



Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

September 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, 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

Directorate for Finance and Information Systems

Finance Services

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

Community Development

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Próiseas Pleanála Teanga – Cruinniú le Foras na Gaeilge

I mí an Mheithimh, ghlac an tseirbhís Chorporáideach páirt i gcruinniú leis an bPríomhfheidhmeannach Fhoras na Gaeilge, Seán Ó Coinn mar aon le baill eile ó Fhoras na gaeilge le haghaidh phróiseas an pleanála teanga a phlé agus an tslí is fearr é a chur i bhfeidhm sa bhailte seirbhíse Gaeltachta atá liostaithe ar Chontae na Mí, An Uaimh agus Baile Átha Buí chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa bhailte seo. D’aontaigh an tseirbhís Chorporáideach go mbeadh Comhairle Chontae na Mí sásta páirt a ghlacadh mar cheanneagraíocht sa phróiseas seo le maoiniú agus tacaíocht a fháil ó Fhoras na Gaeilge. Faoi láthair tá an Chomhairle ag fanacht ar fhreagra ar ais ó Fhoras na Gaeilge ionas gur féidir tús a chur leis an bpróiseas.

In June, Corporate Services took part in a meeting with the Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge, Seán Ó Coinn as well as other members of Foras na Gaeilge to discuss the language planning process and the best way to get it started in the Gaeltacht service towns listed for County Meath, Navan and Athboy to promote the Irish language in these towns. Corporate Services agreed that Meath County Council would be happy to act as the lead organization in this process with funding and support received from Foras na Gaeilge. At present the Council is waiting for a response back from Foras na Gaeilge so as to start the process.

Communities in Bloom

On Friday, 12th July we welcomed the Community in Bloom judges to Trim. Meath County Council, Trim Tidy Towns Committee, and the local community made huge efforts to have the town look its very best for the 'International Communities in Bloom' competition. The awards takes place in October.

[The promotional video which was used as part of the application process can be viewed here.](#)



Navan Pride 2024



Mayor of Navan Cllr. Eddie Fennessy at the unveiling of the Rainbow Bench in Blackwater Park to mark the beginning of Navan Pride Festival

Golf Links Road, Bettystown



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sharon Tolan was joined by Paul McKown (Senior Executive Engineer, Meath County Council), Nadine Petersen (Bettystown Tidy Towns), Cathaoirleach Bettystown-Laytown MD Cllr. Paddy Meade, Fiona Fallon (Director of Services, Meath County Council) and Derek McCann (Bettystown Tidy Towns) to mark the completion of a footpath on the Golf Links Road, Bettystown

Community Recognition Fund allocations for Meath

Gormanston
Pedestrian Infrastructure Upgrade

Cultúr Migrant Centre
Purchase and fit out of a community vehicle

Duleek Development Association
Duleek Parish Centre Sports and Flooring

Coláiste na Hinse
Outdoor Recreational Upgrades

€311,567 ALLOCATED TO FOUR AREAS OF MEATH UNDER THE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

An Boinn Forbartha
Tuairisc agus Fódail
Department of Rural and Community Development

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuairisc
Our Rural Future

comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

www.meath.ie

€7 million in THRIVE Funding

€7 MILLION IN THRIVE FUNDING
for the development of Navan Cultural Quarter: Community Hub & County Archive, the former St Finian's Seminary Study Hall (and former St Patrick's Classical School)

comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

www.meath.ie

Navan 2030 – Contract 5

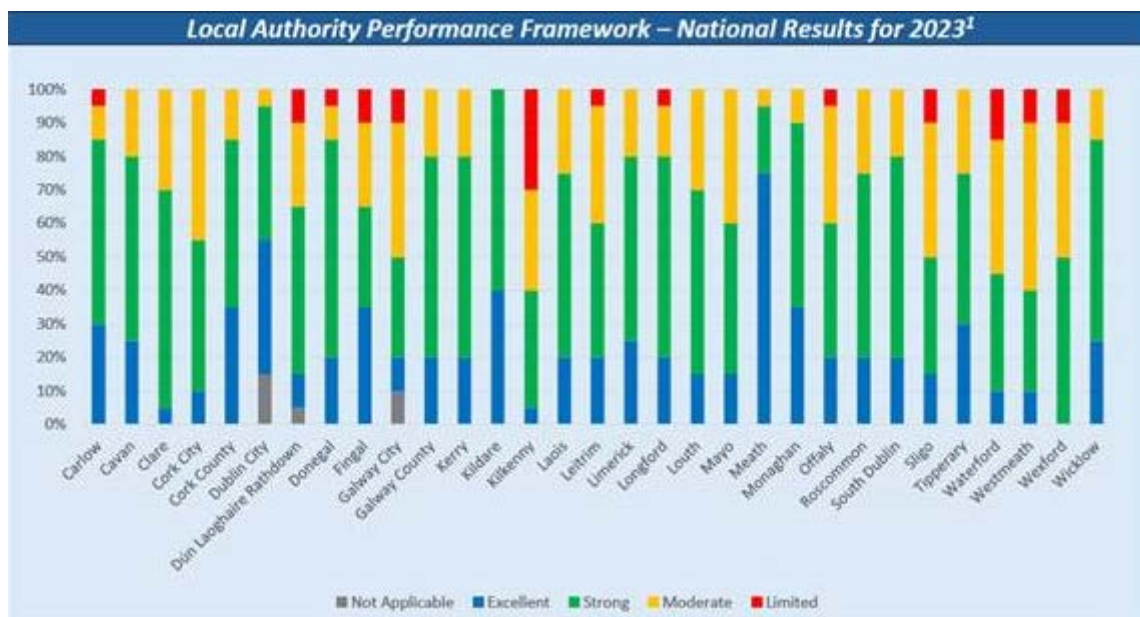


Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sharon Tolan was joined by Town Mayor Cllr Eddie Fennessy, Victor Smyth of John Cradock Ltd & Martin Murray Director of Service for Transportation Meath County Council, Alan Wright of John Cradock Ltd and Cormac Ross Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation Department, Meath County Council to sign Contract 5 for Navan 2030, the next phase of the Navan Town Scheme.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sharon Tolan was joined Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, Meath County Council, John O'Reilly, Clerk of Works, Meath County Council, Lisa Murtagh, Chief Operations Officer, Cunningham Contracts IRE Ltd, Dara McGowan, Deputy Chief Executive, Meath County Council, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sharon Tolan & Tim Cunningham, Managing Director, Cunningham Contracts IRE Ltd to sign contracts for a social housing development in Athboy as part of the Governments Housing For All programme..

Environmental Enforcement Performance



The EPA has completed the assessment of Meath County Council’s environmental enforcement performance in 2023 under the Local Authority Performance Framework (LAPF). Meath County Council met the required standard of a Strong or Excellent result for 95% of the NEPs in 2023. The national average was 70%.

Corporate Governance

Meath County Council as a public body is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority subject to a number of exemptions.

The following are the number of requests received in Q2 2024:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q2 - 2024	44	1	0

The link to the Council’s FOI Disclosure Log is: <https://www.meath.ie/council/your-council/your-data-and-access-to-information/freedom-of-information>

The following are the Q2 2024 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q2 - 2024	14	2	1

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q2 2024 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q2 - 2024	5

Climate Action and Environment



URBACT In4Green



Members of the Navan ULG have formed a Sustainable Energy Community committee for Navan who have committed to developing an Energy Management Plan for the town.

Sustainable Energy Communities

Nine Sustainable Energy Communities have completed Energy Management Plans these are now available on Meath County Councils website. <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/environment/climate-action/sustainable-energy-communities>

Community Climate Action Programme Fund



Community Climate Action Programme Fund decision arrived from DECC on Tuesday 9th July confirming successful applicants. Community Group applicants were informed of their decisions on 10/07/2024. DECC decided not to allow robotic mowers as part of funding in this programme. MCC was allocated €811,000. We approved projects to the value of €810,908.17. Project Start date is 2/09/2024 and we are awaiting the signed contracts from the groups before releasing the full list of projects.

