

TO EACH MEMBER OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report – 31st July 2018

Dear Councillor

I attach the Management Report up to 31st July 2018.

I apologise for failing to publish on 7th due to the Bank Holiday

Yours faithfully



**Joan Martin
Chief Executive
8th August 2018**

Finance Report to 31st July 2018

Expenditure to 31st July 2018

Section	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 31/07/18	BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2018	% SPENT TO 31/07/18
Housing	14,211,597	23,072,404	62%
Road Transportation & Safety	12,651,341	19,613,150	65%
Water Services	4,426,041	7,034,240	63%
Development Management	6,628,207	16,197,124	41%
Environmental Services	8,494,607	15,700,738	54%
Recreation and Amenity	4,523,349	8,284,259	55%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	691,145	1,384,695	50%
Miscellaneous	5,348,489	11,937,862	45%
	56,974,776	103,224,472	55%

Income to 31st July 2018

Section	ACTUAL INCOME TO 31/07/18	BUDGET INCOME 2018	% INVOICED TO 31/07/18
Housing	11,323,499	25,488,641	44%
Road Transportation & Safety	4,832,156	10,979,713	44%
Water Services	3,926,041	6,762,465	58%
Development Management	3,077,132	9,328,492	33%
Environmental Services	997,353	2,009,350	50%
Recreation and Amenity	593,222	847,827	70%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	260,947	452,133	58%
Miscellaneous	4,156,539	5,573,406	75%
Rates	31,898,523	31,916,247	100%
General Purpose Grant (LGF)	6,577,464	9,866,198	67%
	67,642,876	103,224,472	66%

The above is the current position as at the 31st July 2018. The full rates demand figure is included in the above. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month.

Collection rates as at 31st July 2018 are as follows:

DEBTORS AS AT 31st JULY 2018

	Opening Balance	Invoices	Receipts	Write Offs	Closing Balance
Government Debtors	7,675,938	26,061,360	(28,786,874)	0	4,950,424
Other Local Authorities	63,193	71,410	(66,217)	0	68,386
Rates	12,504,700	31,898,523	(19,266,013)	(2,301,291)	22,835,919
Rents	5,089,880	6,567,801	(7,240,875)	(100,940)	4,315,866
Loans	362,039	569,971	(699,385)	0	232,625
Development Levies	12,123,334	1,726,748	(1,240,138)	0	12,609,944
Fire Charges	1,594,374	205,539	(142,656)	(31,133)	1,626,124
Miscellaneous	2,725,633	3,995,492	(4,487,220)	(30,565)	2,203,340
TOTAL DEBTORS	42,139,091	71,096,844	(61,929,378)	(2,463,929)	48,842,628

Above is the debtor balances as at the 31st July 2018. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Budget 2019 - Local Property Tax Public Consultation

The budget process for 2019 began with the advertising of the Public Consultation on the Local Property Tax on Tuesday 10th July 2018. The deadline for submissions is Friday 24th of August and all submissions will be included in the report to Council in September when the members will decide on the effective rate for 2019.

A budget workshop for the members will be held on Wednesday the 5th of September.

Directorate
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Planning

Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

The last meeting of the Louth Economic Forum was held on 18th July. Updates on the various action plans were circulated. In relation to the Education and Skills implementation committee Ms Anne Keeley has taken over from Emer Higgins as Chair of the committee. A review of the Age- Friendly action plan has also commenced.

Tourism and Heritage Plan

The newly designed 'Explore Louth, Heritage Trail' has gone to print and will be distributed to the Tourist Offices and other tourist outlets in advance of the Fleadh. The 3 Driving Routes will encourage the visitor to take the road less travelled and explore Drogheda & Louth's Coastal Villages, Dundalk & the Cooley Peninsula, and Mid Louth & the Boyne Valley.

Boyne Valley Food Network

Interviews were held in July for the position of Food Development Officer.

Boyne Valley which covers the counties of Louth and Meath has been selected as a top 10 finalist for Foodie Destinations 2018 the winner and runner up of which will be announced on the 29th August.

Business Improvement District Scheme

A plebiscite of the ratepayers was held to determine the level of support among ratepayers of rateable property in Dundalk for the proposal (received from the Business Improvement District Scheme Dundalk CLG) to extend the Business Improvement District Scheme, for a period of five years to 31st December 2023. The result of the said plebiscite is as follows:

Number of votes in favour of the proposal for a continuation of the Dundalk BID Scheme	622
Number of votes against the proposal for a continuation of the Dundalk BID Scheme	106

The proposed Business Improvement District Scheme will be considered by the members of Louth County Council at the September Council meeting. If the scheme is approved by the members of Louth County Council, the extension of the Scheme will come into force on 1st January, 2019.

It is necessary for the passing of a resolution to approve the continuation of the scheme, that at least one third of the total number of members of Louth County Council vote in favour of the resolution.

Arts

The Arts Service organised three projects to complement the official Fleadh programme. As detailed in previous monthly reports, they include –

- **Trad @ Heart** – a week-long programme of performance and smaller recitals in hospitals and health - care settings for citizens unable to attend the Fleadh due to illness or infirmity
- **Ceol sa Bhaile** – a series of four radio programmes to be broadcast daily on LMFm on the week of the Fleadh, focussing on musician and singers from our own county.

The final project is

- **Slides** - this initiative is a collaboration between fine art photographer Kate Nolan and Louth-based fiddler Gerry O'Connor. Musicians who frequent Fleadhanna will be the subject matter, and the project will bear fruit in 2019, when the printed images will be exhibited at Droichead Arts Centre during the Fleadh. Provisionally entitled Slides, a reference to the much-neglected film format and also to the traditional tune type in 12/8 time, the curation of the subjects will be carried out by Gerry and Kate, with Kate making the photographs on the street,

and in the hall and bars of Drogheda. A special studio has been constructed in Droichead Arts Centre for the project.

Heritage

Louth County Council's application to the Irish Walled Towns Network for funding to conserve the Drogheda town wall at Featherbed Lane was successful and was awarded €25,000.

LEO Louth

Business Training

An extensive business training schedule for Autumn/Winter 2018 is being compiled, including 3 Start Your Own Business Programmes, and will be delivered throughout the county from September to December.

Further details are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Trading Online Vouchers

LEO Louth has approved 29 vouchers to local small businesses this year, up to end July, with a value of €60,300. This grant scheme offers financial assistance up to €2,500 alongside training and advice to help businesses trade online.

Brexit

LEO Louth and the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland will host a joint Breakfast event at 7.30am on Thursday 6th September in the Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk. This event will outline the range of supports available to businesses to help them prepare for Brexit and will include a keynote speech from Dr. Vincent Power from A&L Goodbody. All businesses in the county should be encouraged to attend and further details and booking are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

LEAN for Micro Programme

LEO Louth is participating in a pilot programme with the Craft Butchers Association of Ireland encouraging craft butchers to implement LEAN in their business. Three craft butchers from Louth commenced the LEO LEAN for Micro programme in July. Businesses with an interest in improving competitiveness should contact LEO Louth to discuss how both the LEAN programme and the LEAN Network can be of assistance.

