



Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

March 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.

Contents

Introduction by the Chief Executive	2
Corporate Affairs and Governance	3
Housing Services	6
Transportation Services	14
Economic Development & Tourism	26
Rural Regeneration	31
Community Development.....	33
Planning	37
Climate Action and Environment.....	41
Libraries Services.....	45
Finance	50

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

Rural Regeneration

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

D'fhógair Comhairle Chontae na Mí sonraí faoina scéim scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta don bhliain 2025 ar an 14 Eanáir ar na meáin shóisialta chomhairle chontae, an suíomh gréasain, an Meath Chronicle, agus an nuachtán nua 'An Páipéar', (atá dírithe don phobal labhartha na Gaeilge.) Tá an scéim seo oscailte do scoláirí atá ag freastal ar mheánscoileanna sa Chontae. Cuireadh eolas maidir leis an scéim chuig gach meánscoil sa chontae chomh maith.

Tá fiche a ceathair deontas Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh ar a bhfuil luach €150.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna dara leibhéal sa chontae. Tá ocht deontas eile Máthair Columba Gibbons, ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal; agus sé deontas eile Máire Ní Raghallaigh ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal fosta. Is féidir na deontais a fhorchúiteamh in aghaidh táillí a íoctar do choláistí samhraidh cónaithe atá aitheanta i rith an tsamhraidh 2024.

Tá an Scéim Scoláireachta Gaeltachta á tacú ag Comhairle Contae na Mí, cláir Ghaeilge agus Éire Chruthaitheach.

Gaeltacht Scholarships

Meath County Council announced details of its Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme for the 2025 year on the 14th January on council social media, the website, the Meath Chronicle, and the new newspaper 'An Páipéar' (directed at the Irish language speaking community). This scheme is open to students attending secondary schools in the County. Information regarding the scheme was forwarded to all secondary schools in the county also.

Twenty-four Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh grants of €150.00 each will be made available to students attending second level schools in the county. Eight Mother Columba Gibbons grants of €300.00 each will be made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools; and a further 6 Máire Ní Raghallaigh grants of €300.00 each will also be made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools. The grants will be recoupable against fees paid at recognised residential Irish colleges during the summer of 2024.

The Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme is supported by the Meath County Council, Irish Language and Creative Ireland programmes.

Local Lens Podcast

Meath County Council's podcast series of six 30-minute episodes landed on Tuesday, February 25th. Local Lens meets the people involved in delivering over 1,000 services to over 220,000 people across the county and hears from people who use them. Our first two episodes landed on Tuesday, February 25th on Apple Music, Spotify, You Tube, or wherever you get your podcasts <https://pod.link/1796214489>



East Meath Civic Centre Opening

On Monday, February 24th the East Meath Civic Centre was officially opened. The event was supported by social media coverage, including live streaming of the opening, which was viewed by almost 2000 people. LMFM also broadcast live from the building on the day with further coverage on RTE news.



Storm Éowyn

During Storm Éowyn, the Communications team 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.

Storm Éowyn - Update

Our crews are out today continuing the clean up from [#StormÉowyn](#). If you are out and about on the roads please continue to exercise caution.

All main routes are now passable with our crews now focusing on debris clean up throughout the county.

All routes included in the Winter Gritting Programme have now been cleared and will be treated as scheduled.

[#StaySafe](#) [#StayInformed](#)




Senior Engineer Caroline Corrigan outlines Meath County Council's plans in the wake of Storm Éowyn, and how you can play your part by staying indoors and avoiding unnecessary risks.

Stay up to date on our dedicated Storm Éowyn information hub <https://bit.ly/MCCStormÉowyn>

[#StormÉowyn](#)

[Meath Chronicle LFM](#)



Community Response Hubs/Broadband Connection Points

During the aftermath of Storm Éowyn, the Communications team continuously provided up-to-date information about Community Response Hubs and Broadband connections points, informing the public of locations, opening times and facilities provided. These campaigns reached more than 30,000 people with over 70,000 views.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE HUBS

Our Community Response Hubs have now been activated to manage the humanitarian response in the aftermath of Storm Éowyn.



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meath county council



BROADBAND CONNECTION POINTS

Broadband Connection Points are available at the following locations across the county to connect family and communities in the aftermath of Storm Éowyn.



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Event Guide

The Communications team developed and promoted an event guide for Meath-based events and activities taking place across St. Brigid's Bank Holiday Weekend.

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	Q3 2025	Q2 2027
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2026	Q1 2027
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			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q2 2025	Q4 2026
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q2 2026	Q2 2026
Total	28		

CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q1 2025
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
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Total	188		
CONSTRUCTION SCHEMES SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED			
Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q4 2024
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q4 2024
Total	158		
OVERALL TOTAL	525		

***Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells & Carrick Street, Kells**

The matter for both schemes 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 and 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. The hearing is expected to be scheduled for May/June 2025.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 14th February 2025

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	43

Ballivor	Part V	4
Bettystown	Part V	4
Carlanstown	Part V	2
Clonee	Part V	7
Donacarney	Part V	2
Drogheda	Part V	30
Duleek	Part V	10
Dunboyne	Part V	3
Dunshaughlin	Part V	38
Enfield	Part V	28
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	6
Kilcock	Part V	4
Navan	Part V	31
Oldcastle	Part V	5
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Ratoath	Part V	4
Stamullen	Part V	2
Summerhill	Part V	6
Trim	Part V	49
Ballivor	Turnkey	8
Bettystown	Turnkey	21
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Donacarney	Turnkey	16
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Kells	Turnkey	3
Navan	Turnkey	14
Stamullen	Turnkey	5
Kilmoon	CAS	1
Navan	CAS	17
Trim	CAS	2
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		469

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 14th February 2025.

