



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 6th December 2023
6^ú Mí na Nollag 2023**

Prepared under Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government (Reform) Act, 2014 & in compliance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001 / Ullmhaithe faoin Alt 136, an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001, agus Alt 51, an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil (Athchóiriú), 2014 agus i gcomhlíonadh Alt 138 an dAcht Rialtais Aitiul, 2001.

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – November 2023

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the December Monthly Agenda of Louth County Council for your consideration. This report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001 regarding advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and also planned works.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight several aspects of the November 2023 performance: -

- We continue to operate Water Services under the original Service Level Agreement as I await an effective date for full transition. I regret to advise you that the original agreement that the Department of Housing would cover the Central Management Charge for 3 years has now apparently been reduced to one year.
- The securing of €800,000 for 2 new fire appliances for our fire service which will be secured in a national fire procurement exercise.
- The progress made in delivering New Playgrounds in Collon & Termonfeckin which are long-standing projects.

November was also the month of Annual Awards and we were delighted to be associated with the Sports Volunteer Awards, the PPN Awards, Louth Looking Good Awards and also the Louth In Bloom Awards.

Equally I again want to acknowledge the success of the Drogheda & District Support 4 Older People in the IPB Pride of Place Awards for 2023.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 30th November 2023
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 30 Mí na Samhna 2023

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Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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, Water Services and Information & Communication Technology

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 ag an gComhairle, thar ceann shaoránaigh Lú.

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Seirbhísí Uisce, agus Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 30th of November 2023 / Caiteachas go dtí 30th Mí na Samhna 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 30/11/2023	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023	% Spent to/ % Caite go 30/11/2023
Housing/Tithíocht	€47,331,136	€57,155,409	83%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€24,076,265	€27,351,782	88%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€6,759,203	€8,619,589	78%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€17,661,677	€23,666,110	75%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€16,949,618	€20,837,206	81%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€7,964,193	€10,361,634	77%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€1,188,970	€1,468,858	81%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€11,770,363	€9,018,942	131%
	€133,701,425	€158,479,531	84%

Income to 30th of November 2023 / Ioncam go 30th Mí na Samhna 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 30/11/23	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 30/11/23
Housing/Tithíocht	€49,978,650	€58,718,513	85%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€11,018,473	€16,635,478	66%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€6,201,628	€8,303,355	75%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€10,529,262	€14,403,330	73%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€2,001,943	€2,295,719	87%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€1,064,562	€1,208,037	88%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€456,538	€543,472	84%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€10,827,623	€11,296,768	96%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,467,793	€34,708,660	99%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€9,866,199	€9,866,198	100%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair	€0	€500,000	0%
	€136,412,671	€158,479,531	86%

The above is the current position as of the 30th of November 2023. 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 2023 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 30th of November 2023 are as follows:

Debtors as of 30th of November 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 30th Mí na Samhna 2023

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€7,546,239	€103,855,024	(€90,209,156)	€50	€21,192,157
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Local Áitiúla Eile	€56,584	€1,073,852	(€918,432)	(€6,577)	€205,427
Rates/Rataí	€7,561,465	€34,467,793	(€31,887,792)	(€2,788,724)	€7,352,742
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,621,885	€13,787,359	(€13,363,385)	(€13,810)	€3,032,049
Loans/Iasachtal	€295,384	€1,861,745	(€1,866,384)	(€0)	€290,745
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€9,358,508	(€4,051,954)	(€2,769,608)	€13,480,451
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€717,575	€456,817	(€320,061)	(€47,355)	€806,976
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáitheach	€1,804,894	€11,556,453	(€10,491,569)	(€112,370)	€2,757,408
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€31,547,531	€176,417,551	(€153,108,733)	(€5,738,394)	€49,117,955

Above are the debtor balances as of 30th of November 2023. 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.

Water Services

Uisce Éireann

Elected members are reminded to contact Uisce Éireann directly on 0818 178 178 or email localrepsupport@water.ie to log a query or any issue with water supply or quality or wastewater issues. Customers should contact the Uisce Éireann customer care helpline, which is open 24/7, on 1800 278 278 or 1890 378 378 (For hearing impaired customers with minicom equipment) or via Twitter @IWCare or @IrishWater or go to www.water.ie.

