction small upgrades, 4 junction large upgrades. • New sites commissioned: 4 new junctions, 4 new zebra crossings and 7 new pedestrian crossings

Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

334 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 22.03.2024. This is compared to 309 in the same period in 2023.

2. Commencement Notices

219 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 20/03/2024. This is compared to 113 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	113
Multi-Units	492** (units)
Extensions	30
Other*	6

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

**This includes a resubmission of a commencement notice where the initial valid commencement notice had since been withered.

No commencement notices have been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2024 to 20.03.2024.

Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 22nd March 2024 show a collection of €1,944,389. This is compared to €2,008,371 collected in the Jan- March period in 2023. (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 contributions of €1,415,758 due from the Department for the February and March recoupments, 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.*

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

51 planning enforcement cases were opened to 22.03.2024

New Cases to be Investigated	11
Warning Letter	22
Enforcement Notice	3
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	15

*please note these figures relate to cases opened in 2024 only

4. Planning, Heritage & Conservation Projects

Large Residential Developments (LRDs)	30 LRD applications received since introduction of process.
SIDs	<p>DART + North, pre application discussions ongoing with Irish Rail.</p> <p>Submission prepared on S.37E Application (SID) to ABP for Proposed Ballivor Wind Farm (ABP-316212-23) in relation to Significant Additional Further information lodged with ABP.</p> <p>Submission being prepared on Proposed Material Alterations to permitted development (ABP-307433-20) in respect of relocation of office building, warehouse/ workshop, parking, percolation area, bottom ash storage building, etc. at Indaver Waste-to-Energy Plant at Carranstown Duleek.</p> <p>ABP has concluded that the following are SIDs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110kV Substation and Loop in connection associated with an approved Solar PV Development at Strokesquarter, Painestown, Killary, Ricetown, Castletown K.P., Navan • 220kV Loop in Substation to connect to EirGrid transmission network and underground Grid Connection to Proposed Solar Farm at Mulhussey, Kilcloon, Co. Meath. <p>MCC advised of proposed alterations to previously granted ABP PA0050 to facilitate replacement of fossil fuels with alternative fuels for the introduction of alternative raw materials in the manufacturing of cement at Platin Cement Works, Duleek. No submissions requested.</p>
Village Core Redevelopment & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - Old Johnstown	<p>Pre-draft public consultation survey closed – 203 responses submitted & findings analysed</p> <p>Details of project can be found at Old Johnstown Village Public Realm on www.meath.ie.</p>
Duleek Heritage Led Regeneration Plan	<p>Regeneration Plan currently being edited for public display. Environmental assessments ongoing. Update/presentation to Laytown Bettystown MD scheduled for April Meeting</p>

Spicers Bakery & Andy Brennan Park	Strategic project – Part 10 Planning Application approved by An Bord Pleanála
Dunshaughlin Multi-Purpose Community Facility & Public Realm Enhancement Project	RRDF funding application submitted
Conservation Area Trail – Launch ‘Wonder Wander’	The Conservation Area Walking Trail was launched Friday 22nd March for Navan and Dunboyne Conservation Areas
The BHIS and HSF Grant Funding	Meath receiving Funding Allocation for 2024 of –BHIS €145,849 and HSF €43,221 (total of €189,070) Site visits and letters of offers ongoing.
County Heritage Plan	Funding secured to advance “Making Our Impression” Skills Transfer Programme in collaboration with the National Print Museum helping to preserve the skills of letterpress printing. Funding secured to support the publication of Moynagh Lough Studies by Four Courts Press.
Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030	Development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan for Meath has begun, in line with the Meath Heritage Strategy 2023 - 2030 & National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030. Biodiversity Working Group established consisting of a broad range of sectoral interest groups - two meetings held. Pre-draft public consultation running from 15th April until 27th May 2024.
Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects	Application lodged for funding from the Local Biodiversity Action Fund for 7 projects
Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN)	AGM of the IWTN held for the first time in Co. Meath on March 21st in the Swift Cultural Centre, Trim with representatives from towns in the Republic & Northern Ireland attending. Presentation on recent projects in Navan, Kells and Trim given.
IWTN Conservation/Capital Fund	Meath received €70,000 from the Heritage Council to undertake urgent conservation works and prevent further deterioration of a section of Trim Town Walls national monument.