	No. Approved	Total budget
Small Projects	11	€112,078.96
Medium Projects	10	€339,551.23
Large Projects	4	€359,277.98
Total	25	€810,908.17

Electric Vehicles

Meath County Council have been trialling the use of an electric pickup truck in our Trim MD during the summer months. The trial has been a success and will pave the way to introduce more electric vehicles into our transport fleet. A second trial has begun in the Navan MD with the delivery of the Renault Master in August pictured below. The van will be used for daily use with a 52kWh battery with a range of 220km.



Meath Fire Service has also recently taken charge of a new electric van to become more sustainable. The fully electric van has a 50kWh battery with a range of 275km.



Buvinda Solar PV

The August bank holiday weekend marked one year since the Solar PV array was installed and made live at Buvinda House. In the first 12 months of the system, the solar array has generated 112 MWh, or 112,000kWh of electricity. This is the equivalent of 28.5 tonnes of carbon which has been avoided by our own self generation for use on site. The highest generation month was May with 15,000 units, whereas December was the lowest with just over 3,000 units generated.



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	Q3 2026
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Total	82		
SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS & DETAILED DESIGN			
Nangle Close, Navan	12	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Kells, Archdeaconry*	22	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells*	47	Q4 2024	Q2 2026
COMBINED PLANNING STAGE & DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL	81		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Abbeylands, Navan	6	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
Total	34		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q4 2024

Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q4 2024
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q3 2025
Connaught Grove	47	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Total	266		
CONSTRUCTION SCHEMES COMPLETED			
Yellow Ford, Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	15 August 2024
Total	28		
OVERALL TOTAL	491		

***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.

The matter is now subject to Judicial Review brought by Kells Anglers Association and Ciaran O’Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála and Uisce Éireann, and Meath County Council (Notice Party) High Court No 2024 440 JR. The matter was listed for mention in the High Court in the Planning and Environment List on Monday 13 May 2024 and the hearing is expected to be scheduled for December/January.

***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.

The matter is now subject to Judicial Review brought by Kells Anglers Association and Ciaran O’Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála and Uisce Éireann, and Meath County Council (Notice Party) High Court No 2024 484 JR. The matter was listed for mention in the High Court in the Planning and Environment List on Monday 13 May 2024 and the hearing is expected to be scheduled for December/January.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 7th August 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
Duleek	Part V	14
Drogheda	Part V	34
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	45
Enfield	Part V	20
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	8
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	51
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	54
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Donacarney	Turnkey	16
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Kells	Turnkey	1
Navan	Turnkey	14
Kilmoon	CAS	1
Navan	CAS	17
Trim	CAS	14

Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		509

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 7th August 2024.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Part V	8
Bettystown	Part V	1
Dunshaughlin	Part V	8
Enfield	Part V	5
Kells	Part V	3
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	6
Drogheda	Turnkey	22
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		65

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 the 70 confirmed purchased properties. All the units were constructed to an “A” energy rating.

One 3 bed property was advertised for affordable purchase in Rowleys Lock, Navan and the closing date for applications was 8th August 2024.

A scheme of 6 houses was advertised on 14th August for 3nr. 3 bed duplexes and 3nr. 2 bed duplexes. The portal for applications will open on 29th August and close on 19th September.

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 August 2024.

Alverno Court Refurbishment:

- The final Phase 5 (6nr. units) will be completed in August 2024.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAAWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €563,533 including VAT submitted for approval to DHLGH for 2024
- To date for 2024, 46nr. LAAWS are complete and another 20nr. LAAWS are appointed to Contractors.
- An additional 6nr LAAWS have been issued recently for pricing.

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

544 applications at a value of €3,618,018 have been approved up to 31st July 2024.

