



Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

July 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.

Contents

Introduction by the Chief Executive	2
Corporate Affairs and Governance	3
Climate Action and Environment.....	8
Housing Services	13
Community Development.....	20
Libraries Services.....	25
Transportation Services	27
Planning and Development.....	35
Economic Development.....	39
Tourism	42
Finance.....	44

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, Environment and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Climate Action and Environment

Directorate for Housing and Cultural Development

Housing Services

Library Services

Directorate for Infrastructure and Project Management

Transportation

Directorate for Planning, Economic Development and European Affairs

Planning and Development

Economic Development

Tourism

Directorate for Finance and Information Systems

Finance Services

Directorate for Ukranian Support Services, Community Development, People Management & Development

Community Development

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

FÉILE NA GEALAÍ – LÁ TEAGHLAIGH

Bhí go leor imeachtaí trí Ghaeilge ag tarlú i gcontae na Mí sa leabharlann Ráth Chairn ar an Sathairn 8 Meitheamh mar chuid de lá teaghlaigh d’Fhéile na Gealaí; agus bhí na himeachtaí seo maoinithe faoin mbuiséad Oifig na Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mí.

Tharla triúr seisiúin sa leabharlann a bhí oiriúnach do pháistí óga; seisiún ceardaíochta, am scéalaíochta agus ceol leis an scéalaí Dónal Ó Maoláin. Bhí seó mór ar siúl san iarnóin leis an ngrúpa Draíocht an Dúlra le Gráinne Holland ó Bhéal Feirste. Seó 50 bomainte do theaghlaigh le scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht, ceol agus damhsa, Bhí slua maith i láthair ag gach imeacht.

FÉILE NA GEALAÍ - FAMILY FUN DAY

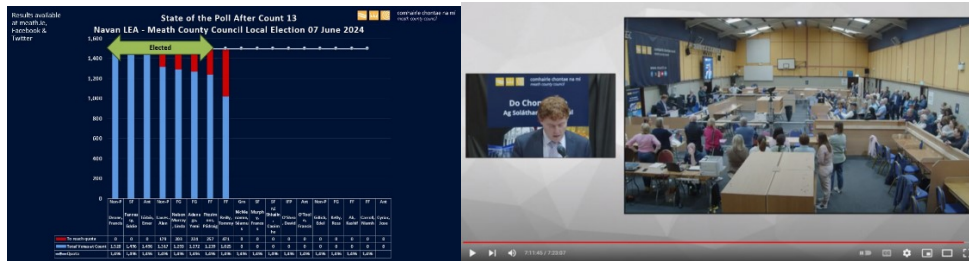
There were plenty of events through the Irish language taking place in Co. Meath in Ráth Chairn library on Saturday 8 June as part of the Féile na Gealaí family fun day; and these events were funded under the Meath County Council Irish Language office budget.

Three sessions took place that were suitable for young children; a crafts session, storytime and music with storyteller Donal Mullen. There was a big show on in the afternoon with the Draíocht an Dúlra group with Gráinne Holland from Belfast. This is a 50 minute show for families with storytime, singing, music and dancing. Each event was well attended.



Local Elections 2024

Meath County Council streamed the local elections live on the Council YouTube channel from the count centre in Simonstown, gaining over 22,811 views. Updates of each count from all six municipal districts were posted to meath.ie and social media as they were announced, facilitating the publication of real-time, factual information.



Rathaldron Court Contract Signing

Contracts for a social housing development at Rathaldron Court, Navan were signed recently. The development consists of 27 units (2no. 4-bed residential units, 11no. 2-bed residential units, and 14no. 1-bed residential units). The development will complete the existing Rathaldron Court estate, which presently consists of 26 privately constructed properties, and will address the current housing need in the area as part of the Governments Housing for All programme.



Clonee Playground

The Chief Executive recently showcased the ongoing work at Clonee Playground to the Cathaoirleach of Ratoath MD, Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee, Elected Members of Ratoath Municipal District, and Head of Community Development at Meta, Ms. Aoife Flynn.

We look forward to the official opening of the playground and welcoming members of the community to enjoy this amenity in the heart of Clonee later in the Summer.



Funding Announcement

On Wednesday, June 5, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, was at Trim Family Resource Centre to announce funding to support Women's Groups nationwide.



Kepak Park and St. Peter's Academy Centre Opening

On Friday, May 31, Cathaoirleach of Ratoath MD, Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald was joined by Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht, Thomas Byrne T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality Helen McEntee T.D., Meath County Council Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe, and Chairperson of St. Peter's GAA Dunboyne Gillian Reilly to officially open Kepak Park St. Peter's Academy Centre, Dunboyne.

The development provides sports playing fields, changing facilities, and a car park with 98 parking spaces, including disabled parking bays.



Launch of the Meath Economic Development Strategic Action Plan.

Former Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr. Tommy Reilly was joined by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD and Minister of State, Business, Employment, and Retail Emer Higgins in Buvinda House, Navan, recently for the official launch of the Meath Economic Development Strategic Action Plan.

The plan provides direction for the short to medium term, aimed at fostering sustainable growth, attracting investment, and enhancing the quality of life for businesses and residents of County Meath.



Flag Raising ceremony at Bettystown Beach

Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown MD, Cllr. Stephen McKee was joined recently on Bettystown Beach by volunteers from the local community for a flag-raising ceremony following the recent announcement that Bettystown Beach has been awarded its first Blue Flag Award in almost 30 years, with both Bettystown and Mornington Beaches also retaining their Green Coast Award.



Official opening of the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway

The Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway officially opened on Sunday, June 12. Ireland's newest Greenway provides a 30km car-free pathway starting at Blackwater Park in Navan and travelling along the former Midland Great Western Railway, steeped in natural, built, and cultural heritage, finishing at Dun na Rí Forest Park, Kingscourt.



Climate Action and Environment



Green Schools

Twenty-five Meath Schools received Green Flags for their achievement in the international Green Schools Programme across a range of themes including Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Marine Environment, Global Citizenship.

The Green Schools is a whole school action programme, over two years, during which the whole school community engage with their specific theme, improving the performance of their local environment.

In Ireland Green Schools is co-ordinated by An Taisce. In 2024 An Taisce Green Schools decided to introduce a National Award at both primary and secondary levels for the Biodiversity School of the year to highlight the extraordinary work being undertaken in schools in relation to understanding and protecting biodiversity in the Community.

In 2024 both of these awards were won by Meath schools, with Dunboyne Senior National School winning the national school title and Scoil Mhuire Trim taking the Secondary School Award.



