



# Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

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February 2025

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

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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

Rural Regeneration

Thank You,

**Kieran Kehoe**

**Chief Executive**

# Corporate Affairs and Governance



## Corporate Affairs

### **Fuirseoir – Áine Gallagher – ‘A Cup of Focals’ Seó – Ionad Cultúrtha Swift – Éire Ildánach**

Ar an 10 agus 11 mí na Nollag 2024, thug fuirseoir ar a boinn Áine Gallagher cuairt ar an Ionad Cultúrtha Swift i mBaile Átha Troim le haghaidh seó spráúil dhátheangach a dhéanamh os comhair grúpa daltaí dara leibhéal ó dhá mheánscoil – Meánscoil Trócaire Naomh Íosaif san Uaimh agus Scoil Mhuire, Átha Troim. Bhí an seó seo eagraithe ag an bhfoireann Seirbhísí Cultúir Chomhairle Chontae na Mí agus faoin gciste Éire Ildánach.

Tháinig aiseolas dearfach ar ais ón bpobal scoile, múinteoirí agus daltaí araon, i dtaca leis an seó seo



“is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste”; seo é an sprioc don ceardlann ‘A Cup of Focals’ seó le Áine Gallagher, a bhíonn i gcónaí ag forbairt smaointí nua agus cruthaitheach chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus inspioráid a thabhairt do dhaoine chun an teanga a labhairt. Sa cheardlann dhátheangach seo, d’úsáid Áine focail i nGaeilge ar bhealach nuálaíochta chun spraoi a chruthú agus chun spreagadh a thabhairt do na daoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh gan aon bhrú.

### **Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021 – Forálacha deiridh**

Fuair Comhairle Chontae na Mí eolas ón Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán i mí na Nollaig i dtaca leis na forálacha deiridh a tháinig i bhfeidhm ón 21 Nollaig 2024. San áireamh agus a mbaineann go díreach le Comhairle Contae na Mí ná: -

- Caithfidh an comhlachtaí poiblí freagra a thabhairt ar phostálacha ar na meáin shóisialta sa teanga oifigiúil inar postáladh iad

Beidh an Roinn i dteagmháil arís i mí Eanáir, agus san áireamh beidh:

- Cur i bhfeidhm an Phlean Ghníomhaíochta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge ;
- An chéad chomhairliúcháin ar na Caighdeáin Teanga

### **Comedian -Áine Gallagher – ‘A Cup of Focals Show’ – Swift Cultural Centre – Creative - Ireland**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024, stand up comedian Áine Gallagher visited the Swift Cultural Centre in Trim for a fun bilingual show in front of second level students from two secondary schools -St. Joseph’s Mercy secondary school in Navan and Scoil Mhuire, Trim. This show was organised by the Meath County Council Cultural Services team under the Creative Ireland fund.

Positive feedback came back from the school community, pupils and teachers alike, regarding this show.

“Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste”; this is the objective of the ‘A Cup of Focals’ workshop with Áine Gallagher, who is always developing new and creative ideas to promote Irish and to give inspiration to people to speak the language. In this bilingual workshop, Áine uses words in Irish to create fun and to encourage the young people to practice their Irish without pressure.

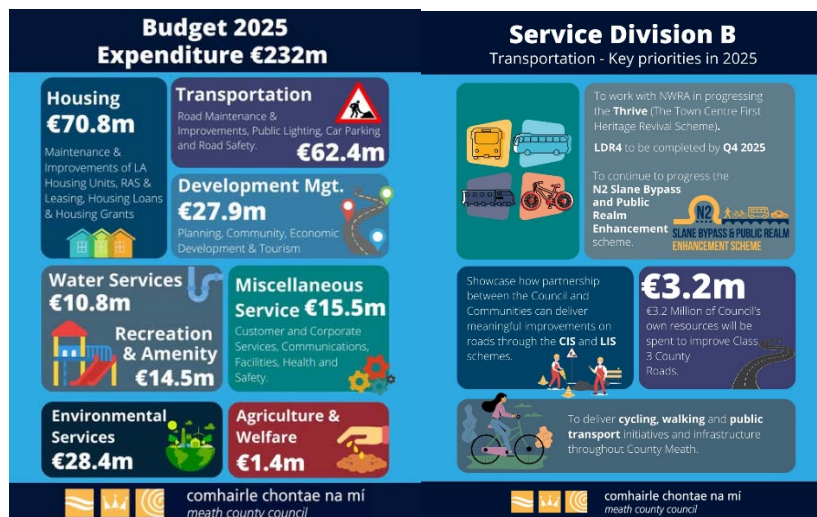
### **Be Winter Ready Campaign**

Over the winter months, a promotional ‘Be Winter Ready’ campaign is published across Meath County Council social media channels offering motorists tips to keep them safe during wind, flooding and storms. A total of 7 posts have been shared to date.



## Budget 2025

The communications team designed a bank of infographics included in the 2025 Budget Book. A social media campaign was launched to share the infographics and generate awareness with the public.



## Recycling

During the Christmas period, a week-long campaign was launched to inform the public of recycling facilities opening hours across the Christmas period and the facilities available for disposal of Christmas trees. The message also reminded the public to always use a permitted operator if using a third party to dispose of their waste.

### Meath Recycling Centres End of Year Opening Hours

23 - 27 December - Closed  
 28 December - Open 9.00am - 1.30pm  
 29 December - Closed  
 30 December - Open 9.00am - 4.45pm  
 31 December - Open 9.00am - 2.00pm  
 1 January - Closed  
 2 January - Open 8.30am - 4.45pm

Christmas Trees accepted from  
 28 December 2024 - 1 February included in gate fee of €2

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### Real Christmas Trees

Accepted at Navan, Trim, Kells and Thornton's Dunboyne Recycling Centres For Shredding from December 28

They will also be accepted at the following locations during office hours

- Meath County Council Depot, Duleek (behind Garda Station)
- Pillo Hotel Ashbourne (for one week only starting January, 6)
- Meath County Council Offices, Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin

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## Fire Safety Awareness

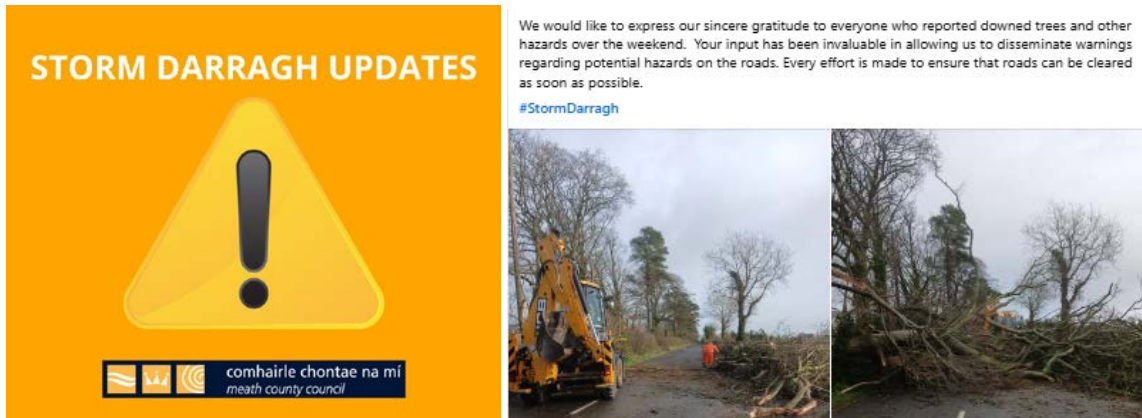
In partnership with Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Services 'The 12 Days of Christmas' campaign was launched to offer essential advice on how to protect yourself and your home from fire during the Christmas period. A paid ad campaign was ran on Meath Live to support this important advice.





