



Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

October 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, HR Management and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Directorate for Housing and Integration

Housing Services

Directorate for Transportation, Urban Regeneration & Asset Management

Transportation

Directorate for Planning & Strategic Projects

Planning and Development

Directorate for Financial Services and Information Systems

Finance Services

Directorate for Climate Action, Culture, Community & Gaeltacht Affairs

Climate Action and Environment

Library Services

Community Development

Directorate for Economic Development, Rural Regeneration & EU Affairs

Economic Development

Tourism

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Oíche Chultúir – 20 Meán Fómhair – Ionad Pobail Dhroim Conrach

Oíche iontach go deo a bhí ann ag imeacht oíche chultúir in Ionad Pobail Dhroim Conrach in onóir do ghníomhaí Gaeilge Mháire Ní Raghallaigh. I gcomhoibriú leis an gcoiste staire i nDroim Conrach, d’eagraigh an Oifigeach Gaeilge ócáid a tharla san Ionad Pobail in ónóir do Mháire Ní Raghallaigh a rugadh sa cheantar áitiúil. Bhí caint agus cur i láthair ar siúl ar an oíche ar shaol Mháire Ní Raghallaigh, ar an tréimhse a chaith sí ina cónaí i nDroim Conrach agus an saol a bhí aici ag obair ar son na Gaeilge i mBaile Átha Claith timpeall an bhliain 1906 agus as sin amach, agus an siopa Leabhar Gaeilge a bhunaigh sí i Sráid Dorset. Chan an t-amhránaí Maria Nic Cumhaill as Gaobh Dobhair ar an oíche chomh maith le ceoltóirí ón gceantar áitiúil. Fuair Comhairle Contae na Mí maoiniú ón An tOireachtas chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc an phobail áitiúil le haghaidh imeacht oíche chultúir le heagrú.

Culture Night – 20 September – Drumconrath Community Centre

A great night was held at Drumconrath community centre at the culture night event in honour of Irish language activist Máire Ni Raghallaigh. In cooperation with the historical committee in Drumconrath, the Irish language officer organised an event in the community centre in honour of Máire Ní Raghallaigh who was born in the local district. There was a talk and presentation on the evening on the life of Máire Ní Raghallaigh, on the period she spent living in Drumconrath and the life she had working on behalf of the Irish language in Dublin around the year 1906 and then on, and the Irish language bookshop she founded in Dorset Street. The singer Maria McCool from Gweedore sang on the evening as well as musicians from the local area. Meath County Council received funding from An tOireachtas to promote the Irish language amongst the local community in organising a culture night event.



Sa phictiúr: - amhránaí Maria Nic Cumhaill & Oifigeach Gaeilge, Nóirín Murphy

In the picture: - Singer Maria McCool & Irish Language officer, Nóirín Murphy

Visit from the Ambassador of the State of Palestine

Meath County Council welcomed Ambassador Dr. Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid, Ambassador of the State of Palestine, together with her guest, Senator Frances Black, to Buvinda House.



LPT Campaign

During September, we published a social media campaign to promote the many services provided by the local property tax.



Community Climate Action Programme

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications announced the allocation of €811,000 under the Community Climate Action Programme to 25 community groups in Meath.

<p>Small Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moynalty Community Council • Ratoath Athletics Club • Castle Villa AFC • Walterstown GFC • Fr. Murphy's Athletics Club - Athboy • Moynalty Tidy Towns • Syddan GFC • Wilkinstown Community Centre • Silverlawn Residents Association • Cortown GAA Club • Meadowbank Hill Residents Association 	<p>Medium Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Vincent's GFC • Bective GFC • Dunboyne GAA • Drumree • Kilmessan Hurling Club • Bohermeen Community Centre • Summerhill Community Centre • Athboy Celtic AFC • Skyrne GFC • Boardsmill GAA 	<p>www.meath.ie</p>
<p>Large Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drewstown House • Athboy Development Forum • Trim Family Resource Centre • Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG 		

€811,000 ALLOCATED TO 25 PROJECTS IN MEATH UNDER COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

SDG Week

During SDG week, which began on Friday, September 20th, we published a digital campaign highlighting why the Sustainable Development Goals are crucial for driving sustainable transitions. Meath County Council is committed to integrating the SDGs into all aspects of our service delivery.

comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

SDG Survey




The SDG Survey provides an opportunity for local business groups, NGO's, individuals, businesses, and schools to highlight how their endeavours link with and advance the SDG's.

