



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

**Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report in  
relation to functions performed in the preceding  
month / Tuairisc Bainistíochta Míosúala ag an  
bPríomhfheidhmeannach maidir le feidhmeanna  
déanta I rith an mhí seo caite**

**Dated 7 December 2021  
7 Nollaig 2021**

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## Finance and Water Services

### Airgeadas agus Seirbhísí Uisce

This Directorate ensures that the financial management of the Council is carried out in an efficient and timely manner, compliant with all relevant legislation, and that all of the activities and programmes of the Council represent good value for money for all the citizens of Louth.

Other responsibilities include Motor Tax and Water Services.

Cintíonn an Stiúrthóireacht seo go bhfuil bainistíocht airgeadas an Chomhairle déanta ar bhealach éifeachtach agus tráthúil, comhlíontach leis an dlí ábhartha, agus go bhfuil luach ar airgead bainte as gach gníomhaíocht agus clár an gComhairle, thar ceann shaoránaigh Lú.

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile ná Mótarcháin agus Seirbhísí Uisce.

**Bernie Woods**  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## Finance

### Expenditure to 30th November 2021

| <b>Section</b>                           | <b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 30/11/21</b> | <b>BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2021</b> | <b>% SPENT TO 30/11/21</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Housing                                  | 29,803,160                            | 39,706,362                     | 75%                        |
| Road Transportation & Safety             | 24,243,297                            | 26,232,178                     | 92%                        |
| Water Services                           | 5,875,899                             | 7,854,289                      | 75%                        |
| Development Management                   | 14,399,619                            | 17,057,986                     | 84%                        |
| Environmental Services                   | 15,052,792                            | 18,475,519                     | 81%                        |
| Recreation and Amenity                   | 7,393,662                             | 9,425,077                      | 78%                        |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 892,559                               | 1,180,833                      | 76%                        |
| Miscellaneous                            | 17,139,613                            | 10,604,375                     | 162%                       |
|  | <b>114,800,601</b>                    | <b>130,536,619</b>             | <b>88%</b>                 |

### Income to 30th November 2021

| <b>Section</b>                           | <b>ACTUAL INCOME TO 30/11/21</b> | <b>BUDGET INCOME 2021</b> | <b>% INVOICED TO 30/10/21</b> |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Housing                                  | 31,013,540                       | 40,590,850                | 76%                           |
| Road Transportation & Safety             | 10,238,839                       | 16,802,175                | 61%                           |
| Water Services                           | 5,482,137                        | 7,598,460                 | 72%                           |
| Development Management                   | 7,891,790                        | 10,177,060                | 78%                           |
| Environmental Services                   | 2,264,713                        | 2,150,427                 | 105%                          |
| Recreation and Amenity                   | 814,738                          | 962,409                   | 85%                           |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 451,551                          | 455,146                   | 99%                           |
| Miscellaneous                            | 4,021,733                        | 6,496,645                 | 62%                           |
| Rates                                    | 35,387,113                       | 35,437,249                | 100%                          |
| General Purpose Grant (LPT)              | 9,866,198                        | 9,866,198                 | 100%                          |
|  | <b>107,432,352</b>               | <b>130,536,619</b>        | <b>82%</b>                    |

The above is the current position as at the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2021 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as at 30th November 2021 are as follows:

**Debtors as at 30th November 2021**

|                                | <b>Opening Balance</b> | <b>Invoices</b>    | <b>Receipts</b>      | <b>Write Offs</b>   | <b>Closing Balance</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Government Debtors</b>      | <b>9,101,755</b>       | 88,907,016         | (86,338,113)         | (152)               | <b>11,670,506</b>      |
| <b>Other Local Authorities</b> | <b>111,441</b>         | 705,588            | (782,536)            | 0                   | <b>34,493</b>          |
| <b>Rates</b>                   | <b>11,030,292</b>      | 35,387,113         | (23,024,614)         | (11,616,519)        | <b>11,776,272</b>      |
| <b>Rents</b>                   | <b>2,968,564</b>       | 11,596,153         | (12,064,838)         | (77,480)            | <b>2,422,399</b>       |
| <b>Loans</b>                   | <b>283,360</b>         | 1,602,216          | (1,650,946)          | 0                   | <b>234,630</b>         |
| <b>Development Levies</b>      | <b>10,622,066</b>      | 2,798,962          | (2,807,767)          | 0                   | <b>10,613,261</b>      |
| <b>Fire Charges</b>            | <b>750,804</b>         | 425,429            | (306,799)            | (85,263)            | <b>784,171</b>         |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>           | <b>1,847,991</b>       | 8,066,969          | (7,010,776)          | (647,387)           | <b>2,256,797</b>       |
| <b>TOTAL DEBTORS</b>           | <b>36,716,273</b>      | <b>149,489,446</b> | <b>(133,986,389)</b> | <b>(12,426,801)</b> | <b>39,792,529</b>      |
|                                |                        |                    |                      |                     |                        |

Above is the debtor balances as at the 30th November 2021. 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.

**Covid19 - Rates Waiver**

The Government has announced the continuation of the Rates Waiver scheme for the final quarter of the year but the eligible businesses are severely restricted compared to the previous rates waiver schemes.

We have posted the final quarter's waivers to the accounts and the total waiver for the year now stands at €10.3m.

With regard to rate customers in arrears we continue to deal with these on a case by case basis and we urge rate payers that are experiencing difficulties at this time to contact the rates department without delay.

## **Water Services**

**Note - it is expected that progress of capital schemes and delivery of some services will experience further delays as result of restrictions due to Covid-19.**

### **Water Quality**

Intensive monitoring of water supplies in the County is carried out continually by the EPA on behalf of Louth County Council.

### **Do Not Consume Notice - Greenmount Water Supply**

A Do Not Consume Notice was issued by IW / LCC to the customers on the Greenmount Public Water Supply on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2021. IW / LCC are working to resolve the issue at present.

### **Water Conservation**

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**

Water Services continue to engage with Irish Water and LCC Environment Section on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

### **Capital Programmes**

Irish Water refers to the different phases of a capital project as Gates 1, 2, 3 or 4.

- Gate 1 - Concept Design,
- Gate 2 - Detailed design, preparation of contract documents, planning approval and procurement,
- Gate 3 - Construction stage,
- Gate 4 - Snagging and project sign off.

### **Tallanstown Rationalisation**

Detailed Design is being progressed by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers. LCC are liaising with IW and Consultants to advance the project. The Stage 4 Workshop is scheduled for December 2021.

## **Cavanhill WTW Upgrade**

LCC and IW are currently negotiating the phased transition from the DBO contract to Operations control. LCC are currently recruiting additional staff to be trained by the DBO Contractor/IW in order to manage and operate Cavan Hill WTP once the facility is taken back in charge by the LA under the Service Level Agreement.

### **Staleen WTW Upgrade**

LCC and IW are currently negotiating the phased transition from the DBO contract to Operations control. LCC are currently recruiting additional staff to be trained by the DBO Contractor/IW in order to manage and operate Staleen WTP once the facility is taken back in charge by the LA under the Service Level Agreement.

### **Omeath WWTW**

The project is programmed to commence on-site on 6<sup>th</sup> December with completion in January 2023. LCC continue to engage with IW and design team to support the project.

### **Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)**

The programme for this work, which includes surface water separation in Omeath, will be co-ordinated with the Omeath WWTP Project.

### **Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation**

Irish Water undertook survey works on Drogheda Sewer network which were completed in early July. Further network surveys are ongoing on the Drogheda Network.

### **Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP)**

DAP Workshop Stage 3 with Irish Water, Louth County Council and Arups Consulting Engineers was completed in September 2021 to review the progress on the survey and modelling project. LCC Operations staff continues to liaise with IW and Consultants with network verifications. Key risks identified from stage 3 to be taken forward to stage 4 and options identified to address risks.

## **Dundalk East Strategy - In advance of completion of Dundalk DAP**

Consultants are currently progressing the design with IW in consultation with Louth County Council. The Invasive Site Investigation is now complete with the GPR survey ongoing, to be completed by end 2021. The detailed design will be dependent on data provided by Dundalk DAP

### **Coe's Road Pumping Station**

Operational modifications to the Pumping Station were undertaken by EPS. Options for cleaning of existing large diameter sewer currently under review with IW.

### **Dundalk LNRP**

Strategic Review underway for Dundalk WWTP and Blackrock WWTP to facilitate the progressing of the Local Network Reinforcement Programme.

### **Drogheda LNRP**

Works at SWO including the provision of Non-Return Valves on the 3 no outfalls and an Event Duration Monitor are being progressed.

### **North Drogheda Wastewater Network Strategy**

Atkins Consulting Engineers are progressing the Detailed Design of the North Drogheda Strategic Wastewater Network. Workshop 4 is scheduled to take place in December with the planning and procurement process to progress through 2022.

### **Quay St/ St. Helena Rising Main, Dundalk**

Detailed Design is being advanced by the IW Consultants with the next Design Workshop due in January 2022. Detailed design will be dependent on data provided by Dundalk DAP. Procurement of Contractors is ongoing with commencement on site due in Q1 2022

### **Greenmount WTW Upgrade**

IW and LCC are currently developing a Water Needs Brief to initiate a project to upgrade the Greenmount Water Treatment Works.

## **Drogheda WWTP**

IW is continuing to carry out works at Drogheda wastewater treatment plant and is committed to resolving any potential odour issues arising from the wastewater plant or the network. IW continues to work closely with EPS Limited who operates the Plant on behalf of Irish Water and Louth County Council.

IW is delivering an extensive programme of upgrade works at the plant and on the network to reduce the risk of odour. Works already completed include; odour control unit upgrades; works to three primary settlement tanks and two aeration tanks and the installation of additional temporary treatment at the East Meath pumping station that conveys wastewater to the plant to reduce the potential for septicity of the wastewater.

Furthermore, a programme of network jetting is being delivered on an ongoing basis to clear general blockages in the network that could give rise to odours. In addition, Irish Water is progressing with plans to replace the anaerobic digesters on a phased basis over the next two years while the plant remains operational. To safely facilitate these works the digestion process has been switched off. These works represent a significant investment by Irish Water in the continued upgrade of the plant.

IW also commissioned an independent odour analysis and report of the plant and to develop a further programme of any necessary works.

## **Water Networks**

### **Water Networks Programme**

#### **Rehabilitation Programme**

The rehabilitation schemes commenced under this program in November 2021

- Cast iron network replacement in Pearse Park Drogheda
- Slip lining of the water main through the Bridge of Peace
- **Irish Water announced on 25<sup>th</sup> November plans to replace old cast iron water mains in Tallanstown village to safeguard the water supply and reduce high levels of leakage for homes and**

**businesses. The scheme is scheduled to commence week 6th December for completion by end of January 2022.**

### **Lead replacement / Back Yard Services**

Irish Water's Contractors carried out no BYS in Louth in November

### **First Fix**

1 first fix type repairs were undertaken by Irish Water contractors in November.

### **Find & Fix**

Louth County Council crews continue their Find and Fix program in Collon and Blackrock areas in November.

### **Water Scouring Programme 2021**

Program now complete.

### **Network Maintenance**

31 essential water tasks were carried out in November including 10 under the Find and Fix program (5 in Carlingford, 2 in Dundalk, and 3 in Clogherhead).

### **Planning & Water Connections**

The Networks Section processed 18 new connections, 12 Pre Connection Enquiries and 60 Planning Applications in November.

### **Service Maps**

The Networks Section prepared 48 Service Maps in November.

**This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:**

- **Planning, the way in which we organise the built environment in our county**
- **Infrastructure, including our roads, bridges, and ports**
- **Economic Development, including the Local Enterprise Office, and work involving partners and funding outside the state**

**Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:**

- **Is é Pleanáil an slí a eagraímid an timpeallacht thógtha i gContae Lú**
- **Bonneagar, ár mbóithre, ár ndroichid, agus ár gcalaphoirt san áireamh**
- **Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil san áireamh, agus obair le comhpháirtithe agus foinsí maoinithe lasmuigh den Stát**

**Frank Pentony  
Director / Stiúrtóir**



## Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Development

### Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

- Part of our assessment of projects currently includes their impact on the environment.

- A new support for micro and small businesses in Louth to assist them develop their green and sustainable agenda was launched in 2021. Further details are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/green>

### Economic Development

#### Louth Economic Forum

A meeting of the forum took place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

An update / presentation on the Peace Plus programme was given by Pamela Arthurs, East Border Region which was followed by a discussion on the different themes/ options available.

An update on FDI and Education and Skills was given by the various Chairs with their priorities for the remainder of 2021 and for 2022.

#### Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2021

The 2021 Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme opened to applications on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 and the closing date for receipt of applications was 5.00pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

33 Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme applications were received prior to the closing date, 15 from Drogheda, 15 from Dundalk and 3 from Ardee.

### Tourism

Louth County Council, in association with Fáilte Ireland, ran a national radio advertising campaign on Today FM and 98 FM with ad slots across all the stations' prime time shows from 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. The advert highlighted how much County Louth has to offer for a getaway break, by way of the fantastic range of tourism activities we have.

The campaign also included website homepage takeovers on [todayfm.com](http://todayfm.com) and [newstalk.com](http://newstalk.com) with advert links to the [www.sealouth.ie](http://www.sealouth.ie) and [www.visitlouth.ie](http://www.visitlouth.ie) websites.

Campaign stats received from Bauer Media (Today FM), are as follows:

#### Homepage Takeovers

- 08-10-2021 **Newstalk Homepage Takeover** – 128,400 impressions, 1268 clicks and a CTR of 0.99%
- 08-10-2021 **Today FM Homepage Takeover** – 144,668 impressions, 1395 clicks and a CTR of 0.96%
- 04-10-2021 to 20-10-2021 **MPU ads All Sites** – 350,005 impressions, 563 clicks and a CTR of 0.16%

#### Facebook Post

58,182 people reached, 1,433 engagements, 1.4+ distribution score  
Tweets (x2): 6,626 impressions and 66 engagements (combined)

There were 620 competition entries and the prize winner was from Ratoath, Co. Meath

#### 'sea louth' - Scenic Seafood Trail Update



The Irish Daily Mail Travel Section on 30<sup>th</sup> October featured a write up on sea louth with some nice mentions for restaurants, producers, accommodation and things to do along the trail.

The GastroGays, ambassadors of the Boyne Valley Flavours group, gave sea louth a great mention in their article featured on [RTE.ie](http://RTE.ie) on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Read their 'Feast in the East: A break in the bountiful Boyne Valley' article here:

<https://www.rte.ie/lifestyle/living/2021/1125/126321/3-feast-in-the-east-a-break-in-the-bountiful-boyne-valley/?s=08>

## Fáilte Ireland Funding

### Urban Animation

Louth County Council were thrilled to be awarded €672,000 from Fáilte Ireland under the Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme.

As one of only seven applicants to receive this funding nationwide, this project will see the transformation of Drogheda with a number of new innovation experiences. These include:

- An urban art trail with an audio story attached,
- A new Augmented Reality Trail – the first of its kind in Ireland, and
- An animated lighting show which will run during festivals and other seasonal events.

These projects will enliven the senses through sight, sound and vision at strategic locations in Drogheda's Town Centre and will capture and portray a sense of place, linking Drogheda with its ancient past through audio and visual experiences that can be enjoyed both in day and evening time.

Work on the project has commenced with tenders due to be advertised early in 2022.

### Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

Work is ongoing on the project which is due to be completed in the summer of 2022.

The bespoke new signage for visitor information and orientation is part of the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns programme. The proposed signage will be focused on streets from Magdalene Tower to Millmount and from Westgate to St. Laurence's Gate in Drogheda town centre.

### Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business' Scheme

A new funding scheme for outdoor seating and accessories for the tourism and hospitality sector was launched on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021. This funding scheme provides for funding of up to €4,000 for individual tourism and hospitality businesses to develop and increase their own outdoor seating capacity. The scheme was extended to pubs (including non-dining) from the

14<sup>th</sup> June and is being administered by the Economic Development & Tourism Office.

The closing date for the scheme was extended to the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 to accommodate late applications.

Louth County Council received 140 applications and has processed all eligible applications for payment. A claim has been submitted to Fáilte Ireland for recoupment.

### Boyne Valley Flavours

The Samhain Festival held on the 5-7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 involved producers from across Louth and Meath was a great success. High profile Irish Foodies such as Darina Allen and John & Sally McKenna returned to the Boyne Valley region to celebrate our heritage & culture through panel discussions, foodie tours and cookery demonstrations. There were approximately 30 different events to the festival. Celebrity Chef Kevin Dundons Cookery demo, sponsored by SuperValu Food Academy, was also streamed online.

A review of the Food strategy for 2022 is currently in the early planning stage.

Boyne Valley Flavours teamed up with Oldbridge House to host the Oldbridge Christmas Fair which took place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. Over 60 food, drink & craft producers showcased on the day.

Boyne Valley Flavours Christmas Hampers are now available for sale on the Boyne Valley Food website, with 30 producers from across Louth & Meath involved.

### LEO Louth

### COVID-19 Business Supports



Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at: [www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Response](http://www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Response).

Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: [info@leo.louthcoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.louthcoco.ie) or they can call to our office at Town Hall, Dundalk.

### **'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local' Campaign**

A new shop local Christmas Campaign, 'Look For Local- Look For Louth' was launched which will generate coverage in local press, radio and social media in the weeks leading to Christmas. Part of the campaign includes a competition offering gift vouchers from Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee, and a new video will launch in the first week of December featuring retailers across the county highlighting the importance of shopping locally. The Louth online shopping directory is available at: [www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal](http://www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal).

Businesses can be included on the Louth online directory by emailing: [tradingonline@leo.louthcoco.ie](mailto:tradingonline@leo.louthcoco.ie).



**Cathairleach Pío Smith with Riona Mc Coy (left) and Thomas Mc Evoy (right) from LEO Louth at the launch of the 'Look for Local' Campaign**

### **Retail Powerhouse Forum**

LEO Louth is supporting 12 local retailers on the Retail Powerhouse Forum in 2021. This is a commercial retail forum that focuses on building trade with expert tips specifically for retailers.



### **Brexit Supports**

Notwithstanding the trade agreement negotiated between the EU and UK, Brexit is creating issues for businesses around VAT and Customs paperwork.



### **Brexit Advisory Clinic:**

Brexit Advisory Clinics, involving one to one meetings to help assess the impact of Brexit on Louth businesses, continue to be offered to local businesses. The aim of the clinic is to design a pathway to mitigate Brexit and access additional supports.

### **Brexit Microfinance Ireland Loan:**

Microfinance Ireland is offering a Brexit Business Loan, via LEO, in order to support businesses that will be directly impacted by Brexit. Loans up to €25,000 are available, and depending on the purpose the term can be between six months and three years.

A full range of Brexit supports to help small businesses is offered by LEO Louth, all information can be found at: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Brexit/>.

## Border Stimulus Programmes to assist local businesses address Brexit and Covid challenges



A suite of 5 business support programmes continued to be delivered.

The 5 programmes are:

- Export Development Programme
- Financial Management Programme for owner managers
- Green for Microenterprise
- Innovation Programme for small businesses in Co. Louth.
- Superior Retailing Programme

## Export Development Programme



The Export Development Programme commenced in January with 15 Louth businesses. Workshops and mentoring sessions were delivered in November. The programme is expected to be completed in mid-December.

## Financial Management Programme



While the Financial Management workshops concluded in August, additional company 'one to one' mentoring took place during November.

The quality of the action plans developed by the businesses has been to a very high standard with scores ranging between 60% and 85%.