5. Forward Planning

Variations to Meath County Development Plan 2021 - 2027	Variation Nos. 1 & 2 – placed on public display from 27 th March to 26 th April 2024 Variation Nos 3 & 4 – work ongoing
Residential Zoned Land Tax	First Annual Review which consists of a revised map for public consultation was on public display from 1 st February to 1 st April 2024 and remains open for landowners only until 31 st May 2024.
Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan	Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper published on 31 st January 2024 by Louth & Meath County Councils with period for submissions/ observations extended to 27 th March 2024 – these are now being assessed with a report to follow

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	8
Mentoring Assignments Approved	12
Attended Online Training Courses	293
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	8
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	3
Attended Financial Advice Clinics	3
LEO Grants	4
LEAN for Micro Applications	1
GREEN for Micro Applications	3

An International Women's Day event was held on Friday 8th March in Station House Hotel.

Enterprise Week ran from 4th- 8th March. There were many events part of the week with many participants attending.

Data sets compiled as a result of the Skills Audit for County Meath have been received. Awaiting the final summary report. The ED team will then assess the need for a Skills Strategy for the County.

Work on the Business Profiling exercise for the County is progressing. Numerous data sources being consulted.

Draft Economic Development Action Plan discussed with the ED Forum Members at the most recent meeting on 28th March 2024. Actions and deliverables to be agreed with the SPC and actioned over the short to medium term.

Options for the improved marketing and promotion of Meath to national and global companies are being considered, including engaging external expertise in this area and showcasing some of the major success stories from across the county.

Food Development

Boyne Valley Flavours

- The draft 5-year Boyne Valley food strategy has been circulated to stakeholders (Louth County Council, Meath County Council, Boyne Valley Flavours steering committee, Boyne Valley Tourism) for feedback. The next step will be a meeting between Fáilte Ireland, Louth County Council and Meath County Council to sign off, with a view to publishing the strategy in May.
- Training workshop held in March for food & drink businesses on Content Creation for Tiktok & Beyond

Centre of Food Culture

- Application for charitable status completed and submitted to the Charities Regulator in March
- Website development for the Centre is well underway. Once developed, it will facilitate bookings for events and workshops of the Centre of Food Culture and communicate with the network through blog posts and newsletters.
- Development Manager for the Centre attended the conference “Feeding Ourselves” coordinated by Cultivate, Talamh Beo and Sonairte in Cloughjordan, Tipperary on 22nd and 23rd March, which covered topics on climate action and local food.

Finance



Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2024 to 22 nd March 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	12	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	Relates to 2024 application
Approved by Credit Committee	10	3 relate to 2023 and 7 relate to 2024 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	4	1 relates to 2023 and 3 relate to 2024 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	2	2024 applications
Active Approvals	33.59	23.59 relate to 2023, 10 relate to 2024
Expired	9	9 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	6.41	6.41 relate to 2023 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2024 to 22nd March 2024 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Other Information:

Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant Scheme

Letters have issued to rates customers with details on the eligibility criteria for the ICOB grant including their PIN number to access the online portal allowing them to register for the grant. The closing date for businesses to register and to upload verification details is **1st May 2024**.

This grant is not a Commercial Rates waiver and businesses should continue to pay their Commercial Rates bill as normal. Businesses will be required to register for this grant as it will not automatically be applied to their Rates account.

The grant is based on the value of the Commercial Rates bill received by an eligible business in 2023.

- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of <€10,000, the ICOB grant will be paid at a rate of 50% of the business's Commercial Rate bill for 2023.
- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of between €10,000 and €30,000, the ICOB grant will be €5,000.
- **Businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rates bill greater than €30,000 are not eligible to receive an ICOB grant.**