No units delivered so far in 2025

Affordable Housing

Meath County Council will have a new affordable housing scheme for 10 units in Wellfield, Ratoath, Co Meath opening for applications soon.

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.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €614,789.19 including VAT was submitted for approval to DHLGH on 23rd January 2025.
- This includes 50 disabled persons grant units for €412,289.19 and 3 disabled persons grant extension units for €202,500.00.
- This brings the total to 53nr. LAAWS applications scheduled to be completed in 2025.

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

214 applications for the value of €1,442,139.43 were approved in 2025.

Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Energy upgrade works are currently ongoing on 20 properties.

Local Authority Planned Maintenance

Meath County Council (supported by DHLGH and the LGMA) is transitioning to a strategic and informed planned maintenance approach towards local authority stock through the completion of stock condition surveys. The ambition is to have surveys carried out on all local authority stock and to complete this work over the next 4 to 5 years. The software for carrying out these surveys was rolled out from the LGMA to Meath County Council late last year. 102 Stock Condition Surveys were completed in 2025, up to 18th February.

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 end January 2025.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractors
Kells	3	8	4	10	5
Navan	10	6	3	9	10
Ashbourne	4	1	1	4	2
Laytown/Bettystown	5	3	0	4	4
Ratoath	0	2	0	1	1
Trim	5	4	0	6	3
TOTALS	27	24	8*	34	25

**Note: These 8 pre-let properties are major refurbishment which includes energy upgrades to bring the property to BER rating of B2 or better.

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects (Including Part V)

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	6	Cluid	Q1 2025
Emmett St, Trim	12	North & East	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	100		

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects Delivered in 2025 Year to date:

No units delivered so far in 2025

Cost Rental

12 Affordable Cost rental units due to be delivered in Woodstream, Bailis, Navan, Co. Meath and Co. Meath by Q2 2025.

Homelessness – January 2025

	Single Adults / Couples	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements at 31st of December 2024 (Previous Reported Figure)	173 (180 Adults)	85 (139 Adults 130-Children)	258
Placements at 31st January 2025	183 (195 Adults)	89 (143 Adults, 142 Children)	272

Of the households with children, 81 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 8 Families in PMVT/DePaul Family Hubs.

Family Figures: In January 9 families exited emergency accommodation. We had 2 families exit to HAP tenancies, 2 to Meath County Council allocation, 1 returned to family and friends and 5 other reasons (not availing of bed etc).

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:

Primary reason is family breakdown; relationship breakdown; unable to find property to rent; Notice to Quit; domestic violence; overcrowding; couch surfing; addiction; mental health; house fire; unsuitable accommodation; rough sleeping

Place finder 01/01/2025 – 31/01/2025

Total	9
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	6
Homeless Prevention	3

Tenant Liaison Team January 2025

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	109	22
Occupancy of dwelling	45	41
Garden upkeep/maintenance	27	27
Dog/Horse/Pet Control	3	3
Total 01/01/2025-31/01/2025	184	93

ASB Investigations on going at (month end) 40

ASB Investigations completed (month end) 144

Number of Pre Tenancies complete in Jan 2025	82
Abandonments for Jan 2025	1
Houses taken back into stock for Jan 2025	6

Warning	Jan	Total
Verbal	1	1
Written	1	1
2 nd Written	0	0
Statutory	0	0
Advisory	3	3

Standards in Rented Accommodation

564 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath for January 2025. Of this figure, 160 were first inspections, 4 properties passed after their first inspection. 220 properties were on second inspection and of this figure 60 were compliant after inspection. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance. The number of tenancies to be inspected by Meath County Council in 2025 has been set at 1,973 dwellings (each dwelling can only be counted once per calendar year).

Social Housing Supports - for the period 1st January to 31st January 2025.

- 116 applications received for Social Housing.
- 43 applications approved onto the Social Housing List.
- 30 applications 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 January 2025.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	33
Transfers	3
Approved Housing Bodies	19
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	
Long Term Leasing	0

Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	55

Transportation Services



1. National Roads

Funding Source	TII
Grant Allocation	€18,254,967 (including Greenways €3,140,000)
Scheme	Update
N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	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.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme	In January 2025 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. Oral Hearing to take place in April 2025.
N52 Grange to Clontail	No update
National Road Resurfacing	N52 Woodtown to County Boundary works ongoing

2. Non - National Roads

Funding Source	DoT
Grant Allocation	€26,567,800

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

Grant Allocation	€ 18,283,550 (inc CIS)
Own Resources (Local tertiary roads)	€3,083,800
Total	€21,366,350

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Tenders being prepared for 2025 programme
Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)	Tenders being prepared for 2025 programme
Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)	Tenders being prepared for 2025 programme
Phase 4 (Wearing Course)	Tenders being prepared for 2025 programme
CIS Works Carried Out, Roads Wearing Course bases complete	Tenders being prepared for 2025 programme

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

Grant Allocation	€1,200,000
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	Environmental, Planning and Appraisal documentation being finalised
R162 Navan to Kingscourt Rd (Lisnagrew)	GI contractor expected on site in the coming weeks to investigate ongoing subsidence issue
R156 Mullagh Cross	Environmental, Planning and Appraisal documentation being finalised

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

Grant Allocation	€470,000
<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

Grant Allocation		€742,250
<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	
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Contractor Appointed	
Minor Bridge Works 2024	Substantially complete	
Laytown Pedestrian Bridge	Works commenced on site January 2025. Bridge closure in place until 28 th February 2025.	
Ballivor Bridge	Works commenced on site January 2025.	
Ashbourne Bridge	Tender documents being finalised	
BAMS Engineering Inspections	Inspections complete (2024)	

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation		€540,500
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>	
L10021 - Timoole, Ashbourne	Works Ongoing	

2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation	€750,000
<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
R132 (Former N1)	Tender being prepared for 2025 programme

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	NTA
Grant Allocation	€12,000,000
<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).
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	Consultant Team is currently finalising the Preliminary Business Case and Gateway 3 documents.
Navan Contract 5:	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).

Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	No update this month.
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.
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>
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).
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	No update this month.
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.

Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1 Works from Solstice to Beechmount.	No update this month.
Fairgreen to Johnstown	This could be renamed "Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 2 Works from Fairgreen to Johnstown". No update this month.
Safe Routes to School St. Stephen's NS, Navan	Statutory planning process (Part 8) commenced
Beaufort College, Navan	Development proposals ongoing
St. Colmcille's NS, Kells	Development proposals ongoing
Our Lady of Mercy NS, Kells	Development proposals ongoing
Dunboyne and Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	Preliminary Design (preparation of Part 8 planning documents) progressing on Section 1 of the scheme, Dunboyne to Clonee Active Travel Links. MCC have completed their review of the Masterplan prepared by the Consultant for the delivery of Section 2 of the overall scheme which consists of the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne. MCC await the updated Masterplan from the consultant before submitting it to the NTA for approval.
Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	No NTA funding currently available for the scheme. ORIS funding application being prepared for a section of the Broadmeadow Urban Greenway.
Castle Street Ashbourne	MCC preparing tender documents for the procurement of a consultant engineer to develop an Active Travel Scheme along Castle Street Ashbourne.

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
<p>Pathfinder Scheme</p> <p>R161, Navan to Trim Scheme</p>	<p>In August 2024, Meath County Council wrote to the Minister of Transport to request that separate and specific funding be allocated for Meath County Council's Pathfinder Project on the R161 Navan – Trim Road. This correspondence was sent following discussions between MCC and the NTA regarding the AT funding likely to be available in 2024 and 2025. MCC advised the Minister that their understanding was that there was funding separate to the NTA ATIG for Pathfinder Schemes. MCC stressed that R161 Pathfinder Scheme was progressing well and on programme, however, the NTA had made it clear to MCC that the funding likely to be available in 2024/2025 and beyond would fall well short of what MCC require to keep its Active Travel programme on schedule. On the 8th November 2024, the Minister replied to our correspondence. He acknowledged the national situation and the fact that there are a large number of projects in the pipeline for delivery around the country in the years ahead. He advised that the demand for funding for active travel necessitated the need for project prioritisation, whereby funding will be allocated to areas of greatest impact. He also advised that he had no involvement with the selection of projects to be funded through the NTA's Active Travel Programme, and that MCC should continue to liaise with the NTA in the context of future funding allocations. MCC subsequently discussed its priorities with the NTA in the context of the funding likely to be available in 2025 and the other projects it is progressing. Regrettably, MCC is not in a position to progress this pathfinder scheme to the construction phase in 2025. An allocation of €50,000 has been provided by the NTA to bring the scheme to a suitable point and thereafter work will be suspended.</p> <p>Please note that work on the design of the R161/Borallion junction will continue under a separate scheme.</p>

4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source		Primarily DoT & NTA	
Grant Allocation			
<u>Scheme</u>		<u>Update</u>	
<u>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</u>			
Greenway Maintenance		Contractor 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 & Gibstown Car Park		Works progressing on the footpath from the Gibbstown Greenway crossing to Kilberry.	
Additional Facilities		Contractor has been appointed and is currently installing new distance marker posts, seating, picnic benches, bike repair stations, water stations, additional planting and signage, masonry upgrade works.	
Traffic Calming Works		Traffic calming works ongoing at the Greenway crossing approaching Kingscourt on the R165. Works scheduled to be complete early March.	

5.Other/Projects

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	RRDF approval granted to progress the detailed design of the scheme. Tobin Consultant Engineers Ltd. actively progressing the detailed design.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works.	Works completing/ongoing to Woodview & Tubberclare, Navan, Ballinaclose Kilmainhamwood, Cortown and Crestwood Ashbourne.

R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming Scheme	Kerbing and drainage complete. VAS signage, road surfacing and road markings to be carried out in the coming weeks.
LDR4 Navan	Works at new junction on N51/R147 Kells Road end have commenced and temporary traffic management is expected to be in place until mid-July 2025.
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.
County Archive and Community Hub	Design and tender document preparation currently ongoing

7. RRDF

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Update</u>
Boyne Greenway Navan to Oldbridge	Since the public consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route of the Boyne Greenway Navan to Oldbridge in early 2024, the project team have been developing the preliminary design of the Boyne Greenway route. To this end, various specific flora and fauna surveys have been completed as well as technical investigations such as a topographical survey has been completed and ground investigations are due to commence imminently. The Council is liaising with landowners regarding access for the ground investigation contractor and compensation for the proposed boreholes and trial pits on their lands.