SDG Map



The map demonstrates the work being done in County Meath to deliver on the goals.


We want to hear about you!



We encourage your group to complete the SDG Survey to promote your contribution to the SDGs and inspire sustainability in our communities.

Simply log on to <https://bit.ly/MeathSDGs> to show your contribution to sustaining our local and global communities for the future!

Find our more at: climateactionmcc@meathcoco.ie



Electoral Commission Campaign

A campaign is ongoing to promote the many different ways you can register to vote.

An Coimisiún Toghchán
The Electoral Commission

Register to Vote!
Scan Here



www.checktheregister.ie
For more information visit
www.electoralcommission.ie

Unable to make your polling station?
You may be eligible for a postal vote!



For more information visit
www.electoralcommission.ie/accessible-voting/

Email
operations@electoralcommission.ie
to request a copy of our registration posters

Climate Action and Environment



Environment

Launch of Water Action Plan 2024

The Water Action Plan 2024 was launched by Minister of State Malcom Noonan TD on the 4TH September 2024 and representing Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan. The plan is Ireland's roadmap to protect and restore our rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters and seeks to have an additional 300 waterbodies achieve "good" status by 2027 with targeted measures to improve 500 more.

Air Quality -Solid Fuel Regulations

Effective from 31st October 2022, new regulations were introduced to improve air quality and public health by banning the sale of bituminous (smoky) coal, wet wood, and turf (with limited exceptions). These fuels are known for their high smoke emissions, which are linked to poor health outcomes.

The Council is initiating an awareness campaign in respect of violations of the Regulations and specifically the sale of smoky coal and asking members of the public to report such activity to the Environment Section.

For more information, visit the government's dedicated website: www.gov.ie/cleanair.

Composting and Recycling for Schools

Twenty Meath Schools have signed up for the comprehensive 'Composting and Recycling for schools' programme with Craig Benton and the Clean Technology Centre for 2024.

The aim of the programme is to help schools prevent waste, improve recycling and set up, start or improve on-site composting systems to reduce waste, save money and combat climate change. The programme also helps schools improve their gardening efforts and increase biodiversity around their schools. All of these activities assist schools with attaining their Green School Flags and reaching their Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the programme gives teachers access to a wide variety fun, participatory and interactive activities for school children to learn about waste prevention, recycling, composting and gardening. These activities support children's understanding of the underlying principles of ecology, biology and biodiversity that underpin all life on our planet.



Leaf Mould Pilot Project

Each year, resident associations wonder what to do with all of those autumn leaves. This year Meath County Council has introduced a pilot project across 10 estates in Navan, Ashbourne and Dunboyne, assisting residents to make a lovely weed-free compost for use within their community. With the appropriate training and resources – leaf cages, rakes, etc, they will turn their leaves into a resource, that will enhance their gardening in the future. Ten groups have been selected for this year’s pilot project which begins in October.



Green Schools Seminar

Meath County Council will co-host a seminar for all Meath wishing to take part in Green Schools Programme in October. The online event, for teachers, parents and caretakers, will provide workshops on each of the Green Schools Themes – Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Travel, Global Citizenship. Participants will get an overview of each them, and step by step

suggestions, as to how they can implement the programme in their schools. The secondary school seminars begin in September with Primary and others taking place in October.

Climate Action

Education for Sustainability

Meath County Council in collaboration with Education for Sustainability are running a 8-week module on climate literacy with seven post primary schools across County Meath.



St. Peter's College, Dunboyne
Coláiste na hInse - Bettystown
Colaiste De Lacy - Education Campus Ashbourne
Coláiste Ríoga - Dunshaughlin
Boyne Community School - Dublin Road, Trim
Franciscan College - Gormanstown
Beaufort College - Trim Road, Navan

Food Waste Awareness – Too Good to Waste



The Climate Action Section held 2 events at Buvinda and the Unity Centre Windtown on food waste awareness. The aim of these events was 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.