Dept of Employment Affairs - OpenHydro

LEO Louth is part of a multi-agency group working with the Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, and will participate at an information & recruitment event in the Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk on Thursday 16th August 2018 from 10am - 1pm, for approximately 100 people who have recently been made redundant from Open Hydro in Greenore. On the day, there will also be a number of employers attending, who are currently recruiting.

LEO/BordBIA/Supervalu Food Academy

LEO Louth has three food producers participating on the Bord Bia, SuperValu and Local Enterprise Offices Regional Food Academy Start Programme which commenced on 8th May 2018. The programme is being delivered over a four month duration and includes a combination of group workshops and one-to-one mentoring. At the final workshop on 23rd August, participants will get the opportunity to present their product to a panel for SuperValu and, if successful, can participate in a trial based in local shops, which in the right circumstances, could progress over time to a national listing with SuperValu. This is a regional initiative run by LEO Louth with the LEOs from Monaghan, Cavan and Meath.

LEO/BordBIA Food Starter Programme

LEO Louth and LEO Meath will be launching a joint LEO/Bord Bia Food Starter Programme in September/October. The Food Starter programme is a short two-day programme designed to help those with a food idea, or those at an early stage of starting up a food business. The objective of the two days is to provide the participants with a base knowledge of what is involved in setting up a food or drink manufacturing business. The content is designed to provide participants with information which will allow them to avoid the pitfalls normally associated with this journey. Potential participants should contact LEO Louth to register their interest.

Mentoring Clinics

LEO Louth delivered 2 mentoring clinics in Dundalk (Town Hall) and Drogheda (at The Mill Enterprise Hub) during July. In addition, 5 mentoring assignments issued to client businesses during the month.

Co-Innovate Programme

Recruitment continues for this Innovation focused Interreg funded programme with companies progressing through the process to complete Business Status Reviews and Innovation Audits. A workshop was held in Louth in June for newly recruited companies to the programme. To date 36 Louth companies have engaged with the programme. The next workshop will be held in Louth on Sept 7th.

National Ploughing Championship

LEO Louth, as part of the National LEO Network will have a client stand in the Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championship in September.

Age Friendly Economy (EU project)

Research continues on the EU project of which LCC is a partner working towards helping businesses in County Louth innovate with new products or services for the older community.

Regional Action Plan for Jobs

LEO/Louth CoCo provides the Secretariat to the NE/NW Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The North East Implementation Committee of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs met with Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation on Friday 1st June in Monaghan.

The most recent progress report for the NE/NW region is available to view at: <http://www.regionalapj.ie/Regions/North-East-North-West/North-East-North-West.html>

The final progress report to end 2017 is currently being compiled.

Other Business Support initiatives

In addition to its client engagement, business advisory and funding roles, LEO Louth continues to be involved in a number of other ongoing business support initiatives, including, the recently launched call of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and assisting a number of Louth applicants under this Fund, MicroFinance Ireland's loan scheme which is processed in Co Louth by the LEO, Dundalk's BIDs Company, the Evaluation Committee of the LEADER programme and contributing to the New Frontiers Entrepreneur Programme.

The Head of Enterprise is a member of the LCDC/LAG, member of the Louth Economic Forum, chair of the Economic Forum's Broadband Steering Group, chair of the Economic Forum's Indigenous working group, member of InterTrade Ireland's Acumen Committee, member of the NE Regional Skills Forum, member of Enterprise Ireland's Exceptions Committee governing the transfer of clients between EI and the LEOs, member of the steering group of the PLATO Network, member of the DCCAE Working Group that inputs into the Government's Task Force on Mobile Broadband, and a Board Director of the five community enterprise companies in the county (Louth County Enterprise Fund CLG, Creative Spark CLG; Drogheda Enterprise Centre CLG t/a The Mill; Ardee Community Development CLG t/s Ardee Business Park; Dundalk Enterprise Development CLG t/a Oriel Hub), which all contribute to supporting enterprise in the county.

Planning

Development Management

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of June 2018 are given below in tabular form.

There were 83 planning applications received during the month of June of which 73 were valid. In addition there were 23 responses received during the month to requests for further information. The service indicator figures in relation to planning decisions and decisions on appeals made during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (Column F), are given below:

(A) Description	(B) Housing Developments	(C) Individual Houses	(D) Other applications- not requiring EIA	(E) Other applications- requiring EIA	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Number of applications determined	1	6	57	2	66
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information	1	6	17	1	25
(iii) Percentage of applications refused	0% (0)	0% (0)	1.75% (1)	50% (1)	3.03%(2)
(iv) Number of appeals determined	0	0	2	0	2
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal	0%	0%	100% (2)	0%	100% (2)

Planning Enforcement

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Enforcement complaints regarding unauthorised developments received during the month.

Description	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	June 2018	Year to Date	June 2017	Year to Date
Number of 1 st Reminders (from Commencement Notices)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Other Reminders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of 14 day letters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	31	128	24	108
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up	0	0	0	10
Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation.	31	132	18	83
Number of Warning letters issued.	6	64	23	76
Number of Enforcement Notices issued.	2	10	3	17
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	4	0	5
Number of cases struck out where issues resolved and costs paid.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions	0	3	0	2

Forward Planning

Westgate Vision			
1	July 2018	Data Collection Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES)	Ongoing
2	July 2018	Data Collection Rural Regeneration & Development Fund	Ongoing
3	July 2018	Data Collection Urban Regeneration & Development Fund	Ongoing
4	July 2018	Westgate Phase 2 Implementation	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

GENERAL– There were 4 waste complaints in July 2018. There are a number of Waste Management Act related cases going through the District Circuit (appeals and DPP case) and the High Court at present.

One case referred under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 is still in the court system and adjourned until September 2018. Two cases under the Air Pollution Act have been referred for legal action; one case has been recently heard but is now under appeal and the other has been adjourned until the next court hearing. The RMCEI plan for 2018 for Louth County Council and annual statistics for 2017 in relation to environmental inspections and enforcement have been submitted to the EPA.

DIESEL LAUNDERING WASTE – There was 6 IBCs of Diesel Sludge recovered during July 2018. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €7,000. 3 IBCs were found at Carnmore, Kilcurry and 3 IBCs at Captains Road, Roskeagh.

EU SWIM Project: Clogherhead beach has been included along with nine other beaches in this cross border research project, funded by the Special EU Programmes Body. For inclusion in the project are six beaches across Northern Ireland and three from the Republic of Ireland.

The project will facilitate a system for the prediction of bathing water quality to create a live monitoring system, and where possible the installation of real-time signage, allowing beach visitors to check bathing water quality via an app and website live stream. The project team hope to launch a new website www.swimproject.eu in early August 2018.