The programme has been very successful with high attendance and extremely positive feedback from participants and mentors.

## Green for Micro



The Green for Micro programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective.

Projects may vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing market place.

22 businesses are engaging in this programme so far.

LEO Louth continues to seek new applications.

## Innovation Programme



The Innovation Programme is designed for SME business leaders who have ambitions to embed innovation in their businesses. The programme which commenced in April is being delivered over a 7 month period.

All participants have completed their penultimate workshop and have completed a minimum of 7 mentoring sessions with some participants availing of up to 20 sessions. Participants are now finalising their Innovation Plans, with the final session booked for early December. The programme is due to complete by mid-December.

## Superior Retailing Programme



The Superior Retailing Development Programme was aimed at assisting Irish owned retail businesses cope with the challenges of Covid, Brexit and Online. Businesses will be able to plan their growth into the future.

The group workshops finished in July with overall attendance on the programme exceptionally high at 93%. Company 'one to one' mentoring continued through the Autumn.

Engagement and participation on the programme has been excellent. The end of programme evaluation showed e-Commerce as the top priority for participants and an additional, final Masterclass was delivered on the specific subject of "Free Google Tools to Improve your Online Presence".

Additional assistance to participants requiring facilitation, advice and motivation was provided during November under the programme.

In addition, during November, the third and final rounds of Mystery Shopping for the SME Retail clients who participated in the training earlier in the year, was completed. This part of the programme was late starting due to lockdowns, and the individual rounds needed to be spaced out, to maximise the benefit to the clients. The store owners have found this phase of the programme particularly beneficial and are delighted with the independent, anonymous shoppers' feedback.

## Business Training



During November **89** businesses booked onto training workshops. Training was varied in nature with Instagram for Beginners, VAT for Beginners, Advanced Facebook and Social Media for Small Business.

Advice on finance was also provided, with an Introduction to VAT workshop as well as Accessing Finance where participants were introduced to the various sources of finance available for their business.

Recent recipients of the Trading Online Voucher benefited from 'Your Website is Live. What Now?' which will enable them to keep their website fresh and current, especially in the run up to Christmas.

Training takes a break in December but training courses for 2022 are available to view online and will continue to cater for entrepreneurs who have recently graduated from Start Your Own Business Programmes as well as more established businesses looking to refresh their skills. Interestingly, one of the Start Your Own Business courses for January is already full.

All training courses are available to view and book online:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

### LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

Under this programme LEO appointed 3 no. consultants who continued to engage with our portfolio clients during November.

The programme provides support to LEO portfolio clients to develop their export and growth potential, working with businesses to identify and pursue export opportunities and to ensure maximum uptake of LEO supports.

### Trading Online Voucher Scheme



The Trading Online Voucher scheme to assist businesses to get online or enhance their online presence, under which LEO can provide 50% support up to a maximum grant of €2,500 continues.

Trading Online Voucher training workshops to assist applicants apply continue to be run on a regional basis with Cavan and Monaghan LEOs. There were 5 applications in November.

### Business Advice Clinics

27 business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the County during November.

### LEO Louth Mentor Programme



The Mentor Programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with small business owner / managers who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

11 businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of November.

### COVID-19 Microfinance Ireland Business Loan



LEO Louth offers full expert assistance to clients to assist the completion of Microfinance Loan Application, Business Plan and Cashflow Projections.

During the month of November, there was 1 application for support, while 2 loans were approved.

LEO mentors are continuing to assist applicants.

### Micro-Finance Ireland – New Electric Vehicle Taxi Loan



Microfinance Ireland have launched a new loan whereby Taxi owners who wish to buy an electric vehicle can now apply for loans of up to €25,000 from Microfinance Ireland.

Loans of between €5,000 and €25,000 will be available, with a 1% reduced Annual Percentage Rate if the application is made through the Local Enterprise Office. The loans will be up to 5 years.

LEO Louth is accepting applications.

## Innovate Accelerate Europe



The Innovate Accelerate Europe programme launched in October and continued during November, with 7 businesses from Louth participating. The cross-border programme is focused on small businesses looking to expand their markets.

It is a 12 week programme with the primary features:

- Participating businesses get a free promotional video of their business which they can use for export campaigns.
- Each business will get to work with an international mentor and digital consultant to help improve their online enquiries / sales and export potential.
- A network of EU agents will set up meetings for each business with potential partners.
- The opportunity to attend a buyer's event and receive €400 towards the cost of attending or implementing a strategy adopted.

3 training sessions have been completed to date. Next up for participants is a B2B meeting in January 2022. All participants have been contacted by their mentor and videographer with some already having started their mentoring.

## Student Enterprise Programme



The Student Enterprise Programme for the 2021 - 2022 academic year continued during November.

LEO Louth is delivering this programme to student in all 19 no. post-primary schools throughout the county.

## LEAN for Micro Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally. The programme helps businesses to identify issues and potential improvement areas and provides support to implement these as well as achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver.

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.

LEO approved 2 applications in November.

## Co-Innovate Programme



Final clients on the Co-Innovate programme continue to engage with the programme to assist them embed innovation in their business. In total 73 Louth businesses participated under Co-innovate.

Due to an extension of the programme into the early part of 2022 a further opportunity has arisen for additional clients to engage in the early stages of this programme and LEO continues to work on identifying suitable companies.

## Craft Sector

LEO Louth is working with the national LEO / Design and Craft Council Ireland Committee in the design and roll out of sectoral training and opportunities for the design and craft community.

Louth companies will be able to apply to engage in training programmes, an e-Commerce bootcamp and an export focused programme over the next number of months.

### Showcase 2022

Showcase is the leading trade show for the craft and gift sector. LEO Louth will take 5 companies to the event to facilitate them connect with Irish and international buyers.

### Regional Enterprise Plan – North East

Following the approval of the North-East Regional Enterprise Plan in September, work has commenced on the implementation of the Plan, with the establishment of five working groups. These will each be responsible for supporting the implementation of the actions in the plan. The working groups comprise representation from the Enterprise Development Agencies, LEOs, Regional Skills Forum, DkIT as well as private sector representation from across the North-East region. To date two of the working groups have met (Regional Identity and Transition to Digitalisation), while the working group on Climate Action is scheduled to meet in early December. The New Year will see the coming together of the working groups on the SME ecosystem and emerging sectors. One of the main functions of the working groups is to identify opportunities to collaborate on projects on a regional basis and funding opportunities for same. The ongoing situation with regards to Covid-19 has delayed the intended launch of the Regional Enterprise Plans to early 2022.

### Local Enterprise Week Louth 2022



LEO Louth is in the planning stage for Local Enterprise Week which will run from 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

March, 2022 with a range of national, regional and Louth based seminar and workshops on key areas of interest to businesses. It will be a celebration of enterprise across the country and will highlight the supports available through the Local Enterprise Office Network.

### New Frontiers

Phase 1 of the New Frontiers Programme (to support early stage entrepreneurs take the leap into self-employment) was launched at DKIT on 9<sup>th</sup> November. LEO Louth and Enterprise Ireland presented at the event.

### Swiss Ambassador Visit

The Swiss Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellence Louis-Jose Touron visited Louth on 11<sup>th</sup> November. He was accompanied by his wife Ms. Touron and the Swiss Honorary Consul, Valerie Swann. A presentation on the local economy and the potential impact of Brexit in the event of Article 16 being triggered was discussed.



*Picture: (left to right) Thomas Mc Evoy, LEO, Ambassador Touron, Colette Moss, A/Director of Service, Ms. Touron and Honorary Consul Valerie Swann*

### Junior Achievement

A green and white poster for Junior Achievement Ireland. At the top, it says 'Volunteering with Junior Achievement Ireland INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS'. Below that, it announces a virtual Recognition / Information Session on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> November at 12noon. To join, it provides a link and contact email: Elaine @eobrienlynch@jai.ie. At the bottom, there are five circular icons with text: 'Deliver sessions from home or work', 'Full training provided', 'No teaching experience required', '40mins sessions once a week for 4/5 weeks', and 'Inspire the next generation'. At the very bottom, there is a small disclaimer: 'Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) is a non-profit educational organisation supported by 170 Irish businesses which enables hands-on learning experiences that empower students to make connections between what they learn in school and how it can be applied in real life. For more information see jai.ie'.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November Junior Achievement Ireland delivered a volunteering session to Louth County Council staff members, encouraging them to take part in the 2021 / 2022 Junior Achievement programme.

A small video was presented showing the highlights of the 2020 programme with worthy congratulations to the Louth County Council staff who were involved. See link below to the video presentation on the Intranet – Louth County Council Video Report: <https://tinyurl.com/ahtvna3h>.

## Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment (DETE)

- **Retail**

DETE, with its consultants KPMG, ran an extensive workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> November to help it frame a new National Retail Policy. LEO Louth represents the LEO National Network and is a member of DETE's National Retail Forum.

- **National Cluster Policy**

DETE delivered an interactive session with a number of LEOs on 26<sup>th</sup> November with the aim of developing a (first) National Policy on Business Clusters. Its report is expected early 2022.

## European Relations

### Peace IV Programme



### Project Updates

#### Adapting Aftermath Archives:

##### Theme: Children and Young People

A project targeting 100 young people (aged 12-18 years old) has incorporated a newly devised educational programme for use in peace building, conflict transformation and reconciliation work. The programme involved participants from Louth, Monaghan, Sligo, Belfast and Carrickfergus. A unique feature of this project involved the setting up of a Young People's Advisory Group who contributed to the design of the programme and the development of the Aftermath Toolkit Educational

Resource Pack. The young people engaged in both online and live workshops, while also experiencing cross community visits, trips to exhibitions and theatre performances. Feedback from the participants to date has been extremely positive and indicates that they benefitted hugely from the level of engagement that enabled their voice to be heard in dealing with legacy of past conflict.



*Photo Credit: Kabosh Theatre. Participants at workshop in The Garage Theatre, Monaghan*



*Photo Credit: Kabosh Theatre. Participants at workshop delivered by Kabosh Theatre*

### Good Relations Initiative: Networking Event Theme: Building Positive Relations

Louth Volunteer Centre held a networking event on 5<sup>th</sup> November which also provided an opportunity to showcase the value of PEACE IV projects in our community. The event brought participants of the 'Empowering You' strand of the Good Relations Initiative programme (Capacity Building and Conflict Resolution Training) together with community organisations in the area. The purpose of this was to demonstrate how volunteering is valued in our community and to bring a larger base of community groups and members together to

reflect on their role in our community. Certificates were presented to the PEACE IV 'Empowering You' programme participants.



**Photo Credit: Orbee. Digital. Certificate presentation to PEACE IV's 'Empowering You' programme participants**

### **New Projects – Awarding of Contract**

The contract for single service provider to act as lead consultant for the proposed development of a shared space at Peter's Hill, Drogheda has been awarded to O'Connor, Sutton, Cronin & Associates and work has now commenced on this development.

### **Closing Events**

Closing events for the following projects will take place in December 2021. Due to restrictions these events will take place online.

- Good Relations Initiative (BPR): 6<sup>th</sup> December
- Small Grants Programme (BPR): 9<sup>th</sup> December
- Creative Interventions (BPR): 10<sup>th</sup> December
- Adapting Aftermath Archives (CYP): 16<sup>th</sup> December
- XBorder Youth Networking: (CYP): 17<sup>th</sup> December
- Civic Leadership Project: (CYP): 17<sup>th</sup> December

## **Infrastructure**

### **Roads Projects**

#### **Narrow Water Bridge**

The council and designer continue to progress the collating of the numerous files together in relation to the project to ascertain a programme for the project and the services and approvals required to bring the scheme to construction stage.

A North South Ministerial Infrastructure Sub Group meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, with a further one to be held in December. The two ministers met in Warrenpoint to discuss the project, in mid October.

#### **N53 - Dundalk to Castleblayney Road Phase 4. Hackballscross to Rassan**

Part 8 planning was approved by the members of Dundalk MD at the September meeting. Following completion of a design report, project appraisal and total scheme budget, a presentation has been made to TII along with a request to proceed to CPO for the scheme. Approval to publish the CPO is awaited from TII. The CPO schedules and deposit maps have been prepared and letters will issue to all the landowners concerned.



**Draft CPO Drawings**

#### **N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme**

A variety of surveys are ongoing with the information been gathered informing the ongoing

design process. Topographical surveys are substantially complete. Ground Investigation (GI) are ongoing with the Contractor, their liaison officer and the project team have been working with landowners to arrange access to private lands and the N2 Project Team would like to thank landowners for their co-operation and for allowing access to the lands.

(GI) will also be required along the N2 mainline and adjoining sideroads – traffic management will be in operation, however, significant traffic disruption is not expected.

Noise monitoring is proposed at various locations in the study area, and the project team will soon be in contact with relevant landowners to request access for survey equipment. Noise monitoring is not required at every dwelling house - the selected locations will be representative of the wider area, the results of the noise surveys will be used in the development of a model, allowing noise impacts to be assessed at every dwelling in the study area. N2 Project Phoneline 087 340 3786, or email: [ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie](mailto:ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie), website: [www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie](http://www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie).

### **N52 Ardee Bypass**

Feedback from the public consultation on the junction review has now been completed and a junction strategy report is completed. An EIA screening report and AA screening report have been prepared and the scheme screens out in both. An opinion was sought from An Bord Pleanála and the Board decided NOT TO DIRECT the Road Authority to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report in respect of the proposed road development and NOT to prepare a Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed development. A briefing for Ardee MD members is due to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> December prior to publishing a revised Part 8 for the scheme.

### **Park and Share / Park and Ride Pilot Scheme**

Works are now complete and the facility is open and in use. Works are completed on lining and hatching of the N53 (Castleblayney Road) to prevent parking at that location.

### **TII HD 15 Safety Works: King Williams Glen Tullyallen, N51**

Works to increase the stagger at the junction are now substantially completed. A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit has been carried out and works identified are to be carried out in due course. The works will proceed subject to TII funding.

### **TII HD17 Schemes**

Site inspections have been carried out at priority locations on National Roads including the N33 and the Funshog Junction on the N2, in conjunction with TII Safety Section.

**Funshog:** Feasibility & Options reports are currently being prepared and will be forwarded to the TII for their review and approval in due course.

**N33:** Road Markings and signage is now completed.

**N2:** Public Lighting Remedial Works for 3 no. locations on the N2: Contractor on site completing civil works, Mechanical and Electrical now complete at Tierney Street junction Ardee, Slieve Breagh / N2 junction, Main Street Collon - R188 / N2 junction. Awaiting on ESB to complete the connections

### **Safety Barriers - N53 and N52**

2 Locations identified on N53 and 3 locations on N52 have been surveyed for safety barrier requirements as per TII guidance to determine needs along both of these routes.

### **N33 West Pavement Scheme**

Works are complete on renewal of a 3km section of the N33. Resurfacing works and lining works with renewal of filter drains and provision of studs have been finalised. Bridge expansion joint replacement is being organised.

### **N2 Collon Pavement Scheme**

Kerbing and drainage works are now complete on the N2. The complete works entailed revised kerblines at junctions, additional footpath areas, drainage, selective reconstruction, surfacing, new

traffic islands and tactile pavement. Lining and studs. Additional works are being planned to address collisions identified by TII. A design report has issued to TII for approval concerning these works.

## **N2 Short Term Safety Measures**

Short term safety measures have continued in 2021 on the N2 north of Ardee. Signage works and hedge clearance are now substantially complete.

## **Port Access Northern Cross Route**

Land Acquisition ongoing. Fencing completed at R132. Fill material being stockpiled, for embankment use. Existing ESB 38kv line has been diverted. Footpath and cycle path works to facilitate development on the Ballymakenny Road which is part of the PANCR scheme are ongoing. The purchase of land to facilitate the footpath and cycle path has commenced in line with the CPO procedure. Public lighting columns have been erected. Watermain, foul sewer and telecoms ducting are substantially complete. Kerbing work and footpath work is substantially complete. Cyclelane surfacing is due to commence shortly.



**Footpath & Cyclelane Construction Progress**

## **Boyne Enterprise Link Road**

The project has approval for Part 8 planning which was presented at the Drogheda M.D. in September. The consultant has now completed detailed design and tender documentation are being finalised to issue to eTenders in early December.

## **R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme**

The project has been reactivated with Cavan County Council being the lead authority. Currently the consultants are reviewing the route using a RibGeom method of assessment. This type of assessment will identify sections of the route corridor where the greatest collision risk exists and these will form a basis of a phased improvement strategy for the route corridor. Currently the consultants are in the process of completing this process and it's envisaged a Risk Based Safety Improvement Measures Report will be completed early in the new year which will give informed recommendations of the sections of the route corridor that improvements are warranted.

## **Carlingford Lough Greenway - Omeath to Newry** *(Joint project with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region)*

The consultant is progressing with detailed design for the project. Tender documents for the main contract are being drafted. The CPO submissions period ended on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Submissions received and Louth County Council will commence engagement with affected parties to resolve outstanding issues from submissions.

SEUPB have granted a 12 month extension to the project programme and have engaged a third party to independently assess the request for additional funding by the three Greenway projects with a decision expected in 2021.

It is anticipated that Planning Permission in N.I. will be decided upon in 2021 once DFI approval has been given.

The project partners are continuing to meet on a monthly basis to review and assess the various aspects of the project.

## **Greenway - Carlingford to Templetown**

Consultants have been appointed to the project and have commenced the baseline data collection for the project which will go toward informing the route options for the scheme. Site walkover as part of route option assessment carried out. Meetings are currently ongoing with consultants with initial draft Route Option assessment completed in November and being reviewed by Infrastructure

and Stakeholder consultations will commence once completed. Wintering Bird survey to commence in December. Scope of Topographical Survey to be confirmed in early December and tender for survey services to be issued thereafter.

### **Dundalk Municipal Athletics Grass Track**

Earthworks, topsoiling, seeding, fencing, public lighting and drainage are substantially complete. Footpaths are substantially complete. A period of time will be needed in order for grass growth to take hold. This will be continually reviewed until such time that it can be opened to sports activities.

### **LIHAF Projects**

#### **LIHAF Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda**

Engaging with Department and Developer. Contract documents are substantially complete and ready for tender, subject to the Departments approval. The developer has submitted a planning application for 67 units in order to bring the quota of housing up to 200 units.

#### **LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement**

An updated costing, programme for delivery of housing and programme for LIHAF infrastructure has been provided to the Department of Housing for agreement. The Department has verbally given the go ahead to tender the project, finalisation of tender documents are currently ongoing. Tender documents are currently being prepared for the engagement of a consultant for the supervision of the works.

### **Safety Improvement Works**

#### **Low Cost Safety Schemes**

- Anne Street Dundalk: Tenders have been returned and assessed. Tender prices received exceeded available funding under Low Cost Safety, Operations are seeking alternative funding route.
- Tullyallen National School: Tender prices received exceeded available funding under Low Cost Safety, Operations are seeking alternative funding route

### **Ardee Pedestrian Crossing**

Feasibility & Options Report for the Refurbishment of the Pedestrian Lights on Castle Street, Ardee has been forwarded to the TII and approval has been received on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 for funding of €136,258 for these works. TII have instructed Louth County Council to retender for a design team to bring the project forward. Documentation for this process is underway.

### **Specific Bridge Improvement Grants**

#### **Obelisk Bridge**

Tender documents are complete. DTTAS have requested Louth County Council to complete a peer review on the tender documents prior to issuing to the Market. This is being progressed at present by appointed independent third party and expected to be completed by early December. Approval from DTTAS to release to the Market will be sought thereafter. It is envisaged, subject to DTTAS approval the tender will be issued in early 2022.