**Storm Darragh**

During Storm Darragh, we continually engaged with the public and provided updates across our social media platforms informing stakeholders as crews were mobilised to clear debris and open roads and relaying information received via those platforms back to our outdoors teams.



**Communications during the recent cold spell**

Throughout the cold weather at the beginning of January, a social media campaign was launched to inform the public of the winter gritting programme and weather warnings. A number of key safety messages were shared.

# MCC Winter Gritting Programme

**Priority 1 Routes**  
Refer to all National Primary and National Secondary routes within Meath. These routes are treated during all weather events.

**Priority 2 Routes**  
This refers to all of the regional roads in Meath (as shown in the gritting map). These are treated as part of the normal winter service but may have interruptions to treatment in certain severe weather events.

*Gritting of the M1 (Dublin-Belfast), M2 (Ashbourne Bypass), M3 (Clonee-Kells), M4 (Dublin-Sligo/Galway) that run through Meath is taken care of by private entities.*

Winter 2024 - 2025 Gritting Routes can be viewed on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

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## Official Opening of (Safe Routes To School) SRTS in Donacarney

Meath County Council, in partnership with An Taisce and the National Transport Authority (NTA), officially opened two separate Active Travel schemes worth approximately €2.5 million in Donacarney, County Meath. The Communications team coordinated the event and shared stories and posts cross our social media.





## **Corporate Governance**

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

The following are the number of requests received in Q4 2024:

<b>FOI</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OIC</b>
Q4 - 2024	35	1	0

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

The following are the Q4 2024 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

<b>AIE</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Internal Reviews</b>	<b>Appeals to OCEI</b>	
Q4 - 2024	13	3	1	

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q4 2024 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

<b>Subject Access Requests</b>	<b>SAR's</b>
Q4 - 2024	4

# Housing Services



## 1.0 Social Housing Investment Programme

Meath County Council is committed to realising the ambition of Housing for All at County level, for the benefit of those in need of social housing support, and those impacted by the affordability constraints that exist for many in certain areas of the County. 2024 is another record year for delivery in Meath with significant exceedance of our target. The Housing for All 2022-2026 summary of target and delivery is outlined in Table 1 below and social housing delivery is listed in Table 2 below.

### Social Housing Build Target 2022-2026

Social Housing Build Target 2022-2026						
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Target	340	243	249	267	273	1,531
Delivered to date	452	492	501			1,446
Affordable Target 2022-2026						
Target	10	28	41	36	36	151
Delivered to date	0	70	7			77

Table 1: Housing For All Targets

2024 Social Housing Delivery		
Scheme Type	Nr. Units Delivered	€
AHB CALF Acquisition	1	€389,039
AHB CALF Turnkey	142	€45,810,426
AHB Long-Term Leasing	0	0
AHB Mortgage to Rent	7	€70,050
CALF Part V	13	€4,979,680
CAS Acquisitions	0	0
LA Acquisitions	42	€10,764,000
LA Part V	81	€24,815,796
Part V Leasing	4	€8,951
Four Stage Traveller Specific	10	€2,096,385
MCC Direct SHIP Construction	186	€29,483,755
SHIP Construction Turnkey	64	€25,404,703
SHIP Renewal	5	€455,731
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>€144,278,516</b>

## Table 2: Summary of Housing for All 2024 Delivery for Meath

### 1.1 Social Housing – Direct Construction

Construction works were completed in 2024

- Yellow Ford, Athboy 28 units
- Millrace, Ashbourne 74 units
- Farganstown, Navan 84 units
- St. Francis Park, Navan 10 units



Photo 1: Farganstown



Photo 2: St Francis Park



Photo 3: Yellow Ford, Athboy



**Photo 4: Millrace Ashbourne**

Construction works are ongoing on the following sites:

- Pitcher Lane, Kells
- Brews Hill, Navan
- Swan Lane, Balreask, Navan
- Newtown, Drumconrath
- Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan
- Connaught Grove, Athboy
- Ratholdren Court, Navan
- Woodview Heights, Dunboyne

Meath County Council established a framework for Design Build Contractors for schemes valued between €5m and €35m for Meath, Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Westmeath, and Longford County Councils. The initial contract called off this framework was Connaught Grove Phase 2, Athboy.

In addition to the schemes that commenced on site in 2024, tenders were advertised for Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney & Churchview, Rathmolyon.

Design of smaller schemes continued inhouse for sites at Blackfriary, Trim; Friars Park, Trim; and Robinstown, Navan.

There were 65 potential sites and/or turnkey opportunities investigated during 2024 with a potential 1600 units. A planning and engineering assessment to determine suitability for development or acquisition was carried out on all sites. A number of turnkey opportunities were identified and agreed upon with developers.

A summary of all Construction and Turnkey schemes is provided in Table 3.

Project Name	Nr. Units	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
<b>Preliminary Design Phase</b>			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q2 2025	Q1 2027
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2026	Q1 2027
<b>Preliminary Design Total</b>	<b>82</b>		
<b>Planning Process &amp; Detailed Design</b>			
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	TBC	TBC
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	TBC	TBC
	<b>69</b>		
<b>Tender for Construction</b>			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q2 2025	Q4 2026
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
<b>Tender for Construction Total</b>	<b>28</b>		
<b>Construction Stage</b>			
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Connaught Grove	47	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q1 2025
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
<b>Construction Stage Total</b>	<b>104</b>		
<b>Construction Complete</b>			
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Substantially Complete
Millrace, Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Substantially Complete
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Complete
Yellow Ford, Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Complete
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>		
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>479</b>		

**Table 3: Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects**



## The RTE Show Super Garden – Connaught Grove, Athboy

5 budding designers wowed RTÉ audiences with their ambitious garden designs for the residents of Connaught Grove, Athboy a development built by Meath County Council for social housing.

Each designer had a budget of €15,000 and three weeks to build their garden, with €5,000 for plants from Bord Bia, €5,000 from Kilsaran and €5,000 for materials.

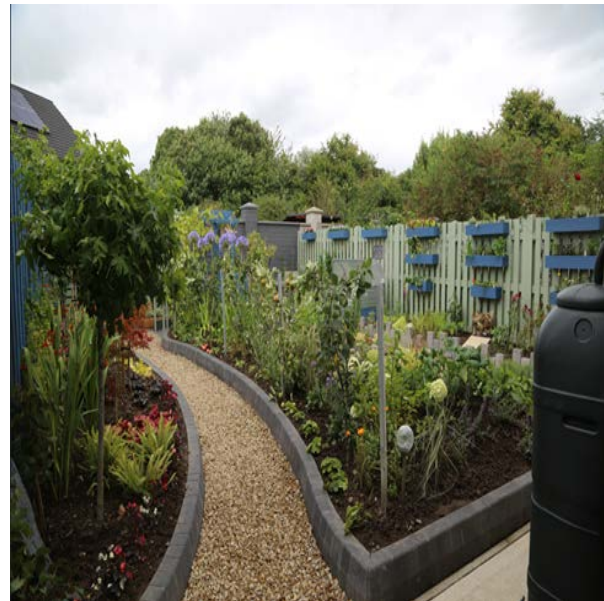


Photo Montage 3 – Photos of Super Gardens Connaught Grove, Athboy



## 1.2 Part V & Turnkey Social Housing

A summary of Part V & Turnkey Schemes is provided in Table 4.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Part V	8
Bettystown	Part V	5
Duleek	Part V	4
Dunshaughlin	Part V	15
Enfield	Part V	5
Drogheda	Part V	4
Kells	Part V	5
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	2
Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	26
<b>Total Part V</b>		<b>81</b>
Bettystown	Turnkey	55
Kells	Turnkey	1
Kilmessan	Turnkey	4
Navan	Turnkey	4
<b>Total Turnkey</b>		<b>64</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>145</b>

Table 4: Summary Profile of Part V & Turnkey Social Units

### 1.3 Approved Housing Bodies

A summary of Approved Housing Body schemes is provided in Table 5.