EUROPEAN RELATIONS

Memorandum of Understanding

The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday the 19th of September in Louth County Council's offices.

INTERREG VA

Carlingford Lough Greenway

The official opening of the Victoria Lock section took place on 27th July 2018. Work is progressing on the remainder of the project.

Peace 1V Programme

Louth Peace IV Partnership and LCDC have approved a plan to rebid for the remaining €1.3 million ring fenced for Louth. Clarifications sought by SEUPB on some aspects of the Rebid proposal have been answered in detail and a final decision on funding has not yet been made.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND PROPERTY

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

We are continuing to monitor the Council's energy consumption with particular focus on our significant energy users and seeking to identify further opportunities for improved energy efficiency.

Zero Energy Plus Project

EU Directive 2010/31/EU (EPBD2) requires that new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities erected after 2018, and all other new buildings erected after 2020, must be "nearly zero energy" (nze).

The consortium is now exploring new partnership options with a view to submitting a rebid.

Housing Services Progress Report

I attach details of the Housing Progress report across the following specific areas. This report addresses the following areas.

1. Housing Demand
2. Social Housing Supports
3. Housing Stock
4. Private Rented Activity
5. Stock Maintenance
6. Capital Investment Programme
7. Other Future Developments
8. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)
9. Approved Housing Bodies
10. Tenancy Management
11. Rent Management
12. Homelessness
13. Anti Social Behaviour
14. Abandoned Properties
15. Grant Assistance
16. Communities
17. Library Services
18. Fire & Emergency Service

1. HOUSING DEMAND AT 30TH JUNE 2018

Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
May 18	380	540	811	1731
June 18	370	526	785	1681
<i>difference</i>	-10	-14	-26	-50

Transfer List from HAP

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total	
May 18	224	1193	847	2264	
June 18	236	1213	880	2329	
<i>difference</i>	12	20	33	65	

There are a total of **179** applicants on the list for transfer (**Non-HAP**) within Social Housing including **10** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

2 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

Numbers Allocated	Allocations- Social	Allocations - Voluntary	Total Allocations	Refusals – Social	Refusals – Voluntary
Ardee MD	2	29	31	0	0
Dundalk MD	24	22	34	2	2
Drogheda MD	12	32	56	2	2
	38	83	121	4	4

Transfers Approved within Social Housing at 30th June 2018

Year	Ardee	Dundalk	Drogheda
2018	14	5	7

HOUSING STOCK AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

Housing Stock Managed by the Council	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	Total
Council owned	1764	1452	599	3815
Community Houses	4	4	0	8
Long Term Leased	185	27	23	235
Totals	1953	1483	622	4058
Approved Housing Bodies Stock (CLSS & CAS)	-	-	-	769
Council stock managed by Approved Housing Bodies	85	6	20	111
Payment & Availability Agreements with AHB's	115	89	18	222
Mortgage to Rent with AHB's	12	12	4	28

PRIVATE RENTED ACTIVITY AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

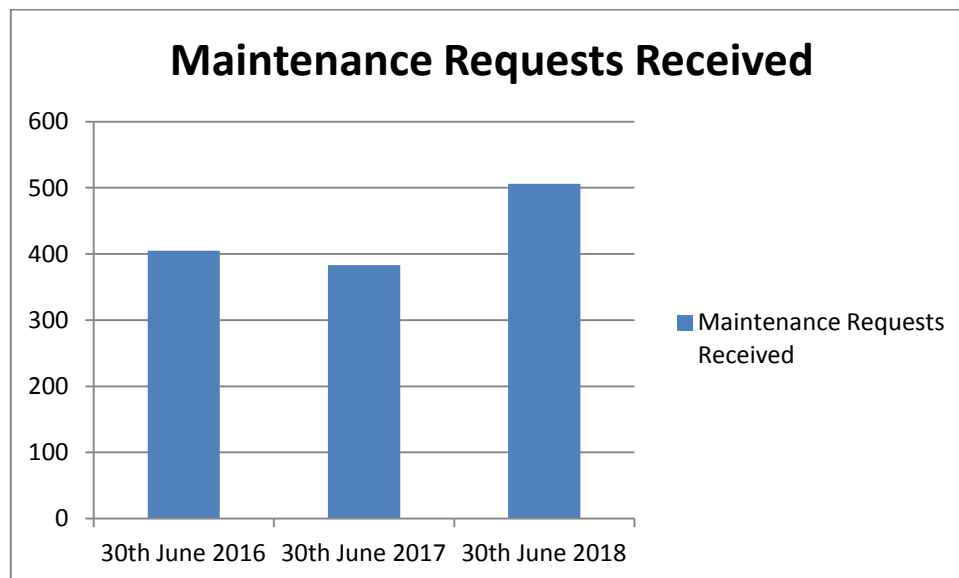
No. of properties inspected to date	378
No. of advisory notes issued to landlord	260
No. of improvement notices issued	25
No. of prohibition notices issued	12
No. of Rent Book Notices issued	0
Inspections (HAP)	278
Improvement Notices (HAP)	25

CURRENT PROHIBITIONS NOTICES ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

5. STOCK MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

The below table summarises the level of maintenance and works activity to existing stock.

	Total
No. of Maintenance Requests Received -June18	368
No. of Requests Outstanding- June 18	37
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) - Requiring Major Refurbishing	55
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Requiring Minor Works	25
Vacant Properties (un-tenanted & un-occupied) – Awaiting Allocation	5
Total Vacant Properties (excluding Un-tenanted Properties)	85
Un-tenanted properties (un-tenanted BUT occupied)- properties not vacant	4
% Stock Vacant(Total Vacancies/Total Stock)	2.33%
Number of Applications approved for Disability Adaption Works 2018 *Subject to confirmation of funding from Dept	Subject to confirmation of funding from Dept
Number of Units with Disability Adaption Works 2018 - completed (carry over from 2017).	10



6 Capital Investment Programme

Over the period 2018 to 2021, a target has been set for the provision of **1074 units of which 306** are to be delivered in 2018. These targets will also include matters such as Part V provision, Acquisitions, Mortgage to Rents, Long Term Leases, Repair and Lease and Buy & Renew Acquisitions. The 2018 delivery pipeline progress is detailed at the end of this Section.