#### **St Dominick's Bridge, Drogheda**

The Bridge closure has been in place from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 for a period of 6 months and the Council regrets any inconvenience that the bridge closure will cause. The contractor is progressing with site set-up and temporary traffic plan measures are in place. Scaffolding is being progressed in accordance with conditions as per Section 177AE as issued by ABP. The necessary statutory bodies have been consulted and necessary supervision including environmental and archaeology are now in place.



***St Dominick's Bridge- Contractor setting up on site***

## **Public Transport**

### **NTA Bus Shelter Installation Programme 2021-2022**

The NTA have, through discussions with Bus Operators, their bus shelter supplier, and Louth County Council, developed a list of 11 schemes detailed below. The NTA have approved an allocation of funding for 2021 of c.€13k, with a potential further €198k in 2022, for Louth County Council to bring the civil construction elements to site. Please note NTA will supply the actual shelters through their own contractor.

- Drogheda - Donore Road
- Dundalk - Red Barns Road opposite Lennonstown Entrance
- Termonfeckin - Big Street at Credit Union
- Ardee - N2 at Boys School
- Kilsaran - South of Standard Brands
- Drogheda - Rowen Heights, Marley's Lane - Southbound
- Ardee - N2 at Monastery Church
- Clogherhead - John Kirk Park / Chapel Road at Shop
- Clogherhead - Callystown Road
- Drogheda – at Newtown Abbey, Newfoundwell Road (R166)
- Dundalk - Rathmount Estate, Seafield Rd, Blackrock

## **Town & Village Renewal**

### **Blackrock Footpaths**

Additional speed humps have been provided adjacent to pedestrian crossing areas. EIR utilities are due to complete removal of infrastructure. Airtricity have now completed public lighting with ESB due to connect. Design works for the 2021 allocation are ongoing.

### **Dromiskin Footpaths**

Design works have been completed and Tender issued for construction of works with a tender return date of 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Tender have been received and assessed. The contractor has been appointed in October. Works expected to

commence in December. Infrastructure has been working closely with the Elected Representative / Community Group to secure the lands required to allow construction of the footpath proceed

### **Stabannon Footpaths**

The Contractor commenced works in early November on site and all civil works are completed on site. Public lighting is to be provided along the new footpath in the coming weeks.



***Stabannon Footpath- Works in Progress***

## **Corporate Projects**

### **Ardee Castle RRDF**

Engagement with key stakeholders is progressing and we are intending to proceed with an Amendment to the existing Part 8 in Q3 2021.



***Design impression of proposed works***

### **Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda**

Value engineering review is now completed by the design team in order to minimise the global

increase in cost of materials. The tender documentation has been issued to the restricted panel, and an additional 4 weeks extension to the return date has been given, therefore, a new return date is the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

## **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund**

### **Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford**

The first stage of the non-statutory public consultation has taken place with the online portal for submission of opinions open from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November. A walk-in event was held in the Four Seasons Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> November from noon to 8.00 pm that was attended by almost 100 people.



*Public Consultation*

### **Omeath Public Realm**

Tenders for the engagement of consultants have been received on the 26<sup>th</sup> November. These will now be assessed and reviewed in the coming week with a view to appointment of a consultant in the New Year.

### **Ardee 2040**

Ardee 2040 project is progressing with agreed planning strategy for EIAR and AA Screening for Development consent application to ABP based on the emerging option design. A briefing for the Ardee MD will be given at the December meeting.

## **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects**

### **West Gate Vision (Drogheda)**

Westgate Vision Project is progressing with agreed planning strategy for EIAR and AA Stage 2 reports

for Development consent application to ABP based on the emerging option design. A briefing for the Drogheda MD Members will be given at the December MD meeting.

### **Long Walk (Dundalk)**

Engagement with the third party stakeholder to progress the appointment of a multi-disciplinary design team is ongoing.

### **St. Nicholas Quarter & Backlands Regeneration**

All documentation required by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage has been completed and submitted for their review.

## **Active Travel Investment Program**

### **2021 NTA Allocation**

Under this current heading allocation there is 14 number projects. These projects range from new footpath, design and construction of new footpath / cycle lanes, transport studies and active travel studies, current status is as follows:

- St. Dominick's Bridge, Drogheda: as reported above.
- Drogheda R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road): Contract awarded to Engineering Consultants, Barry Transportation Ltd. with an initial meeting and project initiation to commence by the end of November, with concept development and options assessment progressed over the coming months.
- Ballymakenny Road Drogheda: works ongoing (see PANCR above).
- Drogheda: Twenties Lane and R166 Termonfeckin Road: Tender for consultants for Termonfeckin Road currently on eTenders.
- R168 Collon Road, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB: Tender for consultants currently on eTenders.
- Rathmullan Road from Marley's Lane junction, design: Tender for consultants currently on eTenders.
- Drogheda: Boyne Business Park Link Road: reported as above.

- Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design: Tender for consultants currently on eTenders.
- Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Road: Contract awarded to Engineering Consultants, Barry Transportation Ltd. Initial meeting and project initiation to commence in late November, with concept development and options assessment progressed over the coming months.
- Inner Relief Road to Riverside Walk Dublin Road R215: Consultants (OCSC) are progressing with the development of the design. Traffic counts to be undertaken in December. Road Safety Audit, Screening for Environmental Assessments to be prepared following acceptance of design.
- Ard Easmuinn Road to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk and Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station: Tender Assessment complete and Letter of Intent issued to the most economically advantageous tenderer.
- Transport / Mobility Plans:
  - Drogheda & East Meath ABTA (Area Based Transport Assessment). Work on the Baseline Assessment and Data Gathering progressing in conjunction with Meath County Council. Traffic counts to be undertaken in Drogheda in key locations and junctions.
  - Currently awaiting NTA National Walking and Cycling Strategy which will inform the walking and cycling strategies towns in County Louth, i.e Collon, Clogherhead, Ardee and Termonfeckin.
- Footpath Extensions / Links Package A: Works complete on Seapoint Road (See operations Report). R166 Termonfeckin footpath tenders received and currently being assessed.
- Footpath Extensions / Links Package B: See Operations Report on Annagassan. Cheerybrook and Knockbridge, tenders have been assessed and a Letter of Intent issued. Stabannon and Dromiskin Approval sought and received from NTA for additional funding for upgrade to footpaths. Design works completed, tender issued for construction and contracts

## **Flooding General**

### **Louth Flood Relief Projects**

#### **Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects**

Stage 1 of the Project is continuing, i.e. Options assessment, Scheme Development. Hydrological and Hydraulic modelling method statements have been approved and hydraulic modelling is now ongoing for both Ardee and Dundalk in tandem with the processing of information from the recently completed CCTV & Topographical surveys. Further tender documentation for necessary environmental, ecological, noise and landscape assessments has been issued and Contractors will be appointed to carry out these works later in December and into January and February, 2022. Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The first Project Briefing Session for the Ardee and Dundalk Members was held in September and the first Project Consultation Day was held virtually in mid-September and again in early October. The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at [www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home](http://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home).

#### **Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project**

RPS have commenced works on Stage 1 of the Project, i.e. Options assessment & Scheme Development. Following a Project Surveys Workshop, RPS are now progressing preparation of the Topographical and CCTV Surveys required to assist preparation of the hydraulic models for the Project. Preparation of Tender Documents has also begun for the necessary environmental and ecological Surveys on the Project.

#### **Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project**

OPW have commenced a data review of the Carlingford and Greenore Flood Defence Project to reappraise the Options identified in the Flood Risk Management Plan. The data review will include additional rainfall data collection and modelling. A temporary rain gauge at Carlingford Fire Station for rainfall data collection is now operational, providing additional data to inform project design and development. OPW are now progressing installation of a second rain gauge at the rear of Carlingford Library. Investigations are underway to

identify a suitable site for a river level gauge in Carlingford.

### **Balmers Bog Surface Water Pipe**

Works on pipe laying are now complete and reinstatement works along the pipeline are now progressing. Landscaping Works will be finalised in Spring 2022. Manhole Construction and concrete works on the inlet chamber are also essentially complete. Installation of M&E screens, adjustable weir and Penstock are continuing along with Electrical Control Cabinets and Infrastructure. Final Commissioning of the Works is intended in January, 2022.



***Backfilling of Pipeline***



***Inlet Screen***

### **Marine Projects**

#### **Coastal Protection Works**

Applications for the 2021 OPW Minor Works Funding have now been submitted for Coastal Protection Projects in 3 separate locations, Omeath, Bellurgan and Ballagan.

#### **Schools Programme Projects**

##### **Replacement School for St. Ita's and St. Mary's**

Site acquired. Department of Education to submit a planning application.

##### **Ardee E.T.N.S.**

Approval to go to tender has issued by Department of Education. Tender documents have issued to the shortlisted contractors. The date for the return of tenders is the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. The Department has sought two additional SEN classrooms which will require Part 8 planning approval. Options have been reviewed and these are now approved by the Department also. A brief overview of the Part 8 extension proposal is being brought to the Ardee MD Members on the 1<sup>st</sup> December prior to publication on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

The advanced works for ESB and Bord Gáis requirements are complete.

##### **Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk**

Progress has been made in relation to snagging. As constructed drawings of the completed emergency lighting has been issued by the PSDP. Additional snagging in relation to landscaping and other items to be completed also.

#### **Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)**

A Section 85 agreement between Kilkenny County Council and Louth County Council has been agreed. Tender for the proposed works have now been received and will be assessed by Kilkenny County Council as lead for the region. A final cost estimate for the element of works in Co. Louth will be carried out during the design process.

## Planning

### Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of October, 2021 are given below in tabular form. There were 98 planning applications received during the month of October of which 86 were valid. In addition there were 52 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 14 Pre-Planning Applications received.

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)<br>Description / Cur Síos   | (B)<br>Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta | (C)<br>Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair | (D)<br>Other applications not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT | (E)<br>Other applications requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth | (F)<br>Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| (i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh   | <b>5</b>   | <b>68</b>                               | <b>53</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>126</b>   |
| (ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais | <b>1</b>   | <b>33</b>                               | <b>30</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>64</b>  |
| (iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh                                  | <b>40% (2)</b>                                     | <b>36.76% (25)</b>                      | <b>9.43% (5)</b>   | <b>0% (0)</b>   | <b>25.4% (32)</b>  |
| (iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh  | <b>1</b>   | <b>0</b>                                | <b>1</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>2</b>   |
| (v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc          | <b>100% (1)</b>                                    | <b>0% (0)</b>                           | <b>100% (1)</b>  | <b>0% (0)</b>   | <b>100% (2)</b>  |

## **Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development / Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt nár Údaraíodh**

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

| Description / Cur Síos   | Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh |                                  | Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh |                                  |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|  | October 2021 / Deireadh Fómhair 2021  | Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo | October 2020 / Deireadh Fómhair 2020  | Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo |
| Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh                              | 21  | 276                              | 27  | 230                              |
| Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise | 0   | 0                                | 0   | 0                                |
| Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht                                     | 32  | 259                              | 33  | 191                              |
| Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh   | 30  | 216                              | 24  | 217                              |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh  | 4   | 10                               | 0   | 12                               |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí  | 0   | 5                                | 1   | 6                                |
| Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí   | 0   | 4                                | 0   | 0                                |
| Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh  | 0   | 0                                | 1   | 1                                |

## **Planning Enforcement – Short Term Lettings Enforcement**

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Short Term Lettings Enforcement received during the month.

| Description / Cur Síos   | Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | November 2021 /<br>Samhain 2021                | Year to Date /<br>Bliain go dtí seo |
| Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh                              | 2  | 60                                  |
| Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise | 0  | 12                                  |
| Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht                                     | 0  | 10                                  |
| Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair  | 5  | 45                                  |
| Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh   | 4  | 11                                  |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh  | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí  | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí   | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh  | 0  | 0                                   |

## **Forward Planning**

### **Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027**

The Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 came into effect on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

The Plan is now available to view / download from the Louth County Council website at: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/publications/development-plans/louth-county-development-plan-2021-2027/>.

### **Conservation Grants Schemes 2021**

Recoupment claim issued to the Department in respect of the BHIS and HSF funding schemes for 2021:

- **BHIS** – 9 projects (€91,933.20)
- **HSF** – 4 projects (€110,400.00)

### **Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs)**

- **Stage 3** – Application re: Lands at Old Slane Road, Drogheda
  - 5 no. submissions received
  - Closing date for submissions was 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2021
  - CE Report being prepared for submission to ABP.

## Operations and Waste Management

### Oibríochtaí agus Bainistíocht Dramháil

This Directorate provides a range of services which underpin the efficient and smooth running of the economic and social life of our county, working to ensure our environment adheres to legislative standards, and to provide clean and safe parks throughout Louth. Responsibilities include:

- Road Maintenance, Wardens Service, Waste Management, Water Quality, and Climate Action

Cuireann an Stiúthóireacht seo réimse seirbhísí ar fáil mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag an reachtáil éifeachtúil an saol eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta Chontae Lú, ag obair i dtreo comhlíonadh an dlí maidir leis an timpeallacht, agus chun páirceanna phoiblí glan agus sábháilte a chinntiú. Ina chuid den freagrachtaí ná:

- Cothabháil Bóithre, an tSeirbhís Maorachta, Bainistíocht Dramháil, Cáilíocht Uisce, agus Gníomh Aeráide

Catherine Duff  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## Municipal District of Dundalk

### Dundalk and Cooley Area

| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>              | <b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b><br><br>Litter picks Dundalk Town wide including all approach Roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dublin Road</li><li>• Inner Relief Road</li><li>• Ramparts</li><li>• Centenary Road</li><li>• Avenue Road</li><li>• Hoey's Lane</li><li>• Tom Bellew Avenue</li><li>• Fairgreen Road</li><li>• Old Newry Road</li><li>• Racecours Road</li><li>• Armagh Road</li><li>• Castletown Road Etc.</li></ul><br>Cooley Isolated locations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carrickcarnan</li><li>• Templetown</li><li>• Rockmarshall</li><li>• Gyles Quay</li><li>• Shillinghill</li><li>• Whitestown</li></ul> |
|---|---|
| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b> | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contract works Dundalk</li></ul> Frequency of Bins:<br><br>There are approximately 200 bins in Dundalk These are checked nightly and approximately 150 emptied nightly, if bins are less than half full they can be left for a second night.  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p><b>Cooley</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carllingford</li> <li>• Omeath</li> <li>• Gyles Quay</li> <li>• Templetown</li> <li>• Faughart</li> <li>• Greenore</li> <li>• Lordship</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>   | <p><b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract works Dundalk<br/>Town Centre is swept nightly.<br/>Pedestrian centre footpaths including Market Square, Court House Square are swept nightly. Approach Roads are swept every 3 weeks. Estates are swept every 4 weeks with Leaf fall now at its peak the Contractor is concentrating and doing extra sweeping on areas where there is a high percentage of leaf fall.</li> <li>• Cooley rural village sweep programming</li> </ul> |
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>                                    | <p><b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract works Dundalk</li> <li>• Dog waste goes into normal bins as numbered above</li> <li>• Cooley as per bin emptying above</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála</b>  | <p><b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly by Park Operative in Dundalk</li> <li>• Carried out by Water Safety Officer in Cooley</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b> | <p><b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 no. of playgrounds (not including exercise equipment/outdoor gym or MUGA's)</li> <li>• Daily by Parks Operative, repairs in house or contractor.</li> </ul>   |

| Location / Suíomh   | Notes / Nótáí   |
|---|---|
| <b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b>                                | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-7066-28 Whitestown</li> <li>• L-3061-27 Templetown</li> <li>• L-7067-0 Boher</li> <li>• L-706030-0 St Michael's Tce. Carlingford</li> <li>• R173-187 Dundalk Street Carlingford</li> <li>• L-7059-0 Rooskey</li> <li>• L-70670 Muchgrange</li> <li>• R173-83 Lordship</li> </ul> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-20049-1 Vincent Avenue</li> <li>• L-20010-50 Oakland Park</li> <li>• R-215-27 Newry Road</li> <li>• L-2000-540 Ecco Road</li> </ul> <p>Isolated minor repairs Town Centre</p> <p><i>Community Involvement Scheme CIS:</i></p> <p><u>North Louth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LT-71352 Dunbin</li> </ul> |
| <b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>                 | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-3081-50 Mountbagnall</li> </ul> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>L-1005-3 McEntee Avenue</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance to Storm sewer network Town Wide</p>  |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</b> | <p>R-173-72 Bellurgan Straight</p>  |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/</b>  | <p>Gyles Quay</p>   |
|   | <p>Patching/pothole repairs</p> <p>2021 RWP Roads Resurfacing</p> <p>Isolated Essential Repairs</p> <p>Community Involvement Scheme</p>   |
|   | <p>Drainage Installation and Upgrade Works</p> <p>Drainage Installation and Upgrade Works</p> <p>Essential maintenance</p>  |
|   | <p>Storm Damage</p>   |
|   | <p>Footpath Repairs</p>   |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Cothabháil Cosán</b>                              | Pearse Park & The Laurels  | IPB Footpath Repairs  |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchta</b> | <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrickmacross Road</li> </ul> <p>Weekly maintenance of all Traffic Lights replacement bulbs (replacement LEDs), vandalism repairs, Etc.</p>  | <p>Essential maintenance and vandalism repairs</p> <p>Ongoing essential maintenance</p> |
| <b>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</b>               | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R-173-140 Bush/Carlingford</li> </ul>  | Warning Signage   |
| <b>Signage / Comharthaíocht</b>                      | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Repairs and Cleaning</li> <li>• Ravensdale</li> </ul> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Square</li> <li>• Inner Relief Road</li> <li>• Castletown Road</li> <li>• Bring Banks</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Island Bollards</li> </ul>   | <p>Essential Maintenance</p> <p>Signage Refresh</p> <p>Cleaning</p>                     |
| <b>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</b>     | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Numerous small amounts and tyres removed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Woman's Grave</li> <li>• Mast Road</li> </ul> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castleblayney Road</li> <li>• Castleross</li> <li>• Hoey's Lane</li> <li>• Rockfeild Manor</li> <li>• Castleross</li> <li>• Salttown</li> <li>• Toberona</li> <li>• Inner Relief Road</li> <li>• Creative Spark</li> <li>• Doolargy</li> <li>• Muirhevnamore,</li> <li>• Hardy's Lane</li> <li>• Rampart River</li> <li>• Lady Well</li> </ul> | <p>Domestic Waste</p> <p>Large Household Waste</p>                                      |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moorland Road</li><li>• Coes Road</li><li>• General Blackspots</li></ul> |  |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b> | Inner Relief Road  |  |