	<p>Given the many factors at play, the design of and planning application for the Boyne Greenway presents significant substantial and unique challenges. The complexity of the scheme was again highlighted during the Appropriate Assessment process and the preparation of the Natura Impact Statement for the ground investigation works and ensuing engagement with the NPWS. We also note the recent refusal by An Bord Pleanala of the Blessington Greenway and the reasons underpinning their decision. The preparation of the planning submission to An Bord Pleanala will need careful consideration and take account both of the environmental and appropriate assessments as well as recent planning decisions. It is currently anticipated that the design and planning application for the Boyne Greenway will take circa 18 months to complete.</p> <p>At the end of the route options assessment, the decision was made to de-couple the Navigation Restoration from the Greenway. This was done for a number of reasons including the availability of a funding source and the absence of a competent authority with the relevant expertise to develop the scheme and operate it in the long term. Meath County Council remains committed to assessing the viability of the restoration of the Boyne Navigation and is engaging with Waterways Ireland to establish whether or not the project would align with their strategic objectives.</p>
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8. THRIVE

Scheme	Update
County Archive and Community Hub	Design and tender document preparation currently on-going

9. Meath County Council Projects

Scheme	Update
East Meath Civic Centre	Official Opening on Monday 24 th February

New Library/Community Building, Amenity Area and Age Friendly Housing	Stage 1 procurement process complete, proceeding with Stage 2 procurement process to appoint an Architect-led Multi-Disciplinary Design team
Buvinda Council Chambers & Offices	Design and Works tender document preparation is currently on-going
Solstice – Frontage	In discussion with original Architect

Economic Development & Tourism



DBEC Summit

The first Summit of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor, “Shaping A Cross Border Investment Corridor”, took place in Belfast on Thursday, 27th February. Meath representatives from both the local authority and businesses across the county attended the summit to further develop a shared vision for the island’s East Coast, as well as address a range of economic challenges. Some of the topics being covered are

- Accelerating growth
- Environmental sustainability
- The power of collaboration
- Cross Border Infrastructure



The DBEC Co-Chairs (L-R) Councillor Brian McDonagh, Mayor of Fingal County Council and Councillor Pete Byrne, Chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launch the DBEC Summit

Remote Working Hubs

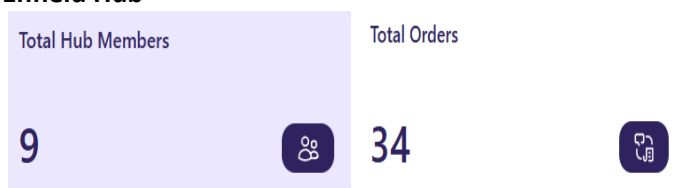
At Dunshaughlin and Enfield Hubs we offer clients access to a selection of flexible co-working desks and meeting spaces at affordable prices so they can avoid those long commutes, the unnecessary overheads associated with renting serviced offices or the isolation and distractions often associated with working from home.

Monthly Hub usage statistics to 14th February 2025:

Dunshaughlin Hub



Enfield Hub



Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan

Regional Enterprise Plans are created by local stakeholders and aim to collaborate on initiatives that promote enterprise growth. The Regional Programme Manager was appointed in November 2024, with Meath designated as the lead county in the region. Key priorities have included:

- Reviewing and recruiting new members for the Steering Committee, engaging key stakeholders
- Developing and scheduling a Regional Workshop to focus on priorities for the next 12 months
- Currently reviewing the existing Regional Enterprise Plan for DETE and initiating the consultation process for the new plan, which is set to launch in Q1 2026.

The first Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan Workshop took place at MaynoothWorks. This marked the first face-to-face meeting of key stakeholders. During the workshop, participants agreed on the key priorities for the current plan, identified potential working groups, and discussed the upcoming review process.

It was agreed that the selection of objectives for the next plan would commence in Q1 2025.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The Boyne Valley Transition Year Young Cooks competition took place on Thursday 23rd January in Lismullin Cookery School with 9 schools taking part – 5 from Meath and 4 from Louth. 1 school from Meath and 1 school from Louth will now proceed to the National Final, joining teams from Monaghan, Cavan, Galway and Tipperary. Over the course of two hours, the talented young chefs prepared two courses, each highlighting at least two ingredients sourced from Boyne Valley producers. The winning team from Meath was Eureka Secondary School, Kells and the winning team from Louth was Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda.



Participants, judges and organisers of the Boyne Valley Transition Year Young Cooks Competition pictured outside Lismullen Cookery School

Tourism

Boyne Valley Tourism completed their 10th national press visit with Plunkett PR on their 2023/24 PR contract. This took place on Friday the 31st January to Sunday the 2nd February 2025. Influencer [Melanie May](#) visited the Boyne Valley to sample some of its culinary delights. Her packed itinerary included a bread-making experience in Bread with Benefits, visits to Sonairte eco-centre and café and the Royal Canal Greenway, a Wood Turning Experience with Frayne Woodcraft, a tour of Killua Castle & Farm and an overnight stay in The Johnstown Estate and Scholars Townhouse. Melanie is in the process of completing two pieces for TheTaste.ie and Dublin South FM.

Boyne Valley Tourism Members have been registering for the new year, for inclusion in the 2025 Holiday Guide which will be available from March onwards.

Local Enterprise Office

EVAC Committee

The first meeting of the 2025 Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee met on Tuesday 11th February. Three companies had applied for grant funding and all were approved.

- Two Feasibility grants of €15,000 each were awarded.
 - One grant was to explore the commercialisation of a bespoke professional building project managements software package. The software was developed in house and the company wish to explore its applicability to the wider industry.