Schemes currently in approval process or under construction for the above period 2018 – 2021
(This list is indicative and includes only approved projects and can change as matters are further approved or withdrawn)



Municipal District Ardee

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S.	CAS	Calf	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Tierney Street, Ardee	Oaklee	0	0	7	0	7	Q4 2018	Q3 2019	Stage 3 Approved by Department of Housing
Dunleer	National Development Financial Agency	80	0	0	0	80	Q4 2018	Q4 2020	Tender process in progress.
Castleguard, Ardee	Tuath	0	0	0	106	106	April 2017	Q4 2018	Remaining phases on site.
Fr Finn Park Phase 2, Louth Village	LCC	17	0	0	0	17	Q1 2019	Q1 2020	Part 8 Granted
Four Winds, Mullacapple, Collon,	SJOG	0	0	1	0	1	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 1 Approved Acquisition
Total	-	97	0	8	106	211	-	-	

Municipal District Dundalk

Location	Auth	Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Scheduled Completion	Current Position
Cox's Demesne Phase 2B	LCC	22	0	0	0	22	Q2 2019	Q4 2020	Part 8 in progress
Clos Na Manach	Tuath	0	0	0	10	10	Q1 2017	Q1 2018	Allocated
Saltown	North & East	0	0	7	0	7	Q1 2018	Q3/4 2018	PP granted.
Barrack Street	SIMON	0	0	27	0	27	Q1 2018	Q1 2019	Awaiting Stage 1 Approval from Dept.
5 Slieveroe Crescent Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	1	0	1	Q2 2018	Q4 2018	PP received awaiting Commencement
Castletowncooley, Riverstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	1	0	1	Unknown	Unknown	Detailed design in progress
Bishops Court Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	2	2	Q3 2018	Q2 2019	Contractor to be Appointed
Mounthamilton, Dundalk	Cluid	0	0	0	43	43	Ongoing	Q3 2018	On site
Coulter Park, Armagh Road, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	6	0	6	Unknown	Unknown	Stage 2 Approved
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	LCC	75	0	0	0	75	Q3 2019	Q3 2021	Stage 1 Approved
Dundoogan, Haggardstown, Dundalk	Tuath	0	0	0	112	112	Unknown	Unknown	Part V Compliance & Dept CALF Approved
Halliday's Mill	Tuath	0	0	0	68	68	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Construction Tender Preparation
Total		97	0	42	235	374			

Municipal District Drogheda

		Social	I.P.S	CAS	CALF	Total	Start Date	Schedule Completion	Current Position
Boice Court, Mell, 2 nd Phase	LCC	49	5	15	0	69	Q2 2019	Q2 2021	Stage 2 Approved
Scarlett Street	NEHA	0	0	0	15	15	Q1 2018	Q2 2019	To be Completed June 19
Rathmullan Road	NEHA & Tuath	0	0	0	105	105	Q3 2017	Q2 2020	On site
1 Unit at McArdle Green Money more, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	1	0	1	Q1 2018	Q4 2018	On site
Curlew Green, Aston Village, Drogheda	Respond	0	0	0	8	8	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Department CALF Approved.
Grove Court, Hardmans Gardens, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	4	4	Not Known	Not Known	Department CALF Approved Acquisition
17 Chestnut Grove, Termonabbey, Drogheda	Foscadh	0	0	0	1	1			Department CALF Approved Acquisition
Peters Hill, Drogheda	NEHA	0	0	4	0	4	Not Known	Not Known	Stage 1 Approved
Total	-	49	5	20	133	207	-	-	-
Delivery Plan for County 2018 -2021		243	5	70	474	792			

Vacant Home Initiatives

Scheme	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Repair & Lease	0	8	4	12
Tenanted and Complete	0	0	0	0
Buy & Renew (incl Original CPO Pilot) Acquired	9	60	12	81
Tenanted and Complete	1	34	4	39

2018 Delivery Target of 306 Units Complete (New & Additional at 30th June 2018)

Local Authority Construction	0
AHB CAS	0
AHB CALF	42
Part V	0
Local Authority Acquisition	0
Long Term Leases	1
AHB Mortgage to Rent	3
Buy & Renew	10
Repair & Lease	0
Total	56

Definitions

AHB = Approved Housing Body

CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme which provides 100% funding to AHBs to build or acquire units for disabled or homeless applicants with a non- repayment mortgage in favour of the Housing Authority to ensure that the Housing Authority has both nomination rights and security over the asset created by public funds.

CALF = Capital Advance Loan Fund which provides Department funding for up to 30% funding to AHBs to provide units for general use on the basis that they enter into a Payment and Availability agreement with the Housing Authority who will provide all the tenant nominations.

CPO = Compulsory Purchase Scheme allows the local authority to land or property without the consent of the owner by means of a compulsory purchase order (CPO). This is being used to acquire vacant or derelict houses which are being returned to use as social housing units.

IPS = Incremental Purchase Scheme

7 OTHER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The council continue to maintain land banks in the following locations, which can be developed if an appropriate project and funding is forthcoming.

Location	Average
Mullavalley, Louth Village	8.82
Kilkerley	11.59
Ballymakenny	16.53
Mount Avenue	7.64
Point Road	5.2
Various Individual Sites	0

8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as at 30th June 2018

Work continues on promoting the Housing Assistance Payment model of Social Housing Support. Louth County Council is one of the Phase One Implementation sites and data on this support is now reported in monthly municipal district housing reports.

The total number of applications in HAP is **2329**. Once an applicant's housing needs have been met under HAP they are no longer included be on the local authority's [housing waiting list](#). However, if an applicant wishes to have access to other social housing supports, such as local authority housing or housing provided by a [housing association](#), they can apply to the local authority for a transfer. If an applicant applies for a transfer **within 2 weeks of getting the letter confirming their HAP payment**, any time that they spent on the housing list can be taken into account when Louth County Council considers their application. If they apply for a transfer at a later date, the time that was previously spent on the housing waiting list won't count.

Ardee Municipal District	Dundalk Municipal District	Drogheda Municipal District	Total
236	1213	880	2329

9 Approved Housing Bodies

- The members should note that there is progress being made nationally in developing a regulatory framework for the Voluntary Sector which will see an increased role from this sector. The Department have now also confirmed when considering proposals from this sector, priority shall be given to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) that have signed up to the Voluntary Regulation Code – “Building for the Future”.
- Louth County Council continues to meet all AHBs operating in the county on a periodic basis. The next meeting is scheduled for early this month.
- A new Call for Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Projects has been issued nationally, Louth County Council will tailor that call for our specific needs

10 Tenancy Management

The table below illustrates activity with regard to general estate management for the month of June 2018 last

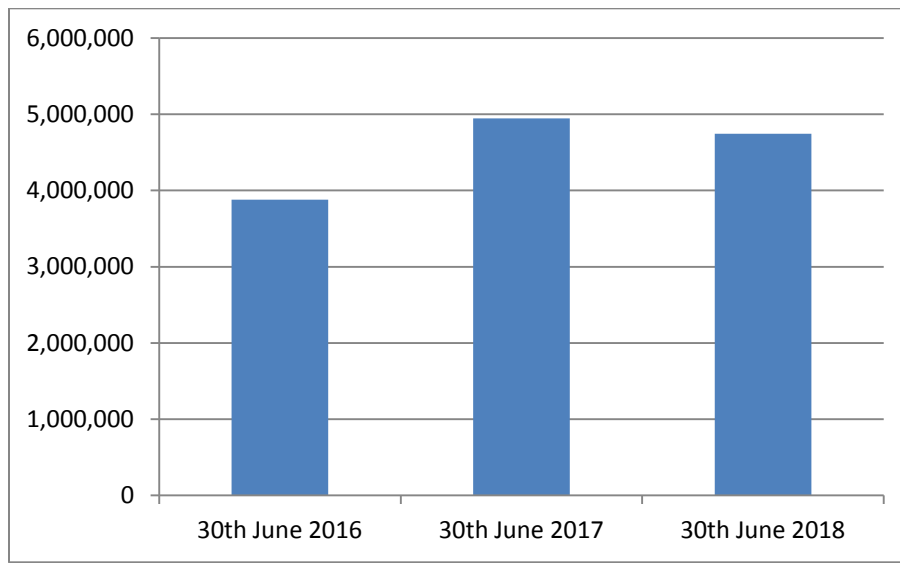
Tenancy Activity	TOTAL
Pre Tenancy Training	15
Tenancy (House) Inspections	27