*Road resurfacing works on the Ecco Road at night*



*Footpath repairs at The Laurels Dundalk*



*Footpath repairs at Pearse Park Dundalk*

**Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area**

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   |  |
| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>              | <b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b>   |
| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b> | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackrock – 6 days/week</li> <li>• Knockbridge – once a week</li> <li>• Dromiskin – once a week</li> <li>• Tallanstown and Louth Village – once a week</li> </ul> |
| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>               | <b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b>  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>                                    | <b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b>  |
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>   | <b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackrock (7No.) checked weekly</li> <li>• Annagassan (11No.) checked weekly</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b> | <b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly</li> <li>• Blackrock – checked weekly</li> </ul> |

| <b>Location / Suíomh</b>  | <b>Notes / Nótaí</b>      |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b>  | Road repairs and patching |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-5181 Cullenstown</li> <li>• L-5151 Drumard</li> <li>• L1201 Cavanrobert,</li> <li>• L5197 Knockabbey-Springhill</li> <li>• L5177 Kilcronney</li> <li>• R171 Tallanstown Village</li> <li>• L1170 Redmonds - Allardstown</li> <li>• L5168 Allardstown - Killincoole</li> <li>• L1210 Pepperstown Cross - R215</li> <li>• L71151 Tavanamore</li> <li>• L5137 Little Ash</li> <li>• N53 Annaghvackey</li> <li>• L3117 Sheelagh</li> <li>• L7114 Stumpa</li> <li>• L3117 Courtbane</li> <li>• L7102 Doylesfort Road</li> <li>• L31361 Crossabeagh</li> </ul> |                           |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R178 Essexford - Ballykelly</li> <li>• 171 Louth Village-Knockbridge</li> <li>• L5174 Aclint</li> </ul>   | <p>Verge Maintenance</p> <p>Resurfacing/Overlay works (by contract)</p>                               |
| <b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L5177 Kilcroney</li> <li>• L5151 Drumard</li> <li>• L1182 Milltown Grange</li> <li>• L7107 Falmore</li> <li>• L1197 Knockabbey-Springhill</li> <li>• R171 Tallanstown-Pepperstown Cross</li> <li>• L1196 Tallanstown-Mills of Louth</li> <li>• R171 Louth Village – Knockbridge</li> <li>• R178 Essexford - Ballykelly</li> <li>• L7108 Annies</li> <li>• L3117 Sheelagh</li> <li>• L7114 Stumpa</li> </ul> | <p>Drainage Improvement works</p> <p>Drainage maintenance – jetting/cleansing and gully cleaning.</p> |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</b> |  |   |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</b>                       |  |   |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>                |  |   |
| <b>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</b>                              |  |   |
| <b>Signage / Comharthaíocht</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R171 Louth Village - Knockbridge</li> <li>• R178 Thomastown</li> <li>• R171 Knockbridge</li> <li>• L7163 Chapel Road Haggardstown</li> </ul>  | Cleansing / repair / replacement  |

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|--|--|--|
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L-7185 Seabank</li> </ul> | Collection of dumped waste for disposal. |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>           |  |  |



*Verge Maintenance on the N2*

**Ardee Municipal District**

**South Louth Operations (Rural Area)**

| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>   | <b>Location and metres per month /<br/>Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b> |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)</li> </ul> |  |

- Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins

| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b>                                  | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b>   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardee Town</li> <li>• Dunleer town</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 Daily</li> <li>• 20 Tuesday and Thursday</li> </ul> |

| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>  | <b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b> |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)</li> </ul> |   |

| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b> | <b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b> |
|--|---|
|  |   |

| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>   | <b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardee Town River Dee</li> <li>• Salterstown</li> <li>• Port Beach</li> </ul> |  |

| <b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b>   | <b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b> |
|---|---|
| <p>Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground and exercise equipment at both locations.</p> |   |

| Location / Suíomh   | Notes / Nótaí   |
|---|---|
| <b>Road Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Bóithre</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP 1297 Kells Road</li> <li>• LP 1297-27 Collon</li> <li>• LP 2296-0 Smarmore</li> <li>• LP 2214-0 Brananstown</li> <li>• LS 5234-0 Bog Road</li> <li>• R170 Ardee – Dunleer Road</li> <li>• LS 5288-0 Coolamoney</li> <li>• LS 5207-0 Stormanstown</li> <li>• R166-260 Strand Road<br/>Annagassan</li> <li>• R170 Barn Road Dunleer</li> <li>• LP-1264-0 Smarmore</li> </ul> <p>Edge repairs</p> <p>Road Work Programme<br/>Developer repairs from damage<br/>from Planning reference 19/569</p>                    |
| <b>Drainage Remediation /<br/>Feabhasúchán<br/>Draenála</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gullies on Drogheda Road<br/>Ardee</li> <li>• Gullies in Dunleer</li> <li>• R132 Pipe work at Cappogue</li> <li>• R170 Pipe work and outlets<br/>at Dromin</li> <li>• Outlets on LS 5258-0<br/>Roestown</li> <li>• Drainage works in<br/>Hoathstown R170</li> <li>• LP 2239-20 Mountainstown<br/>outlets</li> <li>• Gullies repair at Campbell's<br/>park</li> <li>• Outlets on LS 6238-0</li> <li>• Drainage works on<br/>Knockalevy Road</li> <li>• LP-1212-36 Stabannon</li> <li>• LP-1264-0 Smarmore.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous<br/>Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b> |   |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b>                               |   |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>                        |   |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b>               |  |  |
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>                      |  |  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b> |  |  |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>           |  |  |



***Rock Armour protection to Coast road at Port Beach***



*Enhanced hard shoulder Scheme works on the R132 Valley Inn to Dunleer.  
Re-exposing 1.2m hard shoulder hidden by verge providing greater safety for Pedestrians and Cyclists*

**Borough District of Drogheda**

**Drogheda Town Area**

| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b> | <b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b>   |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when recourses allow and green areas.</li> <li>• Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.</li> <li>• Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and</li> </ul> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>cleared Saturday p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead</li> <li>• Clogherhead Beach</li> <li>• Port Beach</li> <li>• Termonfeckin</li> <li>• Baltray</li> <li>• Seapoint Carpark</li> </ul> | <p><b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Daily</li> <li>• 8 Daily</li> <li>• 5 Daily</li> <li>• 5 Daily</li> <li>• 3 Daily</li> <li>• 3 Daily</li> <li>• Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings. New bin installed at top of Peter Street. 1 Bin relocated at Laurence's street to facilitate Café beside Fishmonger</li> <li>• About 250 litter bin are emptied weekly in town.</li> <li>• Dominic's Park &amp; Mell river walk emptied daily.</li> <li>• South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural areas, public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.</li> <li>• Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.</li> <li>• Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing and street furniture.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b></p>  | <p><b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.</li> <li>• Public Housing Estates, swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept</li> </ul>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>every 3 months. When resources allow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.</li> <li>Villages are swept once per month i.e., Termonfeekin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen and Tinure.</li> <li>Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)</li> <li>Town centre weeds removal. Contractor following weed killing list for town, Housing estates and checking tourists locations.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra</b>                                     | <p><b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>   | <p><b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday)</li> <li>9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)</li> <li>No issues with ringbouys checked</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b> | <p><b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 4 and 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, Adult Exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) disinfected also.</li> </ul>  |



|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R166 Ganderstown</li> <li>• R170 Walshestown</li> <br/> <li>• Sarah Gibney's Lane</li> <li>• Donore Road with Ballsgrove</li> <li>• Grove Hill</li> <li>• Highfield Estate</li> <li>• Crosslane at Windmill Road Junction</li> <li>• Platin Road under railway bridge</li> <br/> <li>• Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program commenced and on-going</li> </ul>   | <p>Survey in preparation of repairs to eliminate flooding</p>  |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</b> | <p>R169 Dunleer to Collon Road</p> <p>Branches off tree along dual carriageway.</p>  |  |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</b>                       | <p>Footpath repairs at the Glen, Yellowbatter</p>  |  |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs/ Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Traffic junction at Windmill Road / Crosslanes – 03/11/21.</li> <li>2. James Street / Scotch Hall junction – 01/11/21</li> <li>3. Fair Street / Georges Street Junction – 01/11/21</li> <li>4. Haymarket Bridge / R132 Junction – 08/11/21.</li> <li>5. Byranstown / R132 Junction – 12/11/21.</li> <li>6. Railway Station / R132 – 12/11/21</li> <li>7. Donore Road / Marley's Lane junction – 23/11/21</li> <li>8. Old N1 at Bull Ring Junction – 25/11/21.</li> <li>9. Dublin Road pedestrian crossing at Flo-Gas – 25/11/21</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pedestrian phase lamp fail, Amber.</li> <li>2. Pedestrian phase lamp fail, Red.</li> <li>3. Filter Green Arrow.</li> <li>4. RTA Signal Head Pole knock down.</li> <li>5. Pedestrian phase lamp fail – Green.</li> <li>6. Loose cover on Signal Head.</li> <li>7. Faulty Push button unit.</li> <li>8. Vehicle phase lamp fail – RED.</li> <li>9. Vehicle phase lamp fail – Green.</li> </ol> |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b>               | Ongoing throughout town  |  |
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>                      | Ongoing throughout district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children at Play signs installed at Pearse Park.</li> <li>• R168 Nursery Cross - Replaced all directional and warning signs due to car collision damage.</li> <li>• New chevron signs in advance to Nursery cross on the R168.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b> | <p><b>November 2021:<br/><u>List sent to wardens</u></b></p> <p><u>Bring Banks,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolton Square</li> <li>• King Street</li> <li>• Mell Car Park</li> <li>• Wheaton Hall</li> <li>• Old Hill</li> <li>• Ballsgrove</li> <li>• IDA Road</li> </ul> <p><u>Dumping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cement Road at Old Halting Site and St. Anthony's Park,</li> <li>• Bexwell Lane</li> <li>• Batchlors Lane</li> <li>• Harpours Lane</li> <li>• Highlane Steps</li> <li>• Northstrand 3 sets of steps</li> <li>• Cash For Car signs</li> <li>• Palace Street</li> <li>• Williams Street</li> <li>• O'Reilly's Car Park</li> <li>• Skelly's Lane</li> <li>• Laurances Park including Bonfires,</li> <li>• Lourdes Square</li> <li>• Scarlet Crescent</li> <li>• Walkway on Dominic's Park</li> </ul> | <p>This is an ongoing issue where Supervisors and Litter Wardens check on daily basis; arrange for inspecting illegal waste disposal for evidence and issuing fines and clearance of area.</p> <p>Public complaints are also checked and followed up as above.</p> <p>Illegal waste tonnage disposed and removed by LCC for October circa 200kg plus Bonfire material like Pallets and tyres</p> |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dublin Road</li> <li>• Marsh Road</li> <li>• Rathmullen Park</li> <li>• Finians Park</li> <li>• Bryanstown Cross route</li> <li>• Marleys Lane</li> <li>• Ballsgrove</li> <li>• Rathmullen Park</li> <li>• Cromwell Lane</li> <li>• Domic's Park area</li> </ul> <p>Clearing Halloween Bonfires at Ballsgrove, Beechwood Green, Clogherhead Beach, Moneymore, St. Laurence's Park and Boice Court</p> <p>"Don't be a Tosser" signs installed around area</p> |  |
| <p><b>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Garry Way, Graffiti removed by property owner</li> </ul>   |  |



***New Bicycle stands at Seapoint Carpark***



***Portaloo's at Seapoint Carpark***



***New Junction priority at Constitution Hill/  
Chord Road junction and new Courtesy  
Crossing at Francis Street***



***Drainage Scheme on Sarah Gibney's Lane, Drogheda***



***R132 Tullyskar Hill works as part of the RWP 2021***

# Waste Management and Environment Report

## Waste Management

### Waste Enforcement

Cases continue to proceed through the courts. There has been a delay in getting cases being heard due to the ongoing pandemic.

Louth County Council staff attended three Roadside Waste Management Checkpoints in November 2021.

### Litter Enforcement

A total of 35 fines were issued in the month of November. Of these fines, 11 were issued in the Dundalk urban area, 14 in Drogheda urban area and 10 in the remaining County wide area.

There were 0 fines issued for dog fouling in November.

There have been 1929 investigations in the year to date with 182 carried out in the month of November. There have been 391 fines issued in the year to date, 3 of which were for Dog Fouling.

### Diesel Laundering Waste

A total of 6 IBC's of Diesel Sludge were recovered in November 2021. The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €7,489.97. So far in 2021 a total of 176 IBC's at a cost of €219,705.79 approx.

### My Waste

A total of 778 reminders letters have been issued to householders in the 3 urban areas of Ardee, Dundalk and Drogheda to date. A total of 389 replies have been received to date from the reminder letters

| Area                          | Ardee | Dundalk | Drogheda | Total       |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------|
| <b>No of Estates surveyed</b> | 8     | 196     | 49       | <b>253</b>  |
| <b>Total No of Houses</b>     | 539   | 5031    | 4223     | <b>9793</b> |

|  |     |      |      |             |
|--|-----|------|------|-------------|
| <b>No of houses not presenting a bin</b> | 108 | 1866 | 1432 | <b>3406</b> |
| <b>% of Houses not presenting a bin</b>  | 20  | 37   | 34   | <b>35</b>   |
| <b>No of Letters sent out to date</b>    | 108 | 921  | 544  | <b>1573</b> |
| <b>No of reminders letter sent out</b>   | 92  | 289  | 397  | <b>778</b>  |
| <b>No. of Replies</b>                    | 51  | 152  | 186  | <b>389</b>  |

### Air / Water / Noise Pollution

There were two water pollution complaints received in November with none open and two closed. Three Air Pollution complaints and four Noise Pollution complaints were received during November 2021. One legal case under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 is on-going in the district court.

### Bathing Water

The online public consultation on the review of the Bathing Water Directive has been launched on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The online survey is open from now until 20 January 2022 at [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12658-Bathing-water-quality-review-of-EU-rules/public-consultation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12658-Bathing-water-quality-review-of-EU-rules/public-consultation_en)

### Air Monitor for Drogheda

The EPA in cooperation with Louth County Council has installed a permanent air quality monitor in Drogheda. The station became operational in the week starting 25<sup>th</sup> April and data is available to view at: <https://airquality.ie/station/EPA-84>

### Water Framework/River Basin Management Plans

The Local Authority catchment assessments being carried out by the Lawpro inspection teams with the

assistance of Louth County Council where required are on-going in the Castletown catchment.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, has published the draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027 for public consultation. The Minister now invites submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan.

A key commitment in the Programme for Government, launching a new strengthened River Basin Management Plan will help Ireland protect, improve and sustainably manage our water environment to 2027. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for protecting Ireland's drinking water sources, environment and people's quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

All relevant documentation is available from the gov.ie website. The public consultation period will conclude on 31st March 2022.

### Domestic Wastewater

The new Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤ 10) was published on 24th March 2021 and has come into effect since 7th June 2021. Link to code of practice is at <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/water/wastewater/code%20of%20practice%20for%20single%20house%20s/>

The EPA released the 2020 annual report on Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems inspections on Wednesday 30th June 2021. You can access the press release and the report at the following links <https://www.epa.ie/news-releases/news-releases-2021/fixing-septic-tanks-that-fail-inspection-is-a-priority-says-epa.php>

### Climate Action

#### Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

We continue to work with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) to work towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 to 2024 Action.

The second progress report was submitted to the CARO office on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

A Climate Action Team has been set up within Louth County Council consisting of 25 staff members from across the organisation. Training has been completed by the Climate Action Team on Building Capacity which was facilitated by the CARO office. The first meeting of the Climate Action Team was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

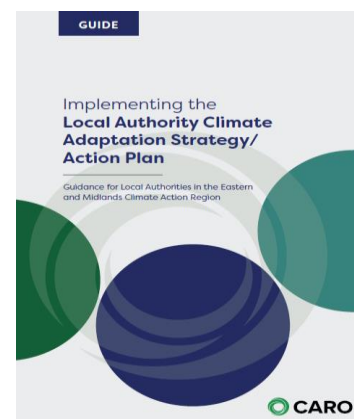
### Electrical Vehicles Charging Points

The Project Lead was appointed to the project and the official Launch of the FASTER project took place on the 9th of September in Armagh City Hotel.

Louth County Council and other associate partners are carrying out preliminary assessments of sites to short list for final selection for the 25 EV Rapid Chargers across the border counties.

| Channel   | URL   |
|-----------|---|
| Facebook  | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge">https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge</a>                                     |
| Twitter   | <a href="https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge">https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge</a>   |
| Instagram | <a href="https://www.instagram.com/fasterevcharge/">https://www.instagram.com/fasterevcharge/</a>                                 |
| Linkedin  | <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project">https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project</a>                     |
| TikTok    | <a href="https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterevcharge">https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterevcharge</a>                                       |
| YouTube   | <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxdddIpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxdddIpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ</a> |

### Decarbonised Zones- Dundalk



## Veterinary Services / Seirbhísí Tréidliachta

### Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) / Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann (USBÉ)

As of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on two abattoirs and fifteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County, including one new meat processing plant in Dundalk that commenced production in September 2021.

Amhail ar an 30ú Samhain 2021, cuireann Rannóg Tréidliachta Chomhairle Contae Lú caighdeán sábháilteachta bia i bhfeidhm, faoi Chomhaontú Leibhéal Seirbhíse leis an USBÉ, ar dhá sheamlas agus ar cúig cinn déag de mhonarchana próiseála feola atá faoi mhaoirseacht aige sa chontae, n-áirítear gléasra nua próiseála feola i nDún Dealgan a thosaigh táirgeadh Meán Fómhair 2021.