- The second grant was awarded to a start-up company exploring the need for an FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) purchasing network to work as a link between FMCG buyers and supermarket chains
- One priming Grant of €50,000 was awarded to a company providing high technology, precision filling systems for the liquid pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

Launch of Enterprise week



Enterprise Week will take place from the 3rd to the 7th March at locations throughout the county. The objective is to engage, inspire and encourage enterprise generation and growth across the county.

The Local Enterprise Office has never been so ambitious in their offering of events, training and access to business information and advice.

Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Mentoring Assignments Approved	38
Attended Online Training Courses	110
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	17
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	5
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	1
GREEN for Micro Applications	10
Digital for Business	10

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
LEAN for Micro Applications	4
LEO Grants	3

Rural Regeneration



Vacant Homes	2025 total
Vacant Homes Identified	621
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2025	0
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2025	7
Derelict Sites	2025 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	40
No. of statutory orders issued	3
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2025	2
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2025	0
Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2025 total
Approved Applications	56
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	45
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	76
Rejected Applications	1
Withdrawn Applications	55
Completed / Paid Applications	30
Total Applications Received	263
Total Approved Grant Funding	€1,371,000
Total Paid Grant Funding	€170,000
Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process commenced (Jan/Feb'25)	
Longwood Playground	Meath County Council
Tender Process Completed (Jan/ Feb'25)	
Feasibility Studies for future project development	Meath County Council
Project development for Enfield Amenity area	Town and Village

Project development for Drumconrath Amenity area	Town and Village
Traffic & Pedestrian Counts in Dunshaughlin	Town Centre First
Works Commenced (Jan/Feb'25)	
Ashbourne Skatepark	Meath County Council
Kilberry to Wilkinstown Greenway Enhancement Works	ORIS
Works to pumphouse in Drumonrath (convert to storage unit for Tidy Towns Group)	TVRS
Works Completed (Jan/Feb'25)	
Rathmullan Footpath Facility	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
Traffic & Pedestrian Counts in Dunshaughlin	Town Centre First
Kells Sensory Garden - site clearance only	Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Community Development



Local Coordination Group established in response to Storm Éowyn

In the wake of Storm Éowyn, the Meath Local Coordination Group Chaired by Chief Executive Kieran Kehoe was activated in order to provide assistance to the worst affected areas of Meath.



The forum comprised of both internal and external key stakeholders who all provided support and assistance to those most in need. Community Hubs were established county-wide to provide humanitarian support as homes remained without electricity and water. An out of hours support phone line was manned each evening and early morning to provide additional support and direct people to the nearest relevant source of aid and the meath.ie website was updated regularly with the latest information available.

The coordination group met daily until power supplies were restored across the county.

Membership of the forum consisted of Meath County Council, An Garda Síochána, HSE, Department of Social Protection, LMETB, Meath Civil Defence, Meath Partnership, Meath Volunteer Centre, Meath GAA, IFA, Meath LCDC, Meath County Childcare Committee Local Link and Tusla.

Public Participation Network

- Meath PPN is confirmed as hosts for the 2025 National PPN Conference. This will take place in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim on October 16th & 17th, where 200 delegates from across the country will be welcomed to celebrate community engagement, showcasing best practice from Meath based groups. The theme for the conference will be “Building Better Communities”, reflecting the constant striving towards building a strong network for volunteers, social prescribers and stakeholders.
- 734 groups are registered with Meath PPN.
- The Midlands Region PPN meeting was held in Bellinter House on February 5th with 26 representatives attending from the 6 PPNs. Topics discussed included funding, staff retention and the national coordination structure.
- Two sold out workshops on grant writing and fundraising were held on February 11th and 13th with 80 participants. Training on governance for community groups will be held in March.
- A grants calendar has been issued to all registered groups with information on annual grants and funding available throughout the year. The calendar is also available on PPN website: <https://www.meathppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Grants-Funding-Calendar.pdf>
- Meath PPN supported the Local Coordination Group liaise with community hubs, centers and sports facilities who were providing assistance following Storm Éowyn.

County Outdoor Recreation Plan



A public consultation was opened on 10th February on the development of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan. In person consultations were held in Ashbourne on 11th February and Navan on 12th February. A workshop for elected members was also held on 12th February.

The consultation was advertised through the PPN, Meath County Council website, social media channels and the Meath Chronicle. The public consultation closed on 26th February.

Mapping Community Meeting Spaces Survey

The Community Department is conducting a survey to understand the needs of community groups for community meeting spaces. The aim of the survey is to understand what works well, the challenges facing community groups and to develop plans and policies to ensure everyone has access to appropriate community meetings spaces.

The survey will also be advertised through the PPN, Meath County Council website, social media channels and the Meath Chronicle.

The Survey will close on the 7th of March at 5pm.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC meeting scheduled for 24th January was cancelled due to Storm Éowyn and was postponed to 28th February 2025. This meeting will be held in person in the Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown, Kells to support the launch of the CommUnity Connect Project. The March LCDC meeting is due to take place on 28th March 2025.

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

The last LAG meeting was held on 13th December and the next meeting of the LAG is scheduled for 28th February 2024, following the LCDC February meeting in the Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown, Kells.

Healthy Meath

Storm Éowyn caused the cancellation of the CommUnity Connects Launch planned for Deerpark Community Hub in Carlanstown at the end of January. This event has now been rescheduled to 28th February at same location to coincide with the LCDC meeting.