11 Rent Management

The number of tenants who pay rent by Household Budget in June 2018 was **1137**

Current Rents Arrears as at 30th June 2018	Number of Account	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	165	€53,048
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	186	€110,695
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	1324	€4,580,117
TOTAL	1675	€4,743,860

RENT ARREARS



Housing Support Services

12 Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Action Plan, 2013-17.

Presentations of June 2018	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless to the Housing Authority	0	23	43	66
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	0	10	30	40
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	11	11	22
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	2	1	3
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	1	1
Number of Tenancies being supported : Sustainment Packages funded by the Housing Authority in order to prevent Homelessness	0	6	5	11

The Department of Housing continue to request a report based on a specific, week in time, to be submitted based on the number of people placed in emergency accommodation by Louth, Cavan and Monaghan County Councils. To see the published report go to:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/other/homelessness-data>

The tables below reflect monthly returns submitted to the Department with regard to Homeless numbers in the NORTH EAST REGION

This anonymised and aggregated return of all individuals accessing emergency accommodation is returned to the Department of Housing on a monthly basis. The following information has been returned relating to the timeframe, 18th June 2018 to 24th June 2018 last, across the following headings

- 1.) Gender;
- 2.) Age group (as per CSO);
- 3.) Accommodation type;
- 4.) County.
- 5.) Breakdown of families with dependent children

Table 1: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	71
Female	58
Total	129

Table 2: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	10
25-44	80
45-64	32
65+	7
Total	129

Table 3: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	75
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	53
Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support)(TEA)	1
Unique Total (note, clients may have accessed multiple accommodation types during the week)	0
Minus people accessing multiple accommodation types during the week	0
Total unique individuals	129

Table 4: County

County	Total
County Louth	125
County Monaghan	3
County Cavan	1
Total	129

Table 5 - Families with dependent children breakdown

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	20	20	48
Couples with dependent children	4	4 couples (8 adults)	6
Total	24	28	54

Work is continuing on the development of a new Regional Homeless Action Plan and this was discussed at the most recent meeting of the North East Regional Forum meeting on May 29th last.

Inspections of Private Emergency Accommodation

Since December 2017 the Homeless Office have carried out random and unannounced inspections on all B&Bs, Hotels and Hostels providing Private Emergency Accommodation on behalf of Louth County Council. This will continue on a monthly basis

4 premises in Dundalk, 8 premises in Drogheda and 2 premises in rural Drogheda area were inspected in April 18 and all were found to be of an acceptable standard. The majority of Homeless clients were present on inspection. These inspections will be augmented by visits by our Fire Officers to carry out Fire Safety inspections.

13. Anti Social Behaviour to 30th June 2018

ASB INVESTIGATION CASES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB investigations ongoing	9	3	11	23
ASB investigations completed	13	5	16	34
Total ASB investigation cases	22	8	27	57

ACTION TAKEN	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
No further action required, no ASB found (unfounded/malicious)	6	2	7	15
No further action – Advice given	0	0	0	0
Verbal Warning issued	6	2	6	14
Tenancy Notification	1	1	2	4
Tenancy Warning	0	0	1	1
Notice To Quit Served – Application for possession requested	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders sought	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Action Taken	13	5	16	34

TENANCY OUTCOMES	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
Eviction following Notice To Quit/ Tenancy Warning	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Orders in place	3	2	1	6

14 Abandoned Properties to 30th June 2018

Possible Abandoned properties to 30th June 2018	8
Properties returned after investigations/serving of notices	6
Tenants investigated returned to their properties. Potential breach of tenancy	1
Tenants contesting residency after Section 15(1) served	0

15 Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Please note that the Housing Grants Scheme is now open for consideration of applications. The grant scheme will remain open and grants awarded will be based on the normal priority basis

- Housing Adaption Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime care in the home
- Housing for Older People – Priority 1 to works that will preserve the integrity of the dwelling
- Mobility Aids Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need wholetime, care in the home.

Please Note

- Any persons who made application in 2017, who were awarded Priority 1 are not required to make a further application.
- Any person who was deemed Priority 2 or 3 in 2017 will need to reapply if they feel their circumstances need to be reassessed.

The Staff will be able to advise applicants from 2017 which category they were in. Details of grants applications received for 2018 (Table 1)

Table 1
Allocation of Grants 2018

We have been notified by the Dept that our annual allocation for Disabled Persons Grants for 2018 is € 1,498,067, of which €299,613 is to be provided from Louth County Councils own revenue resources.

	Applications Received 2017 rolled over to 2018	Applications Recd 2018	Value of grants rolled over 2017	Applications Received 2017/2018 approved	Estimated Value of Grants on hand 2018	Annual Allocation 2018	Total applications on Hand rolling into 2018
HOPS	8	109	€62,764.00	14	€861,418.35	€298,276.51	117
HAGS	78	106	€1,269,102.00	18	€1,948,737.25	€1,075,839.00	184
MAGS	9	36	€52,500.00	7	€224,181.00	€92,832.47	45
OT COSTS					€17,590.00 spent so far on OT DPG costs	€31,119.02	
TOTAL	95	251	€1,384,366.00	39	€3,051,926.60	€1,498,067.00	346

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The SICAP Sub Group carried out a review of the 2018 mid-year reports submitted by Louth Leader Partnership (Programme Implementer). Among the items reviewed were compliance with expenditure allocated for the year, compliance with the targets set by the LCDC for 2018 and the progress to date with the emerging needs group as identified by the LCDC – socially excluded vulnerable older people. Overall the Sub Group were pleased with the progress to date and a number of recommendations were made to the LCDC which were approved at the meeting on 16th July.

LECP & Healthy Ireland

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) - A fourth request for updates on LECP actions to the end of June 2018 has issued to lead agencies for response. It is hoped that the progress report will be available to LCDC members at the September meeting.

The Healthy Ireland for Louth Plan which was approved at the June meeting of the LCDC will now form part of the reporting structure of the LECP

The non-financial report under the Healthy Ireland Fund - Round 1 (2017) has now been finalised and reported fully to POBAL. Round 2 funding applications are currently with POBAL for consideration.

