

Louth County Libraries

There are five branch libraries in Louth, Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Dunleer and Carlingford. A mobile library service visits rural and urban parts of the county on a fortnightly service as well as nursing homes and crèches and a schools service visits all primary schools in the county.

Free Library Membership and Enhanced Online Services

Membership in all branch libraries in Louth is open to all and is free. Free universal library membership allows customers to borrow from one library authority and return items to another library authority.

A new suite of online E-services is available from our website at www.louthcoco.ie/libraries by using your library card. The new e-services include:

Borrowbox and eBooks and eAudio books: This service can be accessed by library members using their library card and Pin. Items can be downloaded onto a tablet or iPhone using the app provided or downloaded directly onto a laptop or computer.

Zinio Emagazines: Library members can browse online currently 200 magazines on a wide range of subjects such as photography, gardening, sport, cars, house and home and much more.

Mango Online language courses: There are 71 languages represented, including Irish, Spanish, German, French, Italian and Japanese. There is also a translation service provided from these languages into another.

Proquest online newspaper service: allows library members to search articles through a world-wide archive of newspapers. A search facility using keywords will bring up a full array of articles dealing with that subject, which can be read or downloaded by the user.

Universal Class eLearning: provides access to online courses in over 30 subject areas. These include practical topics such as budgeting and saving, creative writing, report writing and much more. Library members can sign up to complete modules and assignments, or simply watch the video classes online.

Work Matters at the Library

Work Matters is a national public library initiative, where the local library acts as a rich support network for those seeking employment, a career change or who are budding entrepreneurs.

[Dundalk Library Work Matters](#) provides business and employment related information resources, services and a programme of events to support business, enterprise and employment.

Resources include books, newspapers, information, and a jobs board. Users can also avail of a suite of free digital resources including, online courses, eBooks, Ezines,

Services include Free WiFi, a designated PC, printing and photocopying.

Collaboration is in progress between the library and In-treo, LEO, Citizens Information Centre and LMETB to enhance and promote Work Matters in Louth.

Right to Read Programme

The *Right to Read Programme* is an initiative delivering more coordinated literacy support at local level. The programme strengthens existing relationships and builds on the partnership approach in delivering literacy support.

Louth County Libraries provide literacy support through their skilled workforce and advice on recommended reading. We also run events throughout the year to support literacy development such as storytime initiatives, the Summer Stars Reading Programme and Children's Book Festival

Computer Classes

As Digital Literacy is as important as traditional literacy, Louth Libraries are tasked with ensuring that all Louth residents can avail of the opportunity to learn or upskill on their digital literacy on an equitable basis. Free classes are available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries, open to everyone, and demand is extremely high.

Library Events

There is a wide programme of events throughout the year in all branches, to suit all ages and tastes. Log onto our webpage on www.louthcoco.ie/libraries to keep up to date or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/louthcountylibraries or Twitter: @louthcoco

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week 2017

This year Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week was from September 25th - 1st October. Here is some information that you may find useful.

What are the signs & symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning?

- Flu-like symptoms (drowsiness & headaches)
- Chest pains
- Nausea
- Diarrhoea
- Dizziness
- Lack of Energy



Are there any other signs?

- Symptoms occur when a particular appliance is on
- Others suffer similar symptoms (including pets)
- Symptoms improve when away from the property



ISSUE NO. 3

DEAR READER

Welcome to Louth County Council's Tenant Newsletter - Autumn 2017. This newsletter is designed to keep tenants informed about our services, updates, news and relevant housing issues.

We hope that you will find the information contained within this newsletter useful. Please feel free to contact Louth County Council with your queries and comments.

The Customer Services Section is your first point of contact for all of your queries and our fully trained and expert staff are on hand to assist you. We welcome your comments and feedback.

Joe McGuinness
Director of Services

New Housing Units

Two new housing schemes are currently in progress - Mount Hamilton in Dundalk and Liscorrie on Bog Road in Drogheda.

Mount Hamilton is a development of 140 houses, 43 of which are for social housing with Cluid Housing Association. A range of house types including 2, 3 and 4 bed properties will be available. These are located on the Carrickmacross Road, an established area in Dundalk which is close to the town centre, schools and other amenities.