Blue Flag and Clean Coast Awards

Bettystown Beach has been awarded its first Blue Flag Award in almost 30 years, with both Bettystown and Mornington Beaches also retaining their Green Coast Award as part of the International Blue Flag and National Green Coast Awards for 2024.

The Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District, Cllr. Stephen McKee was recently joined by volunteers from the local community at a flag-raising ceremony to mark these significant achievements.

The Blue Flag is an international environmental award given to beaches and marinas worldwide that demonstrate good environmental standards and have good sanitary and safety facilities. The Green Coast Award recognises excellent water quality and the efforts made by the local community to protect their natural, unspoilt environment.

Beach Lifeguards & Beach Wardens

Beach Lifeguards and Beach Wardens have been deployed and will be on hand throughout the bathing season, to assist visitors to the Meath Coast.



Update on Burial Grounds Development

Works are progressing on the construction of the new burial ground at Loganstown, Trim . The development consists of a total of 2,400 single plot Burial Ground, a Garden of Remembrance and Columbarium Walls for the interment of Urns and associated infrastructure including access roads, car-parking for 98 vehicles, a caretakers office/canteen & toilet facilities , a 2m wide footpath with public lighting, road widening and drainage for a distance of approximately 600m from the Burial ground entrance to the junction of the Navan – Trim R161 Regional Road



Columbarium Walls

Contractors have been appointed and work is now underway in respect of the provision of Columbarium Walls and Urn Plots in The Good Shepard Cemetery Duleek, Derrockstown Cemetery Dunshaughlin, St Declan's Ashbourne, St Finian's Navan and Rooske Cemetery Dunboyne.

The Columbarium Walls in each Cemetery will be developed to accommodate 80 niches over two blocks- one block has already been developed as part of the extension to Rooke Cemetery. The development of the plots in the four cemeteries will accommodate circa 900 urn burials.

Similar facilities are provided for in the new Cemetery at Loganstown Trim and within the new Cemetery in Stamullen which is currently the subject of a detailed design tender process.

Community Climate Action Programme Fund

The fund is focused on empowering communities to shape and build low carbon communities and supporting innovative solutions to build climate resilience, energy efficiency and emission reduction. The allocation to Meath County Council for this fund is €811,000.

Evaluation at local level took place in April with the qualifying projects sent to DECC in late April , for their evaluation and confirmation and involving 11 small scale projects, 10 medium scale projects and 4 large scale. It is expected an announcement on the successful projects will be made in early July.



TRIM AIR QUALITY PROJECT

The Trim Air Quality Monitoring project from Meath County Council was shortlisted and won the award for Digital Sustainability for its work monitoring the levels of air pollutants in Trim. The Digital Town Awards promote awareness, knowledge, use and understanding of digital technologies in Ireland by its citizens, businesses and communities. They also highlight the benefits and possibilities of digital and celebrates the digital achievements of towns across Ireland.

What makes the Trim Air Quality Project stand out is in how it translates this information into the health effects on the prevalence of Asthma, Stroke, Diabetes and Lung Cancer for the residents of Trim.



Too Good To Waste

The Climate Action Section recently held the Too Good to Waste Lunch and Learn with MCC employees in Buvinda to raise awareness around food waste, the emissions and effects associated from food waste in landfill and to promote sustainable eating habits to reduce food waste.

Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 aims to reduce Green House Gas Emissions (GHGs) by 51% by 2050, 8 – 10% of GHGs are related to food waste. The diversion of food waste from landfill is an important action that everyone can contribute positively to.

FoodCloud is a company who re-distributes surplus foods. FoodCloud uses a technology platform to directly connect food retailers with surplus or excess food to local community groups thus avoiding food waste. The FoodCloud Kitchen is Ireland's first zero-waste food truck and allows them to take surplus food to the road, helping them to share in the vision of a world where no good food goes to waste. The delicious dishes served by the Food Cloud Kitchen are prepared with rescued produce, allowing diners to see just how tasty a positive social and environmental impact can be.



EPA data shows:

The average Irish household throws out **150 kg** of food waste each year: at a cost of approximately **€700**.

The Climate Action Section intend to run this event with communities in our Decarbonising Towns.

Town	Number of Houses	Total Food Waste per Town	Cost @ €700 per household
Navan	11322	1695.3t	€7,925,400
Trim	3307	496.05t	€2,314,900
Kells	2412	361.8t	€1,688,400
Ashbourne	5012	751.8t	€3,508,400
Laytown-Bettystown	5505	825.7t	€3,853,500
Dunboyne	2238	335.7t	€1,566,600
Dunshaughlin	2290	344.5t	€1,603,000
Ratoath	3041	456.1t	€2,128,700

Demonstration of the Food Waste Digester at Navan Recycling Centre.



Food Waste Digester – Navan Recycling Centre

The Climate Action Section recently gave a public demonstration of how the food waste digester located within Navan Recycling Centre at Mullaghboy Navan works. Food caddies were handed out on the day.

The Digester is capable of digesting up to 3 tonnes of food waste per week, reducing its volume by 70%. In a short 24-hour period, the bio-digester treats household food waste to produce a nutrient rich, premium output that can be used as a soil enhancer or fuel for an anaerobic digester producing energy for reuse.



Meath County Council is proud to announce that the Organisation has been recommended for Certification to ISO 50001 following a four-day audit. The system was described as an “excellent management system and commitment to same” by Donal Harlow, Lead Auditor National Standards Authority Ireland (NSAI). The audit concluded with no findings or non-conformances and certification is to be awarded in the coming weeks. ISO 50001 is the global energy management standard for improving energy performance.

Dog Warden Van

To become more sustainable and reduce our carbon emissions as an Organisation, Meath County Council has recently purchased a new electric van for our Environment Section.

The fully electric van, kitted out with 4 dog cages and cabin air conditioning, replaces the previous diesel van used by our dog warden. It has a large 75kWh battery with a range of 330km. The electric van was purchased with funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



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	Q4 2024	Q2 2026
Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q4 2024	Q4 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	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	Q4 2025	Q2 2027
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q4 2025	Q2 2027
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	Q3 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	Q3 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		

***Connaught Grove, Athboy**

This project could be impacted by a High Court challenge to the building contract framework agreement brought by an unsuccessful tenderer. At present the awarding of contracts is suspended until the case is dealt with or unless an application to lift the suspension is successful. An application has been brought by Meath County Council to lift this suspension and the application is due to be heard next month.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 21 June 2024

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	35
Ballivor	Part V	4
Bettystown	Part V	8
Carlanstown	Part V	2
Clonee	Part V	7
Donacarney	Part V	2
Drogheda	Part V	8
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	47
Enfield	Part V	20
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	8
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	60
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Ratoath	Part V	4
Slane	Part V	4
Stamullen	Part V	2
Trim	Part V	33

Ballivor	Turnkey	8
Bettystown	Turnkey	76
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Donacarney	Turnkey	16
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Kells	Turnkey	1
Navan	Turnkey	14
Kilmoon	CAS	5
Navan	CAS	12
Trim	CAS	2
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		489

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 21st of June 2024.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Part V	8
Bettystown	Part V	1
Dunshaughlin	Part V	6
Enfield	Part V	5
Kells	Part V	3
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	2
Bettystown	Part V	12
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		49

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 seek expressions of interest from Developers and Landowners with a view 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 nearing substantial completion, with snagging expected to commence at the end of June 2024. The Scheme is estimated for substantial completion in September 2024.