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 14th August 2024. For the period from 28th June 2024 to 14th August 2024, works were completed on 13 vacant units, while 8 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	3	1	0	3	1
Kells	3	3	4	8	2
Laytown/Bettystown	1	2	0	3	0
Navan	8	6	0	5	9
Ratoath	2	0	1	1	2
Trim	4	7	1	8	4
TOTALS	21	19	6**	28	18

**Note: All six 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
Cluain Adain, Navan	32	Cluid	Q4 2024
Gardenrath, Kells	45	Cluid	Q1 2025
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	29	Respond	Q4 2024
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	39	Cluid	Q4 2024
Emmett St, Trim	12	North & East - CAS	Q4 2024
Flowerhill Lodge, Navan	5	North & East - CAS	Q4 2024
Kilmoon	1	Marillac - CAS	Q1 2025
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	182		

*Delivery Method had moved from Leasing to CALF

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 -July 2024

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st of May (Previous Reported Figure)	179 (191 Adults)	67 (119 Adults 102 Children)	246
Placements at 31st of July	173 (182 Adults)	84 (139 Adults and 120 Children)	257

Of the households with children, 75 families are placed in short term accommodation with private providers 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 31.07.2024

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	139	-	-	-	38	51	49	1
Couples	18	-	-	-	2	2	9	5
Singles	164	-	-	-	14	43	89	18
Children	120	40	41	39	-	-	-	-
Total	441	40	41	39	54	96	147	24
Families – 110 Adults & 149 Children (of these 29 are adult children)								

Adult children range from 18 - 39

Place finder 01/07/2024-31/07/2024

Total	8
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	4

Homeless Prevention	4
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Tenant Liaison Team July 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	67	29
Occupancy of Dwelling	44	33
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	44	35
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	12	8
Total Received 01/07/2024-31/07/2024	167	105

Standards in Rented Accommodation

3,305 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of July 2024. Of this figure, 1864 were first inspections, 132 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 which has now been reached.

Social Housing Supports

- 373 successful social housing applications were received for the period 1st January to 31st July 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 July 2024

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	167
Transfers	28
Approved Housing Bodies	184
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	1
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	184
Long Term Leasing	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	3
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	564

Community Development



Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

- 209 free health checks have been delivered through community pharmacies/The Irish Heart Foundation's Mobile Health Unit so far this year in Meath.
- Two focus groups took place with staff in Navan Hospital as part of a creative health and wellbeing collaborative project between Healthy Meath, Meath Arts Office, Meath Libraries, Creative Ireland, and the HSE.
- Healthy Meath's Healthy Lifestyle Campaign signs in English and Irish have been erected at six locations along the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway.
- Work has commenced with the Technological University of the Shannon on a research project to identify community-based healthy lifestyle projects across Meath with a pilot programme planned for 2025.
- Healthy Meath joined the Louth & Meath Region Regional Adult Literacy Coalition, which is being coordinated by LMETB.
- The August/September edition of The Healthy Meath Newsletter was published and is available to read [here](#). The August edition of the mental health events promotion calendar was published and is available [here](#).

Public Participation Network

- 699 groups are registered with Meath PPN.
- A social inclusion book project with Local artist Fionn Murray is taking place in GAA clubs across the county. Young people can use the characters stories and experiences and map them to their own experience and help them through difficult and stressful times. Over 300 young people have attended the workshops.

Comhairle na nÓg

- The quarter 3 meeting for the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee took place on Tuesday, 13th August 2024. Cllr. Yemi Adenuga was elected the new committee chairperson.

Meath Age Friendly

- Meath Age Friendly held a walkability audit on 24th of July in Johnstown Village.
- 1 Meath project “Senior Line” a confidential listening and support service has been shortlisted under the Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards which take place on 7th November.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- The LCDC meeting that was scheduled for 26th July did not take place due to lack of a quorum. There was no meeting scheduled for August.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

- A meeting of the Local Action Group (LAG) took place on Friday 26th July 2024.

Pride of Place

- Judging took place for the Pride of Place scheme and preparations for the annual awards night are underway.
- The IPB Price of Place judges visited Moynalty and Trim on Tuesday 6th August. The all-island awards night is due to take place on Saturday 2nd November.

National Broadband Plan

- Updated Municipal District Status Table to be circulated separately.

Local Authority Integration Team

- The Community Integration Forum met on July 23rd. There was no meeting in August.
- The LAIT continued to engage with new arrivals and local service providers.