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Gardenrath, Kells	45	Cluid	Q2 2025
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	12	Respond	Q1 2025
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	21	Cluid	Q2 2025
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
<b>Total Ongoing</b>	<b>115</b>		
Swanbrook, Navan	7	Tuath	Completed Q2 2024
Dunville House, Metges Road*	45	Tuath	Completed Q2 2024
Cluain Adain Clonmagaddan Navan	68	Cluid	Completed Q2/Q4 2024
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	17	Respond	Q4 2024
Woodstream, Bailis	18	Cluid	Completed Q4 2024
<b>Total Completed</b>	<b>155</b>		
<b>Total Number of Approved Units</b>	<b>270</b>		

\*Delivery Method had moved from Leasing to CALF

**Table 5: Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects**

#### **1.4 Refurbishment Project – Alverno Court, Laytown**

28Nr.units were refurbished and 2Nr. new builds were constructed. Works commenced on site in Aug 2021 and were completed over 5Nr. Phases. Although the project has experienced significant delays, works were completed in August 2024.

#### **1.5 Affordable Housing**

Two affordable housing schemes were launched in 2024. Our first Part V Affordable in Rowley's Lock, Navan, Co. Meath was advertised and the sale closed. 6 duplexes using both AHF & LIHAF finding in Beaufort, Boyne Village, Navan, Co. Meath were advertised. 4 successful applicants are currently in the conveyancing process. The remaining 2 houses will be advertised with a future phase.

All remaining sales for The Willows, Dunshaughlin and Baker Hall, Navan, Co. Meath closed in 2024, totalling 70 properties allocated.



**Photo 4: Affordable Purchase – Boyne Village Lock**



**Photo 5: Affordable Purchase – Rowley's**

#### **1.6 Housing Capital Expenditure**

A total of €137,998,597 was spent on capital schemes in 2024 under the following headings: Acquisitions, Buy & Renew, Construction, Traveller Accommodation, Part V, LAAWS, Turnkey, Voids, Turnkey Admin Costs, EERP, NTW – Wages, EERP Project Management Fees.

#### **1.7 Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability –**

In 2024, 750 Households received Grant aid under the various Grants schemes in 2024 to the value of €3,873,074 including VAT. Grant funding of €3,098,459 (80%) was received from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage towards these works.

#### **1.8 Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme**

In 2024, 73 projects were completed on existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €629,008 including VAT. Grant funding of €566,107 (90%) was received from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage towards these works.

## 1.9 Private Rental Inspections

6,188 Inspections were carried out on private rented properties in Meath for the period January-December 2024.

First inspection targets of 1,850 set by the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage were exceeded by carrying out 2,828 first inspections.

136 properties passed after their first inspection. The pass rates were as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> inspections 5%, 2<sup>nd</sup> inspections 22%, 3<sup>rd</sup> inspections 21%, 4<sup>th</sup> inspections 21%.

23 Improvement Notices were issued and 5322 improvement letters.

## 2.0 Housing Maintenance

### 2.1 Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

86 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2024 resulting in expenditure of €2,675,382. A total of €2,271,226 of this was eligible to be claimed from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under Void Maintenance and Energy Efficiency Retrofit works.

Table 6 is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as of 10th January 2025. For the period from 20th November 2024 to 10th January 2025, works were completed on 11 vacant units, while 18 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
<b>Ashbourne</b>	3	1	1	4	1
<b>Kells</b>	3	8	4	11	4
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	4	3	0	2	5
<b>Navan</b>	11	6	3	11	9
<b>Ratoath</b>	0	2	1	2	1
<b>Trim</b>	6	7	1	7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10**</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>27</b>

**Table 6: Current Vacant Properties**

\*\*Note: These ten pre-let properties are major refurb which include energy upgrades to bring the property to B2 BER rating or better.

### 2.2 Response Maintenance

7,205 response maintenance cases were logged in 2024 and subsequently dealt with by Housing Maintenance.

### 3.0 Estate Management and Settlement

#### 3.1 Homeless Service

	<b>SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN</b>	<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>
<b>Placements on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b>	151	68 (115 Adults, 110 children)	219
<b>Placements on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</b>	168	85 (127 Adults, 130 Children)	253

**Table 7: Placements Jan Vs Dec**

#### **Summary of people in Emergency Accommodation 2024**

Of the households with children, 77 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in Family Hubs.

#### **Primary reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:**

- Family breakdown / Relationship breakdown
- Notice to Quit
- Unable to find property to rent / Unable to afford current market rent
- Overcrowding / Unsuitable Accommodation
- Couch surfing
- Addiction
- Domestic violence / Barring Order
- Mental Health
- House fire
- Rough sleeping

86 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Place finder Service in 2024; 43 as exits from Emergency Accommodation and a further 43 to prevent homelessness.

562 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council in 2024 (306 individual, 28 couples and 228 families).

#### **Summary of the overall EA movements for the year**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024, 219 households were accommodated in Emergency Accommodation (EA). There was a total of 319 placements in EA over 2024 including repeat placements

285 households exited EA over 2024, some of the exits would include people who were in EA on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024 we had 253 households in placements in EA.

### 3.2 Tenant in Situ

48 people contacted Meath County Council enquiring about the Tenant in Situ Scheme.

We had 31 Tenant in Situ acquisitions completed by the end of December 2024 with a further 3 properties sale agreed and going through the conveyance process.

<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Acquisitions complete</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Acquisitions in conveyancing</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Social Housing Allocations made in lieu of TIS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>HAP</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Not Proceeding (Unsuitable, shared properties etc.)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

**Table 8 : Tenant in Situ Acquisitions**

The quality of properties that are being submitted as tenant in situ now is much worse than at the beginning of the scheme last year. We have had 4 properties that could not proceed as they did not pass the technical inspection.

### 3.2 Tenant Purchase Scheme

12 houses were sold to tenants of Meath County Council in 2024 under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2024, at a cumulative discount of €1,164,995.

### 3.3 Traveller Accommodation

Progress was made in delivering the 5 Year Traveller Accommodation Programme. Year Five of the programme saw;

- 11 No. social housing allocations to housing applicants from the Traveller community (target 9).
- 8 No. LAAWS applications completed for Housing People with a Disability (target 3).
- 10 houses delivered in a Group Housing Scheme in St Francis' Park.

The LTACC Research Project Report was completed, and the report was presented to the LTACC at the January 2024 meeting.

The new Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met in September and November 2024.



The new Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2025 – 2029 was adopted in the December 2024 County Council Meeting and sets annual targets for Meath County Council’s Traveller Accommodation over the period 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2029.