Alverno Court Refurbishment:

- Phase 4 was fully completed in Jan 2024.
- The final Phase 5 (6nr. units) is in process, with expected completion at the end of July 2024.
- 3nr. Phase 5 units are expected to be snagged at the end of June 2024.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €563,533 including VAT has been approved to DHLGH for 2024 covering 51nr. properties.
- To date for 2024, 10nr. LAAWS are complete and another 33nr. LAAWS are appointed to Contractors.
- An additional 7nr LAAWS have been issued recently for pricing.

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability on the 31/05/2024

- To date 445 applications approved to the value of €2,960,720.68

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 30th April 2024. For the period from 20th March 2024 to 30th April 2024, works were completed on 4 vacant units, while 12 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	4	4	2	6	4
Laytown/Bettystown	4	1	0	3	2
Navan	12	1	2	4	11
Ratoath	4	2	0	4	2
Trim	10	1	0	0	11
TOTALS	35	9	4**	17	31

**Note: All four 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
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	29	Respond	Q3 2024
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	39	Cluid	Q4 2024
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2025
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q4 2026
St. Loman Street, Trim	2	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2025
Total Number of Approved Units	87		

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

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB
Swanbrook, Navan	7	Tuath
Dunville House, Metges Road*	45	Tuath
Cluain Adain Clonmagaddan Navan	36	Cluid
Total Number of Units Delivered	88	

*Delivery Method had moved from Leasing to CALF

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 May 2024

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 30th of March (Previous Reported Figure)	169 (181 Adults)	67 (117 Adults 100 Children)	236
Placements at 31st of May	179 (191 Adults)	67 (119 Adults 102 Children)	246

Of the households with children, 58 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 31.05.2024

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	119	-	-	-	37	39	42	1
Couples	24	-	-	-	4	2	12	6
Singles	167	-	-	-	18	49	87	13
Children	102	32	37	33	-	-	-	-
Total	412	32	37	33	59	90	141	20

Families – 26 adult children

Adult children range from 18 - 25

Place finder 01/05/2024-31/05/2024

Total	12
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	4
Homeless Prevention	8

Tenant Liaison Team May 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	72	30
Occupancy of Dwelling	39	36
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	35	25
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	18	8
Total Received 01/03/2024-31/03/2024	164	99

Standards in Rented Accommodation

2,004 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of May 2024. Of this figure, 1064 were first inspections, 42 properties passed after their first inspection. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance. Meath County Council's target for 2024 is 1,850 first inspections, the number of first inspections to meet the annual target of 25% is circa 463 per quarter.

Social Housing Supports

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

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	134
Transfers	17
Approved Housing Bodies	110
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	1
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	142
Long Term Leasing	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	3
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	407

Community Development



Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

Healthy Meath held a consultation event on May 1st for the CommUnity Connect project. 30 groups were represented, and feedback received will be used to inform future planning of the project. The Healthy Meath Microfund Grant Scheme received 60 applications. Applications were assessed by members of the Meath LCDC Health and Wellbeing Subgroup with 6 applications approved for funding.

Two workshops took place on May 21st and 22nd, funded through the period poverty scheme in Kells and East Coast Family Resource Centres.

The Meath Chronic Disease Risk Management Programme was shortlisted for a Life Sciences Award within the 'Best Strategic Partnership' category. The awards will take place on June 27th.

Healthy Ireland Local Government has launched their new website, <https://hilocalgov.ie/> which will provide updates and oversight on all the Healthy City and County programmes across Ireland.

15 sunscreen dispensers were provided in locations across Meath, including sports clubs, beaches, and playgrounds, to support our SunSmart programme.



Public Participation Network

668 groups are registered with Meath PPN.

Meath PPN hosted the National PPN staff retreat on April 25th & 26th in the Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim. The event included presentations from See Her Elected, Wild Belfast, Estonian Public Participation and Teresa Ngunig on 'Thriving in the Workspace'.

Staff and Secretariat members attended the quarterly Midlands Region meeting of PPNs in the Longford Arms Hotel on April 17th.

Staff attended and took part in the Healthy Meath subgroup meeting, URBACT Navan steering group and CommUnity Connect launch on May 1st.

Comhairle na nÓg

The quarter 2 meeting for the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee took place on Tuesday, 7th May 2024. The Comhairle na nÓg programme for 2024 was presented to the Steering Committee.

Meath Age Friendly

Meath Age Friendly held a walkability audit on 22nd of April in Ratoath. The audit report is currently being compiled. The last Age Friendly Alliance Meeting was held on 30th May 2024.

The National Older Persons Convention took place in Kilkenny from 9th to 10th May 2024. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Meath OPC Executive Committee attended the event.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 28th June 2024.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

A meeting of the Local Action Group (LAG) took place on Friday 28th June 2024

Grants and Funding

The Community Recognition Fund 2024

35 applications were received under the Community Recognition Fund 2024, which closed on 26th April 2024. Expressions of Interest are no longer being sought for this funding scheme.

Local Enhancement Programme

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, visited Trim Family Resource Centre on 5th June to announce funding to support almost 500 Women's Groups nationwide, including 11 Women's Groups located in Co. Meath who collectively received €30,000.

CLÁR

Seven Expressions of Interest have been received under *Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities* of the CLÁR Scheme 2024 which closed on 17th May 2024.

Pride of Place

School Pride of Place

44 Schools and creches entered the 2024 School Pride of Place Scheme, all have been notified of their success.



Main Pride of Place scheme

246 applications have been received for the main Pride of Place scheme, judging schedules are currently being prepared.

IBP All Island Pride of Place

The two groups chosen to represent Meath in this year's IBP Pride of Place are; Trim in the Population Over 5000 category and Moynalty in the Population - 0-300 category.

