



Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

December 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

An Plean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge – I dTreo Seirbhís Phoiblí Dhátheangach

Tharla seisiún eolais ar line d’fhoireann san earnail phoiblí ar an 30 Deireadh Fómhair maidir leis an bPlean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge. Tá Coiste Comhairleach i bhfeidhm sa Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Meán ó 20 Meitheamh 2022; agus tá suirbhé agus taighde críochnaithe acu le haghaidh spriocanna an phlean Náisiúnta a chur le chéile. Bíonn gach comhlacht poiblí, Comhairle Chontae na Mi ina measc ag fáil treoirlínte agus ceistneoirí mar chuid den phróiseas seo. Tá an Roinn tiomanta do dhátaí réalaíocha agus inoibrithe a shocrú le comhlachtaí poiblí.

The National Plan for Irish Language Public Services – Towards a Bilingual Public Service

An online information session for staff in the public sector took place on 30 October regarding the National Plan for Irish language public services. There is an advisory committee in place in the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media since 20 June 2022; and there is research and a survey completed by them towards putting together objectives for the National Plan. Every local authority, Meath County Council included has been receiving questionnaires and guidelines as part of this process. The Department is committed to agreeing realistic and workable dates with public bodies.

Am Scéalaíochta - Ráth Chairn

Mar chuid den tacaíocht a thugann Oifig na Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae na Mi don cheantar Gaeltachta Ráth Chairn agus Baile Ghib, bhí maoiníú curtha ar fáil ar choiste na dtuismitheoirí Ráth Chairn, chun am scéalaíochta le scealaí Dónal Mullen a eagrú, agus tharla an ócáid seo ar an Sathairn 9 Samhain.

Storytime – Ráth Chairn

As part of the support the Meath County Council Irish language office gives to the Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib district, there was funding made available to the Ráth Chairn parents committee to organise storytime with storyteller Dónal Mullen, and this event took place on Saturday 9 November.

Trim Tidy Towns Civic Reception

On Wednesday, November 20, Trim MD hosted a Civic Reception to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the Trim Tidy Towns Committee and the Trim Community in this year's International Communities in Bloom competition.



Think Meath First

We have launched our Christmas Think Meath First (Shop Local) social media campaign, which will run until Christmas, featuring multiple assets with Meath-based images.



Alzheimers Awareness Month

We supported Alzheimers Awareness Month by lighting up Meath landmarks teal.



Check the Register Campaign

We conducted a social media campaign for Check the Register before and immediately after the election announcement.



MD Christmas Tree Light Up



A festive poster for the 2024 Christmas Lights event. The background is dark blue with white snowflake patterns and icicles at the top. A green banner in the top right corner says '2024'. The title 'Christmas Lights' is in large white font. A Santa hat icon is on the left. The schedule is a table with colored rows for each date and location. At the bottom, there are three logos and the text 'comhairle chontae na mí meath county council'.

Date	Location	Time
NOV 22	Ashbourne	18:00pm
NOV 28	Trim	17:30pm
NOV 29	Navan	17:30pm
NOV 30	Bettystown	18:00pm
NOV 30	Dunboyne	20:00pm
DEC 01	Kells	16:30pm

comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Climate Action and Environment



Climate Action

Púca Festival 2024 – The Spirit of Sustainability



Meath County Council's Climate Action Section co-hosted the Spirit of Sustainability tent at this year's Púca Festival. Numerous events were held over the weekend with demonstrations on how to use the Home Energy Saving Kits and free composting caddy bins and goodies available to all attendees. Panel discussions on Making Festivals and Events Sustainable, Off-Grid Living & Traditional Methods, Recycling Furniture Tips, and the "Forbidden Food" demonstration on food waste and composting were some of the highlights over the festival.

The Climate Action Section would like to thank all who attended and the Púca Festival Organisers for facilitating the Spirit of Sustainability.

Samhain Festival – Food and Culture



Meath County Council's Climate Action Section were delighted to attend this year's Samhain Festival in Kells where festival attendees learned about reducing their food waste and composting with free Caddy bins available and the benefits of the Home Energy Saving Kits available to borrow from all local libraries. Events held included a "Forbidden Foods" discussion and a "No Waste, All Taste" demonstration.

The Climate Action Section would like to thank all who attended and the Samhain Festival Organisers for facilitating the event.

Environment

Leaf Mould Pilot Project

Forty-five leaf mould cages were rolled out to three communities as a pilot project to assist communities to deal with fallen leaves and to create quality compost.

Each participating group attended a workshop by Craig Benton, Master Composter, and took ownership of the cages in their local area.

The scheme will be extended across the county in 2025.