The events involved a presentation on the effects of food waste and ways to reuse surplus foods, following the presentation participants received nutritious sustainable food from the FoodCloud Kitchen. The Climate Action Section handed out food waste caddies on each of the days.

Special thanks to Windtown Unity Centre, Involve Group, Prosper Meath, Youth Work Ireland, Joshua Group and Navan Men's shed for helping to make the event at Windtown an enjoyable day.

SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Week 20th – 27th September 2024



This week focused on promoting awareness and driving actions towards achieving the SDGs and was launched by Cathaoirleach Councillor Sharon Tolan and Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe. Activities included making a pledge, SDG quiz, social media campaign, and awareness events and activities in conjunction with the library service.

Energy Audits

In line with our decarbonisation strategy for Meath County Council's buildings, Energy Audits have been undertaken and reports completed for four buildings. The audits analyse the current and future energy uses in the buildings, while also proposing solutions to increase the energy efficiency and decarbonise the buildings. The measures identified for upgrading in each building will contribute to our programme of upgrade works for 2025 and help continue progress to the public sector 2030 targets for CO₂ emission reductions.

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	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q3 2025
Connaught Grove	47	Q3 2024	Q1 2026
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 then 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 then hearing is expected to be scheduled for December/January.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 18th September 2024

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	39
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	40
Enfield	Part V	20
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	6
Kilbride	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	49
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Ratoath	Part V	4
Slane	Part V	2
Stamullen	Part V	2
Trim	Part V	49
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		518

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 18th September 2024.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Part V	8
Bettystown	Part V	1
Dunshaughlin	Part V	13
Enfield	Part V	5
Kells	Part V	5
Kilmessan	Part V	5

Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	9
Drogheda	Turnkey	22
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		77

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 for affordable purchase in Rowleys Lock, Navan has been allocated.

A scheme of 6 houses 3nr. 3 bed duplexes and 3nr. 2 bed duplexes closed for applications 19th September 2024 and was oversubscribed.

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. The site has been fully snag inspected. Some snags and landscaping works remain to be closed out. It is expected the Scheme will be substantially complete in September 2024.

Alverno Court Refurbishment:

Certificate for Substantial Completion for the final Phase 5 (6nr. units) was issued on 22nd August 2024.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €563,533 including VAT submitted for approval to DHLGH for 2024.
- To date for 2024, 58nr. LAAWS are complete and another 16nr. LAAWS are appointed to Contractors.
- This brings the total to 74nr. LAAWS applications scheduled to be completed in 2024.

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

550 applications at a value €3,651,636 have been approved

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 16th September 2024. For the period

from 14th August 2024 to 16th September 2024, works were completed on 12 vacant units, while 19 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	2	1	1	3	1
Kells	9	2	3	7	7
Laytown/Bettystown	3	1	0	1	3
Navan	11	4	0	5	10
Ratoath	1	1	0	1	1
Trim	6	7	3	9	7
TOTALS	32	16	7**	26	29

**Note: All seven 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	Q1 2025
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

Cost Rental

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

Homelessness -August 2024

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st of July (Previous Reported Figure)	173 (182 Adults)	84 (139 Adults 120 Children)	257
Placements at 31st of August	176 (186 Adults)	83 (138 Adults 119 Children)	259

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 31.08.2024

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	138	-	-	-	38	50	49	1
Couples	20	-	-	-	4	2	9	5
Singles	166	-	-	-	15	40	95	16
Children	119	39	40	40	-	-	-	-
Total	443	39	40	40	57	92	153	22

84 Families – 138 Adults & 119 Children (of these 29 are adult children)

Adult children range from 18 - 39

Place finder 01/08/2024-31/08/2024

Total	7
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	2
Homeless Prevention	5

Tenant Liaison Team August 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	62	29
Occupancy of Dwelling	54	45
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	34	27
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	12	6
Total Received 01/08/2024-31/08/2024	162	107

Standards in Rented Accommodation

4025 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of August 2024. Of this figure, 2248 were first inspections, 150 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