National Broadband Plan

NBI have announced that the Navan Deployment Area is ready for order and over additional 3,200 homes and businesses can now avail of fibre broadband. Work continues in Dunboyne, Carnaross and Hill of Down DA's which should all be completed by the end of 2024.

Meath Digital Strategy Public Consultation

The Public Consultation has received 185 responses.

Consultation workshops were also held with Rathkenny Active Retirement and Bloomfield Men's Shed to get the voice and priorities of older people in the community.

.ie Digital Town Awards 2024

The .ie Digital Town Awards promote awareness, knowledge, use and understanding of digital technologies in Ireland by its citizens, businesses and communities.

The Trim Air Quality Monitoring project won the award for Digital Sustainability for its work monitoring the levels of air pollutants in Trim. The Project stands out for how it translates this information into the health impact on the prevalence of Asthma, Stroke, Diabetes and Lung Cancer for the residents of Trim. The project also delivered a series of workshops for national and secondary school children in the town so they could understand the factors creating air pollution and how it impacts on people's health. More details on the platform can be found at <https://airqualityadmin.meath.ie/trim>

Bective Future Coders' project "Igniting a passion for technology in Families" was also shortlisted in the Digital Education category.



BCP/Coding Initiatives

6 schools and 3 OurKidsCode clubs across Meath visited Microsoft's offices in Dublin showcase the projects that they have been working on. There was plenty of fantastic STEAM skills on show. St. Patrick's, Ughtyneill won the Most Collaborative Schools Project and Rural Future Champions for their work studying, coding and modelling more environmentally sustainable slurry spreading.

St. Patrick's Slane won the Future STEM Leaders Award for their project on the sensory classroom for children who have challenges. They were joined by Carnaross NS, Scoil Chomcile, Skyrne and St Joseph's National and Post Primary Schools in Navan.



Drumree Coders, Bective Future Coders and The Crazy Royal Coders from Ballinacree represented the family coding clubs in the County. Bective Future Coders won the Global Goal Award for their work on hydroponic farming and Drumree Coders were recognised for having the Most Innovative Project.



Local Authority Integration Team

The LAIT continue to engage with (International Protection (IP) applicants, Programme Refugees and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP)) with mainstream support services to enable them to live in the community.

Actions – May /June:

- 19 clinics held in 19 accommodation centres.
- 67 Cases logged.
- 2 in progress.
- 54 resolved.
- 4 stakeholder engagements.

The Community Integration Forum met on the 30th of May.

The LAIT has begun holding "Meet and Greet" events in the libraries, these events allow for people living in the community to meet with the Integration Support Workers. This cohort would not have access to support workers who would in the past only met people in the commercial units. The first event was held on the 4th of June in the Oldcastle. More are scheduled in the other libraries across the county throughout the year.

Refugee Week 2024 – 17/06/2024 – 21/06/2024

Meath Partnership lead World Refugee Week celebrations with support from Meath County Council. The theme this year is 'Home' and all events were well attended
Highlights Included.

Voices of Hope World Refugee Week Panel in Kells

Puffin Rock Screening in Ukrainian in Kells

Taste the Harmony, Home in Every Bite in Trim

Cultúr "Street Fest in Navan

Diverse Community Showcase in Sonairte, Laytown

The LAIT "Juice Morning in Enfield Library



Africa Day 2024 – 30/05/2024

The LAIT attended an Africa Day Event funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and hosted by Cultúr, this was a huge success, more than 100 people attended the fun cultural family day event held at Navan O'Mahoney's GAA Club.

Libraries Services



Meath Library Staff attend Áras an Uachtaráin in Celebration of Bloomsday

On Sunday 16th June a number of library staff attended a garden party at Áras an Uachtaráin in celebration of Bloomsday, hosted by President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins. The importance of libraries and promoting reading was a key theme of this year's event, with attendees including library staff from across the country. Event highlights included a garden tour, Joyce readings by actors, music entertainment, refreshments and the heartfelt speech delivered by the President highlighting the cultural significance of Bloomsday and the contributions of library staff to Irish society.

Speaking at Áras an Uachtaráin the President said: "libraries must remain places where people can be encouraged to be inquisitive about the world in which we live" and praised library staff for creating "an atmosphere so conducive for intellectual curiosity for generations of Irish children, women and men". The President underlined the vital public space provided by libraries describing them as "one of the last remaining public spaces to have been spared commodification, where there is no requirement to spend money or purchase anything in order to spend time or be welcomed there".

Cruinniú na nÓg

A national day of free creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú na nÓg took place on June 15th. This initiative is delivered annually as part of Meath's Creative Ireland programme under the Creative Communities pillar. Cruinniú na nÓg supports one of the main objectives of the Meath Culture and Creativity Strategy helping to increase community access to, awareness of and participation in culture and creativity.

This year, Meath's programme of events centred around East Meath, Navan, and Trim with a strong programme for schools. Activities catered for all age ranges up to 18 years and included Lego family workshops, pottery workshops, comic creation, music and dance, rap as Gaeilge, Circus workshops, cyanotype printing, low budget filmmaking and much more. Meath and Louth County Councils collaborated to deliver a range of events for Cruinniú na nÓg for the East Meath and Drogheda borough area in response to the Drogheda Report and Implementation Plan. In total, over 1200 children, young people and families participated in activities on the day and within schools in the lead up to Cruinniú na nÓg 2024.

Summer Stars Reading Adventure and Events Programme

Meath County Council Library Service recently launched the Summer Stars Reading Adventure for children, taking place in all library branches from the beginning of June to the end of August. This national reading programme, offered free of charge, aims to encourage children to keep reading over the summer while participating in various fun events. On joining, children receive a reading and activity pack. Throughout the Summer there are lucky dips, incentives, and prizes to keep the children reading all Summer long and to stop the 'Summer slide'. Primary Schools can sign up for

the Homework Pass initiative to reward children participating in the programme. At the end of the Summer, all participating children will be invited to an award event where they will receive a Summer Stars certificate.

Further information on the events programme is available at www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/library-events/summer-stars-events-2024 and details of the Summer Stars Reading Adventure are available at www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/summer-stars-reading-adventure-2024

Meath County Archives to Become Accessible Online

The Meath County Archives is set to become accessible online for the first time later this year, thanks to funding from the Heritage Council Stewardship Fund. This funding has facilitated the purchase of Axiel Collections, a sophisticated archival cataloguing software, which will enable the archives to be available on the Meath County Council website.

Ongoing Development and Cataloguing

Efforts are currently underway to ensure that established collections are ready for uploading onto the new cataloguing system.