(Johnstown Tidy Towns)

School Gardens

Meath County Council continues to provide support to provide support to schools for the development of school gardens including sensory gardens, grow your own food projects, polytunnels etc

The gardens allow the schools to provide hands-on training to young people, allowing them to understand nature, biodiversity, soil and water management, food production etc.



(Polytunnel at Mercy Secondary School for food production)

Transfer of Veterinary Services to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) are the Central Competent Authority responsible for the enforcement of all food legislation.

For many years now Meath County Council like other Local Authorities have in accordance with Service Contracts been carrying out functions on behalf of the FSAI in ensuring the safety of food and including various aspects of the food production chain.

Such functions are primarily carried out by the Local Authority Veterinary Inspector and assisted by Temporary Veterinary Inspectors and involve inspections of slaughter plants and applying official controls relating to ante-mortem and post-mortem activities.

All funding relating to the carrying out of the functions under the Service Contract are recoupable from the FSAI.

Following extensive discussions between various stakeholders including the LGMA on behalf of the Local Authority Sector, the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, and the FSAI the Veterinary Services of all local Authorities is transferring to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine from the 1st January 2025 as government policy.

Arrangements are at an advanced stage in terms of this formal transfer.

Public Consultation on the Additional Measures for Ireland’s Fifth Nitrates Action Programme and the associated Natura Impact Statement

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien, T.D., invites submissions, observations and comments on the additional measures for the Fifth Nitrates Action Programme and the associated Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is given effect by European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113 of 2022), as amended. The regulations contain specific measures to protect surface waters and groundwater from nutrient pollution arising from agricultural sources. The additional measures for the Fifth Nitrates Action Programme have been developed following an interim review, which identified that more action is needed to achieve improved water quality.

Further details on the consultation can be viewed at the following address:

[gov.ie - Public Consultation on the Additional Measures for Ireland’s Fifth Nitrates Action Programme and the associated Natura Impact Statement](#)

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	Q2 2025	Q1 2027
Church Street, Kells	3	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Total	82		
SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS & DETAILED DESIGN			
Kells, Archdeaconry*	22	TBC	TBC
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells*	47	TBC	TBC
COMBINED PLANNING STAGE & DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL	69		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2025	Q4 2025
Total	34		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Q4 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	479		

***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 11th November 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
Donacarne	Part V	2
Duleek	Part V	14
Drogheda	Part V	34

Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	38
Enfield	Part V	20
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	6
Navan	Part V	36
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Ratoath	Part V	4
Slane	Part V	4
Stamullen	Part V	2
Summerhill	Part V	6
Trim	Part V	49
Ballivor	Turnkey	8
Bettystown	Turnkey	36
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Donacarney	Turnkey	16
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Kells	Turnkey	1
Kilmessan	Turnkey	4
Navan	Turnkey	14
Kilmoon	CAS	1
Navan	CAS	17
Trim	CAS	14
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		493

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 11th November 2024.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Part V	8
Bettystown	Part V	1
Dunshaughlin	Part V	15
Enfield	Part V	5
Kells	Part V	5
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	5

Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	21
Bettystown	Turnkey	40
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		111

Affordable Housing

One Part V, 3 bed property which was made available for affordable purchase in Rowley's Lock, Navan has been allocated, close of sale imminent.

Six properties 3nr. 3 bed duplexes and 3nr. 2 bed duplexes were made available under the Scheme in Beaufort, Boyne Village, Navan. Four have been allocated. Delivery is expected in March 2025.

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. Traveller specific 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 December 2024.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €566,107.78 including VAT submitted for approval to DHLGH for 2024.
- To date for 2024, 72nr. LAAWS are complete and another 2nr. 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

706 applications to the value of €4,506,707.60 have been approved and notified.

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

- Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as of 20th November 2024. For the period from 14th October 2024 to 20th November 2024, works were completed on 5 vacant units, while 9 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	4	2	1	5	2
Kells	10	2	3	8	7
Laytown/Bettystown	4	0	0	0	4
Navan	7	7	3	8	9
Ratoath	2	1	0	1	2
Trim	6	5	2	10	3
TOTALS	33	17	9**	32	27

**Note: All of these properties are major refurb works 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	Q2 2025
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	29	Respond	Q4 2024
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	39	Cluid	Q4 2024
Emmett St, Trim	12	North & East - CAS	Q2 2025
Flowerhill Lodge, Navan	5	North & East - CAS	Q1 2025
Kilmoon	1	Marillac - CAS	Q1 2026
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2026
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q4 2026
St. Loman Street, Trim	2	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2026
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