### 3.4 Tenant Liaison

#### Estate Management 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

<b>ASB Complaints</b>	<b>Totals</b>
ASB Complaints received	1,809
<b>ASB complaints received per MD</b>	
Ashbourne	128
Kells	289
Laytown / Bettystown	117
Navan	556
Ratoath	453
Trim	266

**Table 9: Complaints**

<b>ASB Investigation Cases</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>(One case can include multiple complaints)</b>	
ASB investigation on going	20
ASB investigation completed	1,789

**Table 10: Investigations**

<b>Action Taken (one case can receive multiple actions)</b>	<b>Totals</b>
No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	17
Advice / Instruction given	1,618
Verbal warning issued	27
First breach of Tenancy Notice	10
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	3
Statutory warning issued	0
Notice to Quit served	0
Referrals to other agencies	47
Exclusion Orders Sought	0
House taken back into possession (No legal fees nor security fees were used in these cases)	87
Total Action Taken	1,809

**Tables 11: Actions Taken**

<b>Tenancy Outcomes</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Repossession commenced (due to ASB & other reasons)	9
Repossession completed	6
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	0
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	0
Number of pre-tenancies conducted	365
Rightsizing	0
No. of Tenants identified: 19	Achieved 4

**Table 12: Tenancy Outcomes**

364 tenants completed pre-tenancy training during 2024, obtaining a variety of information concerning their tenancy with Meath County Council.

Tenant liaison team played an active part in the Alverno Refurbishment Project. Tenant Liaison Officers provided support for the decanting of tenants and assisted return to properties, liaising with housing maintenance team. This project was completed in 2024.

### **Estate Management Policy**

The Estate Management Policy was implemented to provide an overall framework to promote and achieve better estate management outcomes within Meath County Council's estates.

The Tenant Liaison team encourage all new tenants to participate in existing Resident's Associations or set up new Resident's Association for new estates. The Tenant Liaison Team outline what supports are available from the Public Participation Network (PPN). The Tenant Liaison Team assist and attend resident's association meetings throughout the year and encourage estate management initiatives and explain what funding is available.

In 2024 we supported an initiative with Youth Work Meath and The Men's Shed Navan. They built flower beds, cut grass for older people, general clean up in council estates in the Navan Area. Approximately 50 individual young people took part in this initiative over the summer months.

Funding was also provided from the TLO fund to Meath Travellers Workshop for home safety packs (fire blankets & extinguishers) which were then distributed by members of Youth Work Meath to elderly people who wished to avail of the packs.

A presentation to the young people who participated in the work which took place throughout the Summer of 2024, took place in Buvinda House with Cllrs. and Senior Management present.



**Photo 6: Presentation to the Young People in Buvinda House**

TLO's assisted in the establishment of Staleen Park Residents' Association, Donore, Co. Meath and funding was provided for an engraved boulder with the estate name. Funding was also provided for bedding flowers and shrubs.

TLO's provided funding to Elm View Close Estate for an engraved boulder with the estate name.

TLO's assisted in the establishment of Residents' Associations in St. Oliver's Park, Ratoath, Co. Meath and Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath and Lynfield Estate, Kells, Co. Meath.



**Photo Montage 7 above: TLO's provided funding to Lagore Lawn Residents' Association for a new lawnmower, the engraved boulders at Elm View Close and Staleen Park and the lawnmower and storage unit for Lynfield Estate Residents' Association, Kells.**

### 3.5 Disability Strategy

Meath County Council's 'Strategy for Housing People with a Disability' was reviewed in under the auspices of the Housing Disability Steering Group following the publication of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. A National Implementation Plan was published in 2023 from which local actions were identified and are being progressed. The Steering Group convened 4 times in 2024, and the Sub Steering Group convened twice in 2024.

In 2024 the Housing Disability Steering Group progressed the establishment of a Disability Housing Action Team which focuses on the specific needs of applicants. The Disability Housing Action Team convened six times in 2024.

### 4.0 Social Housing Supports

1,700 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

<b>Allocations/Housing Supports</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>MCC Direct Allocations</b>	374
<b>Approved Housing Bodies</b>	181
<b>RAS</b>	2
<b>HAP</b>	295
<b>Long term Leasing</b>	7
<b>MTR (AHBS)</b>	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>866</b>

**Table 13: Housing Supports**

A new system for assessing and allocating properties was implemented in 2024 and this has been deemed a success by streamlining processes and improving efficiency.

# Transportation Services



## 1. National Roads

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

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
<b>N51 Dunmoe Phase 2</b>	The defects correction period has been extended to allow the contractor to complete the remaining snag items. Snagging work is ongoing and is expected to be completed in early 2025.
<b>N2 Slane Bypass &amp; Public Realm Enhancement Scheme</b>	MCC received a request from ABP to advertise the additional information that was submitted to ABP in Dec 2024. It is planned to advertise in February 2025.
<b>National Road Resurfacing</b>	N52 Woodtown to County Boundary works ongoing

## 2. Non - National Roads

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>DoT</b>
<b>Grant Allocation</b>	€25,143,640

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

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

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing)	Complete - work commenced on 2025 programme

Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)	Complete - work commenced on 2025 programme
Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)	Complete - work commenced on 2025 programme
Phase 4 (Wearing Course)	Complete - work commenced on 2025 programme
CIS Works Carried Out, Roads Wearing Course bases complete	Complete - work commenced on 2025 programme

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

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R156 Mullagh Cross	Environmental & Planning documentation being finalised

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

<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€362,500</b>
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R149 – Stirling	Works ongoing
R132 – Keenoge	Works rescheduled for January/February 2025
R163/L7141 - Junction Gibbstown	Works ongoing
L4010 – Bective Junction	Works ongoing
L1006 - Cabinhill Crossroads	Works ongoing

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

<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€672,500</b>
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Castlecor Bridge (R154)	Tender assessment ongoing
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	Works complete
Newtown Commons Bridge Duleek	Tender assessment ongoing
Bridge Consultants Framework	Framework established - complete
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Tender assessment ongoing
Minor Bridge Works 2024	Works substantially complete
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Works will commence on site January 2025. Bridge closure in place until 14th February 2025.
Ballivor Bridge	Tender documents being finalised.
Ashbourne Bridge	Tender documents being finalised.
BAMS Engineering Inspections	Inspections complete



2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€545,500</b>
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
L10021 - Timooole, Ashbourne	Works Ongoing
L3414 - Commons Road, Navan	Works completed
L7403 - Carrickleck, Kingscourt - Flood alleviation works	Works completed

2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

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

**3.Active Travel Grants**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>NTA</b>
<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>€14,000,000</b>

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Design work and tender document preparation is continuing the proposed kiosk building for Kennedy Plaza, with a first draft of the tender pack anticipated to be received by the end of January (2025). Snagging and outstanding works items continue to be closed out for Contract 3.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	The Consultant team is currently compiling the tender pack for the construction of this scheme.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	Detailed design stage is currently underway for this scheme. Contracts for the Slit Trench Works and Ground Investigation Works to commence in Q1 2025

Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	The Consultant Team is currently reviewing the Navan Strategic Traffic Modelling data with view to completing the Traffic and Transport Modelling Report for the scheme, in addition to the Preliminary Design Report and Structures Report (TII), as part of Phase 2 (Feasibility and Options Assessment).
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	Consultant Team is currently finalising the Preliminary Business Case and Gateway 3 documents.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Pathfinder Scheme R161, Navan to Trim Scheme	The Consultant Team is currently finalising the Section 38 non-statutory public consultation report.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Works are continuing Old Cornmarket. Surfacing works to the lower end of Fairgreen car park are complete and the construction works have no relocated to the upper end (adjacent to Fairgreen roadway).