- Clare Ryan is cataloguing the Clayton Woollen Mill Collection.
- Róisín O'Brien has initiated work on the Kells Print Works Collection and is also undertaking a retrospective listing of school collections.
- County Archivist Patricia Fallon is focusing on the papers of former county librarians, dating back to the early 20th century.

One notable item in the archives is a letter from 1974 by then County Librarian P.J. White, addressed to the Irish Manuscripts Commission, emphasizing the importance of conducting a survey on the Clayton Mills Collection. It is exciting to see key collections like this being made accessible to the public.

Book Launch

There was standing room only in Navan Library on Wednesday June 12th as the people of Seamus Smyth's native Navan and its hinterland turned out in numbers to celebrate the publication of his new book. *In The Time of Plato* is Seamus's second book and was launched by publisher and Meath footballing legend Liam Hayes, and by president of Navan & District Historical Society Paschal Marry. Seamus Smyth concluded the proceedings by reading excerpts from the book and giving some insight into the sources of his inspiration.

Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Collaboration and Innovation Fund 2024

The Library Service was successful in a joint funding application with Trim Family Resource Centre and received €15,840 to run Digital Skills Cafés in Trim, Enfield, and Ballivor Libraries and in Trim Family Resource Centre. The drop-in Digital Skills Cafés will provide older adults in the community with essential digital skills training, fostering digital literacy and inclusion. The funding will also facilitate library tours and cultural outings for Fáilte Isteach families. These activities will provide an enriching cultural experience and help integrate the families into the community.

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"> • Responses on the public submissions were sent back to the An Bord Pleanála on the 2nd of April. There was a total of 56 submissions 39 relating to the EIAR and 17 relating to the CPO. • Awaiting on a date for the Oral Hearing from ABP • Dedicated website available https://www.n2slanebypass.ie detailing the project.
N52 Grange to Clontail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral hearing took place on the 9th April for the CPO. • An Bord Pleanála's made an order confirming the Compulsory Purchase order on the 5th June 2024. • Council currently preparing confirmation notices for publication within 12 weeks of the ABP Order.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding received from TII. The route corridor will be finalised during 2024.
National Road Resurfacing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N51 Slane to County Boundary resurfacing – work is progressing and scheduled to be complete before the end of June 2024 • N51, N52, N2 and M2 Ballybin Road Overbridge – pavement and bridge joint repair works contract, this is substantially complete. • N52 Woodtown to County Boundary Pavement Scheme – tenders currently being assessed.

2 Non- National Roads 2024 - Funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €25,143,640

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

Road Works Programme
Works completed on the following:

Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing)

L-10012- Danestown

L-1013-0 Harristown

L-56110-0 Red Mountain

L-1609-3 Donore

Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)

Surface Dressing carried out at

L-62009-0 Baconstown

L-6211-24 Ardrums Great

L-6223-0 Coole

L-6220-16 Kilclone

L-2212-16 Moyglare

Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)

Contractor appointed and prestart meeting.

Phase 4 (Wearing Course)

Contractor appointed and prestart meeting.

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

R162 Kilberry Phase 2B:

Drainage, kerb and footpath works completed. Road reconstruction works on the Nobber bound carriageway complete. Road resurfacing works commencing on June 24th and due to be completed June 28th

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 directly affected landowners. Draft flooding and environmental reports being reviewed.

R156 Mullagh Cross:

Transportation Department have been meeting potentially directly affected landowners 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

2023 scheme (rolled over into 2024)

L4007 Shambo X – works substantially complete.

2024 schemes

R149 – Stirling – design and preparation of tender documents progressing.
 R132 – Keenoge - options currently being considered.
 R163/L7141 Junction Gibbstown – preliminary design progressing.
 L4010 – Bective Junction – design and preparation of tender documents progressing.
 L1006 Cabinhill Crossroads - options currently being considered.

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads - Allocation for 2024 schemes - €672,500

2024 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works substantially complete, remaining footpath works expected to commence in the coming weeks.
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	Contractor appointed.
Obelisk Bridge, Oldbridge	Works complete and bridge reopened.
Bridge Consultants Framework	Consultants appointed.
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Consultants appointed.
Minor Bridge Works 2024	Contractor in the process of being appointed.
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Tender documentation for the appointment of consultants being finalised.

2. (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – Allocation for 2024 schemes - €545,500 – 11 schemes funded:

R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall	Options being considered.
L10021 Timoole, Ashbourne MD	Options being considered.
L3414 Commons Road, Navan	Not started.
L68221 Robinstown	Not started.
L34036 Kearnstown Drumconrath Flood alleviation works	Works have commenced with locating, inspecting and surveying existing drainage pipes.
L7403 Carrickleck, Kingscourt Flood Alleviation	Not started.
L2803 Cormeen Flood Alleviation	Road closure procedure underway for 5th to 9th August 2024.
R148 Enfield Flood Alleviation	Scheduled for August 2024.
L40224 Griffin Park, Trim	Scheduled for August 2024.
L8031 Stonyford, Trim MD	Completed.

3. Active Travel Grants 2024 from NTA – €14,000,000

<p>Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract 3 snagging and close out works ongoing. • Contract 5 Tenders received and assessed, with letters to both Successful and Unsuccessful Tenderers issued, with a min. 14-day standstill to be observed. Preparation of NTA Gateway deliverables commenced. • Kennedy Road Kiosk Building detailed design work continuing, with structural design commenced for the building (foundations and superstructure), and draft final concept 3-D photomontage completed.
<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"> • All mainline kerb, ducting, drainage and footpath works are now more than 95% complete. Awaiting the completion of ESB and Eir services diversions to complete footpaths to 100%. • All road reprofiling and resurfacing works are now 100% complete. • Road lining and markings works are 95% complete. • Raising and re-setting of ironworks in roadway are 90% complete. • Landscaping works have recently commenced. Due to be substantially complete by week 1 of July. • Surfacing works to cycle lanes due to be completed in early July. • 3 new pedestrians crossings complete and are currently awaiting ESB connections. • New traffic signals anticipated to be installed and commissioned at Dan Shaw Road junction by end of July. • Consultant/Designers continuing with detailed design process for a cycle and pedestrian scheme from the Solstice roundabout to the R147 (Circular Road) junction and linking (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"> • Consultant/Designers have commenced with Phase 3 preliminary design process for the scheme linking Convent Road (Athlumney Castle end) with Metges Road via the R153 Kentstown Road.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants/Designer are continuing with the detailed design process. • Elements/sections of the tender package are currently being reviewed by the Project Team. • Positive engagement with affected landowners is continuing and accommodation works proposals are being developed and designed. • A Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) proposal for works to be carried out as part of the cycle and pedestrian scheme are currently under consideration.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultant is currently reviewing tenders received to conduct various surveys required for detailed design, such as ground investigation surveys, CCTV surveys, and pavement surveys. • Phase 5 detailed design is anticipated to be completed this year, with the procurement of a contractor to carry out the proposed works to follow, subject to available funding.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consultant has prepared a draft Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) for Flowerhill Scheme, which includes facilities on the N51. • A tripartite meeting was held between TII, NTA & MCC to discuss the draft EPO alignment. • A Transport Assessment (TA) has been commenced, to include modelling of various junctions on the N51, taking account of the proposals in the draft EPO. • Draft Design Reports have commenced, which are required for submission to TII.
<p>Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designer progressing with final design, aiming to produce deliverables for NTA approval of progression to Part VIII application, anticipated to commence Q3 2024.
<p>Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants/Designer continuing with Phase 3 preliminary design process for the section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor. Anticipated that Part 8 application shall be made in Q3 of 2024. • Consultant/Designers have commenced with Phase 3 preliminary design process for the section from Convent Road (Athlumney Castle)) to Metges Road.