### Control of Dogs / Rialú Madraí

*Control of Dogs Act 1986 / An tAcht um Rialú Madraí, 1986*

| Dogs impounded November 2021 / Madraí curtha i bpóna, Samhain 2021                       |    |
|--|----|
| Total dogs impounded / Líon madraí curtha i bpóna  | 19 |
| Strays / Ar seachrán   | 14 |
| Surrendered by owners / Tugtha suas ag úinéirí   | 5  |
| No dogs reclaimed by owners / Líon madraí tógtha ar ais ag úinéirí                       | 6  |
| No of dogs rehomed direct / Líon madraí a bhfuarthas úinéirí nua dóibh go díreach        | 6  |
| No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups / Líon madraí a aistríodh go grúpaí leasa ainmhithe | 6  |
| No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/11/2021 / Líon madraí faoi chúram sa phóna 30/11/2021  | 2  |

| Dog Licences November 2021 / Ceadúnais Madraí, Samhain 2021   |     |
|---|-----|
| No of Licences sold / Líon ceadúnas díolta  | 483 |
| Licence Checks / Ceadúnais scrúdaithe:  |     |
| House calls / Seiceálacha baile   | 390 |
| Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days) / Fógraí Alt 16 eisithe (iarratas ar ceadúnas a thaispeáint roimh deich lá) | 98  |
| Fixed Penalty Notices / Fógraí Pionós Socraithe   | 13  |

### Control of Horses / Rialú Capall

*Control of Horses Act 1996 / An tAcht um Rialú Capall, 1996*

*Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003 / Fodhlíthe um Rialú Capall, 2003*

| Horses impounded November 2021 / Capaill curtha i bpóna, Samhain 2021                     |   |
|---|---|
| Horses seized / Capaill gafa  | 0 |
| Reason for seizure: / Cúis na gabhála   | 0 |
| Horses reclaimed by owner / Líon capaill tógtha ar ais ag úinéirí                         | 0 |
| Horses rehomed / Líon capaill a bhfuarthas úinéirí nua dóibh                              | 0 |
| Horses disposed of / Capaill curtha de láimh  | 0 |
| No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/10/2021 / Líon capaill faoi chúram sa phóna, 30/10/21 | 0 |

## Dog Breeding Establishments (DBE) / Bunachais Pórúcháin Madraí (BPM)

*Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 / An tAcht  
um Bunachais Pórúcháin Madraí, 2010*

### Dog Breeding Establishments November 2021 / Bunachais pórúcháin madraí, Samhain 2021

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Total no of registered DBE's<br/>in Louth, 30/11/2021 /<br/>Líon BPM i gContae Lú,<br/>30/11/2021</b> | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Hunt /<br/>Conchróite Seilge</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Boarding Kennels /<br/>Conchróite Cinneála</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Training Kennels /<br/>Conchróite Oiliúna</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Welfare /<br/>Leas Ainmhithe</b>  | <b>1</b> |



## Corporate and Emergency Services

### Seirbhísí Corparáideacha agus Éigeandála

This Directorate has two key areas of responsibility:

- **Corporate Services** – the maintenance and development of systems which facilitate the effective running of our Council, including Human Resources, and Information and Communications Technology.
- **Emergency Services** – including the Fire Service, Civil Defence, Water Safety, and the planning and implementation of strategies which help to keep our citizens safe.
- **Other responsibilities include Sustainable Energy.**

Tá dhá eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúirthóireacht seo:

- **Seirbhísí Corparáideacha** – ag cothabháil agus forbairt chórais atá baint leis an réachtáil éifeachtach na Comhairle, agus Acmhainní Daonna, agus Technolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide san áireamh
- **Seirbhísí Éigeandála** – Seirbhís Dóiteáin, Cosaint Shíbhialta, Sábháilteacht Uisce san áireamh, agus ag pleanáil agus ag cur i bhfeidhm straitéisí chun chabhrú le muintir Chontae Lú a bheith slán sábháilte
- **Freagracht eile ag an Stiúirthóireacht seo ná Fuinneamh Inbhunaithe.**

**Joe McGuinness**  
Director / Stiúirthóir



## Corporate and Emergency Services

### Climate Change Adaption Strategy

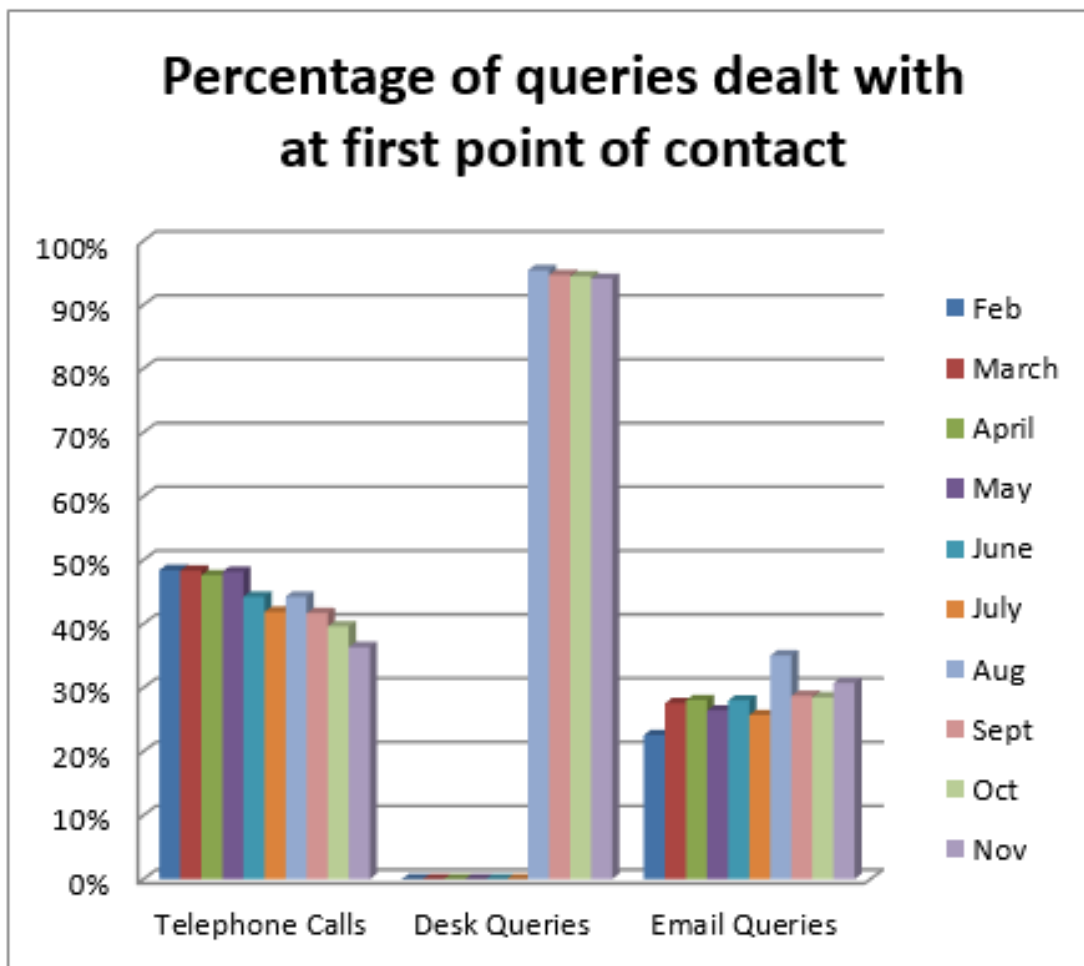
As part of the Council's Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-24, the following mitigations were undertaken in the last month in this Directorate

- Completion of Installation of Air Sourced heat pump at County Hall and installation of additional energy loggers.

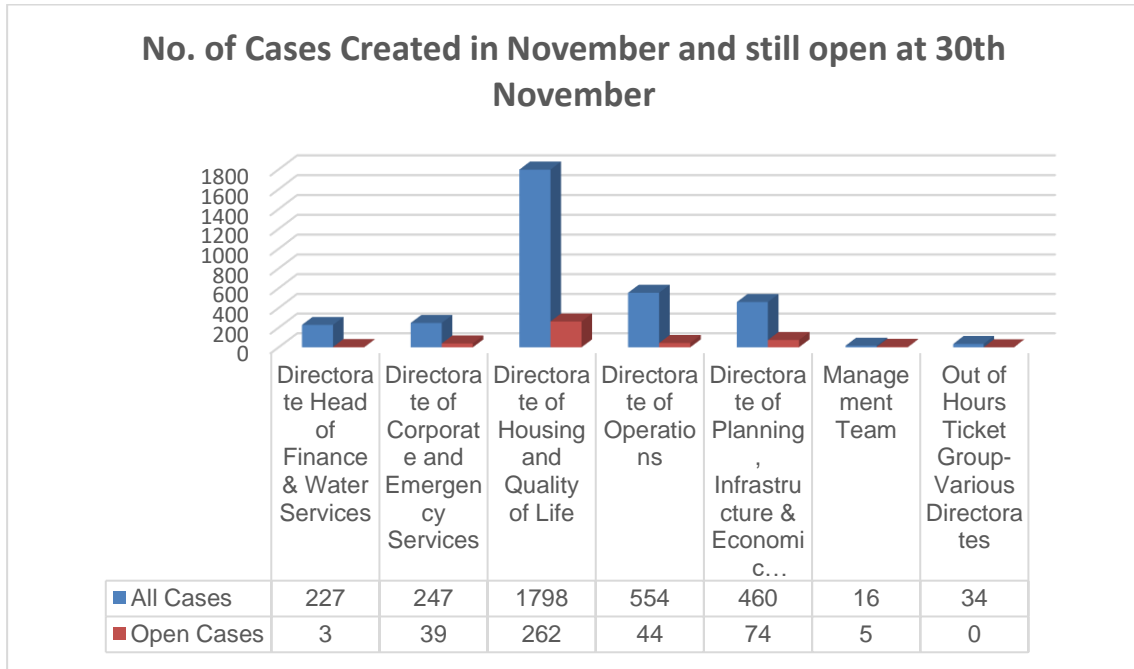
### Customer Services Report

#### November 2021

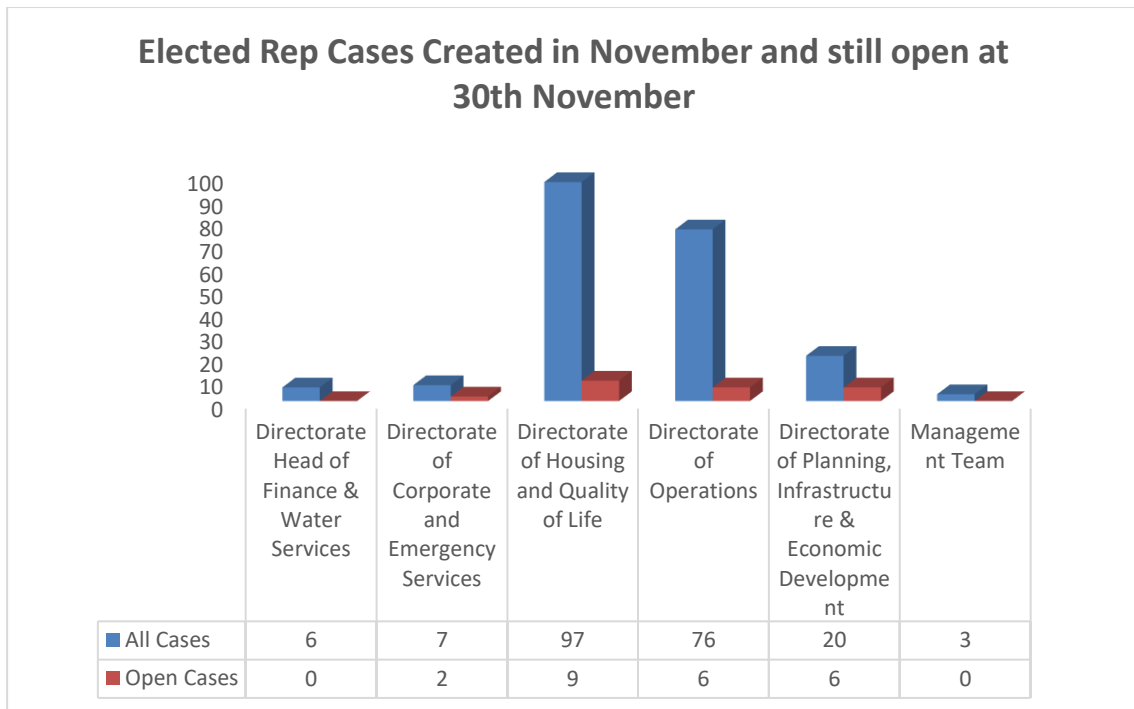
During the month of November Customer Services dealt with 12,016 queries – 7,045 calls, 1,473 e-mails and 3,498 counter queries.



There were 3,336 valid SugarCRM cases recorded during November of which 427 (13%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During November 209 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 23 (11%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

|                                      | Same period 2020 | 2021 Total | November 2021 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| Freedom of Information               | 94               | 124        | 14            |
| Data Protection                      | 12               | 14         | 0             |
| Access to Information on Environment | 5                | 5          | 0             |
| Ombudsman                            | 10               | 13         | 1             |
| Complaints Policy                    | 19               | 31         | 3             |

## Electoral Register

The closing date for amendments to the Draft Register of Electors, 2022-2023 was 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. 342 amendments to elector details will be adjudicated on by the County Registrar at Claims Court Hearings. 217 Claims for Dundalk and Ardee areas will be considered at the Claims Court in County Hall, Dundalk on 8<sup>th</sup> December, and 120 Claims will be considered for Drogheda at the Claims Court in Fair Street, Drogheda on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. Any electors affected will receive a letter from the Council advising them of this and can submit their observations/objections. All approved amendments will be applied to the Draft Register of Electors before the Live is published on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

Another aspect of the Eircode Project was the conformation of properties being in the correct Polling District and consequently in the correct polling place. One of the most significant issues established was a large group of properties in the Townland of Haggardstown, which required attention. The dwellings in question had been allocated to the polling district of Clermont Gate (BE) rather than the polling district Blackrock (BF). This affected currently 252 electors. The result for these electors is that they will now vote at the polling station at Blackrock N.S. instead of St. Fursey's N.S., Haynestown. This change has no effect on the voting options, past or future, as they are still in the same Local Electoral Area of Dundalk South.



## Sustainable Energy

### Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council's energy efficiency has improved to 47.36% (end of 2020) as reported by SEAI.

### Energy Management System

The Council's Energy Management System is registered with ISO 50,001; 2018. A 1 day Surveillance Audit will be undertaken on 15 December 2021 by certifying body NASI to confirm ongoing compliance.

The Council has now completed new energy works as part of the Energy Action Plan 2021 as follows:

County Hall - Air Sourced heat Pump and new energy loggers to monitor gas and electricity use and a new Electric Vehicle for caretakers.



**New Air Source Heat Pumps at County Hall with Installation Team and New Electric Vehicle with Caretaker**

Dundalk Town Hall and Civil Defence Building  
 Dundalk - new Solar Photo Voltaic Units and new energy loggers to monitor gas and electricity use.  
 Archives Building - new Air Sourced Heat Pump and low energy lighting and energy improvements to windows.  
 New energy loggers to monitor gas and electricity use have already been installed at Dundalk and Drogheda Fire Stations.

**Better Energy Communities Grant 2021**

The Council has partnered with Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community for their grant application for funding for energy projects in 2021. That application resulted in an offer of funding for Council energy projects of €78,282, for a total maximum expenditure cost of €260,939.

All works are now completed and grant claims submitted. We expect to receive grant monies from SEAI for the approved projects once SEAI has completed its auditing process.

**Sustainable Energy Communities**

The Council's energy policy was presented to the recent meeting of the Climate Change and Energy Strategic Policy Committee. It was agreed to

amend it slightly for further consideration the next meeting.

**GenComm Interreg Energy Storage Project**

Members are encouraged to review the project website for an up-date on progress and in particular for more detail from the project on the potential for hydrogen use as a Sustainable Energy source. The project partners consider how hydrogen offers the opportunity to make energy production a primary driver of the economy rather than responding to the needs of the economy as at present. The Gencomm Project Team has been invited to present on that project at the December meeting of the Climate Change and Energy SPC.

**Varcities H2020 Funded Project**

Varcities is a H2020 Research Funding stream and the consortium is made up of 25 Partners, largely academia throughout Europe. The theme of the project is centered around Urban Regeneration; Impacts on Quality of Life + Health and Well Being. Funding has been approved for €10million, with €422,500 allocated to Louth County Council. The project officially commenced on September 1st 2020. The project duration is the 54 months from that starting date.



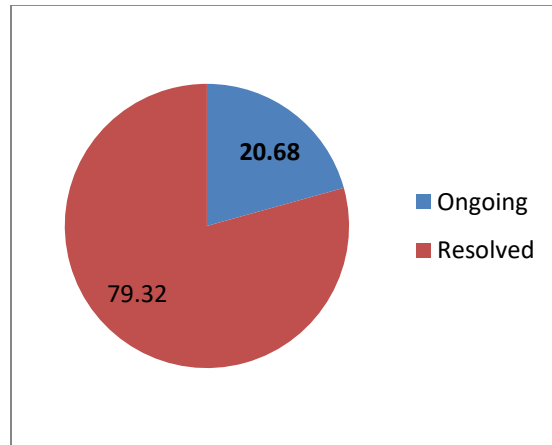
*Participants during a Varcities Meeting*

## Information Technology

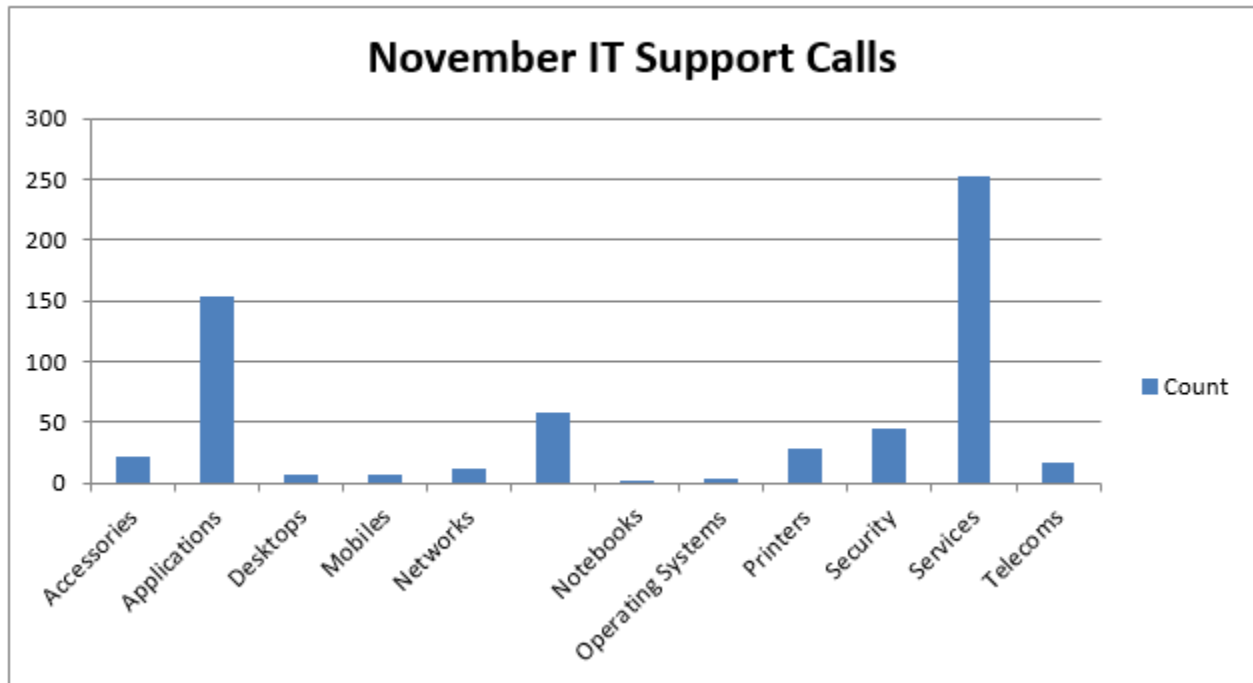
### Helpdesk

During the month of November there were 701 support calls logged in the IT support system. 79% of these have been resolved and 20% of these are ongoing.

### November 2021 IT Support Calls



The below chart indicates the breakdown of calls by Problem Category

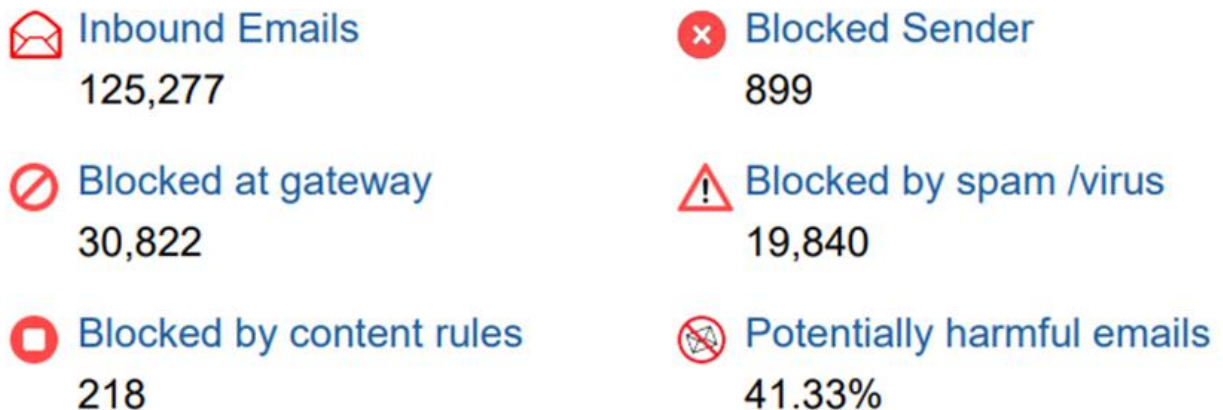


### Rollout of Sophos Intercept X

Rollout of Sophos to all computers and servers on our network continues. This is an antivirus system. It scans the Louth Co Co Network to detect potential threats, indicating devices which need attention. In November the number of computers protected by the latest version of Sophos increased from 517 to 556. The figure below indicates that there are 556 computers and 45 servers protected by Sophos. 1809 threats were blocked in the last 30 days.