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Safe Routes to School	Statutory planning process (Part 8) commenced for St Stephens NS, Navan. Ongoing development of proposals for Beaufort College, Navan and St. Colmcille's & Our Lady of Mercy NSs, Kells.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Dunboyne and Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	The NTA have approved for Section 1 of the scheme (Fingal Co.Co. boundary through Clonee to the Rooske Road Junction in

	Dunboyne) to progress to Preliminary Design, which includes the preparation of Part 8 planning documents. The Consultant is finalising the masterplan for the delivery and funding of Section 2 of the overall scheme which consists of the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne.
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<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	No NTA funding currently available for the scheme. Alternative funders being explored, including ORIS funding for a section of the Broadmeadow Urban Greenway.

#### 4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Primarily DoT &amp; NTA</b>
Grant Allocation	

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design	Scheme substantially completed in December 2024.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Staff</u>
<b>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</b>	
Greenway Maintenance	Contactora appointed. Kells MD managing the works.
Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan	Awaiting ESB to remove overhead cable to facilitate installation of new public lighting.
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibbstown Car Park	Kilberry car park now completed, 19 car parking spaces, including two disable bays now available for use. Works to commence on the footpath from the Gibbstown Greenway crossing to Kilberry

	week commencing 20th January 2025.
Nobber Car Park Kilbeg Road	Car park completed and opened to the public in December 2024.
Poles Cross Car Park and Footpath Link to Gyproc and Ballinaclose	Planning permission granted, awaiting TII 2025 allocation notification.

## 5. Other/Projects

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	Approval sought from RRDF to progress the scheme to Detailed Design

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works	Works completing/ongoing to Woodview & Tubberclare, Navan, Ballinaclose Kilmainhamwood, Cortown and Crestwood Ashbourne.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming Scheme	Works ongoing. Works 70% complete

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Refurbishment of Boardwalk on the Boyne Greenway	Work on the boardwalk complete. Rathmullan Road footpath works ongoing.

## 6. URDF

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	Works contract for demolition of 4No Buildings in Andy Brennan Park published on eTender Flowerhill Frontage Improvement Works - Letters to be issued to the successful and unsuccessful Architect for Phase 2 works

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
County Archive and Community Hub	Design and tender document preparation currently on-going

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
East Meath Civic Centre	Commissioning of building, BCAR process in progress - New Library/Community Building, Amenity Area and Age Friendly Housing - Stage 1 procurement process complete, proceeding with Stage 2 procurement process to appoint a Architect-led Multi-Disciplinary Design team - Buvinda Council Chambers & Offices - Design and Works tender document preparation is currently on-going

## 7. URDF

Scheme	Update
Boyne Greenway Navan to Old bridge	Various onsite surveys progressing to inform the design of the greenway.

# Economic Development & Tourism



## Launch of Business Supports Pack

The design of a Business Supports pack was identified as a key action within the Meath Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, as part of a range of supports for indigenous and micro businesses in the county.

This Business Supports Pack (hardcopy & digital version) outlines the various supports, grant funding and other stakeholder supports available and was launched at the December meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, EU Affairs and Rural Regeneration SPC.



## Connected Hubs - Remote working

The Economic Development team is now managing two remote working hubs – one at Enfield Library and one at Dunshaughlin Civic Offices – as part of the National Hub Network. Connected Hubs is a central driver of the Irish National Hub Network, a Government of Ireland initiative aimed at establishing and strategically expanding a network of interconnected Hub facilities throughout the country. Bookings are managed at <https://connectedhubs.ie/> and enquiries can be sent to [economic@meathcoco.ie](mailto:economic@meathcoco.ie) or by calling (046) 909 7065





Dunshaughlin Civic Offices Hub



Enfield Library Hub

### **The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley**

The Boyne Valley Transition Year Young Cooks competition is taking place on Thursday 23rd January in Lismullin Cookery School with 9 schools taking part – 4 from Meath and 5 from Louth. 1 school from Meath and 1 school from Louth will proceed to the national final at the end of March with teams from Cavan, Monaghan, Tipperary and Galway. Teams of 2 must cook 2 dishes in 2 hours with at least 2 Boyne Valley ingredients in each dish.

Progress has been made on the development of The Centre of Food Culture database following connections made at the Samhain Symposium, where Ireland's food networks were gathered by The Centre of Food Culture.

### **Industry Familiarisation Trip**

30 tourism providers participated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> familiarisation trip of the Boyne Valley for 2024. The objective of this educational trip was to upskill front of house staff on the iconic sites of the Boyne Valley where they visited Newgrange, Brú na Bóinne, the Battle of the Boyne at Oldbridge, Slane Castle and Slane Distillery.



### UK Press visit

A group press visit to the Boyne Valley was undertaken by Boyne Valley Tourism from 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November whereby 5 UK journalists were brought on a carefully curated itinerary of the Boyne Valley. The theme of the trip was ‘wellness’ and they visited a large number of sites before returning home to the UK. This is the second such visit from the UK with 5 further journalists visiting in October. In total visits were organised for 20 journalists and influencers to the Boyne Valley during 2024, resulting in 10 positive travel features across many Irish and UK titles and a further 11 travel articles due to be published in early 2025.



### Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	53
Mentoring Assignments Approved	54
Attended Online Training Courses	130
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	20
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	17
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	6
National Women’s Enterprise Day Event	111
GREEN for Micro Applications	5
Digital for Business	4
LEAN for Micro Applications	4
LEO Grants	5

# Rural Regeneration



<b>Vacant Homes</b>	<b>2024 total</b>
Vacant Homes Identified	616
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2024	1
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2024	5
<b>Derelict Sites</b>	<b>2024 total</b>
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	40
No. of statutory orders issued	28
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2025	1
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2025	3
<b>Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant</b>	<b>2024 total</b>
Approved Applications	77
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	42
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	61
Rejected Applications	0
Withdrawn Applications	42
Completed / Paid Applications	25
Total Applications Received	247
Total Approved Grant Funding	€6,500,000
Total Paid Grant Funding	€1,300,000
<b>Rural Regeneration Project Progress</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>Part 8 Process commenced (Dec 2024/Jan 2025)</b>	
Lough Bracken amenity development	ORIS
<b>Tender Process commenced (Dec 2024/Jan 2025)</b>	
Feasibility Studies of potential Sites	Meath County Council
Consultant Services for Enfield & Drumconrath	Town Centre First
Traffic & Pedestrian Counts in Dunshaughlin	Town Centre First
Kilmainhamwood River Walk	ORIS
<b>Construction Commenced (Dec 2024/Jan 2025)</b>	
Ashbourne Skatepark	Meath County Council
Kells sensory garden - site clearance only	Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Works to pumpouse in Drumonrath (convert to storage unit for Tidy Towns Group)	TVRS
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# Community Development



## Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

- The LAIT continue to proactively hold drop-in clinics in all centres with populations of more than **15** people. We also carry out impromptu visits to centres address issues as they arise.
- Cumulative Yearly total of Clinics Held: **150**
- **21** clinics were held in November, the last clinics for the year were held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November

## Customer Service Cases Logged 2024:

Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	<b>2</b>
Number of Customer cases closed	<b>896</b>

## LAIT Engagement with Key Stakeholders in December

Integration Support Worker meetings with staff from Community Integration Forum (CIF) agencies are ongoing; we met with the following stakeholders throughout the previous month,

- Meath Partnership’s Beneficiaries Of Temporary Protection (BOTP) Integration Team
- The CIF subgroup working on the misinformation campaign held their second meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.
- Meath County Council hosted the CIF meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. The meeting was attended by Thomas Talbot, Principal Officer, Citywest Facilities & Arrivals and Dispersals Unit, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth with responsibility for beneficiaries of temporary protection who gave a presentation on the reasoning for consolidation of accommodation for Ukrainians.