Liscorrie is on the Bog Road on the north side of Drogheda and is a development of 117 houses with 41 of these allocated as social housing with Túath Housing Association. A mix of 2 and 3 bed houses will be available and are arranged into small groups. Liscorrie is located near the M1 motorway, schools, shops and the hospital.



NEWSLETTER

Evictions

- Louth County Council has successfully secured 3 Repossession Orders in Court.
- One tenant has already been evicted, with another tenant due for eviction next week.
- There are several more Repossession Orders in progress, scheduled to occur before the end of 2017.

IF YOU HAVE RENT ARREARS, YOU ARE IN DANGER OF MAKING YOURSELF HOMELESS

Please contact Rent Section today on LoCall 1890 202 303

Louth County Council is making contact with everyone with Rent Arrears who are not adhering to an agreed Payment Plan. If tenants fail to agree and keep to a Payment Plan, Louth County Council WILL begin legal proceedings and YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME!

Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

Dundalk Credit Union are delighted to announce that they are developing a Homeloan product which is geared specifically to the Louth County Council Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme.

This Homeloan - planned for launch in the New Year - is being designed to facilitate local authority tenants in Dundalk that wish to buy their house from Louth County Council.

The application process will be streamlined to allow those applicants who meet the Council's qualification criteria and the Credit Union's lending criteria to enjoy a simple no-fuss route to purchasing their own home.

The Credit Union are setting up a dedicated team to help deal with these applications and guide members through the process. Initial information is available online at www.dundalkcu.ie/tenantpurchasescheme together with a registration form where members can express interest.



Domestic Waste & Tenant Responsibility

Waste Disposal - including litter, domestic waste, dog fouling and illegal burning of rubbish

Tenants are responsible for disposing of their domestic waste on a regular basis. Your waste is your responsibility until it has been collected or disposed of. There are numerous service providers in your area which collect waste on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Any build up of rubbish is a direct contravention of your Tenancy Agreement. The Council can request evidence from you to ascertain that your household waste is being disposed of appropriately. A build up of rubbish can result in problems for you such as a rat or mice infestation in your home and estate. Tenants are responsible for arranging for pest control services in your home should you have a rat/mice infestation.

If you engage in illegal dumping (this can include dumping refuse bags on the estate or in a public area), this is considered illegal and if caught you will receive a litter fine of €150, you may also be prosecuted for and liable for any legal costs for non-payments of fines. Tenant's who dump their litter/domestic waste may also be considered as causing anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood and action may be taken in relation to your tenancy in addition to being issued with a litter fine. This also applies to dog fouling and cigarette butts being dropped in the garden or on the street. Parents should also encourage their children not to dump litter. It detracts from the appearance of the street/estate you live in.

Chimney Cleaning

With the weather getting colder, you will most likely light the fire more frequently. With this also comes the increased risk of deadly carbon monoxide poisoning and expensive chimney fires. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a lethally poisonous gas that is produced when carbon fuels such as coal or wood do not have enough oxygen to burn. This odourless gas can be prevented by ensuring all chimneys and flues are cleaned regularly and that vents are never blocked. A clean chimney is also essential to prevent chimney fires.

Local Environment Competition and Awards Ceremonies 2017

Local Authority estates that have applied for an Amenity Grant are automatically entered into their local environmental competition, when the estate will be judged on its overall impact, household participation, green areas and litter.

Independent judges assess each estate. Local Awards Ceremonies are held each year. Drogheda, Dundalk and the County areas will all host their own "Environmental Looking Good Awards" in the coming months.

The award ceremonies present the Council with an opportunity to acknowledge, commend and reward the dedication and hard work of the residents in the estates who have worked tirelessly in improving the image of their estates.

Over the past few years tenants/residents and environment groups have worked closely with their Tenant Liaison Officer to carry out these environmental projects with financial assistance being applied when needed.

Hence, many estates have been successful in being prize winners due to the commitment of the community group improving the physical appearance of their estate.

Wipes and many other products **ARE NOT** flushable!

Common complaints received by the Repairs Team involve "drains and sewers" being blocked. This is generally caused with them being clogged due to nappies, baby wipes etc being flushed down the toilet. This problem has the potential to develop into a serious public health hazard!