Water Quality / Cáilíocht Uisce

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

Water Conservation / Caomhnú Uisce

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy / An Straitéis um Oiriúnú don Athrú Aeráide

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

Capital Programmes/Cláir Chaipitiúla

Uisce Éireann 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 / Cuíchóiriú Bhaile an Tallúnaigh

Detailed Design is being progressed by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers. LCC are liaising with Uisce Éireann and their consultants to progress the

project. The project will include works at Mullacrew Reservoir with proposed new Pumping Stations at Allardstown and Bannons Cross. Planning permissions have been granted for both Bannons Cross PS and Allardstown PS.

Omeath WWTW / Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Ó Méith

The Construction Phase at both the Pumping Station and Wastewater Treatment plant is currently progressing. The associated rising main is substantially complete. The Project is progressing and programmed for completion in Q1, 2024

Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)

Phase 1 of SWELL Project is complete. Uisce Éireann are to consider further surface water separation.

Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation / Athshlánú an Líonra Séaraigh Aitiúil

Works ongoing in the Drogheda Agglomeration.

Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP)/Plean Limistéar Draenála Dhún Dealgan

LCC continue to liaise with Uisce Éireann and their consultants on the Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP). The Project Consultants are progressing the Hydraulic Model for the agglomeration.

Dundalk East Strategy - In advance of completion of Dundalk DAP/ Straitéis Dhún Dealgan Thoir

UÉ Consultants are progressing the design with Uisce Éireann, in consultation with Louth County Council. The project is currently at Detailed Design stage.

Coe's Road Pumping Station / Staisiún Ceadéalacháin Bhóthair Uí Chofaigh

Operational modifications to the Pumping Station were undertaken by EPS. Options for cleaning of

existing large diameter sewer are being progressed within UÉ.

Dundalk LNRP / Clár um Atreisiúchan Líonra Áitiúil Dhún Dealgan

A Strategic Review is underway for Dundalk Wastewater Treatment Plant and Blackrock Wastewater Treatment Plant. LCC staff are assisting Uisce Éireann with this assessment. The Local Network Reinforcement Project (LNRP) will progress following the completion of the Blackrock/Dundalk Strategic Drainage Study.

North Drogheda Wastewater Network Strategy/Straitéis Líonra Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha Thuaidh

Atkins Consulting Engineers are progressing the detailed design of the North Drogheda Strategic Wastewater Network. The planning and procurement process is being progressed, including extensive engagement with developers and landowners' representatives. The Planning Submission for the proposed Pumping Station is being progressed with procurement to follow.

Quay St. / St. Helena Rising Main, Dundalk/Príomhphíobán Aníos Shráid na Cé/Naomh Helena, Dún Dealgan

Construction works are substantially completed along the Inner Relief Road and Quay Street. Mains testing is currently progressing with permanent reinstatement to be undertaken upon completion.

Greenmount WTW Upgrade/Uasghrádú Ionad Cóireála Uisce Dhroim Chatha

Uisce Éireann are progressing the design of proposed Upgrade Works at Greenmount Water Treatment Works. LCC continue to engage with the design team on relevant data gathering and site visits. Planning application to follow.

Drogheda WWTP/Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann are 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. Uisce Éireann continues to work closely with EPS Ltd who operate the plant on behalf of Uisce Éireann. Works have been undertaken within the Wastewater Treatment Plant and at both the East Meath Pumping Station and the Bryanstown Pumping Station. The next phase of the Capital Programme involves works to the anaerobic digesters within the plant and works to manhole covers at various locations within the network.

Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP)/Plean Limistéar Draenála Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann have appointed consultants to undertake the Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP). LCC staff are currently liaising with Uisce Éireann and the project consultants in various aspects of the project. The Catchment Planning Meeting and the Stage 1 Data Collection and Scoping Report were completed in Q1 2023. Design works are currently being progressed.

Cockle Hill PS Upgrade / Uasghrádú Stáisiún Ceadéalacháin Chnoic na Ruachan

The Detailed Design Report and Workshop 4 were completed in January 2023. The project commenced on site in mid-April and works are progressing at present with completion expected Q1, 2024.

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/ Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

UÉ contractors GMC commenced on site in February 2023. Project substantially complete with permanent reinstatement imminent.

South Drogheda Wastewater Network Upgrade/ Uasghrádú ar Líonra Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha Theas

The site investigation for the South Drogheda Wastewater Network has been completed and the draft design is progressing. The design team are continuing to liaise with LA staff.

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Clár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Clár Athshlánúcháin

Uisce Éireann undertook 1 rehabilitation works in November.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 6 find & fix type repairs in November.

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú.

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 2 first fix type repairs in November.