- 435 successful social housing applications were received for the period 1st January to 3^{0th} August 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 30th August 2024

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	203
Transfers	32
Transfers (RAS)	16
Approved Housing Bodies	191
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	630

Community Development



Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

- Healthy Meath joined the Louth & Meath Region Regional Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Coalition, which is being coordinated by LMETB. Health literacy is the ability to read, understand and use healthcare information.
- Work is continuing between Healthy Louth and Healthy Meath on the CommUnity Connect Programme. Further details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Public Participation Network

- 703 groups are registered with Meath PPN.
- The third round of Linkage Group meetings for 2024 will take place at the end of September and into October.
- The launch of the 'The Benefits of Journaling' by Louie & Frankie Productions took place in August as part of the Healthy Clubs project.

Comhairle na nÓg

- The Comhairle na nÓg Annual Youth Conference 2024 (formerly known as AGM), will take place on 24th October in the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan. All Meath Elected Representatives have been invited to attend this event.

Meath Age Friendly

- Meath was shortlisted under the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards again this year for Senior Line. Judging took place throughout September. The awards night will be held in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Santry, on 7th November.
- Meath Age Friendly and Healthy Meath collaborated to bring the Mobile Virtual Dementia Training Tour to visit Buvinda House on September 3rd. MCC staff members across various departments have completed specialised Dementia Awareness Training.
- There were 32 places available for customer facing staff.
- Meath Age Friendly and Meath Arts Office have created a new dance pilot scheme which was trialled in two different groups in Meath for older people. Three pilot sessions were held in September in Prosper Meath and Teach Mná Athboy.
- Meath Age Friendly joined the Louth & Meath Regional Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Coalition, which is being coordinated by LMETB.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- There was no LCDC meeting scheduled for August. A meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 27th September in the Athboy Community Centre.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

- There was no LCDC meeting scheduled for August. A meeting of the LAG took place on Friday 27th September in the Athboy Community Centre.

Pride of Place

Pride of Place awards nights have been planned as follows:

MD	Date	Location
Kells	Wednesday 25th September	Headfort Arms
Ratoath	Thursday 3rd October	Dunboyne Castle
LT/BT	Thursday 10th October	Conyngham Arms
Navan	Tuesday 29th October	Ardboyne
Trim	Wednesday 13th November	Trim Castle
Ashbourne	Tuesday 5th November	Pillo Hotel
Final	Thursday 28th November	Ardboyne

The IBP Pride of Place awards night will take place in The Hillgrove Hotel in Monaghan on Saturday 2nd November. Meath will be represented by Trim and Moynalty in the population categories.

Local Authority Integration Team

- The Community Integration Forum met on September 4th.
- A new International Protection accommodation site opened at Flax Mill House, Navan on Friday 13th September with 8 new arrivals, the site can accommodate up to 70 when stage 2 is completed.

Referrals Logged YTD

Number of Customer referral cases active	19
Number of Customer referral closed	768
Clinics Held	101

During September, the LAIT Support Workers continued the yearly progression and conducted 11 on-site clinics at IP (international protection) and Ukrainian centres throughout Meath.

These clinics facilitated with the assistance of centre management addressed issues for new arrivals in such areas of education & training (23% of all referrals), accommodation queries (15%), employment (14%), health (11%), community engagement (11%) and transport (9%) with childcare youth support and general living/social welfare questions comprising the bulk of the remainder.

All referral matters were handled by the stakeholders of the Community Integration Forum.

Libraries Services



My Open Library Trim

Following a successful trial period of *My Open Library*, Trim library is now offering this service to users following an induction session. The new *My Open Library* service means that registered My Open Library users will be able to access Trim Library from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week.

National Public Libraries Open Day

National Public Libraries Open Day promotes the role of public libraries in Irish society and raises awareness of the broad range of services provided. The Day is taking place on Saturday, 28th September, with 300+ libraries across Ireland marking it through activities, events and celebrations.