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 draft option selection report. • Active Travel Section is continuing engagement with the designers and with the NTA on the preliminary design process. • Additional areas for topographical survey have been identified and have been surveyed to input into the design process.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender submissions for Contract 1 closed on the Tuesday 7th May. Contract 1 includes works on R155 Fairyhouse Road, Woodland Road, R125 Dunshaughlin Road, R125 Main Street and the Super Valu Junction. Tender assessment currently being completed. • Design works continuing on the remainder of the scheme, including the urban greenway along the Broadmeadow and footpath extension to Ratoath Rugby Club.
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-statutory public consultation for the Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme closed on the 7th June 2024. Submissions received are now being analysed and will inform the preliminary design for the scheme. • Meetings continuing with landowners and stakeholders directly impacted by the emerging preferred route.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities, Bettystown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part VIII Planning application being prepared for lodging
Greenogue Bus Stop (on R125)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender completed, appointment process for Contractor being advanced.
Safe Routes to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works are due to commence at Gael Scoil Na Mí Ashbourne, at the end of July 2024.

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes 2024 - Funding other than primarily DoT & NTA

<p>Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic signals are now operational at Castle Street and Johns Wood junctions. Traffic signals for Ballybin junction are currently undergoing final testing, which will allow the signals to be installed as soon as works at Ballybin junction are complete. • Works at Ballybin junction are 65% complete, with utilities and roadside kerbing now complete.
<p>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 30km greenway is now substantially complete and open to the public. • Snagging works ongoing. • Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan. The delivery of a 4-metre shared surface along the Ratholdren Road between the New LDR4 junction and the Greenway is now substantially complete. Public lighting installation outstanding, once complete existing ESB poles can be removed from the new footpath. 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. • Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibstown Car Park. Part 8 application currently under review by MCC Planning Department. Planner’s Report shall be presented to the Kells MD July meeting. • Nobber Car Park Kilbeg Road. Tenders received for the construction of new car park at Kilbeg Road Nobber, works planned to commence on site July 2024. Improvement works currently been undertaken at Kilbeg Road crossing in order to improve sightlines. • Poles Cross Car Park and Footpath Link to Gyproc and Ballinaclose. A Part VIII application for the above scheme is currently being finalised and negotiations are ongoing to acquire suitable lands for the car park. Part 8 application to be lodged in August 2024. • Traffic Calming at Gibbstown and Poles Cross Greenway Crossings. Works now substantially complete at Poles Cross. Works commencing Monday 24th June at Gibbstown crossing.

Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft options and feasibility report including Preferred Route is complete and for review by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

5. Other Actions/ Projects

Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening determination referred to An Bord Pleanála. • Part VIII process stalled as a result and further information submitted to ABP.
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New Road from Kells road to Ratholdren Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piling on the South of the Blackwater is complete and the next phase of the bridge foundation on the South of the river has commenced. Construction of the bridge foundations North of the River is due to commence in July. Earthworks progressing from Ratholdren Road to north of River Blackwater.
Trim Millennium Pedestrian Bridge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft planning reports reviewed and OPW Section 50 consent awaited in advance of formal Natura Impact Statement application to An Bord Pleanála.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently works ongoing in Kells, Trim and Laytown-Bettystown Municipal Districts. Further works being designed and procured for all Municipal Districts for the remainder of 2024.
Traffic Signals Upgrade and new junctions added.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic signals at Navangate Junction in Trim and N51x Ratholdren Rd junction in Navan have been fully upgraded with new LED signal heads, cabling and traffic signal controllers • Brews Hill x Commons Rd junction and Commons Rd x Claremount Ave junctions are scheduled for similar upgrades over the next 4 weeks. • Recently commissioned new junctions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Castle St x R135 (Ashbourne ATS) ○ St Johnswood x R135 (Ashbourne ATS) • In Construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Active Travel: 2 junctions & 5 pedestrian crossings actively in construction. 5 of these are tested and ready for commissioning early Q3 2024. • Developer led: 3 junctions & 3 pedestrian crossings actively in construction, due for completion in Q3 2024.
Duleek Main Street x Station Road Junction Signalisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has been designed and tendered. Preferred tenderer identified and project is currently in the award process

Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

637 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 31.05.2024. This is compared to 645 in the same period in 2023.

63% of the applications received this year have been via the online portal -ePlan

2. Commencement Notices

476 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/05/2024. This is compared to 257 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	255
Multi-Units	1288** (units)
Extensions	59
Other*	14

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

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

One commencement notice has been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2024 to 31.05.2024.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31st May 2024 show a collection of €5,073,398. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts and development contributions already recouped from the DHLGH under the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver Scheme).