54 Affordable Cost rental units are due to be delivered in Woodstream, Bailis, Navan, Co. Meath by the end of Q4 2024.

Homelessness October 2024

Placements	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 30th of September (Previous Reported Figure)	180 (188 Adults)	83 (133 Adults 125 Children)	263
Placements at 31st of October	172 (178 Adults)	85 (142 Adults, 129 Children)	257

Of the households with children, 76 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 a 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 31/10/2024

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	-	-	-	-	41	51	49	1
Couples	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	1
Singles	-	-	-	-	10	46	95	15
Children		48	43	38	-	-	-	-
Total		48	43	38	52	101	150	17

85 Families – 142 Adults & 129 Children (of these 25 are adult children)

Adult children range from 18 - 39

Place finder 01/10 /2024-31/10/2024

Total	7
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	4
Homeless Prevention	3

Tenant Liaison Team October 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	69	25
Occupancy of dwelling	54	44
Garden upkeep/maintenance	37	30
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	4	3
Total 01/10/2024 - 31/10/2024	164	102

Standards in Rented Accommodation

5,443 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of October 2024. Of this figure, 2,675 were first inspections, 172 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 - for the period 1st of January to 31st October 2024.

- 1,431 applications for Social Housing received.
- 578 applications were approved onto the Social Housing List.
- 194 applications were unsuccessful.

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 October 2024

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	281
Transfers	45
Approved Housing Bodies	195
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	1
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	244
Long Term Leasing	4
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	6
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	776

Community Development



Public Participation Network

710 groups are registered with Meath PPN.

12 of 13 Community representative positions have been filled across the SPCs.

Staff and Secretariat represented Meath at the National Conference in Limerick

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The October LCDC meeting did not take place due to lack of a quorum. The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for 22nd November 2024.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

The October LAG meeting did not take place due to a lack of quorum. The next meeting of the LAG is scheduled for 22nd November, 2024.

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025

The Department of Rural and Community Development launched the LEP on 7th November 2024 by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD. This funding will be administered by the Meath LCDC. The total allocation for Meath LCDC, including both the capital and current allocation is: €222,536. Further details on how to apply will be released in the coming weeks.

2024 Dormant Accounts Funding - LGBTI+

Meath LCDC has received €10,000 for a Community Wellbeing Programme project under the 2024 Dormant Accounts Funding - LGBTI+. This project will be delivered in 2025.

Pride of Place

The school Pride of Place scheme launched in November. The scheme is open to Preschools and Montessori's, judging will take place in May 2025.

County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Meath County Council have been successful in securing funding, in collaboration with Meath Local Sports Partnership, to engage a consultant to develop Meath's Outdoor Recreation Plan 2024 – 2029. Following a competitive tender process, consultants have been appointed and work on the preparation of the plan has commenced.

Local Authority Integration Team

The LAIT (Local Authority Integration Team) was notified by the Department of Children about the closure of Kells Reception Centre. The LAIT met with the 80 guests on Friday 15th November - day of

announcement to advise of their transfers to The Bridewell, Kells, Tara Na Ri, Navan and Dalys of Donore. Guests will transfer on 2nd December 2024.

ISW, (Integration Support Workers) ISC (Integration Support Coordinator and ASW (Admin Support Worker) networking meetings – online were conducted in line with all local authorities.

Events – Migrants in Rural Areas – online via the University of Galway were attended, alongside “To say or go” – the future of Ukrainians (online), Global Citizenship via Meath Partnership and 1000 days via the Ukrainian Civil Forum were attended.

Training conducted for staff – GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and Minute taking.

Referrals Logged YTD

Number of Customer referral cases active	14
Number of Customer referral closed	852
Clinics Held	138

Libraries Services



Archives

Meath County Archives worked with the Local Government Archivists and Record Managers Network (LGARM) and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on a publication and digital exhibition to mark the 125th Anniversary of the first local elections in Ireland.

Building on material produced for a traveling exhibition in 2019, “125 Years of Local Government in Ireland” explores the history of Irish local government, including those pivotal first local elections in 1899, as well as examining some of the important services provided by local councils across the country, and their evolution over the past 125 years.

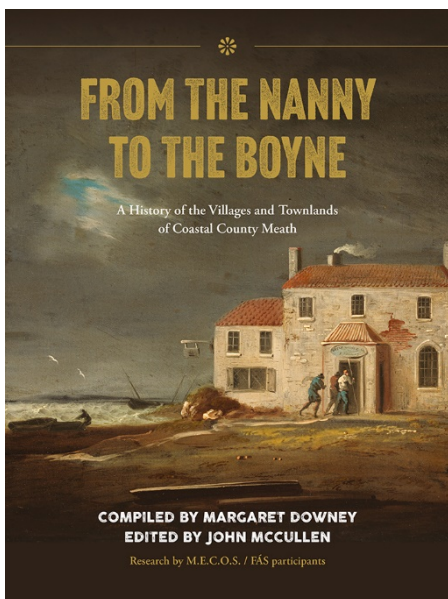
Minister of State Alan Dillon announced the exhibition and booklet for Local Government with LGARM chair Louise Kennedy highlighting the importance of archives within local government:

Meath County Archives received two boxes of the publication. A copy of the publication has been distributed to every elected member and one copy added to the corporate publications library. Every library in Meath will also have one copy available for borrowing.