LEADER

There were 7 no. LEADER projects reviewed by the LAG at the monthly meeting held on the 16th July 2018. Four projects were approved for funding in the amount of €46,474.58, 1 no. project was provisionally approved pending planning permission in the amount of €197,871.58 and 2 no. projects were refused funding as one project could be funded from another source and the remaining project required further information. The types of projects approved for funding included upgrade to a classroom, voucher scheme and a social enterprise study.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Louth PPN rolled out a new personal safety training programme targeted at youths aged 12-17 in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee. 26 young people attended the training which covered issues of consent; boundaries; attitude and behaviour; how to avoid confrontation; tips on how to handle confrontation if unavoidable; how to challenge

inappropriate behaviour; how to avoid becoming a victim; easy to learn self-defence moves.

Two members of Louth PPN secretariat, along with the PPN Resource Worker were interviewed on LMFM mid-morning show on 25th July and got an opportunity to highlight the work of Louth PPN, the 2018 PPN Community & Voluntary Awards and the PPN supported First Aid training in schools.

The nomination process is now open for the 2018 Louth PPN Community and Voluntary Awards. The closing date for receipt of the nominations by PPN registered groups is 15th August, with the award ceremony taking place on 26th September in Bellingham Castle.

Assistance was given by PPN during July to community groups applying for Community Enhancement Programme Funding 2018.

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2018

County Louth has been allocated funding of €145,542 for this programme in 2018. The aim of the programme is to provide funding to communities in County Louth to enhance and improve facilities in disadvantage areas as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The programme closed for applications on the 30th July 2018 with over one hundred applications received. All applications will be adjudicated on, with funding allocations being approved by the LCDC in September. All works must be completed by the end of November and the Department requires that any unspent funds are returned to them. It is envisaged that all funding allocated to County Louth will be spent.

Tidy Towns Project Scheme 2018

Louth County Council has introduced a new funding scheme for Tidy Towns groups to carry out small scale capital projects in their towns and villages. The table below sets out which groups have received an offer of grant funding, the purpose of the grant and the amount allocated.

TIDY TOWN PROJECT SCHEME GRANT AWARDS		
Tidy Towns Group	Proposal	Grant Awarded
Monasterboice	Design of Biodiversity Park at Farney Park	€4,697
Dundalk	(1) Development of a biodiversity area on the Navy Bank. (2) Banners, railway heritage posters, info leaflets,	€15,828

	preserving the heritage of Dundalk	
Dunleer	(1) Horticultural Landscape Action Plan. (2) Street signage and provision of a Tourist Information display cabinet	€5501.60
Drogheda	(1) Self Walking Maps of Drogheda. (2) Clean up and rejuvenate the Barrack Hill and Dale areas of Drogheda	€7144
Blackrock	Artwork at Blackrock Promenade	€6080
Omeath	Fencing at the old Station House at playground entrance to enhance its appearance	€8,000
Greenore	Provision of historical signage, displaying old photos	€7980
Ardee	Continued work on Railway walk. Improvement of wildflower garden at Fairgreen. Purchasing of bins and six seats	€7600
Castlebellingham / Kilsaran	Remove existing seat on village green and replace with 2 Heritage Seats. Also, provision of 2 new planters	€2,299.76
Dromiskin	Heritage Park Path upgrade.	€5262
Carlingford	Purchase of bins, street sweepers, information boards, signs for village.	€7615
Knockbridge	Repairs to Stephenstown Pond walkway.	€3,800
Total		€81,807.36

Louth Sports Partnership

Sport Ireland carried out a performance evaluation of Louth Local Sports Partnership with the results issued in early July. The evaluation demonstrated the significant progress that Louth LSP has made to date. The stated outcomes sought from investment by Louth County Council and Sport Ireland in the Louth Sports Partnership are as follows:

- ✦ Increased levels of local participation.
- ✦ Increases in participation amongst identified targeted groups/in key communities.
- ✦ Club development.
- ✦ Volunteer training.
- ✦ Enhanced planning of sport at local level.
- ✦ Local directories of sports bodies & facilities.
- ✦ School, club, community and National Governing Body (NGB) links.

Dundalk Sports Centre Summer Camp Programme includes the award winning Inclusibility Camps is up and running and continues throughout August.

Pride of Place 2018

Preparations are continuing for the judging of the Pride of Place All Ireland competition. The judges will visit Collon on the morning of 28th August with The Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre being judged in the afternoon.

Comhairle na nÓg

On the 23rd of July Louth Comhairle na nOg completed their cross border programme by organising a study visit to Dublin. The group visited Glasnevin Cemetery and took part in Go Karting on the way home.

The Ardee Comhairle group have been working to address Transport issues in the mid Louth area. They have completed the first part of an ambitious project in partnership with Local Link to provide activities for young people in mid Louth. The first of these took place on the 25th July with a trip to Funtasia and will be followed by a series of events throughout the summer. This is a significant project as it may provide a model of local services working together to address the issues of access and transport in rural areas.

The Drogheda Comhairle group are supporting summer programmes in Boomerang and will support events for Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in Drogheda during August.

The date for the Comhairle na nOg AGM and Conference has been set for Thursday 25th October 2018, venue to be confirmed.

Hong Kong Delegates visit Co Louth.

Louth Age Friendly hosted a delegation from Hong Kong on the 5th July 2018. Hong Kong is faced with the challenge of an ageing population and through WHO networks approached the DkIT to garner information on mainstreaming policy on ageing at local level, assistive technology and housing design.

The delegation met with the Social and Community section of LCC where a presentation was made on the management of the convergence of multiple national plans at local level. They visited the Great Northern Haven and DkIT Netwell/CASALA, where they were treated to a demonstration of technology programmes aimed at improving quality of life while ageing.

Joint Committee on Housing Planning and Local Government launched its Report on Housing Options for Older People in Dundalk.

The Joint Committee on Housing Planning and Local Government launched its “Report on Housing Options for Older People” in the Great Northern Haven, Dundalk on the 10th July 2018. The Committee recognised the GNH as a unique housing development which uses cutting edge technology to provide accommodation for older people.

The report emphasises the need for Ireland to change its housing policy to meet the needs of an ageing population. The report makes eight practical recommendations, taking into consideration the health, social and economic needs of older people. The report can be found at <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/32/housing-planning-local-government/>

Rural Transport Programme

Flexibus Local Link is working with Louth County Council & the NTA to provide transport, and in particular, accessible transport for the Fleadh in Drogheda. The full fleet of busses and drivers will be made available to the NTA for the papal visit in August.

An application was made to the Community Foundation for Ireland Grant to carry out a study on the feasibility of the Community Car Scheme in 6 areas in Louth, Meath and Fingal. Louth selected Collon and Cooley for the study. Flexibus Local Link worked with IBM to develop an app to share transport focussed on older people.