Temporary Waiver Scheme

In addition to the above, development contributions covered by the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver Scheme for May 2024 (€789,090) will be recouped from the Department during June. *Please note: MCC can only recoup the waived contribution on receipt of a signed and witnessed undertaking from each applicant.*

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

93 planning enforcement cases were opened to 31.05.2024


New Cases to be Investigated	16
Warning Letter	39
Enforcement Notice	8
Referred for Legal Proceedings	1
Closed	29

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

5. Planning, Heritage & Conservation Projects

Village Core Redevelopment & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - Old Johnstown Village	Pre-draft consultation survey closed. 203 surveys submitted. Finding of public consultation analysed. Details of project can be found at Old Johnstown Village Public Realm on Meath.ie. Meeting of Consultants with inhouse technical staff held 22nd & 24th May. Walkability Audit to commence imminently. Survey work commenced and ongoing.
Flower Hill Frontage Improvement Scheme, Navan	URDF Project D-Building Frontage Scheme. Consultant procured to finalise proposed interventions & implement. Meeting of Steering Group and Consultants held 18th June.
Duleek Heritage Led Regeneration Plan	Regeneration Plan currently being edited for public display. Meeting of Consultants with technical steering group took place on 7th June.
Lloyd Recreation and Amenity Plan	Plan currently being drafted. Draft Plan proposals presented to and discussed with internal Technical Steering Group-28th May.
THRIVE Funding Application	THRIVE (Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme) Funding Application prepared and submitted 3rd May 2024. Facilitated pre evaluation meeting and site visit with Project Manager- June 17th June.
Navan Streetscape Enhancement	Working with Economic Team in developing Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Ludlow and Bridge Street Navan.
Communities in Bloom	Trim has been chosen to represent Ireland in a global competition called Communities in Bloom. Members of the MCC Heritage Team are involved in the committee preparing for the arrival of judges in July.
Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030	A new Biodiversity Action Plan for county Meath is being developed in line with the Meath Heritage Strategy 2023 - 2030 and National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030. A pre-draft public consultation was facilitated between 15 April and 27 May. 161 submissions were received and will feed into the first draft of actions which is aimed to be complete by the end of August 2024.

	 <p><i>Figure 1. Ben Malone Biodiversity Officer facilitating discussion between members of the Biodiversity Working Group of the Meath Heritage Forum on a visit to the Commons of Lloyd.</i></p>
<p>National Biodiversity Week</p>	<p>Meath CoCo organised & hosted 8 events across the county for National Biodiversity Week (17 May – 26 May) & supported a further 6 led by partners. It's estimated 350 participants engaged across all events.</p>  <p><i>Figure 2. Meath County Council hosted a Biodiversity Week event in Dalgan Park on the banks of the Skane River focused on river restoration and water quality.</i></p>
<p>Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects</p>	<p>Funding of nearly €140,000 was approved for a total of 7 projects from the Local Biodiversity Action Fund and the Council, including: The Hare's Corner, Hill of Lloyd Grassland Management & Biodiversity Enhancement project, County Meath Swift project, Barn Owl Conservation Project, Mayfly Red List, Biodiversity Audit of Meath and Community Biodiversity Initiatives.</p>
<p>The Hare's Corner</p>	<p>This is one of seven projects being delivered by Meath County Council with support from the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. It is an initiative to help landowners make more space for nature. 159 applications were received by applicants interested in receiving support from the project. All applicants will receive support to implement a 'Hare's Corner'.</p>
<p>Community Monuments Fund 2024</p>	<p>Conservation design team appointed & detailed specifications, drawings and method statement for conservation works to Armulchan Church and Graveyard being prepared.</p> <p>Conservation team appointed and site visit undertaken to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trim including condition report,</p>

	<p>archaeological report, ecological survey and a conservation strategy for repair, interpretation, and access.</p> 
Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024	24 Applications assessed for the Community Heritage Grant Scheme. The aim is to support community groups & organisations to undertake projects that will gather information, help to appropriately manage, and promote an awareness and appreciation of our heritage
IWTN Interpretation Fund	Received €8,500 from the Heritage Council to prepare and publish a booklet on The Medieval Walled Towns of Meath . The publication will focus on Navan, Town, Kells and Athboy
County Heritage Plan	Commencement of Making Our Impression Skills Transfer Programme in collaboration with the National Print Museum helping to preserve the skills of letterpress printing.

6. Forward Planning

Residential Zoned Land Tax	First Annual Review which consists of a revised map for public consultation was on display to 1 st April 2024 for third parties & landowners and remained open for landowners only to 31 st May 2024 (to request rezoning of their lands). A total of 14 submissions were received in the 1 st phase and 5 submissions in relation to the 2nd phase. Council must notify the landowner of retention/removal of land from the 2025 annual draft maps by 1 st July 2024 and of decision regarding a request for a change in zoning by 31 st July 2024
Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan	Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper published on 31 st January 2024 & period for submissions/ observations extended to 27 th March 2024 – Total of 153 submissions (incl 4 withdrawn) received - these are now being assessed with a report to follow
Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	Draft Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth is currently on public display from Wednesday 19 th June to Thursday 1 st August 2024. A public information session scheduled for Wednesday 10 th July 2024 from 3pm to 7pm in Maynooth University.
Navan Local Area Plan	Work commenced on Social Infrastructure Audit & Settlement Capacity Audit. Consultant appointed to prepare a Local Transport Plan & a Navan Area Based Transport Assessment Survey underway on Consult from 12 th June to 12 th July 2024. A Strategic Issues Paper to commence initial non-statutory consultation is currently being drafted by the Forward Planning Team.

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	9
Mentoring Assignments Approved	17
Attended Online Training Courses	166
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	13
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	6
Attended Financial Advice Clinics	4
LEO Grants	2
LEAN for Micro Applications	6
GREEN for Micro Applications	9
Digital For Business Applications	4

The Meath County Council Economic Development Strategic Action Plan was recently launched in Buvinda House. The plan will deliver 6 overarching actions over the next 2-5 years alongside a number of additional ones across 5 workstreams. Delivery programme, timeframe and KPIs for the action plan being developed, along with objectives for various stakeholders.

Work on a Meath Business Support Pack is continuing – ED team is now working with Dunboyne College and several financial institutes to include information on training and supports available, Financial Wellbeing content and Sector Expertise. This will then be tailored for potential foreign investors.



Fig 4: Photo from the launch of the Meath Economic Development Strategic Action Plan with Ministers McEntee and Higgins and the Meath Economic Development Forum Members

Food Development

Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy 2024-2028 was launched on 18th June 2024 in Slane Castle by Meath & Louth County Councils and Fáilte Ireland. The new strategy brings together three pillars;

1. Discover Boyne Valley Flavours food and craft drinks network
2. Food in Tourism
3. The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley.

It sets out the priorities for the region for the next 5 years, with an overall vision for the Boyne Valley to be recognised for its collaborative approach to developing food as a sustainable economic sector and a food destination where our producers are at the heart of our food culture. Read the full strategy here: <https://bit.ly/3VL04qy>



Photo from the Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy launch which took place at Slane Castle on 18th June

Discover Boyne Valley Flavours have appointed Design Works to conduct a brand and website audit. These were two recommendations arising from the new strategy. The audit will commence in mid-July and will be completed in October.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley launched it's social media channels:

LinkedIn – Centre of Food Culture Boyne Valley

Instagram - @centrooffoodcultureboynevalley

Facebook - @centrooffoodculture

X - @cofcbaynevalley

MEATHS'S CREATIVE CLUSTER LAUNCHED THEIR POP UP SHOP AT BORD BIA BLOOM

Some of County Meath's best craft and design businesses exhibited at Bord Bia Bloom in Dublin's Phoenix Park over the June Bank Holiday weekend. In total 13 Members of Meath Made showcased and sold their products at this 5-day festival of gardening, food and fun.