To mark the Day, Meath library staff will be delivering outreach eServices roadshows in Trim and Bettystown. Staff will demonstrate the array of services, beyond the borrowing of books, that are part of the library membership benefits, including eAudiobooks, eBooks, eMagazines, online courses and online language learning. All libraries will host a free STEAM Saturday event. This will be a great opportunity for parents and children to build, learn and play together using specially selected toys and games with a focus on creativity and imagination through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. The spotlight event for the National Public Libraries Open Day is the visit of The BFG to Navan and Trim Libraries.

People are encouraged to visit their local library for National Public Libraries Open Day and join the 784,000 people, equating to around one in six of the population, who enjoy the benefits of library membership.

Meath County Archives

The archives were involved in three events for Heritage Week in August 2024. Archivist Patricia Fallon opened an exhibition in Moynalty Steam Threshing Museum, a collaboration between the archive and the museum. The exhibition was well attended, falling at the end of the Moynalty Threshing Week Festival.

County Archivist Patricia Fallon and Project Archivist Clare Ryan attended, and spoke at, an afternoon of talks with the Kilmessan Men's Sheds. This event was the culmination of months of work between the archive and the men's sheds and had a considerable attendance, both from men's sheds across the county, and the local community

The archive service also hosted an afternoon session in Navan library, where attendees had an introduction on to how to care for their family archives. This is the second year this session was part of the Heritage Week Events in Meath and it continues to be a very popular event.

The archives will continue their links with each of these groups and their projects.

Local Studies

Meath Libraries Local Studies Department and Meath Archaeological & Historical Society (sponsor of the festival) will be represented by Local Studies librarian Tom French at the inaugural Séan Corcoran Festival which takes place in Drogheda on 6, 7 and 8 September.



County Archivist Patricia Fallon and Project Archivist Clare Ryan with the Kilmessan Men's Sheds for Heritage Week 2024.

Transportation Services



1. National Roads

Funding Source	TII
Grant Allocation	€18,254,967 (including Greenways €3,140,000)

Scheme	Update
National Road Resurfacing	N51 Slane to County Boundary resurfacing – work is substantially complete. N52 Woodtown to County Boundary Pavement Scheme, works commenced September 2024 and due to be completed in December 2024

2. Non - National Roads

Funding Source	DoT
Grant Allocation	€25,143,640

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

Grant Allocation	€16,548,500
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Scheme	Update
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	95% complete
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)	Complete
Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)	80% complete
Phase 4 (Wearing Course)	71% complete
CIS Works Carried Out, Roads Wearing Course bases complete	87% complete

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

Scheme	Update
R162 Kilberry Phase 2B	Works substantially completed on site; minor snags being closed out.
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	Draft Natura Impact Statement planning reports reviewed and being updated in advance of an application to An Bord Pleanála for planning consent.
R162 Navan to Kingscourt Rd (Lisnagrew)	Consultants appointed to investigate on-going subsidence issue.
R156 Mullagh Cross	Emerging preferred option identified and prelim design progressing. Part 8 planning process currently expected to commence Q4 2024.

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

Grant Allocation	€362,500
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Scheme	Update
R149 – Stirling	Design complete. Tender documents being finalised.
R132 – Keenoge	Design complete. Contractor appointed. Works scheduled to commence October 2024.
R163/L7141 - Junction Gibbstown	Works commenced September 2024.
L4010 – Bective Junction	Design and preparation of tender documents progressing.
L1006 - Cabinhill Crossroads	Works completed September 2024.

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Grant Allocation	€672,500
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Scheme	Update
Castlecor Bridge (R154)	Design options being progressed.
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	Works complete.
Newtown Commons Bridge Duleek	Design options being progressed.
Bridge Consultants Framework	Framework established. Complete
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Design options being progressed.
Minor Bridge Works 2024	Works scheduled to commence September 2024.
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Design options being progressed.
Ballivor Bridge	Design options being progressed.
Ashbourne Bridge	Design options being progressed.
BAMS Engineering Inspections	Inspections 50% complete.
Cookstown Bridge, Ballybin	Tender documents for procurement of consultants being prepared.