## Commercial Properties Updates

- No new commercial properties have been notified to MCC LAIT for either BOTP’s or International Protection applicants. The LAIT have been notified of the closure of Stadel House Stamullen on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with a relocation of 128 guests, some remaining in Meath with others transferred to Louth, Westmeath and South Dublin.



## Events

- The team hosted an event for International Human Rights and Migrants Day in Ashbourne library on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. The event was attended by 83 migrants from around Meath and there were performances from a Middle Eastern Dance Group, Scoil Mhuire's Gluais musical group along with guest speakers from IHREC, MASI, migrants telling their personal stories and food. 40 or so stakeholders also attended the event many of whom set up stands in the lobby to speak to and assist attendees.



Photo from the Team's event in Ashbourne Library on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December celebrating International Human Rights and Migrants Day

- The LAIT completed the after School GAA camp in collaboration with Meath GAA and Meath Partnership IP Integration team. All of the children were presented with a ball and a selection box. Camp t-shirts will be delivered by the team in the New Year. 21 children from the Lodge and Kells Rest Centre attended in Gibbstown GAA club.





Young People from the Lodge and Kells Rest Centre (with Emma Insley Meath Partnership Integration Team, Damien Sheridan Meath GAA and Paul O'Sullivan ISW Meath LAIT) on the last day of their skills camp

### **Public Participation Network**

- 716 groups are registered with Meath PPN.
- Plenary held on November 26<sup>th</sup> in Skyrne GFC, with over 50 groups in attendance.
- The Louie and Frankie book and journal project was nominated for the LAMA Community and Council awards under Best Mental Health Initiative category.
- Meath PPN will host the next Midlands Region PPN meeting in Bellinter House on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- A grants calendar is being issued to all registered groups with information on annual grants and funding available throughout the year.

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

- The last LCDC meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December and the next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. This meeting will be held in person in the Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown to support the launch of the CommUnity Connect Project.

### **LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027 – Local Action Group (LAG)**

- The last LAG meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December and the next meeting of the LAG is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown.

### **Healthy Meath**

- The Healthy Meath Co-Ordinator attended the PPN Plenary meeting in Skyrne GFC in November to talk about the new CommUnity Connect project which will launch in January. CommUnity Connect is a positive mental health toolkit for Co. Meath.
- The Healthy Meath Microfund Grant was nominated for the LAMA Community and Council awards under the Community Initiatives category.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

- The National Executive took place on 30<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the development of the chosen topic of 'school stress' for the coming year. One member of Meath Comhairle na nÓg sits on the National Executive.
- The 2025 funding request for Comhairle na nÓg will be submitted to the DCEDIY in January.

### **Local Enhancement Programme 2025**

- Applications are now invited from Community and Voluntary groups in County Meath for funding from the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP). The LEP 2025 is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 5.00pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### **Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events**

- The Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events Funding Scheme 2025 will launch on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The closing date for applications is 14<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Community Grant Scheme**

- The 2025 Community Grant scheme will launch on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. The closing date for applications is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme**

- The Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme will close for applications on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **Pride of Place (PoP)**

- The Pride of Place (PoP) County awards took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November in the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan. 270 people were in attendance on the night.
- The 2025 PoP scheme will launch the week ending 31<sup>st</sup> January. The closing date for applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **Schools Pride of Place**

- 42 applications have been received from schools and preschools for the 2024/2025 Schools Pride of Place initiative. Judging is expected to take place in May.

# Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service

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The Age Friendly Shared Service office supports all 31 local authorities to deliver their local Age Friendly programmes and provides a national structure for preparing for ageing communities. AFI reports the following activities for the February management report:

AFI has secured a budget from the Department of Health (Women’s Health Action Plan Fund) of €278k for an 18 month pilot in Roscommon and Leitrim for a community linkage and befriending programme for women in long term residential care.

AFI and MCC have signed a tripartite agreement with Maynooth University and University of Limerick to build up the resources in the research unit. In addition to a full-time Research Manager role which is shared between AFI and Maynooth, the research unit will have 2 fully funded PhD programmes starting in 2025.

AFI is entering into a new partnership with the GAA to scale up the demonstrator model of Croke Park as an Age Friendly Stadium.

Monaghan Hospital will receive their Age Friendly recognition on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, following their completion of the WHO four stage process which resulted in accessibility improvements to the hospital campus including changes to wayfinding, seating, toilets and further work planned for car parking and footpaths.

Planning is underway for the National Convention of Older People’s Councils which will be hosted by South Dublin County Council in May this year.

All activity has been successfully completed on the ‘Healthy Islands’ initiatives delivered in four local authority areas in 2024 by Age Friendly Programme Managers with funding from the HSE/Healthy Ireland. Over 500 islanders benefitted from a range of health and wellbeing activities including activator poles, walking groups, yoga and exercise classes, information events and accessibility works. Eleven islands took part from Mayo, Galway County, Donegal and Cork County.

In advance of the new Programme for Government, AFI is preparing Ministerial briefings for each Government Department to highlight opportunities to include Age Friendly objectives in each Department’s Statement of Strategy. It is anticipated that the new Programme for Government will introduce a dedicated Junior Minister position for Ageing and Older People. Previously this Ministerial brief was divided between Mental Health and Older People.

AFI is working with the HSE to develop a Frailty Education Programme for Older People. Clinical staff are devising the content and a plan will be implemented over the year to deliver sessions in-person to older people in the community.

AFI has worked with the HSE to devise a Communication Training Module for nursing home staff. Content was based on interviews with nursing home residents in the CHO1 area. A 'Train the Trainer' approach will allow this to be scaled up in 2025. In-person training is also being delivered in hospitals in Cavan, Leitrim and Donegal.

Further training delivery is scheduled for 2025 under the module 'Age Friendly Housing & Public Realm'. This CPD accredited module is available to all local authorities and will also be delivered to the Chartered Institute of Housing and the Chartered Association of Building Engineers early in the year.

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme is operating successfully with a full team of co-ordinators in place in local authorities around the country (44) and a national administration team based in Kells. Referrals to the programme remain strong. A tender process is active for the programme evaluation.

# Planning



## 1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

1636 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024. This is compared to 1685 in the same period in 2023.

70.84% of the applications received in 2024 have been via the online portal -ePlan

## 2. Commencement Notices

935 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024. This is compared to 643 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	427
Multi-Units	2811** (units)
Extensions	115
Other*	38

\* 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 was lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024.

## 3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 show a collection of €15,564,626. (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 November and December 2024 inclusive (€6,650,497) are due to be received from the Department. The Scheme ceased on 31st December 2024.