Cases Logged YTD

Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	17
Number of Customer cases closed	617
Clinics Held YTD	82

Community Recognition Fund 2024 Window 1

€311,567 was allocated to four areas of Meath under the Community Recognition Fund 2024. Details of the projects funded are available here [€311,567 allocated to four areas of Meath under the Community Recognition Fund | Meath.ie](#)

Libraries Services



Ballivor Library

Ballivor Library opened in the former St. Kenneth's Church on July 23rd. The library is currently open 22 hours per week including one late night and a half-day on Saturday. The library offers study spaces, free Public PCs, a reasonably priced printing and photocopying facility, and WiFi. Children starting school this year can collect their Library Book Bag when they're joining the library. Book bags are available in both Irish and English.

Meath County Archives

July was a very successful month for the Archives with the completion of a pilot project with Kilmessan Men's Shed. Clare Ryan, project archivist, worked on a community-led outreach project with a group from the Men's shed. Group members attended a training session in the Archives, which included a tour of the archives, advice on family records, training on scanning of records, and an oral recording on their records.

This research will form part of Clare Ryan's dissertation for an MA in Archives and Records Management. UCD subsequently invited Meath County Archives to collaborate in replicating the project to be offered to Men's Sheds across the country.

Meath County Council received THRIVE funding for the regeneration of the St Finian's Seminary Study Hall to a new County Archive and Community Hub. This dedicated space will allow for the continuation of outreach programmes within this area.

Creative Ireland: Lullaby Leaf CPD Programme in Trim Library and Swift Cultural Centre

Lullaby Leaf is a captivating, fun-filled, and immersive sensory theatre experience for young children with additional needs and their guardian/carer. Created by Ceol Connected, this project is funded from Meath's Creative Ireland programme in 2024 and produced in association with Cavan, Monaghan and Meath County Councils, with additional support from Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan.

As part of the Lullaby Leaf project, Ceol Connected designed and facilitated a CPD workshop which took place on Friday, 28th June at Trim Library and Swift Cultural Centre. Artists and educators interested in learning skills and gaining experience in sensory arts for children with complex needs, came together for a hands-on, fun filled learning experience that should foster a supportive network dedicated to creating meaningful arts experiences for young children.



Artists and educators from County Meath attending Lullaby Leaf CPD at Trim Library and Swift Cultural Centre.

Creative Ireland: Traveller Men Creating with Pride

Meath's Creative Ireland programme recently funded a Meath Travellers' Workshop (MTW) project supporting a group of Traveller men from across County Meath to design, create and develop a St. Brigid's Grotto along with a reflective bench on the grounds of Meath Traveller's Workshop in the centre of Navan.

This intergenerational project provided an opportunity for older Traveller men to share their experience, knowledge and traditional skills with the younger Traveller generation. It also created a social outlet to develop bonds, promote good mental health and nurture and value traditional Traveller skills. The men were facilitated weekly to research the history of St Brigid and to design, create and build a grotto that will be open to the public at specific times.

Associated with fertility and new life, St. Brigid is an important part of Traveller culture. The creation of a St. Brigid's Grotto offered the opportunity for this group of Traveller men to leave a beautiful creative legacy. The Grotto will have a formal launch event at a later date.



Young Traveller men working on one of the benches for the St. Brigid's Grotto in the Michael McDonagh Training Hub on the grounds of Meath Travellers Workshop.

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"> • Dedicated website available https://www.n2slanebypass.ie detailing the project. • Awaiting notification from An Bord Pleanála for oral hearing date.
N52 Grange to Clontail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Bord Pleanála's made an order confirming the Compulsory Purchase order on the 5th June 2024. • Preparing confirmation notices for publication in September regarding the above.
National Road Resurfacing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N51 Slane to County Boundary resurfacing – work is substantially complete. • N52 Woodtown to County Boundary Pavement Scheme – contractor appointed, works scheduled to commence September 2024 with a view to be completed by Q4 2024.

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

2. (a) Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) €16,548,500

Road Works Programme

Progress to date:

Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing): 14 completed out of a total of 29 schemes

Phase 2 (Surface Dressing): 100% completed 73 locations.

Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing): 5 completed out of a total of 14 schemes

Phase 4 (Wearing Course): 2 completed out of a total of 13 schemes

CIS 2024, Works Carried Out, Roads Wearing Course bases complete: All 7 schemes have commenced

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

R162 Kilberry Phase 2B:

Works substantially completed on site – minor snags being closed out.