Local Studies

From the Nanny to the Boyne: A History of the Villages and Townlands on the Coast of County Meath was published in 1999 by Meath East Co-operative Society Ltd. The book was compiled as a FÁS Community Employment Project under the direction of Meath East Co-operative Society Ltd. It was the first publication on the subject of coastal County Meath to provide a comprehensive overview of the area.

The book has been out of print for a number of years, and the new revised and expanded edition, will help the growing population of east Meath to engage more fully with their area and to gain a fuller understanding of its history. This project was funded by Creative Ireland and a launch will take place in Bettystown library at a later date.



Science Week

Science Week Ireland (10-17 November) is an annual event with events scheduled across the country. It aims to make science interesting and accessible to everyone whilst developing creativity in children.

With events from making slime to exploring forces, and from beautiful boglands to fantastic fungi this year's festival in Meath Libraries encouraged schoolchildren to discover the wonders of science in their everyday lives. The programme of talks and hands-on workshops were fun and interactive and designed to spark their curiosity.

Close to 1200 children and families attended events during Science Week 2024.

EU Post-Primary Debate

Coláiste De Lacy students were worthy winners of the EU Debate Competition organised by Meath County Council Library Service. They delivered a remarkable performance opposing the motion that 'The EU has brought peace and prosperity to Europe', overcoming challenges from Eureka Secondary School in a fiercely contested final.

This year's debate series was supported by the Communicating Europe Initiative and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The event was chaired by Executive Librarian Mary Murphy at the European Food and Veterinary Centre in Grange on October 25th. The judging panel included Cllr Aisling Dempsey, Ms. Pilar Aguar, the director of the EU centre at Grange and Shauna Henry, Senior Executive Librarian from Meath County Council.



Photo of the Winning Team from Coláiste De Lacy College, with County Librarian Maedhbh Rogan-McGann, Executive Librarian Mary Murphy, EU Commission Director Pilar Aguar, Teacher David Hopkins, Cllr Aisling Dempsey and Senior Executive Librarian Shauna Henry.

Writer-in-Residence

Meath County Council Library Service appointed renowned Author Brian Gallagher as Writer-in-Residence to work with three schools in East Meath on a project inspired by the destruction of a railway bridge on the main Dublin to Belfast line prior to the Battle of Drogheda.

A full-time writer, whose plays and short stories have been produced in Ireland, Britain and Canada, Brian's work also includes a large collection of historical fiction for children and young adults, including *Pawns*, *Friend Or Foe* and *Taking Sides*. Over the course of six weeks, Brian worked with classes in Scoil an Spiorad Naoimh, Laytown, Réalt na Mara BNS, Donacarney and Whitecross National School, to delve into the events of July 1922, and to guide them in using the facts to create their own piece of historical fiction. The budding writers learned about the importance of plotting and characterisation, as well as the importance of cover artwork and satisfying endings.

The Programme was launched in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Laytown on Monday, November 11 by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr Sharon Tolan and Director of Services, Barry Lynch.

This is the third Writer-in-Residence Programme organised by Meath County Council Library Service, and the combination of local history, creative writing and art has proven highly beneficial for teachers and students alike.

Once completed, the three classes will have their original works uploaded to BorrowBox, a free-to-use online service for library members, where they can be downloaded as eBooks for their friends and families to enjoy.

Creative Ireland

Creativity in Healthcare

This project, taking place in Our Lady's Hospital Navan, is focussed on improving the health and wellbeing of staff in the hospital setting through arts and creativity. It is a collaborative piece of work between MCC Creative Communities, Healthy Meath, HSE Health Promotion, MCC Arts Office and MCC Libraries. The project aims and objectives are supported by the 2019 WHO Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report 67 on the evidence of the role of the arts in improving health and wellbeing.

Staff focus groups took place within Our Lady's Hospital Navan in June and July 2024. Facilitated by Claire Meaney, Director of Réalta, Developing Arts and Health, the group were introduced to the concept of creativity promoting wellness. Key questions were asked to determine their needs and interests within the hospital in relation to creativity. Based on the findings from these sessions, seven local artists from the Meath Made collective were engaged to deliver an eight-week Creative Wellbeing Programme. Free for all staff in the hospital to attend, these sessions are offered as drop-in sessions on Fridays from 12 to 2pm to make them as accessible as possible within the busy hospital environment. The programme began in October and will run up to, and including, December 13th. It includes creative opportunities such as painting pottery, beading, watercolour painting, pebble art and jewellery making.