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation	€545,500
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Scheme	Update
R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall	Tender documents for procurement of consultants being prepared.
L10021 - Timoole, Ashbourne	Topographical survey carried out. Flood impacts being assessed for consideration in design details.
L3414 - Commons Road, Navan	Drainage works currently in progress.
L68221- Robinstown	Drainage upgrade works are completed.
L34036 - Kearnstown Drumconrath - Flood alleviation works	Works have been completed.
L7403 - Carrickleck, Kingscourt - Flood alleviation works	Drainage works and raising the road level works are in progress.
L2803 - Cormeen Flood Alleviation	Works have been completed.
R148 - Enfield - Flood alleviation works	Works have been completed.
L40224 - Griffin Park, Trim	Works have been completed.

2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation	€750,000
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Scheme	Update
R147-37 (Former N3)	Complete

3.Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	NTA
Grant Allocation	€14,000,000

Scheme	Update
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Contract 3: snagging and close out works ongoing. Contract 5: Works continuing (see below update for Contract 5). Kennedy Road Kiosk Building detailed design work continuing.

Scheme	Update
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	Snagging and close out works continuing on the Trim Road Phase 1. ESB poles removed and replaced with steel poles and new public lighting to Connolly Avenue. Stage 3 RSA completed and findings under review by Designer.
Fairgreen to Johnstown	Consultant/Designers are continuing with the detailed design process for the project linking the Solstice roundabout with the Cantilever Bridge at the R151. Meeting held to NTA to agree interim shared space facility on R147 section.
NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	Consultants/Designer are continuing with the detailed design process. Comments from a review of draft tender documents are currently being collated by the Project Team.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	The CCTV drainage survey has been completed. The consultant is undertaking a review the deliverables, which will inform their detailed design. The pavement condition survey has commenced and is scheduled for completion at the end of the month, with deliverables to be issued to the consultant. The tender assessment for the Ground Investigation Survey is currently underway. A contractor is expected to be appointed in the coming weeks. The tender documents for the Slit Trenches were prepared and are to be issued at the beginning of next month. The consultant has prepared optioneering drawings to demonstrate compatibility of the current scheme with the planned pedestrian shared foot and cycle bridge over the Blackwater River into Blackwater Park.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Following a meeting with the NTA, the draft Emerging Preferred Option drawings have been updated to include 2 No. Bus Stops along the N51 inner relief road, west of the Round ‘O’ roundabout. The consultant is currently reviewing the Blackwater Bridge drawings, focusing specifically on the bridge deck. A TII Departures 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 (currently underway by a separate Design Team), a Transport Assessment and Departure Report (Roads) will be prepared for submission to TII. The Consultant is currently also drafting the TII Preliminary Design report, Outlines Structures Report, Structures

	Options Report, Options Selection Report – incorporating revised scope for N51, and a Feasibility Report.
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Scheme	Update
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	Designer finalising the preliminary design layout and Part 8 drawings pack. The Consultant is currently preparing a Gateway 3 Report and associated deliverables for submission to the NTA.

Scheme	Update
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	Consultant/Designers are continuing with design work for the scheme linking Convent Road (Athlumney Castle end) with Metges Road via the R153 Kentstown Road. Designers continuing work on the Options Selection Report and the Elmpark/R153 junction. A review of potential impacts on private lands and associated implications is underway. In relation to Beechmount to Balreask Manor, the Gateway 3 Report and associated documents are currently being completed and anticipated to issue to the NTA for approval next month. In relation to Balreask Manor to Balreask Cross, the Draft options Selection report is being finalised by the Consultant Team and is to issue with draft Concept Design drawings next month.

Scheme	Update
Pathfinder Scheme R161, Navan to Trim Scheme	NTA Gateway 2 Report and documentations approved by the NTA. Section 38 non-statutory consultation commenced. Presentations given to Navan and Trim Municipal Districts.

Scheme	Update
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Works commenced in Fairgreen car park and are continuing in Old Cornmarket. Watermain installation and test completed for section of new mains in Cornmarket. Excavation works to area adjacent to Circular Road/Fairgreen junction completed, tree removal and

	excavations commenced to rear of retaining wall on Circular Road. Building condition surveys completed. Liaison with property owners and businesses continuing.
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Scheme	Update
Safe Routes to School	Upgraded footpaths and pedestrian crossings with traffic calming works to Ashbourne Education Campus.