At its board meeting on the 19th July Flexibus Local Link adopted its 3 year Strategy 2018-2021.

17. Libraries, Archives and Museum

Minister Ring announces major investment of €7.8 million in digital services and facilities in public libraries

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr Michael Ring TD, announced a major investment package for digital services and facilities in public libraries. The investment will enable ICT infrastructure upgrades, meeting space technologies and digital learning suites in public libraries across the country. The €7.8 million investment comprises €5.2 million from Minister Ring's Department and a further €2.6 million contribution from Local Authorities.

"The funding will support a programme of ICT upgrades and developments to ensure libraries can provide a service that is not only in line with the needs of library users, but which can also deliver new and innovative services. It will develop digital learning centres and innovation centres, providing users with access to latest technologies and supporting library users who are not confident with technology.

Wee County Big Book Club

Author Michael Harding visited the County Library, Dundalk on July 20th to launch a new collaborative initiative called Wee County Big Book Club Festival. Wee County Big Book Club is a collaborative initiative of Louth Library Service, Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda. The 'wee book' chosen for 2018 is Michael Harding's *On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist* published by Hachette Ireland. The idea stemmed from a conversation between Sarah Daly, Director of Creative Spark, Elaine Cronin, An Táin, and Daire O'Connell, Arts Coordinator at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda, all of whom are interested in deepening participation in the arts and creativity, and promoting creative activity as a benefit to everyone's wellbeing. The Wee County Big Book Club initiative invites book club members and the general public to read and discuss *On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist* published by Hachette Ireland.

A programme of creative writing events and author readings of various other titles will take place in the venues of the participating partners, including Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre Dundalk and all Louth Libraries. The initiative culminates in a live show with meet & greet with the author Michael Harding in An Táin Arts Centre on September 29th.

To follow see # WeeCountyBigBookClub on social media.

Fleadh Cheoil *na hÉireann*

Music sessions will take place in Drogheda Library on Aug. 14th-16th from 2-3pm.

Right to Read Initiative: a national initiative to support and enhance literacy work in local authorities.

2018 Summer Stars Reading Programme is running in all branches throughout the summer months.

All children are invited to register and enjoy reading and attending events throughout the summer months. There will be rewards and incentives along the way and a certificate presentation event at the end for all participants. Closing ceremonies will be held in library branches in mid September.

Summer Events for Children

Summer Storytelling

- Dundalk Library August 22nd at 11.30am.
- Drogheda Library August 10th and Thursday 23rd at 11.30am

Baby Book Club

Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age

- Dundalk Library, second Friday of every month at 11am
- Drogheda Library, fourth Wednesday of every month at 10.30am
- Ardee Library, first Friday of every month at 10.30am

Parent & Toddler groups meet weekly and new members are always welcome:

- Dundalk Library, Thursdays at 10am.
- Drogheda Library, Wednesdays at 10.30am.
- Ardee Library, Fridays at 10.30am.

Dundalk Library

Fabric Printing: Customise a t-shirt workshop for 7-12 years. Wednesday August 8th at 2:30pm

Discover Your Library Workshop: Library workshop for children aged 8 – 12, which aims to encourage children to utilise the broad range of services available in their library through fun activities. Wednesday August 15th at 11:30am

Drogheda Library:

Genesis Programme Changing Lives Initiative: Friday August 28th at 10am

Ardee Library:

Family Fun Fridays (for summer months) every Friday, 10.30am-12.30pm.

Work Matters

The Work Matters service aims to support job seekers and budding entrepreneurs. A dedicated Work Matters hot desk space is available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee Libraries.

Resources include a dedicated seating and table area, Free WiFi, a designated PC or Laptop, printing and photocopying, books, newspapers, information, and a jobs board. Users can also avail of a suite of free digital resources including, online courses, eBooks, Ezines, e-newspapers and online language learning. <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/Online-Services/> Collaboration is continuing with outside agencies including LMETB, Intreo, Louth Volunteer Centre, LEO and the Mill Enterprise Hub in Drogheda.

Work Matters Events

Dundalk Library

Work Matters Information Session and demo of online services Wednesday August 15th at 10.00am

Drogheda Library

LMETB Adult Education Guidance Service Information Morning, Wednesday September 5th, 10am-12noon.

Drogheda Library

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

Music sessions will take place on Aug. 14th-16th from 2-3pm.

Computer Classes

All classes are FREE, open to everyone, and demand is extremely high.

Digital Skills for Citizens: Computer classes for adults in association with the Department of Communications, Climatic Action and environment and funded by EU, Ardee library. Every Tuesday at 10am

Getting Started, Age Action Computer classes for older people:

Drogheda Library: every Friday 10.30am -12.30pm for 5 weeks starting on August 31st

Heritage Week, August 18th-26th, 2018

This year's theme is Sharing Stories. Events in Louth Libraries include:

Dundalk Library:

A History of County Louth Through Maps, August 18-25th. An exhibition/display of old maps of County Louth

Drogheda Library:

Story & Song: Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Photo Exhibition. Local photographers celebrate with images of past Fleadhs, August 2nd- 31st.

True Stories from Our Past, Creative Writing Talk, August 24th, 11.30am. Local historical fiction author Nicola Cassidy takes a look at news stories from Drogheda & surrounds from early 19th century to modern day as inspiration for contemporary & historical fiction creative writing.

Ardee Library:

Exhibition on Stories of Days Gone By in Ardee, August 18th-25th. A display of old photographs of the town's landmarks from a bygone era.

Dunleer Library

Exhibition of Schools Folklore from the 1930s, August 18th-25th. View excerpts from the School Folklore Commission report on local schools in Dunleer & District and the Cooley Peninsula. A display of relevant books and photographs will also accompany the exhibition.

Carlingford Library:

Interpreting the Historic Landscape of Carlingford and Cooley with Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust, Thursday, August 23rd, 7.30pm

Exhibition of Schools Folklore from the 1930s, August 18th-25th. View excerpts from the School Folklore Commission report on local schools in Carlingford and the Cooley Peninsula. A display of relevant books and photographs will also accompany the exhibition.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Phase 2 of the *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* initiative will run from September 2018 to end of March 2019.

Phase two Healthy Ireland at your library will focus on national and local partnerships, additional promotional tools and a national radio campaign, new health information resources and a programme of events in all 5 branches.

Maeve Montgomery Alzheimer's Society of Ireland

Coping with dementia.

- Carlingford Library, Tuesday September 4th, 6pm
- Dundalk Library, Tuesday September 4th, 2pm
- Drogheda Library, Thursday, September 6th, 6pm
- Ardee Library, Tuesday September 11th, 2.30pm
- Dunleer Library, Tuesday September 11th, 6pm

Art Exhibitions

Dundalk Library:

Local Artist Sean Hamill will showcase his paintings which explore the benefits of art for mental health. Friday August 31st to Saturday September 8th

Anniversary of the Sinking of the SS Dundalk

Dundalk Library will host a talk to commemorate this event on Thursday, September 20th at 6.30pm.