Transportation Services



1. National Roads

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

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
National Road Resurfacing	N52 Woodtown to Co Boundary - works ongoing. N52 Kells Bypass resurfacing works on approaches to the roundabouts complete. N2 McGruder's X and N2 The Brink resurfacing works scheduled to commence 18th November 2024.

2. Non - National Roads

Funding Source	DoT
Grant Allocation	€25,143,640

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

Grant Allocation	€ 17,007,950 (inc CIS)
Supplementary RI	€ 1,304,000

Scheme	Update
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Substantially Complete
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)	Complete
Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)	Substantially Complete
Phase 4 (Wearing Course)	Substantially Complete
CIS Works Carried Out, Roads Wearing Course bases complete	Complete

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

Scheme	Update
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	Updated draft appraisal and NIS Planning application documents received and being reviewed.
R162 Navan to Kingscourt Rd (Lisnagrew)	Progressing appointment of Ground Investigation contractor to carry out additional testing on site regarding ongoing subsidence issue.

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

Grant Allocation	€362,500
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Scheme	Update
R149 – Stirling	Works commenced October 2024 and are ongoing.
R132 – Keenoge	Works scheduled to commence November 2024.
R163/L7141 - Junction Gibbstown	Roadworks substantially complete. Signage works to be completed November 2024.
L4010 – Bective Junction	Works commenced November 2024
L1006 - Cabinhill Crossroads	Works complete

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

Grant Allocation	€672,500
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Castlecor Bridge (R154)	Tender Assessment ongoing
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	Works ongoing
Newtown Commons Bridge Duleek	Tender assessment ongoing
Bridge Consultants Framework	Complete
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Contract award stage
Minor Bridge Works 2024	Works ongoing
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Contract Awarded
Ballivor Bridge	Tender process to commence in November 2024
Ashbourne Bridge	Tender process to commence in November 2024
BAMS Engineering Inspections	Complete

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation	€545,500
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
L10021 - Timooole, Ashbourne	Works scheduled to commence in November 2024
L3414 - Commons Road, Navan	Completed
L7403 - Carrickleck, Kingscourt - Flood alleviation works	Completed

2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation	€750,000
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R147-37 (Former N3)	Completed

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	NTA
Grant Allocation	€14,000,000

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Navan Town Scheme Contract 3 outstanding works and snag items are continuing to be completed/addressed by the Contractor. Detailed design work and tender pack preparation is continuing on the the Kiosk building.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	The Contractor is continuing to close out remaining outstanding works items and snag items. Stage 3 RSA completed.
Fairgreen to Johnstown	Detailed design work is continuing on Phase 2, linking the Solstice roundabout with R163 Cantilevered Bridge.
NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road	Detailed design and tender documentation preparation continuing.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	Detailed design continuing. Slit Tench Contractor appointed and is to commence and complete investigative survey works next month.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	The Consultant is currently preparing the Transport Assessment Report, the Feasibility Report, and an Option Selection Report.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	The Consultant is currently finalising Part VIII drawings and documents.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	The Consultant is continuing with the Options and Feasibility for a cycle route from Convent Road at Athlumney Castle to Kentsown Road, and east to the junction of Metges Road. Preliminary design completed and draft Part 8 documents prepared for section from Beechmount to Balreask Manor. Options assessment process continuing for section of proposed cycle scheme from Balreask Manor to Balreask Cross.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Pathfinder Scheme R161, Navan to Trim Scheme	Submissions to non-statutory consultation process are continuing to be reviewed in advance on a decision to progress the proposed scheme under Section 38 of the Roads Act

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Safe Routes to School	Works substantially completed at Gaelscoil Na Mi, Ashbourne. Minor works completed at SN Pheadair & Phoil, Drumconrath.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Dunboyne and Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	Phase 2 “Concept Development and Route Selection” process is currently being finalised for Section 1 of the scheme which runs from the Fingal Co.Co. boundary through Clonee and up to the Rooske Road Junction in Dunboyne. MCC will see NTA’s approval to commence Phase 3 “Preliminary Design” for the Part 8 planning application. A masterplan for Section 2 of the scheme is being developed which will determine how each of the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne will be funded and delivered.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Contract 5 construction works is continuing in Fairgreen car park and Old Cornmarket laneway. Surfacing works are to commence at the lower half of the car park next month and services installation and installation of new granite paving on Cornmarket is to continue.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	The major construction works are now complete. The contractor is on site completing snagging works. Awaiting ESB connection for pedestrian crossing at the Pillo Hotel, the signals will be fully commissioned once the connection is complete.