Pressure Management

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook installation 1 PRV in November

Water Scouring Programme 2022 / Clar Sciúrtha Uisce 2022

Louth County Council Crew undertook uni-directional network completed flushing Dublin Road Dromisken area of Dundalk in November.

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

37 essential water tasks were carried out in November.

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 22 new connections, 24 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 16 Planning Applications in November.

Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

The Networks Section prepared 8 Service Maps in November.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/11/2023 and the 30/11/2023 there were 1093 support calls logged in the IT support system. Security and Application Software were the highest category of support requests in November.

E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. In November 38% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

200,147



Blocked Sender

1,798



Blocked at gateway

34,182



Blocked by spam /virus

38,302



Blocked by content rules

622



Potentially harmful emails

37.42%

Louth County Council Website

There were 14,734 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie between the 1st – 30th November. The majority of visitors accessed the website directly, search engines were the next most popular entry point, followed by from other websites and social networks.

Channel Types	
CHANNEL TYPE	▼ VISITS
Direct Entry	67.4% 4,342
+ Search Engines	26% 1,677
+ Websites	4.2% 273
+ Social Networks	2.3% 148

There has been an increase in the number of visitors accessing the website from Social Media Platforms. The Louth County Council Dog Pound now has 2.6K followers and as a result more visitors are being directed to the Dog Pound Section of the website from Facebook. This page had 365 visitors in October increasing to 547 in November.

The majority of visitors access the website do so from a Smartphone, Desktops are the 2nd most used device type.

Device type

TYPE	VISITS
Smartphone	3,449
Desktop	2,818
Phablet	106
Tablet	62

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 4725 views in November, an average of 158 views a day.



Strategic Economic Development Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

Economic Development, including the Local Enterprise Office, and work involving partners and funding outside the state.

Emergency Services – including the Fire Service, and Civil Defence, and the planning and implementation of strategies which help to keep our citizens safe.

Planning, the way in which we organise the built environment in our county.

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil san áireamh, agus obair le comhpháirtithe agus foinsí maoinithe lasmuigh den Stát

Seirbhísí Éigeandála – Seirbhís Dóiteáin, agus Cosaint Shibhialta, san áireamh, agus ag pleanáil agus ag cur i bhfeidhm straitéisí chun chabhrú le muintir Chontae Lú a bheith slán sábháilte

Is é Pleanáil an slí a eagraímid an timpeallacht thógtha i gContae Lú

Eamon Woulfe
A/ Director of Service / Stiúrthóir



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

Two key supports for micro and small businesses in Louth to assist them develop their green and sustainable agenda are the “Green for Micro” and the “Energy Efficiency Grant”. Further details at www.localenterprise.ie/green and www.localenterprise.ie/louth.

Louth Economic Forum

A meeting of the Louth Economic Forum took place on Wednesday 22nd November. DKIT made a presentation on their Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028.

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

A meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC took place on Tuesday 21st November in County Hall, Dundalk. A presentation was given by the Drogheda Night Time Economy Advisor on their progress to date and future plans.

Northeast Business Excellence Awards 2023

The Northeast Business Excellence Awards, hosted by Drogheda Chamber of Commerce, took place on Saturday 25th November and Louth County Council were delighted to sponsor the ‘Best Tourism Business’ Award category. The winner was Droichead Arts Centre and Love Drogheda (BIDS) for the Drawda Mythological Mural Trail.

Christmas Lights

Louth County Council were delighted to once again be one of the key sponsors for Frostival and the Christmas Lights in Dundalk. The Parade of Light took place on Friday 17th November and was very successful.

The Council were also a key sponsor for the Christmas Lights in Drogheda. These were also switched on, on Friday 17th November, and there was a great turnout for the event.

The Council also sponsored the Ardee Christmas Lights which were switched on, on Sunday 3rd December, to great delight.



Frostival Festival of Light 2023

Tourism

Visit Louth

Please keep an eye on www.visitlouth.ie and our social media channels where we will be promoting festivals and other events taking place throughout the county.

Tourism Officer

Interviews were held in November and it is expected that the Tourism Officer will be in place in early 2024.

sea louth

sea louth are engaging with Boyne Valley Flavours as part of their new 5 year ‘Strategy for Food in the Boyne Valley’ which is at consultation stage.

Brigid 1500: Louth Birthplace of Brigid

The program of events for the Brigid 1500: Louth Birthplace of Brigid was launched on 19th October. The program of events can be viewed on <https://www.visitlouth.ie/visitor-info/brigid1500.html>.