Oíche Chultúir/Culture Night

Dundalk Library hosts Len Graham to perform Tall Tales and Musical Stories from the Irish Tradition on Friday, September 21st at 6.30pm Len is the recipient of the TG4 Gradam Amhránaí traditional singer of the year 2002. His performance will include Irish songs in English and Irish on many subjects, stories from the Irish countryside mingled with some poems.

For updates see www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Library/

Follow [#LouthLibraries](#) on Twitter and LouthCountyLibraries on Facebook

County Archives

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group (Co Archivist a member): the Group have completed a draft revision of the retention schedule for the functional area of housing and the next stage will be the validation process with subject matter experts, then the final draft schedule will be sent to the housing sections for comment. The Working Group will commence on Library Services in August. The second Working Group have also completed Finance and Procurement which has to now go through the validation process prior to being issued out to local authorities for comment and they will commence on Human Resources next.

GDPR seminar: The archivist attended a seminar on the GDPR in July which was arranged for the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM). Susan Healy formerly of The National Archives, London, was one of the speakers at the seminar. The LGARM intend on drafting a standard access policy.

Born Digital Records – Save the Date: Members of the LGARM are arranging a seminar in the Digital Repository of Ireland on the 18th October coming. It will be aimed at senior LA staff such as Heads of IT or Directors, as well as archivists/records managers. It will focus on born digital records in local authorities and what should be done with them.

‘Jacob’s Biscuit Factory & Dublin: An Assorted History’ Exhibition: This travelling exhibition, which was curated by Dublin City Library and Archive and funded by Dublin City Council Decade of Commemoration, will be on display at Louth County Archives from 20th August – 7th September with the kind permission of Dublin City Library and Archive. A lunch-time talk is planned for Friday 24th August. Drawing on the vast 330 boxes of Jacob Biscuit Factory Archives held at Dublin City Library and Archive, and using beautifully illustrated panels, oral histories and original artefacts, the exhibition tells both a chronological and thematic history of Jacob’s Biscuit Factory. The events of 1913-1922 which impacted on Ireland nationally feature prominently. The exhibition also tells more broadly the impact of Jacob’s on social, cultural and political life in Ireland throughout the twentieth century. It includes original artefacts such as a locked recipe book, an ‘Irish Free State’ Biscuit tin, a long service medal and watch, and a travelling salesman kit. Visitors will find out about the fascinating history of the Jacobs cream-cracker, who was the marketing genius to develop the concept of Jim Figgerty, and how did major national and international events from 1916 Rising to both World Wars impact the business, customers, and staff.

Conservation: Treatment is currently in progress for a small group of items, mainly early 20th century Council minute books. Treatment on items should be completed before the end of August.

Other activities included meeting with donors of archive collections, assisting researchers with research enquiries and assisting staff on record retention queries in

addition to the ongoing work of accessioning, preserving and processing archive collection.

County Museum, Dundalk

RTE Feature

RTÉ's John Creedon recently recorded a feature on former Dundalk striker, Jimmy Hasty and will be included in Creedon's new programme, ***The Road Less Travelled***. The feature was recorded almost exclusively in the Museum in the surround of the *One Team, One Dream* exhibition and it is anticipated that it will feature heavily in the item. The programme is scheduled to be broadcast on Sunday August 5.

Current Exhibition

The *One Team, One Dream* exhibition continues at the Museum and will run to the end of August.

Project with Dundalk FM

The Museum is presently developing a pilot programme with Dundalk FM featuring interviews with some of the town's greatest sporting sons and daughters. The first person to be interviewed was Des Casey speaking about his career with the FAI and UEFA, and of course his involvement in appointing Jack Charlton as Manager to the national side.

Forthcoming exhibitions

Work continues on the forthcoming Peter Rice exhibition with two galleries set to house this major exhibition. The larger exhibition will reflect his work and inspirations; the second is a photographic exhibition of a selection of the projects he was involved in over his career.

Work is also continuing on an exhibition marking the centenary of the sinking of the SS Dundalk. A call-out for items and artefacts was recently circulated and a number of items have been offered to the Museum on a donation basis as a result. The exhibition is scheduled to open in October.

An exhibition on an indoor football league that was run off in Drogheda in the 1970s and which featured some teams from Dundalk will be launched for the end of September. It consists of six panels and a number of artefacts; and was developed by a Helen Byrne (formerly of Drogheda, now living in London).

Forthcoming Conference

This year is *European Year of Cultural Heritage* and we have been asked by the Heritage Council to organize a border themed conference. *Do Borders Matter* will take place on Thursday October 25th here at the Museum and will feature a variety of speakers looking at the influence of the 'border' both here in Ireland and beyond. Amongst the topics to be examined will be the impact of a border culturally and socially both in general terms as well as organisations such museums.

Grant Aid

The Museum has received a grant of up to €14, 750 from Dept. of Culture, Heritage and An Gaeltacht for the purposes of our exhibition on the TSS Dundalk. The money will be spent on developing the exhibition and an accompanying booklet.

Maintaining the Service

In addition to the above the Museum continues to accept, record, catalogue items donated by the public as well as operating guided tours of the galleries.

18. Fire and Emergency Services

There has been a continuing large increase in the number of emergency incidents attended by Louth Fire Service caused by the hot spell. Dundalk, Drogheda and Carlingford Brigades have been particularly busy and mobilized to grass fires, gorse fires and rubbish fires. Carlingford attended one large gorse fire near Omeath. Most of these fires appear to be deliberate and would delay the fire service response to simultaneous life risk incidents, e.g. house fires.

A Fire fighting Skills course is currently being run in Dundalk Training Centre and will finish on 3rd August 2018. There are fire service personnel from Louth and other brigades on the course. It is the first such course in the Irish Fire Service and will be the benchmark initial firefighter course to be completed by all new entrants into Fire Services from the second half of 2018. The course will be overseen by the Local Authority Fire Services National Training Group (LASNTG). A course audit was completed by LASNTG on 26th July 2018. Successful candidates will receive a Level 6 award under the National Framework of Qualifications.

The CFO will be making an application to the DPCLG for a further upgrade of the Training Centre, to improve the training accommodation to the required standard and replace temporary buildings.

Preparations for the Fleadh Cheoil 2018 emergency arrangements are ongoing with liaison between the CFO and Event Management Company in relation to the event licensing application. The final statutory inter-agency meeting in relation to the Fleadh Cheoil took place on 25th July 2018. All competition and concert venues have been inspected by the Fire Prevention Section. Additional licensing applications for public assembly use of other premises in Drogheda and also being checked by the Fire Prevention Section.

The Fire Prevention Section is continuing with inspections of properties used for the emergency accommodation of homeless persons.

The Fire Prevention Section has been following up on ongoing referrals from the Housing Section in relation to HAP properties and a number of Fire Safety Notices have been served.