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
Grant Allocation	

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibstown Car Park	Works have now commenced on the Gibbstown car park; the car park will be open in mid-December. The footpath from Gibbstown greenway crossing to Kilberry will commence construction in January 2025.
Nobber Car Park Kilbeg Road	Construction works are now 85% complete and the car park will open to the public before the end of November.
Poles Cross Car Park and Footpath Link to Gyproc and Ballinaclose	The Part VIII Chief Executive Report for the scheme was presented to the Kells MD meeting on Monday 11th November 2024. The Part 8 CE Report is currently with the elected members for their consideration.

5. Other/Projects

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	Part VIII Planning Approval Granted

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New Road from Kells Road to Ratholdren Road.	Bridge construction progressing following installation of pre-cast beams. Utility diversions and shared surfacing progressing at Ratholdren road tie-in.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works.	Works in progress at Kilmainhamwood, Moynalty, Garden City Ashbourne, Woodview and Tubberclaire estates Navan.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Refurbishment of Boardwalk on the Boyne Greenway	Reconstruction works substantially complete, and refurbishment works on-going.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Old Bridge)	Land owner negotiations on-going.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming Scheme	Drainage works 60% complete. Kerbing and buildouts 30% complete.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Bus Stop Programme	Greenogue rural bus stops substantially complete. Works progressing at other rural bus stops including Mornington, Kilmainhamwood and Mullaghboy.

6. THRIVE

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme	The Council applied under Strand 2 Town Centre First Heritage Scheme 2024 and successfully obtained 100% funding of €7M for the conservation, renovation of the former St Finian's Seminary Study Hall/St Patrick's Classical School Navan. The will be a multi-functional community facility and county archive, tender documents are currently being prepared.

7. LSSIF

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
LSSIF - Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund	The Council were successful in its funding application and were awarded €2.3M for Seafields Sports & Community Facility for 8 lane athletics track with floodlights, long & high jump and 3G soccer pitch in the infield.

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

1334 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 31.10.2024. This is compared to 1397 in the same period in 2023.

75% of the applications received in October 2024 have been via the online portal -ePlan

2. Commencement Notices

764 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/10/2024. This is compared to 559 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	379
Multi-Units	2566** (units)
Extensions	110
Other*	32

* 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 31.10.2024.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31st October 2024 show a collection of €6,314,053.

(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 from June to October 2024 inclusive (€8,765,060) are due to be receipted from the Department. (The Dept. has indicated that the funds should be transferred by 11th Dec 2024 and apologised for the delay as they awaited funding from DPER, which has now been received). *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)

159 planning enforcement cases were opened to 31.10.2024

New Cases to be Investigated	34
Warning Letter	54
Enforcement Notice	60
Referred for Legal Proceedings	8
Closed	99

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

5. Forward Planning

Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	The Material Alterations are on public display from 8 th November to 6 th December 2024. A chief Executive Report on submissions will be prepared and circulated to the members in mid-January 2025
Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027	<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 was on public display from 18/10/24 to 18/11/24 and a total of 16 submissions were received. A Chief Executive Report on submissions received will be circulated to the members in December and the Draft Variation and CE Report will be considered by the members at the Council Meeting in January 2025.</p> <p>Work on Variation No. 4 <i>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</i> is progressing. It is envisaged that this variation will go on public display in Q1 of 2025.</p>
Annual Development Plan Monitoring Report	The Annual Development Plan Monitoring Report for Year 3 of the Meath County Development Plan will be presented to the members at the December Council meeting.
High Court Case	<p>Forward Planning are continuing to gather background information for The High Court Record No. 2024/604JR Protect East Meath Limited V Meath County Council in relation to: Laytown/Bettystown/Mornington/Donacarne LAP. Relief sought by Protect East Meath is as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Order of Mandamus to commence the process of making LAP for East Meath pursuant to S19 of the P&D Act 200 as amended. • A declaration that the Council is in breach of its statutory obligations to prepare a LAP and carry out consultations. <p>The case is due for hearing again on 16th December 2024.</p>

6. Heritage & Biodiversity Projects

Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030	<p>A list of actions has been drafted for inclusion in the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030. This follows a successful pre-draft public consultation and extensive engagement with the Biodiversity Working Group of the Meath Heritage Forum and staff across various local authority sections.</p> <p>Draft plan will go to Public Consultation in late Spring 2025 following completion of environmental assessments & approval from the relevant SPCs.</p>
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Biodiversity Working Group meeting – 1st November 2024.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects

Several projects are nearing conclusion with oversight provided by the Meath County Council Biodiversity Officer including:

- *The Hare's Corner*
- *Hill of Lloyd Grassland Management & Biodiversity Enhancement Project*
- *County Meath Swift Project*
- *Barn Owl Conservation Project*
- *Mayfly Red List*
- *Biodiversity Audit of Meath*
- *Community Biodiversity Initiatives (Small Community Grant Scheme & Schools Education Programme)*
- *Woodland Bat Monitoring Scheme.*

These projects are jointly funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund and Meath County Council.