Comhairle na nÓg

The 2024 Annual Report and Expenditure Report for funds received from the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund in 2024 is currently being completed for return to Pobal by 28th February 2025.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The closing date for receipt of completed applications has been extended to 14th February 2025 due to Storm Eowyn to allow community groups who did not have power enough time to submit completed application forms.

Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events

The closing date for receipt of applications is 14th March.

Community Grant Scheme

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 7th March.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme

The Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme closed for applications on Friday 24th January 2025. 36 applications were received and are being assessed.

Pride of Place

The closing date for receipt of applications is 2nd May.

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 and other locations if required to address issues as they arise.

- Cumulative Yearly total of Clinics Held: 18 with 110 attendees
- **Customer Service Cases Logged JAN 2025:**

Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	5
Number of Customer cases closed	25

Commercial Properties Updates

- 1 new commercial property has been notified to MCC by the Department of Children, Disability Integration and Youth for International Protection applicants in Kells, this is under consideration.

Note: The usual graph of the cumulative interactions has not been provided due to the low numbers at the start of the year. This will be provided on a cumulative basis when more data from February is added.

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

91 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025. This is compared to 95 in the same period in 2024.

In 2025, 92.3% of applications were received through the online portal, ePlan.

2. Commencement Notices

25 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2025 to 31/01/2025. This is compared to 67 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	5
Multi-Units	6** (units)
Extensions	9
Other*	7

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

**This includes a resubmission of a commencement notice for which the initial valid commencement notice has since been withdrawn.

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

The collection figures for development contributions for the period Jan 2025 are as follows:

Receipt Period:	Jan 2025
Total Receipts	€ 302,026
Recoupments received	€ 0

Total Received € 302,026

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2025: € 8,000,000
Actual Collected Jan – Dec 2025: € 302,026
% collected: 3.7%

Please note the collection figures shown above are inclusive of Uisce Eireann receipts (€12,778).

The total collected in the same period in 2024 was €739,656 made up of Receipts and Recoupments.

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

12 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 31.01.2025.

New Cases to be Investigated	7
Warning Letter	20
Enforcement Notices	10
Referred for Legal Proceedings	0
Closed	11

*please note these figures relate to actions taken on files in the year 2025 only

5. Forward Planning

Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	A Chief Executive Report on submissions relating to the proposed Material Alterations has been prepared and circulated to the members on 10 th January, for discussion at a February Council meeting.
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 adopted on the 27th January 2025. The OPR has been notified of its adoption, and public notices, the incorporation of the variation text into Meath CDP 2021-2027 and the finalisation and Environmental Reports for publication are presently underway.</p> <p>Work on Variation No. 4 To incorporate the Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 into the Meath CDP 2021-2027 has commenced, with a view to placing it on public display in late February 2024, in the event of the adoption of the Maynooth JLAP by the Elected Members and Kildare and Meath County Council.</p> <p>Work on Variation No. 5 to carry out a Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) for South Drogheda and zone appropriate lands to meet the household allocation for the CDP</p>

	<p>& Joint Urban Area Plan period is progressing. It is envisaged that this variation will go on public display in Q1 of 2025.</p> <p>Review of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 to commence in Q2 of 2025. Work is progressing on background reports which will inform the new CDP.</p>
RZLT	<p>The Final RZLT Map 2025 & Annual Draft RZLT Map 2026 consultations are now on public display since the 31st January 2025. Both have closing dates of 11.59pm 1st April 2025.</p> <p>This Final RZLT Map 2025 is available at Final RZLT Map 2025</p> <p>Please note that <u>Landowners only</u> can make a rezoning submission for land identified on the Final Annual Map 2025.</p>

6. Heritage & Biodiversity Projects

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme 2025	<p>An application for funding has been made to the Heritage Council under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme 2025.</p> <p>Total grant applied for: €20,000</p> <p>This funding will be used to complete the development of a Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan for County Meath and support outreach and engagement activities throughout year.</p>
Local Biodiversity Action Fund Projects	<p>An application for funding is being prepared for the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. This is provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and is available to all local authorities to assist in the delivery of projects that target the objectives of Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023 - 2030.</p> <p>The amount available to each Local Authority is €96,700.</p> <p>Projects under consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hare's Corner • Commons of Lloyd Conservation Grazing Project • Barn Owl Conservation Project • National Mayfly Red list • County Meath Wetlands Re-survey (Phase 1) • Local authority ecological survey programme (Phase 1) • Community Biodiversity Action Plan Small Grant Scheme • Invasive Alien Species Project - Common Cordgrass in the Nanny Estuary • Invasive Alien Species Project - Quagga Mussel in Lough Sheelin • Invasive Alien Species Project - Himalayan Balsam in the Mattock River Catchment • Development of the Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey • Citizen science & community outreach programme

Biodiversity Training for LA Staff	<p>Training for members of staff in Development Management and Forward Planning took place in January on Barn Owl Conservation and the role of planning in contributing towards the protection and conservation of Barn Owl in County Meath.</p> <p>17 members of staff participated.</p>
Community Monuments Fund 2025	<p>11 project applications submitted from County Meath for consideration under the Community Monuments Fund 2025. The grant scheme offers funding for the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments.</p>
Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN)	<p>Athboy were successful in their application to the join the Irish Walled Town Network.</p> <p>Funding application was submitted to the Irish Walled Town Network Capital Fund 2025 for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation works to c. 80m section of Trim Town Wall • Preparation of Conservation Management Plan for Athboy Town Walls
County Heritage Plan	<p>Funding application submitted to the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Fund 2025. Total grant sought €37,500.</p> <p>This funding will be used to implement annual heritage work programme from <i>County Meath Heritage Strategy 2024-2030</i>.</p>
Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025	<p>Supporting community groups to prepare applications for Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025. Closing date March 14th</p>

Climate Action and Environment



GAA Green Clubs

On Monday, January 20, 2025, Meath County Council, in collaboration with the Meath GAA County Board and GAA Green Clubs, hosted an information evening at Buvinda House.