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
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Scheme	Update
Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	Works now substantial complete to north of Ballybin junction. Traffic signals at Ballybin now fully commissioned. Final surfacing works to be completed early October.

Scheme	Update
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	
Greenway Maintenance	Second cut of verges adjacent to the greenway now completed. Final cut of the year and greenway edge trimming scheduled for October 2024.
Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan	Works substantially complete, awaiting ESB connection in order to complete public lighting.
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibstown Car Park	Tender assessment to be completed in October and works to commence in November
Nobber Car Park Kilbeg Road	Contractor appointed and scheduled to commence on site 30th September 2024.
Poles Cross Car Park and Footpath Link to Gyproc and Ballinaclose	Part 8 application for the above scheme on public display since 16th August 2024.

5. Other/Projects

Scheme	Update
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	Planner Report now complete and will be presented to the Kells MD October Meeting.

Scheme	Update
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New Road from Kells Road to Ratholdren Road.	On going

Scheme	Update
Trim Millennium Pedestrian Bridge.	Natura Impact Statement application lodged with An Bord Pleanála. Closing date for submissions was 6th September 2024. Submissions received being reviewed and response to ABP being drafted.

Scheme	Update
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works.	Footpath repair works to commence Woodview Navan and Garden City Ashbourne.

Scheme	Update
Refurbishment of Boardwalk on the Boyne Greenway	Public consultation on NIS on-going construction due to commence in October 2024

Scheme	Update
R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming Scheme	Non Statutory Section 38 proposed traffic calming at northern end of Wilkinstown on public display until 10th October.

Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

1047 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 31.08.2024. This is compared to 1103 in the same period in 2023.

65% of the applications received this year have been via the online portal -ePlan

2. Commencement Notices

631 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/08/2024. This is compared to 415 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	319
Multi-Units	1740** (units)
Extensions	95
Other*	23

* 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 31.08.2024.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31st August 2024 show a collection of €5,527,612. (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 & August 2024 (€4,367,550) are due to be receipted from the Department.

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)

144 planning enforcement cases were opened to 31.08.2024

New Cases to be Investigated	38
Warning Letter	56
Enforcement Notice	11
Referred for Legal Proceedings	3
Closed	47

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

5. Forward Planning

Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	Draft Joint LAP was on display from 19 th June until 1 st August 2024. There were 1311 submissions received. The CE Report on submissions was circulated to the Elected Members of both Meath and Kildare County Councils on 10/09/24. The Special Meeting to consider the CE Report will be held on 21/10/24. Envisaged that Material Alterations will go on display in early November 2024.
National Planning Framework First Revision	The Forward Planning Team are reviewing and finalising a detailed submission on the NPF First Revision which was on public display from Wednesday 10th July 2024 to Thursday 12th September 2024.
Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027	<p>Workshop was 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. It is envisaged that this variation will go on public display in October 2024.</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. It is envisaged that this variation will go on public display in November/December 2024.</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. Potential new zonings, amended zonings and revised housing targets from NPF review will be incorporated into CDP by this future variation.</p> <p>An update on the Forward Planning Work Programme for 2024/2025 was also provided at the workshop.</p>

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	10
Mentoring Assignments Approved	26
Attended Online Training Courses	67
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	6
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	3
LEAN for Micro Applications	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	2
Women in Business & Tech September Event	12

Economic Development

The following is an update on some of the actions from the Meath Economic Development Forum Action Plan:

- Works are progressing well on the County Meath Centre of Business Excellence in Navan
- Work is continuing with a number of Meath Businesses in a pilot programme that will see them graduate to Enterprise Ireland and potentially scale their business through exporting.

Details of the trade delegation to Toronto, Canada in October are being finalised, with meetings scheduled with the Consulate General of Ireland, the IDA and Enterprise Ireland, as well as Tourism Ireland. To support the visits, work is continuing on developing an FDI Guide to Meath highlighting our connectivity and competitive advantages.

A comprehensive Business Supports Pack outlining the range of services, training and supports available is currently being finalised for small and medium local businesses. A digital version will then follow.

Food Development

Work is progressing on the programme of actions outlined in the new Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy 2024 – 2028. Two local food masterclass workshops took place during September, one on line and one in Lismullen Cookery School.