### TopSec E-Mail Filtering System

Louth Co Co continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilised TopSec to filter and block e-mail being received into the organisation in order to protect our network.



## **Fire and Emergency Services**

### **Fire Service**

Louth Fire Service has had to reintroduce stringent Covid restrictions due to the recent upsurge in Covid cases in Louth. The main priority is to maintain a service each of the five Brigades in Louth.

All Louth Fire Service training courses have been postponed until the New Year.

A two week BA wearer's course was held in Dundalk Training Centre in early November and was successfully completed by four recent recruit fire fighters from Louth. A Station Officer and a senior officer completed the Module 3 fire service command course.

A Quantity Surveyor has completed a summary cost plan for the proposed new fire stations in Dunleer and a design brief is also complete for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Approval has been sought from the DHLGH for the procurement of a design team. DHLGH approval has also been sought for major improvement works to Dundalk Regional Training Centre.

The development of a fire service health and safety management system to satisfy ISO 45001 requirements is continuing. All senior fire officers are involved in the necessary actions including new policies and procedures. This includes the follow-up actions to a benchmark audit of the system which was carried out by an external Health and Safety Consultant over two days in October.

The number of fire safety certificate applications received by Fire Prevention Section has increased in recent months and inspections of these are continuing. A number of fire safety notices and

closure notices have been withdrawn following the completion of the necessary fire safety works on these buildings. Work is complete on the refurbishment and upgrade of the Ard Dealgan (Halliday's Mill) apartment building on Quay St., Dundalk. Fire Prevention and Building Control inspections have been carried out on this site.

### **Major Emergency Management**

Regional Major Emergency Steering and Working Group meetings in relation to Covid have continued. The most recent meeting took place in Louth and was the first in-person meeting of the Committee since the start of Covid. These meetings have included personnel from the three Principal Response Agencies, i.e. the Councils, HSE and AGS. A Cross Border exercise is planned in mid-December but this may be deferred to the New Year.

### **Civil Defence**

Normal Civil Defence activities have resumed, including training courses with full occupancy and attendance at events to provide medical and other cover. Medical cover was provided for the Kilkenny 500Km Walk and the Annagassan 10K run. Training was delivered as follows:

- Weekly Training on Thursday nights
- EMT Training
- Peer to Peer Training
- CFR Training

### **Water Safety**

Beach Lifeguard activity ceased from mid-September. All water safety infrastructure continues to be checked on a scheduled basis.

## Housing and Quality of Life Tithíocht agus Cáilíocht na Beatha

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

- Housing, which encompasses all initiatives which aim to match need and available resources in a sustainable way throughout our county
- Quality of Life, a wide range of initiatives and programmes designed to make living in Louth a stimulating, safe and rewarding experience, including the arts, heritage, and our libraries

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Tithíocht, a chuimsíonn gach tionscnamh agus de chuspóir acu ná na riachtanais agus na haicmhainní ar fad atá ar fail a chur le chéile go hinbhuanaíthe ar fud ár gcontae
- Cáilíocht na Beatha, réimse leathan tionscnaimh agus cláir atá deartha chun saol spreagúil, sásúil, sábháilte a chur ar fail i gContae Lú, na healaíona, an oidhreacht, agus ár leabharlanna san áireamh

Paddy Donnelly  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## Housing

### Pillar 1: Addressing 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 Strategy 2018-2020. The preparation for a new three year strategy has commenced. The work done within Louth can be summarised as follows:

| Presentations<br>November 2021   | Ardee MD | Dundalk MD | Drogheda BD | Total      |
|--|----------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Number of Person who presented as Homeless   | 04       | 172        | 146         | <b>322</b> |
| Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility) | 04       | 156        | 137         | <b>297</b> |
| Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation  | 00       | 14         | 06          | <b>20</b>  |
| Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation                                     | 00       | 02         | 03          | <b>05</b>  |
| Not eligible from outside county or non HRC  | 00       | 00         | 00          | <b>00</b>  |

The tables below reflect monthly returns submitted to the Department with regard to Homeless numbers in the NORTH EAST REGION between 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This anonymous and aggregated return of all individuals accessing emergency accommodation is returned to the Department of Housing on a monthly basis.

**Table 1: Gender**

| Gender       | Total     |
|--------------|-----------|
| Male         | 22        |
| Female       | 60        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>82</b> |

**Table 2: Age Groups**

| Age Group    | Total     |
|--------------|-----------|
| 18-24        | 10        |
| 25-44        | 42        |
| 45-64        | 24        |
| 65+          | 06        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>82</b> |

**Table 3: Accommodation Type**

| Accommodation Type  | Total     |
|---|-----------|
| Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)   | 10        |
| Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)   | 62        |
| Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support)(TEA)  | 10        |
| Unique Total (note, clients may have accessed multiple accommodation types during the week) | 00        |
| Minus people accessing multiple accommodation types during the week                         | 00        |
| <b>Total unique individuals</b>   | <b>82</b> |

**Table 4: County**

| County          | Total     |
|-----------------|-----------|
| County Louth    | 75        |
| County Monaghan | 05        |
| County Cavan    | 02        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>82</b> |

**Table 5 - Families with dependent children**

|                                     | No. of families with dependent children | No. of Individual Adults | No. of Dependents |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Individuals with dependent children | 07                                      | 07                       | 15                |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>07</b>                               | <b>07</b>                | <b>15</b>         |
| Couples with dependent children     | 02                                      | 04                       | 06                |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>02</b>                               | <b>04</b>                | <b>06</b>         |

**Housing First**

|   | Louth | Monaghan | Cavan | Total |
|---|-------|----------|-------|-------|
| <b>Number of tenancies established</b>            | 23    | 02       | 05    | 30    |
| <b>Number of individuals currently in tenancy</b> | 23    | 02       | 05    | 30    |

**Homeless Services and Covid 19**

As a direct response to the risk of communal spread of the Covid-19 virus amongst vulnerable individuals in Homeless Hostels, the Council has opened up a number of void properties and temporarily decanted individuals and families from hostel accommodation into these Units.

This has allowed these persons to live in a more isolated environment thereby decreasing the risk of infection. Contracted service providers have continued to provide meals and high level support to these clients.

The Hostels and family Hub continue to operate with reduced capacity, which reflects government guidelines in respect of social and physical distancing.

Isolation units have been made available for homeless persons with suspected/confirmed cases of Covid-19 and protocols have been drawn up to address such cases.

The full range of Homeless Services continues to be provided remotely and staff is available on request, in exceptional cases.

**Inspections of Private Emergency Accommodation**

Since December 2017 the Homeless Office has 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 subject to Covid 19 permissions.

**Housing Assistance Payment**

The total number of applications in HAP is 3300

| Ardee Municipal District | Dundalk Municipal District | Drogheda Borough District | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 324                      | 1755                       | 1221                      | 3300  |

**Pillar 2: Accelerate Social Housing**

Over the period 2018 to 2021, a target has been set for the provision of 1074 units. This target will include delivery of units from Part V provision, Acquisitions, Mortgage to Rents, Long Term Leases, Repair and Lease and Buy & Renew Acquisitions. The 2020 - 2023 pipeline delivery progress report is in tables below.

**2021 Housing Allocations up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

| Numbers Allocated | Allocations - Social | Allocations - Voluntary | Refusals - Social | Refusals - Voluntary |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Ardee MD          | 35                   | 43                      | 17                | 06                   |
| Dundalk MD        | 150                  | 101                     | 26                | 26                   |

|                   |     |     |    |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|----|----|
|                   |     |     |    |    |
| Drogheda BD       | 106 | 35  | 41 | 09 |
| Total Allocations | 291 | 179 | 84 | 41 |

Social housing transfers facilitated up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

| Year | Ardee | Dundalk | Drogheda |
|------|-------|---------|----------|
| 2021 | 00    | 12      | 18       |

### Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)

| Month    | Ardee MD | Dundalk MD | Drogheda BD | Total |
|----------|----------|------------|-------------|-------|
| November | 349      | 601        | 602         | 1552  |

### Transfer List from HAP

| Month    | Ardee MD | Dundalk MD | Drogheda BD | Total |
|----------|----------|------------|-------------|-------|
| November | 324      | 1755       | 1221        | 3300  |

There are a total of 269 applicants on the approved list for transfer (**Non-HAP**) within Social Housing including **28** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies

### Pillar 3: Build More Homes

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

| Location                   | Acres |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Mullavalley, Louth Village | 8.82  |
| Kilkerley                  | 3.80  |
| Ballymakenny               | 16.53 |

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Point Road               | 5.2 |
| Various Individual Sites | 0   |

### Rent Management

The number of tenants who pay rent by Household Budget is now **977**

| Current Arrears as of 30/11/2021 | Rents as of | Number of Account | Value             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rents between 4-6 weeks old      |             | 190               | €67,826.00        |
| Rents between 7-12 weeks old     |             | 136               | €90,692.00        |
| Rents greater than 12 weeks old  |             | 755               | €2,607,209.00     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     |             | <b>1081</b>       | <b>€2,765,727</b> |

### Pillar 4: Improve the Rented Sector

|  | Nov | Total |
|--|-----|-------|
| No. of properties inspected Nov 2021     | 64  | 259   |
| No. of advisory notes issued to Landlord | 06  | 32    |
| No. of improvement notices Issued        | 02  | 89    |
| No. of prohibition notices Issued        | 00  | 07    |
| No. of Rent Book Notices Issued          | 00  | 00    |
| Inspections ( HAP )                      | 45  | 170   |
| Improvement Notices ( HAP)               | 01  | 88    |
| Virtual Inspections Issued               | 00  | 50    |
| Private Inspections Complaints           | 00  | 00    |
| HAP Complaints                           | 11  | 30    |
| RAS Complaints                           | 04  | 05    |
| Re Inspections HAP                       | 04  | 44    |
| Re Inspections Hap Compliance            | 00  | 20    |
| Re Inspections RAS                       | 00  | 00    |
| Re Inspections RAS Compliance            | 00  | 00    |
| AHB Inspection                           | 00  | 07    |
| Long Term Leases                         | 00  | 75    |

## Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing

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

| Maintenance                          | Total (YTD) | This month |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| No. of Maintenance Requests Received | 3944        | 600        |
| No. of Maintenance Completed         | 2807        | 451        |

### Vacant Properties

Currently 25 No. social units have been used as temporary accommodation for isolation or additional homeless need during Covid 19 and are not included in the next table.

| Vacant Properties   | Total |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Ardee Municipal District  | 01    |           |
| Dundalk Municipal District  | 18    |           |
| Drogheda Borough District   | 17    |           |
| <b>Total Re Lets</b>  |       | <b>36</b> |
| Vacant Properties CPO Units not yet ready for occupation (all county) |       | 03        |
| <b>Total No. of CPO Properties (Relets &amp; CPO's)</b>               |       | <b>39</b> |

### Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

The private grant process is continuing with some changes to procedure to reflect social distancing guidelines.

The following grants are available

- Housing Adaption Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need whole time 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 whole time, care in the home.
- The Dept have notified Louth County Council that the allocation for 2021 is €1,889,980, of which €377,996 is to be provided from the authority's own revenue resource
- Additional funding of €962,500 has been allocated from the Dept of which €192,500 is to be provided from the authority's own revenue resource.

### Private House Grants

| Status                                | HOP | HAG | MAG | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <b>Applications Completed 2020</b>    | 131 | 60  | 36  | 227   |
| <b>Applications rolling into 2021</b> | 101 | 310 | 70  | 481   |
| <b>New Applications</b>               | 240 | 140 | 85  | 465   |

### Estate Management

|                                      | DBD & AMD | DMD | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-------|
| <b>Tenancy Inspections</b>           | 06        | 10  | 16    |
| <b>Pre tenancy Training</b>          | 24        | 06  | 30    |
| <b>Tenancy Investigations Visits</b> | 41        | 35  | 76    |
| <b>Tenancy Investigations Remote</b> | 13        | 17  | 30    |

### Anti-Social Behaviour

| ASB Cases     | DBD | AMD | DMD | TOTAL |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| ASB Ongoing   | 03  | 01  | 08  | 12    |
| ASB Completed | 08  | 04  | 06  | 18    |
| <b>Total</b>  |     |     |     | 30    |

| Municipal District/ Borough District | Number of Retrofitting Houses |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Drogheda Borough District            | 23                            |
| Ardee Municipal District             | 20                            |
| Dundalk Municipal District           | 21                            |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>64</b>                     |

|                      | DBD | AMD | DMD | TOTAL |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Verbal Warning       | 01  | 00  | 01  | 02    |
| Written Warning      | 00  | 00  | 00  | 00    |
| Tenancy Notification | 00  | 00  | 00  | 00    |

### Climate Action

The newly revised **2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme** is the first year of a ten year programme which is expected to grow to meet the PfG retrofit commitment. The new programme sees a significant upscaling (from 'shallow' to 'deep retrofit') on what has been completed by local authorities to date and will target **2,400** social homes for upgrade works in 2021.

For 2021 Louth County Council were successful in obtaining an allocation of €1.4 million with a requirement to retrofit a minimum of 52 properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

An additional allocation coupled with positive tender prices allows for 12 more units to be completed in 2021.

The distribution works on Energy Retrofitting in each municipal district is as follows:

| Delivery Stream  | Rebuilding Ireland Projected Delivery 2018-2021 |      |      |      |       |
|--|---|------|------|------|-------|
|  | 2018  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Total |
| SHIP CONSTRUCTION  | 00  | 00   | 00   | 17   | 17    |
| SHIP CONSTRUCTION RAPID                                    | 00  | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00    |
| REGENERATION   | 00  | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00    |
| CAS CONSTRUCTION   | 01  | 00   | 00   | 01   | 02    |
| CONSTRUCTION BUT & RENEW SHIP<br>CONSTRUCTION SINGLE STAGE | 23  | 26   | 07   | 02   | 58    |
| SHIP CONSTRUCTION SINGLE STAGE                             | 00  | 00   | 00   | 02   | 02    |
| SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY                                  | 00  | 05   | 131  | 28   | 159   |
| SHIP Competitive Dialogue                                  | 00  | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00    |
| CAS CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY & CAS<br>SINGLE STAGE             | 00  | 05   | 00   | 12   | 17    |
| PPP  | 00  | 00   | 80   | 00   | 80    |
| AHB CALF Construction                                      | 10  | 15   | 02   | 00   | 27    |
| AHB CALF Turnkey   | 119   | 188  | 54   | 223  | 584   |
| CALF Part V  | 14  | 115  | 05   | 10   | 144   |
| LA Part V  | 04  | 00   | 06   | 06   | 16    |
| CAS Part V   | 00  | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00    |
| Voids (capped)   | 02  | 05   | 00   | 00   | 07    |

## 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).

**IPS** = Incremental Purchase Scheme

**Voids** = new addition to the report requested by Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

**SHCEP** = Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme supports the delivery of social housing by providing financial support to local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) for the long term leasing of houses and apartments from private owners and developers.

**SHIP** = Social Housing Investment Programme

| Project Name                                       | Project Phase | Total Units Expected | Approved Housing Body / Louth County Council | Project Status                                       | Date       | Breakdown of Units   |
|--|---------------|----------------------|--|--|------------|--|
| Tierney Street, Ardee                              | 1/1           | 7                    | Oaklee Housing Trust                         | Stage 3 Approved                                     | 31/12/2022 | 1x 3 bed, and 1x 4 bed house to 7 x 1 bed  |
| St. John's Home, Peter's Hill, Drogheda, Co. Louth | 1/1           | 4                    | North & East Housing Association Ltd         | Stage 3 Approved                                     | 30/06/2022 |  |
| CPO All bundles 2020 Delivery Q2                   | 4/4           | 5                    | Louth County Council                         | Onsite   | 30/06/2022 |  |
| Barrack Street, Dundalk                            | 1/1           | 21                   | Simon Community : Dundalk Simon              | Revised Stage 2 Site investigation works to commence | 01/03/2022 | 19 x 1bed<br>2 x 2 bed   |
| 5 Slieveroe Crescent, Dundalk                      | 1/1           | 1                    | Cluid Housing Association                    | Stage 4 Approved                                     | 31/12/2021 | 1 x 3 bed unit   |
| Clonmore Close, Ardee, Co Louth                    | 1/4           | 12                   | Cluid Housing Association                    | Completed  | March 2021 | 2 x 4 beds, 2 x3 bed and 8x 1 beds in this phase   |
| Castletown Road Dundalk                            | 1/1           | 6                    | Louth County Council                         | Funding Approved Single Stage                        | 30/06/2022 | 1 x 1 bed<br>5 x 2 bed   |
| Father Finn Park (Phase 2)                         | 1/1           | 17                   | Louth County Council                         | Completed  | 08/04/2021 | 7 x 2 bed & 10 x 3 bed   |
| Clonmore Close, Ardee, Co Louth                    | 2/4           | 15                   | Cluid Housing Association                    | Completed  | July 2021  | 2 x 4 bed, 12 x 3 bed and 1 x2 bed units in this phase   |
| Cathedral View, Dundalk, Co Louth                  | 1/5           | 16                   | Túath Housing Association                    | Completed  | March 2021 | 14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all phases |
| Four Winds, Mullacapple, Collon                    | 1/1           | 1                    | St. John of God Housing Association Ltd      | Stage 2 Approved                                     | 31/03/2022 | 1 unit, 4 beds   |

|  |     |    |                           |                  |            |   |
|--|-----|----|---------------------------|------------------|------------|---|
| Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk, Co. Louth | 1/4 | 45 | Clanmil                   | Funding Approved | 31/03/2023 | 9 x 2 bed apartments, 34 x 3 bed units and 24 x 4 bed units   |
| Newtown Marsh Drogheda View Road       | 1/4 | 17 | Respond                   | Onsite           | 30/04/2022 | 2 x 4 bed houses, 97 x 3 bed houses and 34 x 2 bed houses across all 4 phases   |
| Newtown Marsh Drogheda View Road       | 2/4 | 23 | Respond                   | Onsite           | 31/07/2022 | 2 x 4 bed houses, 97 x 3 bed houses and 34 x 2 bed houses across all 4 phases   |
| Hallidays Mill Quay St Dundalk         | 1/1 | 85 | Co Operative Housing      | Onsite           | 30/11/2021 | 15 x 3 bed apartments, 58 x 2 bed apartments and 12 x 1 bed apartments  |
| Clonmore Ardee, Co Louth Close,        | 3/4 | 15 | Cluid Housing Association | Completed        | 30/11/2021 | 8 x 3 bed and 7 x 2 bed units in this phase   |
| Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk, Co. Louth | 2/4 | 22 | Túath Housing Association | Onsite           | 30/01/2022 | 4 x 4 bed houses, 36 x 3 bed houses and 6 x 2 bed apartments across all phases  |
| Cathedral Dundalk, Co Louth View,      | 2/5 | 10 | Túath Housing Association | Completed        | 31/05/2021 | 14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all schemes |
| Clonmore Ardee, Co Louth Close,        | 4/4 | 13 | Cluid Housing Association | Onsite           | 03/12/2021 | 10 x 3 bed and 3 x 2 bed units in this phase  |
| Cathedral Dundalk, Co Louth View,      | 3/5 | 16 | Túath Housing Association | Completed        | 12/10/2021 | 14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all schemes |