The following items should **NEVER** be flushed down the toilet

- Nappies
- Baby, facial or cleaning wipes (including "disposable wipes")
- Sanitary towels, tampons, panty liners, plasters, bandages, toilet roll tubes
- Cotton wool buds, cotton pads, cotton balls
- Kitchen paper towels
- Rubber items – latex gloves, condoms
- Cat, dog litter
- Cigarette butts
- Food or grease, cooking fats & oils
- Hair
- Needles, razor blades, medication

If too many of any of the above items accumulate in the sewer system, they can block pipes which can lead to the overflow of raw sewage into the street, buildings and the environment. Tenants are being instructed **never** to flush any of the above items down their toilets. Any tenant identified doing so may be charged for any works needed to carry out such repairs where damage has been caused by ignoring the above with action also being possibly taken in relation to their tenancy.

Remember: It's a toilet and not a trash can!



National Fire Safety Week 2017

This year, National Fire Safety Week is from 2nd - 9th October.

National Fire Safety Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 8th, 1871. The former American President, Calvin Coolidge, proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week in 1925 in memory of those who perished in that Fire. Since then, in early October, it has been observed each year in countries around the world.

On average 39 people die in Fires nationally every year. Tragically many of these deaths could have been avoided if some simple advice was followed. Many years after the first Fire Safety Week in 1925, the message regarding fire prevention and fire safety is as relevant today as ever was.

This year we will be asking you "What can you do to STOP fire?"

Here are some tips for you to follow:-

Smoke Alarms - What can I do?

You can always ensure that you have working smoke alarms in your house

For minimum protection ensure you have at least one smoke alarm for each floor.

There are 3 types of alarms:-

1. Optical Alarm - for slow smouldering fires (sofas, TVs). Ideal for hallways, landings & living rooms.
2. Ionisation Alarm - for fast flaming fires (papers, clothing). Ideal for bedrooms.
3. Heat Alarms - Heat Sensor triggers. Ideal for garages & kitchens.

Louth Fire & Rescue Service recommends that 10 year smoke alarms are used. These are available in most shops as ionisation or optical alarms and are fitted with a long life lithium battery or a sealed power pack that will last for 10 years before replacement of the alarm is needed.

Fit the Alarms on the ceiling as close to the centre of the room as possible and on the highest point of the landing as possible.

Test It - What can I do?

You can Test your alarms at least once a week

- Every 6 months vacuum and brush the casing to get rid of dust.
- Every year change the battery.
- Every 10 years replace the smoke alarm.
- When the warning beep sounds change the battery immediately.

Obvious Dangers - What can I do?

Do

- Clean your chimney at least once a year
- Use a sparkguard with open fires
- Use proper holders when burning candles
- Keep ashtrays empty when not in use
- Have a suitable fire extinguisher & fire blanket in your kitchen
- Have faulty electrical appliances repaired or replaced immediately
- Close all doors at night time
- Carry out a routine fire safety check before going to bed
- Have an escape plan

Don't

- Smoke in bed or when you're tired
- Leave burning candles unattended
- Leave matches and lighters easy access for children
- Leave chip pans, frying pans, etc unattended
- Use faulty electrical appliances
- Overload sockets

Plan your escape - What can I do?

Have an evacuation plan for your home

Most fires occur at night and you may have to get out in dark and difficult conditions. Escaping from a fire will be a lot easier if you already have a planned escape route and should consider the young, old and infirm in your house.

Your escape plan should:-

- Involve everyone in the house, including visitors
- The normal way out is the preferred choice
- Keep your escape route clear of obstructions
- Keep keys to doors and windows immediately available
- **Evacuation should be considered from bedroom windows in bungalows especially for children**
- Protect your escape route by closing all doors at night
- Practice using the agreed plan
- Have a safe meeting place outside
- Make everyone aware of how to call the Fire Service

If you discover a fire or the smoke alarm sounds, remember

- Close the door to the room of the fire
- **If the hallway or stairs is smoke logged, escape through a bedroom window or call for help and wait for rescue from the first floor.**
- Get everyone out and **STAY OUT**
- Call the Fire Service 999 or 112 giving your name and address clearly
- **NEVER** go back inside until the Fire Service says it is safe

www.firesafetyweek.ie



@FireSafetyIre (#17NFSW), @louthcoco



@IrishFireSafety