The event highlighted the Green Clubs Programme, designed to help clubs implement simple measures to protect our natural heritage and ensure a sustainable future for our community. The evening featured speakers from Meath County Council, Meath GAA County Board, GAA Green Club, and the Meath SEC Mentor.



Additionally, Blackhall Gaels and Bective GFC who were recognised for their achievement of the Phase 2 Green Clubs presented on the positive sustainability projects that they have achieved in their clubs.

St. Vincent's GFC who were successful in the Community Climate Action Programme provided details on their project which included LED upgrades, a bike shed and installation of a water refill station.

The evening was a resounding success, with numerous clubs in attendance, showcasing and building upon the impressive work done in the county. The positive feedback from attendees underscored the event's success. The Climate Action Section extends heartfelt thanks to all speakers and clubs for their participation and engagement.

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. Four projects are now fully complete with eight progressing.

Drawdown 1 - November 2024

Club	Details	Amount	Project Complete
Ratoath Athletics	LED Track Lighting	€8,000.00	In progress
Castle Villa AFC	LED Installation on Astro Pitch	€7,000.00	Yes
Syddan GFC	Insulating attic and walls of community hall	€9,500.00	Yes
Meadowbankhill Residents Association	Equipment for Community Garden upkeep	€1,995.00	In progress
Moynalty Tidy Towns	Self-Watering Baskets	€3,452.00	Yes
St. Vincents GFC	Bike Storage & LED Pitch Lighting	€46,425.00	In progress
Summerhill CC	Solar Panels	€30,794.82	In progress
Drewstown House	Replacement of lighting to LED Lighting	€3,851.59	In progress

Drawdown 2- February 2025

Club	Details	Amount	Project Complete
St. Vincents GFC	Water Refill Station	€3,075.00	Yes
Bective GFC	Solar Panels	€23,622.90	In progress
Athboy Celtic AFC	Solar Panels	€3,847.50	In progress
Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG	Solar Panels	€46,970.43	In progress

Drawdown 3 Due 6th May 2025

Final Project Drawdown - 6th January 2026

URBACT In4Green

The In4Green network aims to empower and build the capacity of local actors in industrial areas to overcome the barriers that prevent the transition to greener economies while remaining competitive and inclusive. The overall challenge that the In4Green network wants to address is the green transition in small and medium-sized European cities with an industrial past.

Meath County Council is progressing with the development of an Integrated Action Plan for Navan. The IAP is being developed through an integrated and participative approach. A local committee called the URBACT Local Group is helping form the actions for the plan. The group is made up of representatives from local Industry, local communities and representatives from Meath County Council, Cllr. Edward Fennessy is chair to the ULG. Sections 1 & 2 of the plan have been drafted and

we are now at the “preparing implementation” stage of the programme. The final plan is due to be launched by December 2025.

Woodland Creation on Public Lands

Funding has been approved by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine through the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme for woodland which will be planted on 7.2 hectares of Meath County Council owned lands at Liscarton and at 3 hectares at Galtrim Lodge during Quarter 1 of 2025.

The purpose of the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme is to encourage Public Bodies to establish new native woodlands on suitable bare land. This aim is consistent with the Programme for Government, which sought to “Embark on an ambitious programme of afforestation on state-owned lands”.

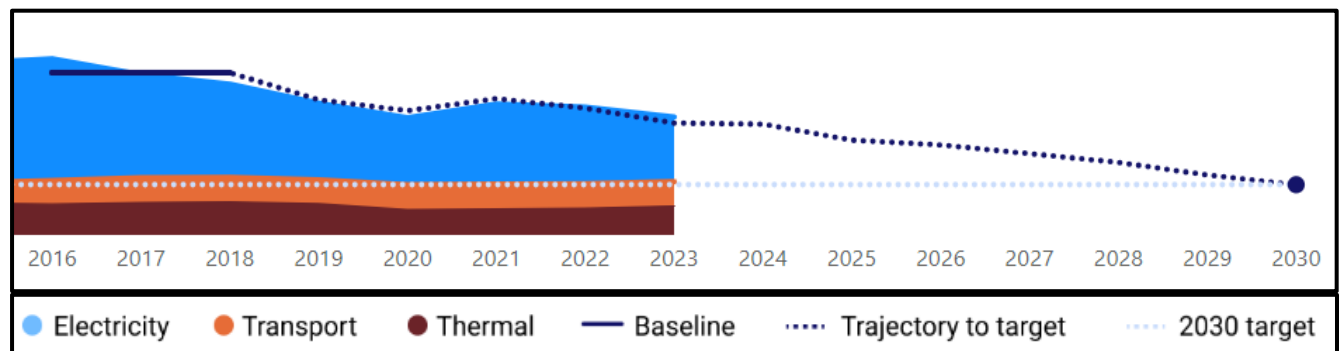
Meath County Council’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders: This is the first report based on the 2024-2029 CAP. It will be made available at the March Full Council meeting.