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

185 planning enforcement cases were opened to 31.10.2024

New Cases to be Investigated	35
Warning Letter	67
Enforcement Notice	73
Referred for Legal Proceedings	8
Closed	117

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

#### 5. Forward Planning

<b>Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan</b>	A chief Executive Report on submissions relating to the proposed Material Alterations has been prepared and circulated to the members on 10 <sup>th</sup> January, for discussion at the February Council meeting
<b>Variations to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027</b>	<p>Variation No. 3 – To incorporate the Sustainable and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2024 into the CDP &amp; 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 was circulated to the members on 19th December 2024 and the Draft Variation and CE Report will be considered by the members at the February Council Meeting.</p> <p><i>Work on 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 &amp; Joint Urban Area Plan period is progressing. It is envisaged that this variation will go on public display in Q1 of 2025.</i></p> <p>Review of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 to commence in Q2 of 2025. A Settlement Capacity Audit is currently being prepared for all settlements in the county to identify lands that are fully serviced (Tier 1) and lands that are serviceable (Tier 2) and settlements that have the capacity in infrastructure to facilitate development &amp; future growth in the new County Development Plan. Work is also progressing on other background reports which will inform the new CDP</p>
<b>Annual Development Plan Monitoring Report</b>	<p>The Annual Development Plan Monitoring Report for Year 3 of the Meath County Development Plan was presented to the members at the December Council meeting. This Report is now available on the Council website;</p> <p><a href="https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building/development-plans/meath-county-development-plan">https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building/development-plans/meath-county-development-plan</a></p>
<b>RZLT</b>	The Forward Planning Department are currently preparing the following Residential Zoned Land Tax maps and public consultations as required by the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (Finance Act 2024);



**31 January 2025:** Publish Final Map for 2025.  
**01 February 2025:** Publish Annual Draft Map for 2026

## 6. Heritage & Biodiversity Projects

<p><b>Local Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme 2024</b></p>	<p>A final report and recoument of funding was completed under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme 2024, provided by the Heritage Council.  Total grant funding of €20,000 has been recouped.</p> <p>This funding was used to support the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and facilitate a Biodiversity Working Group of the Meath Heritage Forum (7 meetings held in total)</li> <li>• Support the provision of events and initiatives celebrating World Wetlands Day, National Tree Week, National Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week (9 out of 18 events funded)</li> <li>• Pre-draft public consultation on the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 (promotion, data capture, reporting).</li> <li>• County Meath Biodiversity Audit (analysis of existing biodiversity information to inform development of draft Biodiversity Action Plan)</li> </ul> <p>Preparation of an application for 2025 funding is underway.</p>
<p><b>Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects</b></p>	<p>Final reports for 8 projects were completed under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2024, provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>Total grant funding of €100,565 is expected to be recouped.</p> <p>Projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Hare's Corner</i></li> <li>• <i>Hill of Lloyd Grassland Management &amp; Biodiversity Enhancement Project</i></li> <li>• <i>County Meath Swift Project</i></li> <li>• <i>Barn Owl Conservation Project</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayfly Red List</i></li> <li>• <i>Biodiversity Audit of Meath</i></li> <li>• <i>Community Biodiversity Initiatives (Small Community Grant Scheme &amp; Schools Education Programme)</i></li> <li>• <i>Woodland Bat Monitoring Scheme.</i></li> </ul> <p>Site visits are being conducted, projects are being developed and the preparation of applications for 2025 funding is underway.</p>

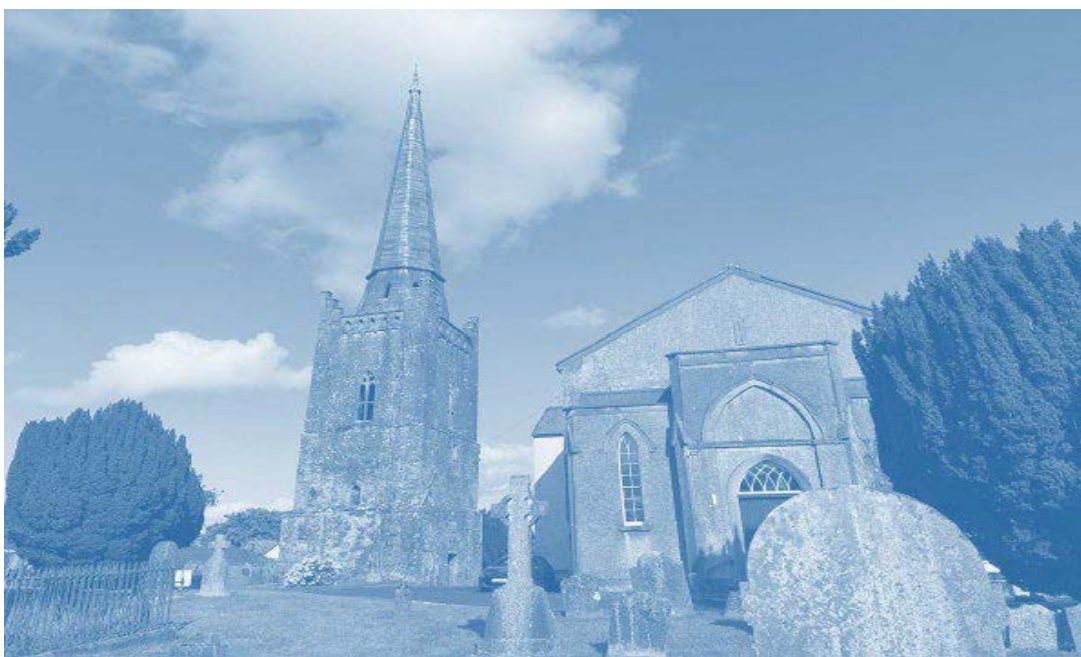


Figure 1. With the help of volunteers, some 3,500 native trees were handed out to Hare's Corner participants on Saturday 7th December from Buvinda House for planting 'Mini-woodlands'.

**Community Monuments Fund 2024**

Final reports and recouplement of funding under the Community Monuments Fund 2024 for 5 projects in Co. Meath completed.

Conservation works completed at Ardmulchan Church and Graveyard, Navan, Babe's Bridge, Navan, St. Erc's Hermitage, Slane Castle. Conservation Studies/Surveys undertaken at St. Patricks Church, Trim and to the Belfry Tower, St. Columba's, Kells.



Belfry Tower, St. Columba's, Kells

<b>Community Monuments Fund 2025</b>	Work is continuing on undertaking site visits and preparing the applications for Community Monuments Fund 2025. Closing date February 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2025.
<b>Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN)</b>	<p>An application for Athboy to join the Irish Walled Town Network was submitted to the Heritage Council in December 2024.</p> <p>Work ongoing on an application to the Heritage Council IWTN Capital Fund 2025 for the conservation of a section of Trim Town Wall - Closing date January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</p>
<b>County Heritage Plan</b>	<p>Meeting of County Meath Heritage Forum held in December.</p> <p>Work ongoing on an application to the Heritage Council County Heritage Plan Fund 2025 - Closing date Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2025</p>

# Climate Action and Environment



## Climate Action

**Community Climate Action Programme: Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities**

€811,000 has been allocated to 25 Projects within Meath under the Community Climate Action Programme. This allocation supports a variety of community organisations in areas such as energy, waste, biodiversity and active travel. Three projects are now fully complete with five progressing.

Small Scale Projects			
Community Group	MD Area	Project Summary	Themes
Ratoath Athletics Club	Ratoath	LED Lighting - complete Bike rack in progress	
Castle Villa AFC - Moynalty	Kells	Led lighting - complete	
Syddan GFC	L/B	Insulating community hall - complete	
Meadowbank Hill Residents Association	Ratoath	Community Garden upkeep products – complete Planting in progress	
Moynalty Tidy Towns	Kells	Self-Watering baskets - complete	
Medium Scale Projects			
Community Group	MD Area	Project Summary	Themes
St Vincents	Ashbourne	LED Lighting , Bike Storage - complete Water refill station in progress	
Summerhill Community Centre	Trim	Solar Panels – complete Planting pollenating shrubs and flowers in progress	
Large Scale Projects			
Community Group	MD Area	Project Summary	Themes
Drewstown House	Kells	LED Lights and sensors – complete Community garden, food and waste composter, rain storage and recycling stations in progress	

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)

32 Sustainable Energy Communities have been formed within County Meath.

9 Sustainable Energy Communities have completed Energy Management Plans, these are now available

on Meath County Councils website.