A review of the Discover Boyne Valley Flavours brand is underway to ensure that the messaging is effective for engagement with customers, stakeholders and members of the network. The final report should be available by the start of Quarter 4.

Centre of Food Culture

Events/Work Programme

- Agroforestry Farm Walk at Rock Farm Slane took place on Sunday 1st September, 2024.
- Irish Cheeseboard Masterclass for Restaurants scheduled for 21st October, 2024.
- Planning for the Samhain Festival, which will take place from 7th to 10th November, is well underway.
- Development of the strategy for the Transition Year Young Cooks competition is continuing in partnership with the sponsors etc.

Tourism



Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2024 – 2030

The new joint Tourism Strategy will be completed and launched on October 4th at a breakfast Launch at Emerald Park. The new strategy sets out an ambitious target to become *One of the Leading Experiential Destinations in the World*. With 7 strategic objectives and 6 key transformational Projects, this strategy will lead the Boyne Valley destination forward into a new era of tourism development signifying its movement into the international recognition.

Feile Siamsa Glas at the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway

Féile Siamsa Glas took place over the weekend of 14th and 15th September. The festival celebrated the Boyne Valley's recently launched Greenway, combined with an opportunity to experience the unique Irish language and culture of Meath's Gaeltacht Baile Ghib. The purpose of the festival is to spread the economic benefit of tourism to the North Meath economy.

The festival included events at 5 villages along the Greenway. The flagship event was the Outdoor Immersive Theatre piece 'The Journey' at Wilkinstown Platform, where approximately 500 people participated over both days. The festival also included printing workshops, Toraíocht Taisce /Treasure Hunts at Kilmainhamwood, meditation, children's events and music at Wilkinstown, ceilí, biodiversity walks and sports for families at Baile Ghib and ceol agus craic at Castletown and Oristown. A key feature of the festival was to experience the Greenway where the Bodhrán Biking took place. The festival closed with the Cultural Concert in Nobber.

Oris Funding

The announcement of Oris funding for the Boyne valley to Lakelands Greenway in June will form part of a huge investment in Outdoor Adventure Tourism in Meath. This will include provision of information panels, benches and planting as well as creation of a website with comprehensive visitor information.

Spire of Lloyd Guided Tours

The pilot project of guided tours of the Spire of Lloyd will come to a close on September 27th. There are additional tours being scheduled for October 30th and 31st at 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm which will be themed on Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival.

Meath Business and Tourism Awards

Sponsored by Meath County Council and Boyne valley Tourism, the Meath Business and Tourism Awards is a celebration of the successes of local businesses across County Meath. The deadline for nominations for the awards for 2024 was 20th September with a shortlist due to be announced soon who will go forward to present their business at the Pitch night. The Awards night will take place on Friday 8th November at Knightsbrook Hotel. We wish all participants every success with their nominations.

Púca Local Launch

The Púca Local Launch will take place at the Swift Theatre on Wednesday 2nd October from 6pm with Tom Dunne as MC and performances from Jennifer Leahy, Meath harpist and a spectacular performance from Broken Theatre. Meath County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sharon Tolan and Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe will both speak at the event along with Fáilte Ireland as key stakeholders.

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1 st January 2024 to 20 th September 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	43	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	2	2024 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	2024 application
Approved by Credit Committee	26	3 relate to 2023 and 23 relate to 2024 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	9	1 relates to 2023 and 8 relate to 2024 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	10	2024 applications
Active Approvals	20.20	4.20 relate to 2023, 16 relate to 2024
Expired	27	20 relate to 2023, 7 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	17.52	14.52 relate to 2023 applications, 3 relate to 2024 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2024 to 20th September 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 payment of ICOB grants is now substantially complete with 99% of valid applications now processed. The Department of Trade and Enterprise have advised that the scheme will close on Friday 27th September 2024. Rates staff are liaising with customers on the outstanding information required to process their grant application.

A total of €7.4m has been paid in grant funding to over 2600 commercial customers. €2.6 of this funding was paid to 1477 customers in the retail and hospitality sectors who received the second ICOB grant payment.