As part of the program the Economic Development office have launched the ‘Brigid 1500 Retail Window Decoration Scheme. Full details are available [here](#).

Also launched is the ‘Brigid 1500 Arts and Creativity Community Grant Scheme’ which is open to

individual artists, art groups and community groups who wish to run creative and community projects, or events, for the 'Brigid 1500 – Louth Birthplace of Brigid' Festival in 2024. Full details are available [here](#). The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 8th December, 2023.

Please check [Brigid 1500](#) for updates on upcoming events.



St. Brigid's Cloak

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the Táin Trail region on same.

Urban Animation - Lú Festival of Light, Drogheda

As part of the funding received from Fáilte Ireland for Urban Animation an installation was placed in the Drogheda Tourist Office (The Tholsel). This legacy installation will show highlights of the festival to date and is available to view during the Tourist Office opening hours.



Colette Moss, Louth County Council and Colin Hindle, Fáilte Ireland at the Legacy Installation

Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

The Wayfinding totems, engraved paving stones and bronze stud inlays have now been installed across Drogheda. The Council are in discussions with Fáilte Ireland on a launch event for this tourism investment which displays historical information, maps of easily accessed locations within walking distance.

Funding Opportunities

Night-Time Economy Advisor for Drogheda

Louth County Council is one of nine Local Authorities taking part in the pilot scheme appointing a Night Time Economy Advisor.

The advisor is now in place and engagement with the business and local community has commenced with a view to establishing a steering committee.

Shared Island Funding

A consultant has been appointed to conduct a Feasibility Study to develop the greater Carlingford Lough region incorporating the Cooley Peninsula and Mourne / Gullion Area.

Work is progressing on same. The report is at final stage and will be forwarded to the Department of the Taoiseach shortly.

Boyne Valley Flavours

Samhain Festival

The 5th Samhain Festival of Food & Culture took place in Kells from 2nd to 5th November, with 32 events taking place over the weekend. The festival involved as many producers as possible from across the Boyne Valley. Louth producers featured in events across the weekend included Carlingford Oysters, Dan Kelly Cider, Jumping Church Brewery, King of Kefir, Ballymakenny Farm and Listoke Distillery.

Consultation on the Boyne Valley Food Strategy took place at Slane Castle on Wednesday 29th November. This gave an opportunity for attendees to have an input into the vision for developing a new 5-year Food Strategy for the Boyne Valley.

LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: [Local Enterprise Office - Louth](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth).

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

‘Look for Local’ / ‘Shop Local’

LEO continues to host a Louth ‘shop local’ online directory available at: www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal.

New businesses can be included on the Louth online directory by emailing: lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie.

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 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.

During November, LEO approved one application for Green for Micro.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

Under this programme, LEO has procured three consultants who are engaging with our portfolio clients in 2023.

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.

Business Training



During November, LEO held three training courses delivered to thirty-nine attendees. They included Introduction to Vat, Advanced Facebook, and a Trading Online Voucher workshop.

All scheduled training courses are available to view and book online:

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

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



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

Trading Online training workshops to assist applicants apply continue to be delivered on a regional basis with Cavan and Monaghan LEOs.

Four Trading Online Voucher applications were approved in November.

Business Advice Clinics

Thirty-one 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.

Eleven businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of November.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



LEO Louth offers expert assistance to clients to assist the completion of Microfinance Ireland Loan Applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections.

During November one loan application was submitted to MFI.

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

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. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced from €300 to €150 for businesses.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications with two applications approved in November.

North East Regional Development Plan to 2024

The North East Regional Development Plan working groups that have been set up in respect of four of the five strategic objectives continue to work together.

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Micro Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €5,000. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses.

Eligible Costs include meters (electricity, gas, diesel, oil, water, steam & loggers) and installation costs, smart energy controls e.g., heating, cooling, lighting, automatic on / off systems, parasitic load controls, upgrade lighting to LED (only as part of a package of eligible cost measures) and more. For further information on this grant please visit: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Student Enterprise Programme



Delivery of the Student Enterprise Programme 2023 - 2024 has commenced with seventeen second level schools in the county participating.

North East Creative Conversations

Sarah Mallon represented LEO Louth at the North East Creative Conversations closing event held in Creative Spark on 13th November. North East Creative Conversations is a design sector cluster development programme, funded through Creative Ireland in partnership with Monaghan, Cavan and

Louth Local Enterprise Offices, Creative Spark, and Dundalk Institute of Technology.