<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/environment/climate-action/sustainable-energy-communities>

- Athboy Energy Master Plan is complete
- Navan and Kells are forming an SEC



Energy

A 15kWp Solar PV and 22kW car charger has been installed in Nobber Fire Station.



Upgrades are complete on Navan and Trim Fire Stations



- Air to Water Heat Pumps x2 and Air to Air Heat Pump x1
- Doors and window changed out in Navan
- 2No. EV Charge Points in each station (22kW)
- New electrical boards & 60kVA generator in Navan
- Replumb showers utilising heat pump cylinder

BMS upgrade completed to Navan Swimming Pool with energy monitoring software.

## Environment

### Bulky Waste Events

A Calendar of Free Bulky Waste Events has been created for all Meath Recycling Centres for 2025, accepting a wide range of Bulky Household Materials including:

- Couches
- Mattresses and Beds
- Garden Furniture and Equipment
- Cots, Prams and Nursery Equipment
- Halloween Bulky Waste
- Toys
- Christmas Trees

The calendar will be circulated widely in the coming weeks and throughout the year.

**Navan, Trim, Kells, & Thorntons Dunboyne Recycling Centres**

 <b>Couches</b>	 <b>Mattresses</b>	 <b>Garden Equipment</b>
 <b>Cot, prams, nursery</b>	 <b>Halloween Bulky Waste</b>	 <b>Toys</b>

Gate Fee of €2 per vehicle per visit  
Householders Only - No Commercial customers  
Thorntons, Dunboyne is closed on Monday  
and at 1pm on Saturday

 comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



## Libraries Services

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**Family Time At Your Library** is a core programme of the national *Right to Read* programme and takes place annually in December. The focus is on promoting literacy and reading development through fun activities. Many events take place in the evening and at weekends to encourage family participation where possible.

Twenty-nine events were planned across the branch network. However, due to Storm Darragh on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, four of the events were cancelled due to power outages in a number of branches. Events included story time and seasonal crafts, a family Christmas quiz, a festive performance by the Meath County Council choir, plus craft events for adults facilitated by external facilitators. All craft events were designed with sustainability to the fore. Wood, scrap material and natural foliage were among the materials used and the Christmas decorations created should have a long lifespan.

Meath and Louth Council Library Services continued to co-programme *Right to Read* events for families in Mosney Accommodation Centre. The *Family Time At Your Library* event was presented by Meath staff in December.

### Scéal Trail

A new story for the Scéal Trail was installed in Páirc Ráth Chairn in December 2024. The story is “Mo Chuid Rainn Ghaeilge” written by Risteard MacLiam and illustrated by local Trim-based author, Tatyana Feeny. Each storyboard features a QR code which links to an audio version of the featured rhyme. The previous story trail from Ráth Chairn has been relicensed for use in Páirc Bhaile Ghib and in Gaelscoil an Bhradáin Feasa in Mornington, Co. Meath.

The updated Scéal Trail in Blackwater Park, Navan, is due for completion and installation in early January 2025. The selected story is “Amuigh Faoin Spéir” written by Sadhbh Devlin and illustrated by Brian Fitzgerald. An English translation has been supplied by the publisher and included on the storyboards which will make the story more accessible to a wider audience. A glossary, supplied by the author, has been added to a board on the trail and will be printed for inclusion in books to be gifted to local school children at the launch event.

A launch event will be held in February for both trails. The events will involve author visits to the local naónra in Ráth Chairn and online sessions with selected junior infant classes in Navan. Children will also be gifted a copy of the books featured on the story trail.

The Scéal Trail initiative is part of the library’s Right to Read programme and aims to promote literacy and bring the joy of reading into the heart of the community. The web page for the Scéal Trail include links to story-related activities, literacy tips for younger children and links to other library resources of interest to the target demographic.



## **Creative Ireland**

### Fuirseoir – Áine Gallagher – ‘A Cup of Focals’ Seó – Ionad Cultúrtha Swift – Éire Ildánach

Ar an 10 agus 11 mí na Nollag 2024, thug fuirseoir ar a boinn Áine Gallagher cuairt ar an Ionad Cultúrtha Swift i mBaile Átha Troim le haghaidh seó spráúil dhátheangach a dhéanamh os comhair grúpa daltaí dara leibhéal ó dhá mheánscoil – Meánscoil Trócaire Naomh Íosaif san Uaimh agus Scoil Mhuire, Átha Troim. Bhí an seó seo eagraithe ag an bhfoireann Seirbhísí Cultúir Chomhairle Chontae na Mí agus faoin gciste Éire Ildánach.

Tháinig aiseolas dearfach ar ais ón bpobal scoile, múinteoirí agus daltaí araon, i dtaca leis an seó seo

“Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Bearla cliste”; seo é an sprioc don ceardlann ‘A Cup of Focals’ seó le Áine Gallagher, a bhíonn i gcónaí ag forbairt smaointí nua agus cruthaitheach chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus inspioráid a thabhairt do dhaoine chun an teanga a labhairt. Sa cheardlann dhátheangach seo, d’úsáid Áine focail i nGaeilge ar bhealach nuálaíochta chun spraoi a chruthú agus chun spreagadh a thabhairt do na daoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh gan aon bhrú.



### **Áine Gallagher – ‘A Cup of Focals’ Seó**

#### Comedian - Áine Gallagher – ‘A Cup of Focals Show’ – Swift Cultural Centre – Creative Ireland

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024, stand-up comedian Áine Gallagher visited the Swift Cultural Centre in Trim for a fun bilingual show in front of second level students from two secondary schools -St. Joseph’s Mercy secondary school in Navan and Scoil Mhuire, Trim. This show was organised by the Meath County Council Cultural Services team under the Creative Ireland fund.

Positive feedback came back from the school community, pupils and teachers alike, regarding this show.

“Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste”; this is the objective of the ‘A Cup of Focals’ workshop with Áine Gallagher, who is always developing new and creative ideas to promote Irish and to give inspiration to people to speak the language. In this bilingual workshop, Áine uses words in Irish to create fun and to encourage the young people to practice their Irish without pressure.

## **Archives**

### Heritage Forum

On 11<sup>th</sup> December Archivist Patricia Fallon and Architect Ronan O’Connor (OC&C Architects) were invited to present to the Meath Heritage Forum on the developments with the Thrive Community Hub and County Archive Project. It was a great opportunity to reach a wide heritage profile within the county and to detail what the build will give the county, both in terms of archival development but also for community connections. There was lively debate within the Forum after the talk, with many questions on collection development and future use of the community space.

### Meath County Council Podcast Series

On December 19<sup>th</sup> Archivist Patricia Fallon joined Executive Librarian Aoife Carbery and Senior Engineer and Thrive Project Manager John McGrath for a MCC podcast Recording in Dublin. The Host Elaine Keogh took the audience through the Library Service, with Aoife showcasing the variety of services available both in the library and online. John McGrath detailed the latest infrastructure developments within the Library Service, the Thrive Community Hub and County Archive Project. Finally, Elaine and Patricia spoke about the archive service within the Council, how the new archive location will enhance the current archive service, and how it will sit as an additional community space alongside the County's Library buildings.

## Finance



### Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	58	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	1	2024 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	1	2024 application
Approved by Credit Committee	41	38 relate to 2024, 3 relate to 2023.
Refused by Credit Committee	14	13 relate to 2024, 1 relates to 2023 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	1	2024 application
Active Approvals	23.83	21 relate to 2024, 2.83 relate to 2023
Expired	31	11 relate to 2024, 20 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	24.97	9 relates to 2024, 15.97 relate to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.