8 members from [Meath Made](#), which is County Meath's creative cluster, joined forces to operate the first ever Meath Made collective shop at Bloom this year. It is the first time a group of creatives from any Local Enterprise Office in Ireland operated a PopUp Shop at Bloom

Shoppers to the Meath Made stand which was located in the Grand Pavilion (stand number G117) had an opportunity to view and purchase the work of 8 locally based craft, design makers from across the county. Visitors met with the makers behind the business and connected with Meath based craftspeople, learnt about their stories, saw at first hand the quality and value of the wonderful range of products that are designed and made right here in the Boyne Valley.

Supported by the Local Enterprise Office Meath, the Meath Made collective shop, was in a special area at Bloom that housed a range of Meath's finest design and craft talent, the shop operated over the course of 5 days of Bloom from Thursday 30th May to Monday 3rd June. The 8 businesses from Meath included; **Lus Aromatherapy, Faber Furniture Design, Boann Irish Felt Designs, Roisin & Robin Unique Gifts, Eileen McNulty Textiles, Papertwigs Designs, The Patchwork Peacock and Anticipating Daisy Pottery.**

Meath Made were very proud to use a Meath based design business (The Bearded Man) and furniture maker (Brendan Killoran) to design, make, build and install this fully sustainable, long lasting and 100% reusable stand.

With over 100,000 visitors in attendance at Bord Bia Bloom in 2024, the Meath Made stand was very busy and the message of inspiring shoppers to think about their purchasing habits and to choose sustainable, locally produced high quality goods that are made to last was at the forefront of the messaging from the 8 creatives running the shop.

Other participants from Meath Made included; **Anita Reynolds Art & Design, Clare O'Connor Designs, Síobhan Daly Designs and Deeca Designs.** These businesses sold their products from the Design Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCI) area within Bloom. **Dawn McGrath Art**, also exhibited at an Art Exhibition in the Ashtown Visitor Centre which launched at Bloom and ran for the month of June. Marlese Made Studios and Shane Holland Design also based in Meath were exhibiting at the DCCI area.

Meath Made will be running events, during August Craft Month, Culture Night, attending the Púca Festival in Trim & Athboy, as well as running a number of Pop Up Shops in the run up to Christmas, including one at the Winter Festival at Fairyhouse Racecourse.

Tourism



Boyne Valley at Balmoral and Bloom

Boyne Valley Tourism hosted a stand at the Balmoral Show from 15th – 18th May and at Bord Bia Bloom in the Phoenix Park from Thursday 30th May to Monday 3rd June. Lots of local tourism businesses got involved to promote the Boyne Valley including Hotels: Johnstown Estate, Dunboyne Castle, Cusack hotels, Knightsbrook Hotel, Headfort Arms, CityNorth, Bellinter, Darnley Lodge and Trim Castle Hotel and attractions/ festivals including Emily McCormack Artist, Emerald Park, Meath Film Festival, park Beo, Moynalty Steam Threshing, Coburns Bar. Both shows were an enormous success with a combined 220,000 attendance.

National Famine Way Commemorative Walk

The 165km National Famine Way Commemorative Walk commenced at Strokestown Famine Museum on May 20th and finished at Epic on May 25th led by Ambassador Dr. Eamonn McKee. Cathaoirleach Trim MD Cllr. Noel French and Director Economic Development and Tourism, Des Foley, welcomed the Ambassador and walking group to Longwood on Thursday 23rd May. 115 children from the local Longwood School saw the group off on Friday morning presenting the bronze shoes as the group made their journey towards Enfield where they were met by an Uileann Piper.

The National Famine Way commemorates 1,490 people who left their homes in 1847 from Roscommon hoping for a better life, taking the famine ship to Liverpool and North America. Plans are underway to develop it into a Global Irish Famine Way, the longest heritage trail in the world.

Púca Launch and stakeholder briefings



The launch of the 2024 Púca took place at Dublin Castle on Thursday 20th June by Minister Catherine Martin TD with the announcement of headline acts Bell X1, The High Kings, Dermot Whelan, Tom Dunne.

Kieran Kehoe, Meath County Council, Chief Executive welcomed the launch of Puca: “Meath County Council is delighted to support the Púca Festival again in 2024 and we look forward to welcoming visitors to celebrate the origins of Samhain in Meath with a diverse and exciting programme of events. Working with Fáilte Ireland, the Púca team and local businesses to create an international festival from the story of Samhain will place the Boyne Valley and Ireland’s Ancient East centre stage, support the tourism economy of County Meath and share this unique folklore with the world. As Meath County Council’s new Chief Executive I’m looking forward to working closely with our partners and welcoming domestic and international visitors to County Meath.”

Group Press Visit

Boyne Valley Tourism hosted a press visit of journalists including Leah Doherty Meath Chronicle, Aileen Eglinton Dublin South FM and Eoghan Corry, Ireland’s leading travel writer. The press visit focussed on promoting the Boyne Valley and County Meath as an experiential destination by highlighting engaging and immersive tourism product in particular the new Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway. They had a gardening class at College Hill House, a wool spinning demonstration with Boyne Valley Wools and finished with a cycle on the new Greenway to Castletown Pitch and Putt. They also tasted local Boyne Valley food at the Kilberry and at Dollys near Slane. Coverage of the trip will feature in the coming weeks.

Finance



Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2024 to 21 st June 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	24	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	2	Relates to 2024 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	0	
Approved by Credit Committee	15	3 relate to 2023 and 12 relate to 2024 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	7	1 relates to 2023 and 6 relate to 2024 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	4	2024 applications
Active Approvals	20.20	7.20 relate to 2023, 13 relate to 2024
Expired	19	19 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	14.60	12.60 relate to 2023 applications, 2 relate to 2024 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2024 to 21st June 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

The closing date for registration for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant Scheme was extended to midnight on Wednesday 29th May. A total of 2571 declarations were received.

Assessment of grant declarations is continuing to ensure eligibility with the scheme criteria set out by the Department of Trade and Enterprise. Grant payments have commenced with €1.7m paid to eligible businesses to date.