Community Monuments Fund 2024

Ardmulchan Church and Graveyard: In 2024, Phase I conservation works were undertaken which focused on the 15th century belfry tower. Works involved erection of scaffold to provide a safe working platform to access the tower, careful removal of ivy, raking out joints, pinning and pointing with lime mortar, and flaunching of wall capping and to the top of the tower. Works specified by conservation professionals, were guided by the bat ecologist and monitored and recorded by the project archaeologist. In addition, a laser scan and detailed desktop study on the History and Archaeology of Ardmulchan Church and Graveyard and its Environs was undertaken. Works were funded under the Community Monuments Fund 2024.



Completed conservation works, Ardulchan Church

2. St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trim: A Conservation Management Plan with input from conservation architect, structural engineer and archaeologist was completed and submitted to the National Monuments Service. This project was funded by the Community Monuments Fund 2024. The plan sets out a conservation strategy that will enable the church and its environs to continue to be a place to visit and celebrate its heritage significance into the future.



Medieval chancel of St. Patrick's Church, Trim

Community Monuments Fund 2025

The Community Monuments Fund 2025 was launched on November 19th. Projects for 2025 are being scoped.

IWTN Interpretation Fund

Trim Town Walls Conservation Works

Urgent conservation works were undertaken to c. 45m of an upstanding section of the town wall which forms the boundary of St. Patrick's National School, St. Loman Street, Trim. A Conservation Team (Grade 1 Conservation Architect and Archaeologist) was engaged, and method statement for works prepared under the existing Ministerial Consent for the town wall. Conservation contractor was appointed and completed the

works which were monitored and recorded by the Conservation Team. Works were funded by the Heritage Council Irish Walled Town Network Conservation/Capital Fund 2024 and Meath County Council.



Completed conservation works at Trim Town Walls

County Heritage Plan

Meath County Council and the Heritage Council are supporting the publication of Moynagh Lough Studies 1 - the first volume is dedicated to this nationally important archaeological site in Nobber. The volume is edited by Dr Michael Potterton (Maynooth University) and will be published by Four Courts Press.

Economic Development & Tourism



Regional Enterprise Plan

The Regional Enterprise Plan for the Mid-East is currently under review and is due for completion by January 2025. The role of Programme Manager will be managed through Meath County Council on behalf of the region and this role has been filled in recent weeks to help progress this work.

Samhain Festival of Food & Culture

Samhain Festival of Food and Culture – the flagship annual festival for The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley – took place from 7th – 10th November, welcoming over 5,000 visitors over the course of the weekend. As well as partnering with Sheridans Irish Food Fair for the first time, delivering a market of over 80 artisan food and craft drink producers from across Ireland, the festival delivered a programme of 39 events ranging from the Samhain Symposium, where Ireland’s food networks were gathered for the first time by The Centre of Food Culture, to cultural performances, food and drink tastings, cookery demonstrations, educational events, discussions, presentations, tours to local farms, long table supper and plenty of family friendly events.



Púca Festival

Meath County Council, with partners Fáilte Ireland and MPI, organised the Púca Festival which took place across the 2 hubs of Trim and Athboy from 31st Oct -3rd Nov 2024. This year as its largest festival yet with 49,000 visitors, representing a **12% increase** on 2023.

Breakdown as follows:

- 22,000 - Púca Festival Harvest Market
- 3,800 - Lighting Ceremony in Athboy
- 12,500 - Púca Procession
- 10,750 - Ticketed events

There were many new additions to the programme this year, most notably the creation of the Púca characters and structures for the Trim Procession allowing the Púca festival to fulfil expectations of international visitors for a unique event steeped in the mythology of the Boyne Valley. Improved transport links between and to the main hubs and the Meath County Council Sustainability Tent has increased its profile as a Sustainable Festival. **14 International buyers and 18 International media** visited County Meath over the 4 days with a 27m reach on social media.



The Meath Business and Tourism Awards

The Meath Business and Tourism Awards took place at Knightsbrook Hotel on November 8th with 36 businesses shortlisted.