Local Authority Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on Climate Action Data collation for 2024 commenced on 15th January 2025 across all local authorities. This process collects data relating to ten KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action. Report to be published by mid-year. Data collation for 2023 was published at end of August 2023 and available on LGMA website at [2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf](https://www.lgma.ie/2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf) (LGMA.ie)

Energy

Annual SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) Return

The Monitoring and Reporting system is a web-based software system through which public bodies and schools report energy, emissions and related data to SEAI each year. This enables SEAI to track each organisation's progress towards energy and climate policy targets. Each year, an annual report is generated to Meath County Council to track our progress towards 2030 targets. The M&R return involves the submission of large quantities of data from many sources, and this was completed by Meath County Council in late November. Below shows the current tracking against the target glidepath.



Green Schools

Meath Schools are currently undergoing Green School Assessments and Renewal Visits for the prestigious Green Flag Programme.

This comprehensive school action initiative addresses a range of environmental issues, including Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship, Marine Conservation, Food Production, and Sustainability. Students also engage in projects on Fast Fashion, Citizen Journalism, Activism, and more.

This annual competition is a collaborative effort between An Taisce Green Schools, Local Authorities, and Schools, forming part of the global UNESCO Environmental Education Scheme. The county boasts many outstanding examples of Green Schools, with Dunshaughlin Community College being a prime example. Their students presented an impressive showcase of their work during their assessment in February and eagerly anticipate receiving their first Green Flag in May.

Among their numerous innovative and effective actions, the students launched a successful Re-Turn Scheme to raise funds for redesigning their library, featuring a dedicated environmental and ecology education section.



Libraries Services



Local Studies

Local Studies Librarian Tom French delivered a fascinating local history talk in Ballivor Library to pupils and teachers of St Columbanus's National School, Ballivor.



3D Printing Workshop in Navan Library

Meath County Council Library Service purchased 3D Printers for Ashbourne, Bettystown, Navan and Trim Libraries in 2024. They will be used to deliver workshops as part of the library's annual STEAM programme and will also be made available to members of the public who wish to print their own printables.

Several staff members participated in two half-day training workshops in November 2024. Following this training, staff in Navan library delivered a Family Workshop in December for *Family Time at your Library*. The team then devised a four-week series of workshops for children and teens aged 10+. The aim of the programme is to introduce participants to the basics of 3D design software and printing. Staff will lead participants through three different design projects using TinkerCard, an online design platform. They will also learn the basics of preparing a design for print. The final workshop will offer each child the chance to put their skills into practice and plan and print their own design.

There has been great demand for this series of workshops and a waiting list of interested parties has been compiled for future sessions.

Ireland Reads Day on Saturday February 22nd.

Ireland Reads, a Government of Ireland initiative and funded by Healthy Ireland, encourages everyone to get lost in a good book. Studies have shown the mental health benefits that reading brings along with stress reduction.

- The spotlight event takes place in Trim Library where author Donal Ryan, the An Post Book of the Year Award winner, is in interview with author Nicola Cassidy.
- Each library will host story and craft stations on the day.
- Libraries will invite local class groups in the week leading up to Ireland Reads day.
- Author and illustrator, Tatyana Feeney, will be showcasing her new book, *Stockingopolis*, to invited junior/senior infant classes in both Trim and Oldcastle Libraries.
- An online Bookface competition will encourage the public to be creative and have fun with book covers where they merge themselves with the cover to create a fun optical illusion. This competition is open to adults, teenagers and children with a book token prize for each category winner.

Nobber Library

Nobber Library has reopened with extended opening hours making it easier for everyone to enjoy all the library has to offer. The introduction of a late night on Tuesdays will allow people who are working during the day better access to the library. In addition to its wide range of reading materials, the library offers free WiFi, public computers, a self-service printing, photocopying and scanning facility, a Magic Table for individuals with dementia and autism, study spaces and much more.

Opening Hours

Tuesday: 1.30 pm – 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Wednesday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Thursday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Saturday: 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Creative Ireland - Lullaby Leaf

Lullaby Leaf is a captivating, fun-filled, and immersive, sensory theatre experience created by Ceol Connected for young children with complex additional needs and their guardian/carer. This 2024/2025 project was produced in association with Meath, Cavan and Monaghan County Councils.

As part of the Lullaby Leaf project, Ceol Connected designed and facilitated a series of CPD workshops which took place in all three counties in 2024. Tailored to the needs of artists and educators interested in learning skills and gaining experience in sensory arts for children with complex needs, this professional development initiative was delivered in the Swift Cultural Centre, Trim in June 2024.

In January 2025, Ceol Connected engaged a range of young students with severe and/or complex special educational needs in the delivery of multiple Lullaby Leaf performances in the Swift Cultural Centre, Trim from January 13th to January 17th. A talented team of artists from the fields of music, dance, visual arts, theatre and circus facilitated children on a sensory journey where they experienced what it is like to live on a giant leaf.

The project culminated in a Lullaby Leaf Symposium at Íontas Theatre in Castleblayney, Monaghan, on Friday, 24th January

Nobber Library



Artists, educators and Ceol Connected Co-Creators at CPD day in Swift Cultural Centre, Trim.



Lullaby Leaf performers on the set of Lullaby Leaf, Swift Cultural Centre, Trim

Finance



Housing Loans :

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2025 to 14 th February 2025		
Fully Completed Applications Received	5	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	0	
Approved by Credit Committee	3	1 relates to 2024, 2 relate to 2025.
Refused by Credit Committee	0	
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	2	2025 applications
Active Approvals	21.83	3 relate to 2025, 16 relate to 2024, 2.83 relate to 2023
Expired	5	5 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	0	

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2025 to 14th February 2025 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023 and 2024. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.