L6210 Newtownmoyaghy:

Draft Natura Impact Statement planning reports being reviewed in advance of an application to An Bord Pleanála for planning consent.

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

2024 Schemes Road

2024 schemes

Will they be completed in 2024

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

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

2024 DoT Schemes	
Castlecor Bridge (R154)	Consultants appointed
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	Works 75% complete
Newtown Commons Bridge Duleek	Consultants appointed
Bridge Consultants Framework	Consultants appointed
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Consultants appointed
Minor Bridge Works 2024	Contractor appointed
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Consultant appointed
Ballivor Bridge	Consultants appointed
Ashbourne Bridge	Consultants appointed
BAMS Engineering Inspections	Consultants appointed
Cookstown Bridge, Ballybin	Options being considered. Consultant to be appointed

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

1	R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall	Options being considered. Consultant to be appointed.
2	L10021 Timoole, Ashbourne MD	Options being considered.
3	L3414 Commons Road, Navan	Not started.
4	L68221 Robinstown	Not started.
5	L34036 Kearnstown Drumconrath Flood alleviation works	Works have commenced with locating, inspecting and surveying existing drainage pipes.
6	L7403 Carrickleck, Kingscourt Flood Alleviation	Not started.
7	L2803 Cormeen Flood Alleviation	Road closure procedure underway for 5th to 9th August 2024.
8	R148 Enfield Flood Alleviation	Scheduled for August 2024.
9	L40224 Griffin Park, Trim	Scheduled for August 2024.
10	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: Works commenced on-site on 12th of August in Old Cornmarket. Liaison with property owners and businesses commenced. Additional drainage CTCV surveys undertaken. On-site coordination meetings held with Gas Networks Ireland and Eir. • 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 Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) arrangements removed, and the Trim Road was opened to 2-way traffic along the entire length of the scheme. • Cycle-lanes were completed and opened for use. New traffic signals at Beechmount/Dan Shaw junction were completed and commissioned. • 3 No. new pedestrians crossings were also completed. • Works achieved Substantial Completion on the 15th of August. • Snagging works commenced.

<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant/Designers are continuing with the detailed design process for the project linking the Solstice roundabout with the Cantilever Bridge at the R151. • Options are being considered in relation to section on R147 linking with the existing bridge at R147/R151/Timmons Hill junction. • Tender drawing pack under review by the Project Team.
<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, and documents are being updated to reflect feedback to date.
<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 data from the CCTV survey. • Milestone Pavement Technologies appointed for the Pavement Survey. • Tender for Ground Investigation Survey issued.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant is currently reviewing the Blackwater Bridge record drawings, focusing on the bridge deck. • A Departure Report (Structures) for the proposed amendments to Blackwater Bridge is currently being prepared for submission to TII. • Upon completion of the Navan Traffic Modelling assessment (underway), a Transport Assessment and Departure Report (Roads) is to be prepared for submission to TII.
<p>Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designer finalising the preliminary design layout and Part 8 drawings pack. • Consultation ongoing with St Mary’s Parish in relation to proposed accommodation works.
<p>Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant/Designers are continuing with Phase 3 preliminary design process for the scheme linking Convent Road (Athlumney Castle end) with Metges Road via the R153 Kentstown Road. • Quality Audits and Stage 2 Road Safety Audit completed on the design from Beechmount to Balreask Manor.
<p>Pathfinder Scheme – R161, Navan to Trim Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Emerging Preferred Route option has been identified and Consultants/Designer has completed the draft Departures Report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel Section is continuing engagement with the designers and with the NTA on the preliminary design process. • Negotiations continuing with landowner in relation to use of existing River Clady Bridge. • NTA Gateway 2 Report and documentations submitted to NTA for approval.
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works commenced on-site on 12th of August in Old Cornmarket. • Liaison with property owners and businesses commenced. • Additional drainage CTCV surveys undertaken. • On-site coordination meetings held with Gas Networks Ireland and Eir.