|   |     |           |                              |           |                 |   |
|---|-----|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Cathedral View,<br>Dundalk, Co Louth                  | 4/5 | 11        | Túath Housing<br>Association | Completed | 25/11/202<br>1  | 14 x 2 bed<br>apartments, 9 x 2<br>bed houses, 14 x<br>3 bed duplexes,<br>14 x 3 bed<br>terraced houses<br>and 14 x 4 bed<br>houses across all<br>schemes   |
| Cox's Demesne<br>Phase 2B                             | 1/1 | 22        | Louth County<br>Council      | Onsite    | 28/02/202<br>2  | 2 x 2 bed, 4 x 3<br>bed, 2 x 4 bed ,<br>6x .1 bed Apt & 8<br>x 2 bed apt  |
| Newfoundwell Road<br>Drogheda                         | 1/2 | <b>55</b> | Cluid Housing<br>Association | Onsite    | 31/03//202<br>2 | 17 x 3 bed<br>terraced houses,<br>1 x 3 bed<br>duplexes, 25 x 2<br>bed terraced<br>houses, 4 x 2<br>bed terraced, 4 x<br>2 bed duplexes,<br>28 x 2 bed<br>apartments and<br>19 x 1 bed<br>apartments<br>across both<br>phases |
| Cathedral View,<br>Dundalk, Co Louth                  | 5/5 | 12        | Túath Housing<br>Association | Onsite    | 31/03/202<br>2  | 14 x 2 bed<br>apartments, 9 x 2<br>bed houses, 14 x<br>3 bed duplexes,<br>14 x 3 bed<br>terraced houses<br>and 14 x 4 bed<br>houses across all<br>schemes   |
| Racecourse<br>Meadows, Dundalk,<br>Co. Louth          | 2/3 | 19        | Túath Housing<br>Association | Onsite    | 30/06/202<br>2  | 4 x 4 bed<br>houses, 36 x 3<br>bed houses and<br>6 x 2 bed<br>apartments<br>across all phases   |
| Newtown Marsh<br>View Road<br>Drogheda                | 3/4 | 47        | Respond                      | Onsite    | 30/10/202<br>2  | 2 x 4 bed<br>houses, 97 x 3<br>bed houses and<br>34 x 2 bed<br>houses across all<br>4 phases  |
| Dúiche Roden<br>(formerly Kitchen<br>Garden), Demesne | 1/2 | 65        | Cluid Housing<br>Association | Onsite    | 31/10/202<br>2  | 2 x 4 bed<br>houses, 18 x 3<br>be duplexes, 22 x  |

|   |     |           |                           |                               |            |  |   |
|---|-----|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--|---|
| Road, Dundalk   |     |           |                           |                               |            |  | 3 bed terraced houses, 19 x 2 bed apartments, 29 x 2 bed terraced houses, 4 x 2 bed bungalows and 36 x 1 bed apartments across both phases  |
| Dúiche Roden (formerly Kitchen Garden), Demesne Road, Dundalk | 2/2 | 65        | Cluid Housing Association | Onsite                        | 30/08/2023 |  | 2 x 4 bed houses, 18 x 3 be duplexes, 22 x 3 bed terraced houses, 19 x 2 bed apartments, 29 x 2 bed terraced houses, 4 x 2 bed bungalows and 36 x 1 bed apartments across both phases |
| Newtown Marsh Drogheda View Road                              | 4/4 | 47        | Respond                   | Onsite                        | 31/01/2023 |  | 2 x 4 bed houses, 97 x 3 bed houses and 34 x 2 bed houses across all 4 phases   |
| Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill                                  | 1/1 | 1         | Louth County Council      | Funding Approved Single Stage | 23/12/2022 |  | 1 x 2 bed   |
| Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill                              | 1/1 | 1         | Louth County Council      | Funding Approved Single Stage | 23/12/2022 |  | 1 x 4 bed   |
| School Lane, Dunleer - Infill                                 | 1/1 | 1         | Louth County Council      | Funding Approved Single Stage | 23/12/2022 |  | 1 x 3 bed   |
| Newfoundwell Road   | 2/2 | <b>39</b> | Cluid Housing Association | Onsite                        | 31/03/2023 |  | 17 x 3 bed terraced houses, 1 x 3 bed duplexes, 25 x 2 bed terraced houses, 4 x 2 bed terraced, 4 x 2 bed duplexes,   |

|                                       |     |    |                           |                               |            |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---|
|                                       |     |    |                           |                               |            | 28 x 2 bed apartments and 19 x 1 bed apartments across both phases  |
| Boice Court (Phase 2/4 )              | 1/1 | 72 | Louth County Council      | Stage 2 Approved              | 16/04/2024 | 27 x 3 bed, 4 x 4 bed, 8 x 1 bed apt , 8 x 2 bed apt , 8 x 3 bed apt  |
| Mount Avenue, Dundalk                 | 1/1 | 93 | Louth County Council      | Stage 2 Approved              | 01/05/2024 | 29 x 2 bed, 23 x 3 bed, 9 x 4 bed, 10 x 1 bed apt, 6 x 2 bed apt, 16 x 3 bed apt  |
| Muirhevnamor, Dundalk Phase 1- Infill | 1/1 | 18 | Louth County Council      | Stage 2 Approved              | 16/10/2023 | 3x 2 bed & 8 x 3 bed  |
| Rathmullen Park, Drogheda - Infill    | 1/1 | 4  | Louth County Council      | Funding Approved Single Stage | 03/11/2023 | 2 x 2 bed<br>2 x 3 bed  |
| Donore Road, Drogheda                 | 1/1 | 66 | Cluid Housing Association | Funding Approved              | 30/09/2023 | 8 x 3 bed apartments, 54 x 2 bed apartments and 4 x 1 be apartments   |
| Dublin Road, Dundalk                  | 1/1 | 65 | Respond                   | Onsite                        | 30/11/2022 | 5 x 3 bed houses, 7 x 3 bed duplexes, 2 x 3 bed apartments, 16 x 2 bed duplexes, 4 x 2 bed apartments, 4 x 1 bed houses and 27 x 1 bed apartments |
| Doire Beag, Collon, Co Louth Infill   | 1/1 | 06 |                           | Funding Approved Single Stage | 10/07/2023 | 6 x 3 bed   |
| Termon River Termonfeckin             | 1/2 | 02 |                           | Completed                     | 17/12/2020 | 2 x 4 bed   |
| Termon River Termonfeckin             | 2/2 | 01 |                           | On Site                       | 30/11/2021 | 1 x 4 bed   |
| Highfield Dundalk                     | 1/1 | 12 | Women's Aid               | Stage 1 Approved              | 30/06/2023 | 5 x 1 bed<br>7 x 2 bed  |

|                                  |     |    |                           |                                   |            |  |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--|
| 10-16 The Alleys Drogheda        | 1/1 | 14 | Peter McVerry             | Stage 1 approved                  | 28/02/2023 | 14 Studio Apts   |
| Riverwell Close Dundalk          | 1/1 | 1  |                           | Revised stage ½ to be submitted   | 31/03/2022 | 1 x 4bed   |
| Coulter Place                    | 1/1 | 7  |                           | Stage 2 approved Planning Granted | 31/12/2022 | 5 x 2 bed 1 x 4 bed  |
| Linenfield Ballymakenny          | 1/2 | 05 |                           | On Site                           | 31/12/2021 | 5 x 2 bed  |
| Linenfield Ballymakenny          | 2/2 | 01 |                           | On site                           | 28/02/2022 | 1x 2 bed   |
| Ellwood Ballymakenny Rd Drogheda | 1/3 | 17 | Funding Approved Turnkey  | 07/02/2022                        | TBC        |  |
| Ellwood Ballymakenny Rd Drogheda | 2/3 | 15 | Funding Approved Turnkey  | 30/05/2022                        | TBC        |  |
| Ellwood Ballymakenny Rd Drogheda | 3/3 | 13 | Funding Approved Turnkey  | 05/09/2022                        | TBC        |  |
| Scotch Hall                      | 1/1 | 21 | Respond                   | Funding Approved                  | 31/07/2022 | 6 x 1 bed apartments and 16 x 2 apartments   |
| Fairways Garden                  | 1/1 | 08 | Cluid                     | Onsite                            | 31/11/2021 | 8 x 2 bed apartments   |
| Tullybrook, Slane Rd, Drogheda   | 1/1 | 85 | Cluid Housing Association | Onsite                            | 31/05/2022 | 2 x 4 bed houses, 22 x 3 bed terraced, 24 x 3 bed duplexes, 22 x 2 bed terraced, 7 x 2 bed duplexes and 8 x 2 bed apartments |
| Oriel Heights                    | 1/1 | 13 | North & East Housing      | Funding Approved                  | 31/03/2023 | 4 x 3 bed units and 9 x 2 bed units  |

## Community and Sports

### LEADER

The LAG at its meeting in October approved funding support, in the amount of €232,364.17 for five LEADER projects, under the Transitional LEADER Programme, 2021-2022. Among the locations of the projects approved for support are Castlebellingham, Ardee, Drogheda and Termonfeckin.

Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER 2014-2020 Programme:-

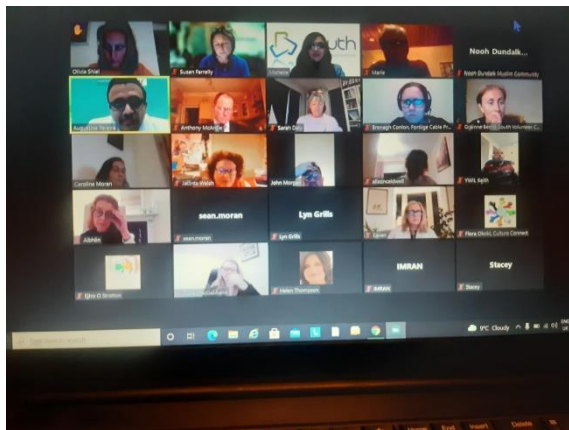
| Promoter  | Amount            |
|---|-------------------|
| Mattock Rangers CLG – Community Centre Acoustics Upgrade – Ref. 113937                      | €19,074.75        |
| Highlanes Gallery – Replacement Gallery Lighting – Ref. 110934                              | €17,724.28        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Louth Coastal Scout Group – Refurbishment of Old School House – Ref. 113499 | €10,240.48        |
| Learn Renewables Ltd – Virtual Workshops IT Equipment – Ref. 114276                         | €1,250.54         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>€48,290.05</b> |

Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the Transitional LEADER Programme, 2021-2022:-

| Promoter  | Amount            |
|---|-------------------|
| Caffreys Home Bakery – Specialised 4 Deck Oven, 12 Trays with steam and a 4 foot hotplate – Ref. 115014 | €15,000.00        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>€15,000.00</b> |

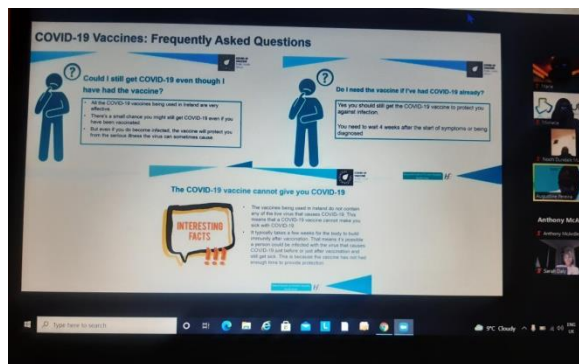
### PPN

Louth PPN held a Plenary Meeting online on 17<sup>th</sup> November which was attended by 48 local community groups.

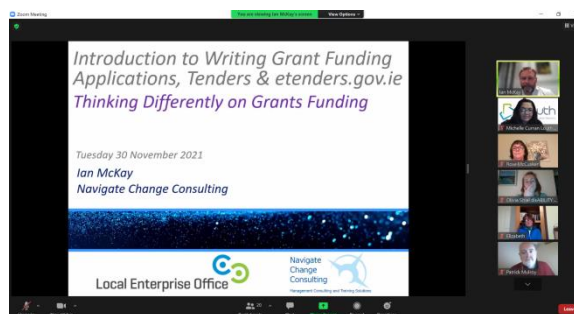


Election to Louth Local Sports Partnership of Sean Moran as PPN Representative was ratified on the night.

Presentation was given by Dr Augustine Pereira with information and updates in relation to Covid-19 pandemic.



Louth PPN was also delighted to support our communities by providing a free course to all PPN Groups on E-Tender Grant Application Training and how to make a successful grant application. This training workshop was attended by 35 participants from various groups throughout our county and was a great success.



## Community Activities Fund 2022

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, have announced a €9 million fund to support community groups impacted by COVID-19.

***The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).***

Department of Rural and Community Development allocated €291,084 to Louth.

*'Fund to provide small grants for community groups impacted by the Pandemic'*  
*Facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres to be supported.*

**The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.**

Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment.

Community Sports Hub Coordinator appointed for Moneymore, Drogheda.

Louth Sports Partnership has appointed Ms Shauna Kelly as Community Sports Hub Coordinator in Moneymore, Drogheda. Initial engagement work with stakeholders will take place in the area to establish links before programmes and events will be set up.

### **Dundalk Sports Centre achieve NQS award.**

Dundalk Sports Centre has achieved an Outstanding NQS Award for the Third Year running and fourth Award in Four years. The National Quality Standard Award is given to facilities that meet the operational standards for

leisure and fitness facilities across 250 quality-based criteria. The standard is designed to encourage continuous improvement within the sector and recognises facilities for their remarkable standards in the areas of safety, hygiene, customer service and human resources. The NQSA are the only industry specific award for the leisure, health and fitness sector in Ireland.



### **Track Relining at Lourdes Stadium**

Lourdes Athletic Track has undergone phased stages of relining and patch work over the last few weeks and the results are fantastic.



### **Sports Nights at Dundalk Sports Centre**

Sports Nights have returned to Dundalk Sports Centre.

- Tuesday - Volleyball
- Wednesday - Mens Basketball
- Thursday - Womens Basketball
- Friday - Wheelchair Basketball.

All events are from 7-8pm, no booking necessary.

### **Walking Community Programme**

Commencing in Togher, this is an 8 week programme to get more people in the area active and help them socialise with one another.



## Men on the Move

Men on the Move programme started in Kilkierley in November, we have engaged with local men in the area and there has been a great turn out. We are planning more programmes for 2022 in Drogheda & Cooley area.



## Primary Schools Basketball

The primary school's basketball programme offers children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class the opportunity to improve their basketball skills in Drogheda and surrounding area. We started in late Oct and worked closely with Wolves basketball club, and finishing up at the end of November.

7 schools take part in the programme, Collon NS, St Josephs CBS, Aston Village ETNS, Harestown NS, Termonfeckin NS, Marymount NS and Tallanstown; each school will receive free basketballs, basketball drill cones, sports bibs and free teacher training. We are currently recruiting schools for 2022 and we are also looking to expand the programme into Dundalk and their surrounding areas with the help of Ravens Basketball Club.



Primary school's basketball programme in Drogheda

## Tri Heroes

As part of our ongoing programme with CYPSC we have setup our Tri Heroes programmes in local primary and secondary schools. We have engaged with Triathlon Ireland and their development officer Gary Crossan who has gone out and delivered a programme in a local primary school. This teaches the children basics of triathlon and how to prepare for race over 5 days they take part, in cycling, running and transition drills to prepare for race in the school grounds on the last day of the programme.



## Inclusion Cycle Programme

Also as part of our programme with CYPSC we are finalising this programme, we are in process of getting the numbers from schools for the purchase of bikes for all the Autistic Units in Louth. We have also arranged SNA teacher training for early next year for all the SNA's in the Autistic Units on Learn to Cycle programme to help develop and create a sustainable structure to the programme. And as part of the programme have got our own Cycle Right Tutor for Louth who is now trained up and able to deliver cycling programmes in 2022 and beyond. We are also looking into a cycle right disability course to help develop their skills and offer more programmes to create inclusivity to cycling.



### **National Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition**

The National Supervalu Tidy town Competition announced their winners on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Congratulations to all our winners and well done to all participants for all the hard work and dedication throughout the year.

#### **Gold Medal Winners**

- Blackrock Co Louth – Na Creagacha Dubha Co Lú
- Ardee Co Louth – Átha Fherdia Co Lú
- Dundalk Co Louth – Dún Dealgan Co Lú

#### **Bronze Medal Winners**

- Knockbridge Co Louth – Cnoc Bride Co Lú
- Tallanstown Co Louth – Baile an Tallúnaigh Co Lú
- Dromiskin Co Louth – Droimineasclainn Co Lú
- Carlingford Co Louth – Cairlinn Co Lú

#### **County Award Winner**

- Louth – Lú Blackrock – Na Creagacha Dubha

#### **County Award Highly Commended**

- Louth – Lú Dundalk – Dún Dealgan

#### **County Award Commended**

- Louth – Lú Knockbridge – Cnoc Bride

#### **Endeavour Award**

- Louth – Lú Monasterboice – Mainistir Bhuithe

### **Sustainable Development Goals Award**

- Dundalk Tidy Towns Co Louth – First Runner up award

### **All Ireland Pollinator Plan- Local Authority Award – Large Town Category**

- Dundalk Tidy Towns Co Louth - Midlands & East

### **Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024**

#### **Library**

Amanda Branigan & Brendan McSherry are the Quality of Life reps on the LCC Climate Action Team. An energy efficiency audit is currently underway in Dundalk Library.

#### **Archives**

The Co Archives supports corporate Climate Action Goals. Operations are currently implementing energy upgrades to the Archives building including an air to water heat pump, improvements to doors and several windows and low energy lighting to reduce energy use.

## Louth Library Service

Following recent government guidance on Covid restrictions, all relevant SOGs continue to apply, along with social distancing and contact tracing guidelines.

Louth Library Service continues to offer lending, study space services, research and newspaper reading facilities all the while complying strictly to public health rules and relevant SOGs.

## Library Ireland Week 2021



An annual initiative of the Library Association of Ireland, *Library Ireland Week* runs Sunday 28th of November to Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. The 2021 theme is *Our Future Story: Recharge, Reconnect & Re-emerge*, in recognition of how libraries and library staff are looking towards a future beyond COVID-19.

## Drop In Campaign

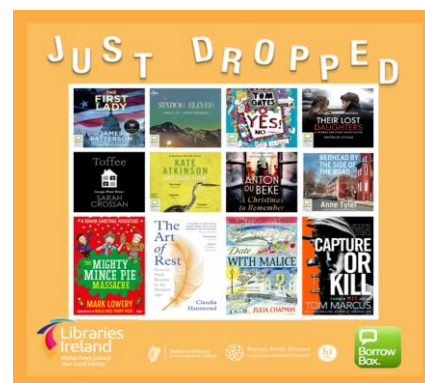


The new national *Drop In* Campaign launched on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The campaign is highlighting current library services available to the public. The campaign theme, 'Drop in' is intended to invite the public to do just that and to highlight that libraries are open and available to visit casually or as part of a regular routine.

## Examples of our in-house promotion for the campaign; #DropIn for new titles



## #DropIn for new titles in December



Louth Library Service looks forward to welcoming new and existing members in the coming weeks.



**Dundalk Library member Maisie just dropped in to check out the new periscope!**



**Welcoming customers to #DropIn to see some new stock in our branches**

### Housebound Service

The Housebound Delivery Service continues for elderly or vulnerable people who are cocooning or in isolation.