- *Best Training and Development in a Meath Company:* Rowan Engineering Consultants Ltd.
- *Excellence in Customer Service:* Mandy Walsh Travel Counsellors
- *Best Family Business:* MTM Engineering
- *Not for Profit Organisation of the Year:* Ratoath Community Centre
- *Best Innovative Product or Service:* Zarasyl
- *Meath Local Enterprise Office Award:* Premier Energy Storage Limited
- *Best Emerging New Business:* Joe the Pro Golf Academy
- *Outstanding Small to Medium Business:* Skin and BodyWorks
- *Best Green Business:* Bluestone Sales and Distribution
- *Best Small Tourism Business:* Feel Good Bicycles
- *Best Tourism Experience or Event:* Emerald Park.
- *Overall Tourism Business of the Year Award 2024:* Emerald Park
- *Overall Business of the Year Award 2024:* MTM Engineering
- *Outstanding Achievement Award:* JMB Sports Field Services
- *Lifetime Achievement Award:* Aidan Heffernan



Industry Familiarisation Trip

Boyne Valley Tourism held a 2-day site visit for the local tourism industry to upskill on tourist sites. The group of 34 businesses visited Newgrange Brú na Bóinne, Oldbridge House, Slane Castle and Slane Distillery.

UK Press visit

Boyne Valley Tourism hosted a number of UK travel journalists on a visit to various sites around Meath over a 3-day period in November. This is the second such visit in 2 months and these visits result in articles promoting the Boyne Valley being printed in various publications with a large international audience.

Spirits of Meath Video

Additional family events took place throughout the month of October, promoted under the Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival through its dedicated website www.spiritsofmeath.ie and social media supported by Boyne Valley Tourism and Meath County Council. A new video was filmed during the 2024 festival to give enhanced promotion for 2025. The video was themed on family and the extended month long of activities and events that take place outside of Púca. Filming included Navan Adventure, Farmaphobia, Lú Festival, Trim Castle Hotel, Knightsbrook Hotel, Rockfield, Emerald Park and Púca. Filmed during October, this footage will be available to promote Spirits of Meath in 2025.

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	8
Mentoring Assignments Approved	23
Attended Online Training Courses	72
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	9
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	7
Attended Trading Online Voucher Seminar	43
LEAN for Micro Applications	3
GREEN for Micro Applications	3
Digital for Business	2

Rural Regeneration



Vacant Homes	2024 (YTD)
Vacant Homes Identified	559
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2024	1
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2024	5

Derelict Sites	2024 (YTD)
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	40
No. of statutory orders issued	28
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2024	1
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2024	3

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2024 (YTD)
Approved Applications	73
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	35
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	50
Rejected Applications	0
Withdrawn Applications	41
Completed / Paid Applications	18
Total Applications Received	217
Total Approved Grant Funding	€5,451,631
Total Paid Grant Funding	€914,476

Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Project Design commenced (November 2024)	
Kells Sensory Garden	Town and Village Renewal Scheme
Longwood Playground	Town and Village Renewal Scheme
3no. 3x3 basketball courts	Participation Nation Outdoor Fund
Part 8 Process commenced (November 2024)	
Athboy playground	Community Recognition Scheme (potential)
Tender Process commenced (November 2024)	
Blackwater Learn to cycle & Toddler track	Meath County Council

Construction Commenced (November 2024)	
Kilmainhamwood to Whitewood Lough Link	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
Newcastle – Community Building/Hall	CLár
Rathmullen footpath	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
Construction Completed (November 2024)	
Drumconrath Walkign Trail	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
Holly and Hazel walk, Enfield	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Finance



Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1 st January 2024 to 15 th November 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	50	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	2024 application
Approved by Credit Committee	35	3 relate to 2023 and 32 relate to 2024 applications (1 x refusal overturned by appeal committee to approval)
Refused by Credit Committee	14	1 relates to 2023 and 13 relate to 2024 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	2	2 relate to 2024
Active Approvals	24.20	3.20 relate to 2023, 21 relate to 2024
Expired	29	20 relate to 2023, 9 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	20.97	15.97 relate to 2023 applications, 5 relate to 2024 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2024 to 15th November 2024 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Other Information:

Power Up Grant: As part of Budget 2025, the Power Up Grant has been introduced through the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) to support commercially rateable premises in the retail and hospitality sectors with a flat grant of €4,000. This initiative aims to distribute €170 million to these businesses by the end of 2024.

The closing date for eligible businesses to apply for the Power Up Grant has been extended to Friday 22nd November 2024.

In order to be eligible for the grant, a business must have received the second Increased Cost of Business grant payment and continue to meet ICOB scheme criteria.

Businesses in the hospitality and retail sector that did not have a rates bill in 2023 and may qualify if they meet the criteria will be considered in the second cohort of applications in the new year.