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

Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works now substantial complete to north of Ballybin junction. New traffic signals to be operational at Ballybin junction before the end of August. • 90% of the scheme is now complete, with the remaining works due to be completed October 2024.
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 30km greenway is now substantially complete and open to the public. • Greenway Maintenance Maintenance contractor appointed, second cut of verges adjacent to the greenway currently been undertaken, with a further cut and greenway edge trimming scheduled for October 2024. • 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 Kells MD Councillor's. Subject to planning approval works will commence on site October 2024. • Nobber Car Park Kilbeg Road. Contractor appointed and scheduled to commence on site September 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poles Cross Car Park and Footpath Link to Gyproc and Ballinaclose. A Part 8 application for the above scheme on public display since 16th August 2024.
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5. Other Actions/ Projects

Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening determination referred to An Bord Pleanála. An Bord Pleanála confirmed on the 8th August 2024 that a Natura Impact Statement was not required.
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New Road from Kells Road to Ratholdren Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract commenced in December 2023 and program due to be completed by December 2025
Trim Millennium Pedestrian Bridge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natura Impact Statement application lodged with An Bord Pleanála. Closing date for submissions is 6th September 2024.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently works concluding in Kells, Trim and Laytown-Bettystown Municipal Districts. Further footpath repair works, and pedestrian crossings procured and to start in Navan Ashbourne and Kells Municipal Districts for the remainder of 2024.

Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

905 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 31.07.2024. This is compared to 958 in the same period in 2023.

64% of the applications received this year have been via the online portal -ePlan

2. Commencement Notices

566 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/07/2024. This is compared to 383 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	289
Multi-Units	1404** (units)
Extensions	79
Other*	19

* 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 31.07.2024.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31st July 2024 show a collection of €5,703,883. (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 June & July 2024 (€2,575,050) are due from the Department in the next couple of weeks.

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)

132 planning enforcement cases were opened to 31.07.2024

New Cases to be Investigated	26
Warning Letter	53
Enforcement Notice	9
Referred for Legal Proceedings	3
Closed	41

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

5. Planning, Heritage & Conservation Projects

THRIVE Funding Application	Meath County Council has secured €7 million in THRIVE Funding, the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme 2024, under Strand 2 for the development of Navan Cultural Quarter: Community Hub & County Archive, formerly known as St Patrick's Classical School.
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.
National Heritage Week	National Heritage Week 2024 will take place from Saturday 17th to Sunday 25th August and this year's theme, Connections, Routes, and Networks will explore the many ways we are linked through our heritage – from physical pathways like roads, canals, and trails to cultural ties through family, pastimes, history and traditions. Over 78 events took place throughout the county including walks, talks, exhibitions, family fun days and living history displays.

6. Forward Planning

Residential Zoned Land Tax	The RZLT 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 13 submissions were received in the 1 st phase and 6 submissions in relation to the 2nd phase. The Council notified the 13 landowners of retention or removal of land from the 2025 Annual Draft Maps by 1 st July 2024 and notified the 6 landowners of decision regarding a request for a change in zoning by 31 st July 2024 as required by the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended).
Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan	The Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper received a total of 153 submissions (including 4 withdrawn). These submissions are being assessed by the Meath and Louth Forward Planning Teams with a report on submissions to follow.
Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	The Draft Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth was on public display from Wednesday 19 th June to Thursday 1 st August 2024. A public information session was held on Wednesday 10 th July 2024 from 3pm to 7pm in Maynooth University. Over 1300

	submissions were received and are currently being assessed by the Forward Planning Teams of Meath and Kildare with a Chief Executive Report to follow
Navan Local Area Plan	Work is progressing on the Social Infrastructure Audit, Settlement Capacity Audit and Local Transport Plan. A Strategic Issues Paper to commence initial non-statutory consultation is being prepared by the Forward Planning Team and is envisaged to go on display in Q4 of 2024.
National Planning Framework First Revision	The Forward Planning Team are reviewing and preparing a detailed submission on the NPF First Revision which is on public display from Wednesday 10th July 2024 to Thursday 12th September 2024.
Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027	<p>Workshop to be held with the Elected Members on 6th September regarding the following Variations;</p> <p>Variation No. 3 – To incorporate the Sustainable and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2024 into the CDP & update the Age Friendly Section of the CDP.</p> <p>Variation No. 4 - To carry out a Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) for South Drogheda and zone appropriate lands to meet the household allocation for the CDP & Joint Urban Area Plan period.</p> <p>Work is also progressing on the Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) for all other settlements in the county to identify lands that are serviced (Tier 1) and lands that are serviceable (Tier 2) and settlements that have the capacity in infrastructure to facilitate development & growth in the future.</p>