Deliveries are being coordinated from all of our branches serving both urban and rural areas in Louth. Between September 2021-December 2021 the library service delivered to more than 230 of our members.

### eServices



The wide range of eServices available to library members, include free eBooks & eAudiobooks through Borrow Box. To date in 2021 Louth Library users have borrowed in excess of 38,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks .



In addition, free newspapers and magazines and Comic Books are available through Press Reader and Libby.

Lastly there is a host of online courses with Universal Class and Transparent Language online.

For more information on these services click [here](#)

### **Dormant Accounts funding 2021, Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities –some updates:**

The 6 approved projects under the recent DRCD's Dormant Accounts Funding Initiative completed during November. Louth Library service engaged with a broad cross section of our community through the different projects, some even discovering hidden musical talents during the Ukulele classes!. Here are a few updates from some of the projects:

### **3 R's, Right Book, Right Child, Right Time-update**

A member of our Library staff met with a group of students from St. Oliver's Community School Drogheda for this literacy project aimed specifically at secondary school students. 28 1st year and 14 6th year students attended the meeting during November. Students were introduced to the specially selected resources and chose their preferred titles, creating waiting lists for the high demand titles. The students will review and circulate the titles amongst themselves. The staff member will revisit the students mid-December to refresh the titles and get feedback from the students.

The school's JCSP Co-ordinator, described how, at seeing the interest and engagement of some particularly hard-to-reach students, 'the hairs on her arm lifted'. It was heart-warming to hear such positive feedback.

St. Oliver's staff are working to identify the best candidates for the TTRS licences with a

particular focus on children and families living in the Direct Provision Centre at Mosney.

### **Community Coding-update**



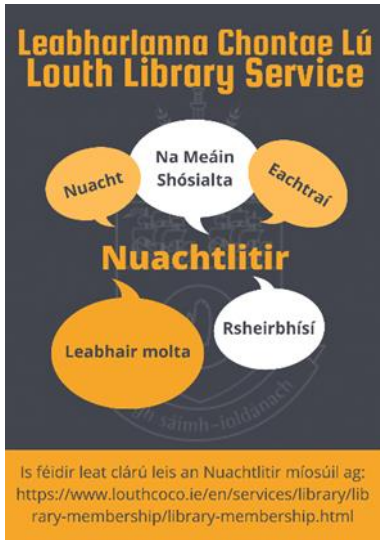
Staff of Louth Libraries, Youthreach Dundalk, and St John's NS Drogheda are well on their way to becoming Coding masters following a webinar with Alan from Coding Ireland. Over the next year, one Youthreach group and one local school will set up their very own coding clubs, supported by library staff and training and teaching software provided by Coding Ireland. This project, will last for one year.

### **Young Entrepreneur Club-Update**



Huge congratulations go to Ardee Youthreach on completing their Young Entrepreneurs Club programme, which was supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The students worked with Serena Bryans and Yvonne Kavanagh from About Communications, learning about every aspect of setting up, owning, and running a business. The business pitches delivered at the final session were incredibly witty and creative, and would definitely appeal to a wide audience. The programme will be followed up with a Zoom call with the Local Enterprise Office, and as a reward for their hard work and engagement, the group will enjoy a Christmas Wreath making workshop in December.

## Library Newsletter



The December edition contains the latest news, events, services, and recommendations from our libraries.

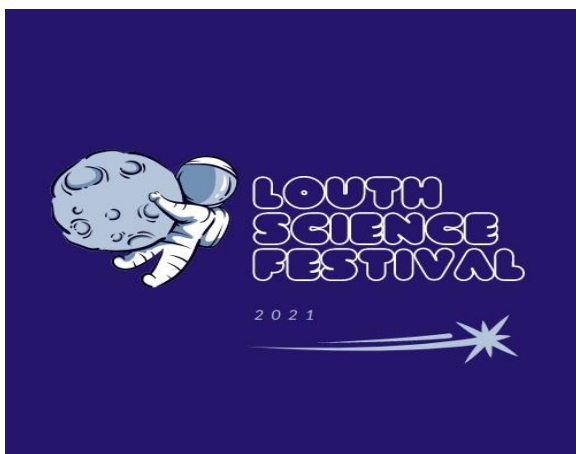
Anyone interested in receiving this monthly newsletter to their inbox can sign up here:

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/library-membership/louth-library-newsletter-emailing-list-registration.html>

Click here to read this month's newsletter:

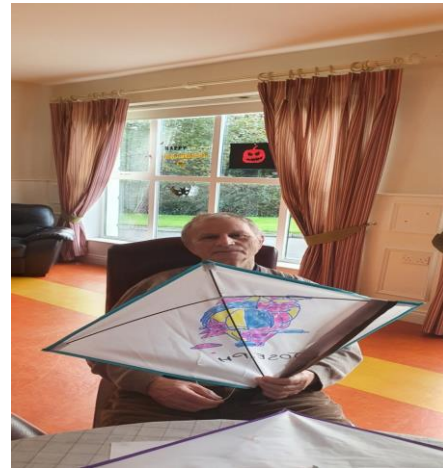
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/blog-and-newsletter/>

## Louth Science Festival-Update



Louth Science Festival took place from 8<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November, the festival is organised by Louth

Library Service and funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and supported by Louth County Council as part of Science Week Ireland.



For the first time, Louth Science Festival designed a programme specifically for Nursing Home residents, who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 lockdown measures. Through workshops including kite-making, bubble-making and CSI investigations, and a talk about Elephant Conservation, the festival brought some science fun to the staff and residents of Nursing Homes around County Louth.



**Resident of Blackrock Abbey Nursing Home at the Go Fly Your Kite Workshop**

Every primary school in the county was given an opportunity to avail of special events and local Youthreach groups also took part in the festival.

There was something for everyone in this year's festival programme with public events taking place on line. Highlights of this year's festival included workshops with The Irish Reptile Zoo, The Science of Harry Potter with Jon Chase, Minecrafting Our Future with iCrag Centre and Secrets of Superhero Science with Barry Fitzgerald.

Feedback has been extremely positive with great interaction on social media.



The annual **Family Time At Your Library** initiative will run throughout December.



The *Family Time at your Library* events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. Lots of events are planned for the coming weeks and we look forward to seeing new and existing customers Drop In to see our festive Christmas stock and join in with our online events.

Lots of events are being held virtually for Family Time at your library, from Festive Cooking as a family to Future Escape rooms, music sessions and Clayotic creations for young kids.

**Let's Get Reading for Family Time** The Let's Get Reading initiative will be linking in with Family Time At Your Library this month. There will be plenty of festive storytime and crafts for all the family to enjoy.



Library staff will also stream two promotional videos on the library Facebook page showcasing the new Young Adult Fiction and Graphic Novels that are available to borrow in all our library branches.

The videos will feature reading tips and book recommendations for parents and teenagers.

To view click here <https://www.facebook.com/LouthLibraries>

A blog post will also feature as part of this promotion. <https://shelflifethelouthlibraryserviceblog.wordpress.com/2021/12/01/top-teen-reads-2021/>

**Little Library Book Bags Initiative**



The 2nd round of the Little Library Book Bag Initiative, funded by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth (DECDIY) and DRCD was launched on November 19<sup>th</sup> by Minister Roderic O’Gorman, T.D.. The initiative aims to develop or build on the relationships between the Early Learning and Care Centers (ELC), POBAL registered child minders and libraries as part of the First 5 Government Strategy for babies and children and the Right to Read Programme.



**2 of the chosen titles for the initiative**

Contents include 5 specially selected titles and other branded resources including a booklet on getting the most from the books, a leaflet on the library services, and designated contact details for the library and a teacher’s library card for each setting.

This is an ideal opportunity for the ELCs and POBAL registered childminders to connect with their local library and receive a First 5 book bag on long term loan. The local libraries will also hold a copy(s) of this book bag available to loan to parents and/or to remain in the library for story times and reading corners.



*Happy customer! Staff member from Little & Big Rascals ELC #DroppedIn to collect their bags from Dunleer Library*

**Schools Service**

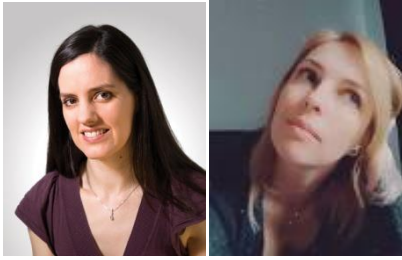
**Primary Schools**

The new class sets ordered are beginning to arrive, and are being processed for use in classrooms across the county. At present 34 class sets are on loan, with more besides ready to go out to new classrooms. The collection comprises a variety of titles for classes from Junior Infants right up to 1<sup>st</sup> year in secondary, and includes Irish language and historical titles.

Invited school groups will take part in virtual workshops with author and illustration team Natasha Mac a Bhaird and Audrey Dowling on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Participants will find out how they make a picture book and learn how to draw Santa and Rory the Reindeer!



*Eilish preparing the Little Library Bags for collection and encouraging all ELCs to #Dropln for their bag(s)*



**Author Natasha Mac a' Bhaird and illustrator Audrey Dowling**

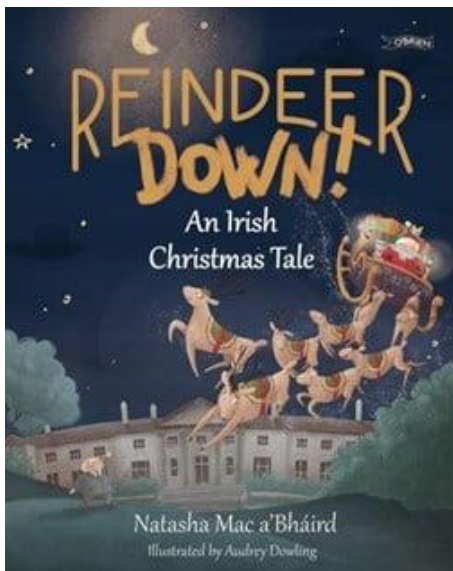
### Secondary Schools/Young Adult Readers

Library staff will visit LGBTQIA+ youth group, New Leaf in DeeHub in December to showcase all of the new LGBTQIA+ representative titles the Library service has added to the collection.

### Community Engagement



Louth Library Service will be supporting our partners in the Genesis Programme for their Winter Workshop 2021 during December. The workshop aims to spread some festive cheer to all of the families involved with the Genesis Programme throughout the past year.



The Library service will be recording a special festive storytime (Natasha Mac a' Bhaird's *Reindeer Down*) and supplying Christmas craft resources and accompanying video for 140 Genesis families.

### Winter Solstice in the Boyne Valley - Tuesday 21st of December at 7pm

Step into an ancient world and celebrate the winter solstice with Anthony Murphy from Mythical Ireland. In this virtual talk, Anthony will focus on the goddess Bóinn and her connection with the Newgrange monument, the Brú na Bóinne complex and the Boyne river.



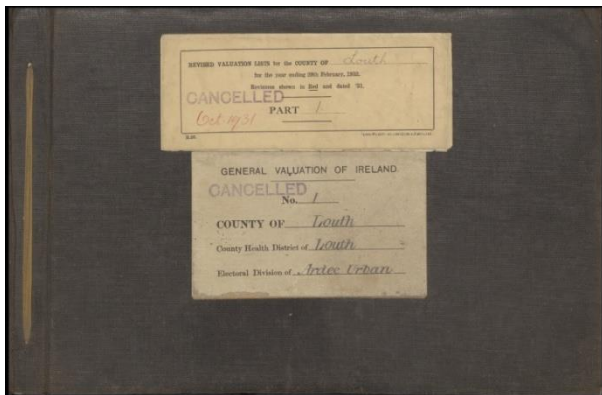
### Louth County Archives



### National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

Work is continuing on the draft revisions for Community, IT, and for Library. The draft revisions for Economic Development and for Environment are being finalised for approval and

adoption. To date, Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water and Corporate have been completed, approved and issued out to local authorities. The Co Archivist assists staff on an ongoing basis with queries on the management of records and advises on the preparation of records both for destruction and for transfer to the Records Centre. Water Services and Operations are being assisted with drawing up a Classification Scheme for their records.



### Decade of Centenaries 2021

Two projects are at present receiving the kind assistance of funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. In one project, Valuation Books from the early 1920s period have received conservation treatment prior to being digitised. These records are a rich source for social and economic history. The books are being placed online at the end of November and access will be free.

In another project, a short-film and accompanying booklet on Dundalk Gaol during the Civil War period have been created. This project will produce a definitive account of the events in the gaol and local area at the time and the short-film will be available online at the end of November.



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

### Historic Structures Fund

Conservation repair works to the south gable wall of the Co Archives are being completed. The mortar on the south gable wall was raked out, re-pointed with a lime-based mortar, damaged brickwork was replaced and lead was placed under the capping stones. This work will address damp issues on this wall.

### Donating Archives

Louth County Archives is interested in acquiring archives and records that relate to all aspects of the development of County Louth. Such archives may be from community groups, societies, individuals, local organisations, national schools, solicitors or other businesses. These collections make available unique and valuable research sources for the study of Louth's heritage. If you have a collection that you would be willing to donate, or know of someone who would, please contact the County Archivist by email at [archive@louthcoco.ie](mailto:archive@louthcoco.ie) or by telephone at 042-9324358.

### Louth County Arts Service

#### Creative Ireland - Community Grant 2022 Call Out!!



Louth Creative Ireland Culture team are launching their call out for the 2022 Community Grant Scheme. The community grants are for all local community event organisers in the research, planning and delivery of creative projects within the community.

These creative projects can be of any artistic discipline. Applications must include a contingency plan and solutions as to how the

project can be delivered should you be faced with further Covid-19 restrictions during the timeframe of the project.

Application forms and guidelines are available to download from the [www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie) website from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Closing date for applications is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 @ 5.p.m and **all applications must be emailed only to [creativeirelandlouth@gmail.com](mailto:creativeirelandlouth@gmail.com)**. Each application will be independently assessed and successful applicants will be notified by the beginning of February 2022.

### **Pride of Place**

Following on from the success of the 'Signed, Sealed and Delivered' project in 2020, additional funding was received through the Creativity in Ageing persons strand and the project 'Pride of Place' was devised. Art packs were sent out in the Spring to 12 nursing homes across the county. Artist Rozzi Kennedy has since been working with 130 residents across these nursing homes helping them to create their own pieces of art. The culmination of all this work is due to be launched in an online exhibition at the end of November.



### **Highlanes Gallery**

Highlanes Gallery Nano Reid exhibition ADAMANTINE continues until mid January 2022. Born in Drogheda in 1900, Reid is one of the most original artists of her generation and this special exhibition explores her life, work and legacy.

### **CreateLouth**

Our winter Music in Healthcare series kicked off on 19th November with our first online 1 hour

concert. Featuring local musicians the online concerts are made available to local nursing homes to log in and allow the residents to enjoy the music. Our musicians will interact with the homes and take requests and residents family members are also encouraged to log in and take part if they so wish. The concerts will continue each Friday up to and including 10th December from 2-3p.m.

### **An Táin Arts Centre**

Women of Independence a filmed theatrical performance that presents the real-life experiences for 4 Louth women during the War of Independence through a cast of community actors. Sponsored by CreateLouth & Creative Ireland and part of the Louth Decade of Centenaries programme, this film will be screened live in An Táin theatre for just one night on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 8.p.m. Tickets are €10 each and can be purchased at [www.aintain.ie/shows](http://www.aintain.ie/shows) Alternatively you can purchase an online streamed version of the film from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **Droichead Arts Centre**

Droichead Arts Centres Theatre Club continues in December with Box Baby by Rex Ryan on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, The Shed by Clare Monnelly on 9<sup>th</sup> December and Louth Mouth by Juliette Crosbie on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Sponsored by CreateLouth the theatre club presents new work by local artists on the Droichead stage. Tickets and information can be found at <https://www.droichead.com/show-detail/?id=873627747>

### **Drogheda Classical Music**

Sponsored by CreateLouth, Drogheda Classical Music 2021 presents another spectacular concert on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of composer Saint-Saens, this concert presents two of his greatest works with Fiachra Garvey on piano, Musici Ireland (strings) and Niall O'Sullivan on trumpet. The concert will take place in St Peters Church of Ireland and tickets are

available for purchase at <https://droicheadartscentre.ticketsolve.com/shows/873628028>



## Museum

### Currently

The exhibition *When an Engineer Imagines* has now closed. The models (which were constructed by students of from TU Dublin, Bolton Street (formerly DIT Bolton Street)) will now be returned to their owners over the coming weeks.

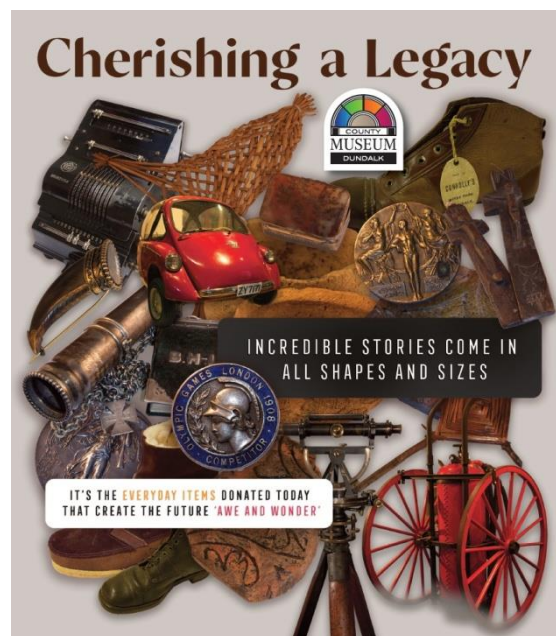


### Forthcoming

In the run-up to Christmas the Museum is preparing a number of online activities and resources for school children and adults alike which will be launched via our Facebook pages. One of the projects will be a step-by-step guide to making your own snow globe (see below)



On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, Curator Brian Walsh gave an online lecture to the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society entitled *Cherishing a Legacy*. The paper examined the Museum collection highlighting some of the more interesting artefacts both on display and held in storage.



### Recent acquisitions

The Museum's Industrial exhibition is rightly regarded as one of the best in the country and this gallery will be the home to the latest addition to the collection. Called a *Gunter Chain*, the device was used in surveying to measure distances and gave rise to the use of the words "chain" and "link" as measures of distance.



## Heritage Office

November saw the carrying out of our first ever hedge laying demonstration, at Blackrock Park. Organised jointly with Blackrock Tidy Towns, this project was funded through the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund. The Heritage Office would be pleased to receive applications for similar projects for next year.

Draft conservation assessments were received for Cappocksgate in Ardee, Saint Mary's Abbey (Louth) and Darver graveyard boundary wall. So too was the first draft of a Conservation and Management Plan for the Council's Millmount Complex in Drogheda. These studies are part-funded by a grant from the Heritage Council, with the remainder of the costs being met by LCC's Heritage and Facilities sections.

Also in Drogheda, conservation work on a section of the town wall that runs alongside Featherbed Lane, close to Laurence's Gate, will finish soon. This project has been funded by the Community Monuments Fund (the CMF). The CMF also funded conservation studies on two privately-owned towerhouses in the county (Taaffe's Castle in Carlingford and Glaspistol, near Clogherhead), following successful applications on behalf of their owners by the Heritage Office. The CMF for 2022 has already been advertised. All applications to this fund,

which has been increased from €2m in 2021 to €5m for 2022, must go through the Heritage Office and must be received by February.

The Heritage Office also responded to a wide variety of queries and requests for help, as well as commenting on ten planning applications.



*Before*



*After*