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	17
Mentoring Assignments Approved	26
Attended Online Training Courses	45
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	8
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	4
Attended Financial Advice Clinics	1
LEO Grants	5
LEAN for Micro Applications	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	2
Digital For Business Applications	2

Economic Development

Following the launch of the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, the delivery of several actions is now underway including:

- commencement of works on the County Meath Centre of Business Excellence in Navan
- identifying/acquiring lands for economic development purposes & providing serviced sites to indigenous and FDI businesses
- work on the Business Profile of the County
- onboarding a number of Meath Businesses to participate in a pilot programme that will see them graduate to Enterprise Ireland and scale their business through exporting.

In addition to this, plans are underway for two Trade Delegation visits that will help to promote Meath on an international level as a potential location to investors and also present opportunities for Meath businesses looking at entering the market, in these locations. To support both visits, work on developing an FDI Guide to Meath has commenced which will highlight our strategic location, infrastructure, highly skilled workforce and strong economic sectors.

Food Development

Discover Boyne Valley Flavours have appointed Design Works to conduct a brand and website audit which is currently underway and will be completed in October 2024.

Centre of Food Culture

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley launched the recently developed website <http://www.foodcultureireland.ie> which now facilitates event bookings – upcoming events are advertised on the new website

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley was invited by the Drogheda Implementation Subgroup: Employment, Business & Enterprise, to present an update at their July meeting on The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley.



Events:

First “Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley Farm Walks Series” was held at Killua Castle Farm on Saturday 20th July with the event selling out. The educational farm walk highlighted some of the projects and practises ongoing at Killua Castle including regenerative farming and a rewilding project. Participants were made up of the farming community and those interested in learning about these farming practises.

Other events include:

- Celebrating National Heritage Week: Connecting with Martry Mill on Tuesday 20th August (booked out)
- Agroforestry Farm Walk at Rock Farm Slane on Sunday 1st September
- Apple Growing and Bee Keeping at Boyne Grove Fruit Farm (Drogheda) on Wednesday 4th September

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1st January 2024 to 16th August 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	32	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	0	
Approved by Credit Committee	23	3 relate to 2023 and 20 relate to 2024 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	9	1 relates to 2023 and 8 relate to 2024 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	3	2024 applications
Active Approvals	19.39	4.39 relate to 2023, 15 relate to 2024
Expired	20	19 relate to 2023, 1 relates to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	16.40	14.40 relate to 2023 applications, 2 relate to 2024 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2024 to 16th August 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

Assessment of grant declarations is continuing to ensure eligibility with the scheme criteria set out by the Department of Trade and Enterprise, to date 91% of applications have been assessed. Grant payments are continuing, with €4.2 paid to eligible businesses to date.

The second ICOB grant to the Retail and Hospitality sectors have also commenced, to date 1068 businesses have been paid the second grant to the value of €2m.

A total of €6.2m has been paid in grant funding to commercial customers to date.

Circular Housing 25/2024 Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

The Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) is a Government backed mortgage and loan for the purchase and renovation of derelict and non-habitable homes that qualify for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant whether derelict, non-habitable or simply vacant.

Borrowers who wish to purchase and/or renovate a Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant eligible home but cannot get sufficient funding from commercial lenders can apply for a LAPR.

The amount that can be borrowed is dependent on the type of renovation work required and the end of works value of the home. For Meath the end value of the home cannot exceed €330,000.

The 3 project types are

1. Vacant property and minor works
2. Vacant property and major works
3. Derelict (meaning renovation on a property eligible for VPRG Derelict Top-Up)

For further details of the Local Authority Home Loan, including eligibility criteria, can be found at: [Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan](#) or by contacting the Loans Section on 046 9097420 / **Email:** loansfinance@meathcoco.ie