North East Creative Conversations closing event

Network Ireland Louth – Women in Business Network

Network Ireland Louth and LEO Louth held a joint event on the evening of 15th November for female entrepreneurs in Louth focusing on supports available from the Local Enterprise Office. Sarah Mallon joined a panel of mentors and LEO clients who have availed of LEO supports to highlight the services that LEO Louth offers to businesses.

Northeast Business Excellence Awards 2023

Sarah Mallon represented LEO Louth at the Northeast Business Excellence Awards hosted by Drogheda Chamber of Commerce in City North Hotel on 25th November. LEO Louth sponsored the 'Best Emerging Business' Award which was won by ENSO Initiatives Limited, a former client business of LEO Louth.



Sarah Mallon, LEO Louth and Donal Quinn, ENSO Initiatives Limited

European Relations



PEACEPLUS

The PEACE team continues to work with our consultants, Blu Zebra, on developing concepts and feedback from public consultation and the co-design process for the PEACEPLUS Action Plan for submission.

Correspondence was received from the Special EU Programmes Body adding a new date for submission of PEACEPLUS Action Plans of 28th March, 2024. The date of the next PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting is yet to be finalised.

PEACE IV

There was a wreath laying ceremony and event held at the PEACE IV Shared Space, the Dundalk War Memorial. This demonstrates continued and sustained use of the site as a Shared Space and reflects the value of the site for the town and communities.



Wreath Laying Ceremony at the PEACE IV War Memorial in Dundalk

Please keep an eye on our website, via <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peaceplus/> and on <https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>.

Contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

Heritage

The Heritage and Biodiversity Officers jointly met a representative of Cooley sheep farmers to discuss ideas for enhancing the management of the Carlingford Mountain Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

Various projects carried out in the Cooley Mountains over the last few years were picked as the subject for the Louth chapter of a forthcoming Heritage Council report on the long-term difference made by the work of the Heritage Officers.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The National Standards Authority of Ireland carried out an ISO 45001 Stage 1 audit of Louth Fire Service on 22nd November 2023. This assessed the Fire Service's policies and procedures for compliance with ISO 45001, which is a Health and Safety Management standard. The audit was successful and there were no findings against the Council. A more detailed Stage 2 Audit will be carried out over a three-day period in late March 2024.

The recruitment of new retained fire fighters is continuing. New recruits for Carlingford, Dunleer, Dundalk and Drogheda Fire Brigades have been completing recruits and breathing apparatus course during November. A further 11 recruits are scheduled for station tests on 4th December. Louth Fire Service will be running its own recruit's course in January 2024.

The Fire Service Training Programme continued during November. Courses deferred during the strikes were rearranged. The following training courses were delivered during November:

- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Courses
- Instructing on national Effective Decision-Making and Module 2 Officers courses

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved two new fire tenders for Louth at a cost of approximately €800,000. These will be procured centrally, and the Fire Service in Louth will be contacted about this in the new year.

The Fire Prevention Section has continued with its annual inspection plan and responds to requests for inspections from other Sections, including Ukrainian properties.

Major Emergency Management

There was severe flooding in Dundalk and the Cooley Peninsula at the start of November. The Operations Section and the Fire Service responded to flooding sites and pumped out properties. The Fire Service attended the floods in Dundalk and assisted residents and assisted the Meals on Wheels service.

The regional Major Emergency Working Group meeting took place in Virginia, Co. Cavan on 7th November, chaired by Louth County Council. This included updates on a regional major emergency exercise on 5th December.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. These are being discussed and options include a geothermal heat pump, photovoltaic panels, and rainwater harvesting. Work on the Climate Action Plan is continuing, to include Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Civil Defence

Louth Civil Defence, in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service (NAS), formed a Community First Response (CFR) group which responds to life threatening emergencies within County Louth. Since its formation in November 2022, over 50 emergency call outs have been responded to in the county. The group comprises Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who are all volunteer with Louth Civil Defence.

The following training was provided during November:

- Weekly Training
- Emergency First Responder (EFR) Recertification
- EFR Full Course

- Manual Handling

One volunteer completed a First Aid Responder (FAR) Instructor course.

The following duties were attended:

- Cyclocross, Jenkinstown, for five days
- Frostival, Dundalk. (One patient transported to hospital by Civil Defence ambulance)
- Annagassan 10K run
- Christmas Market, Dundalk

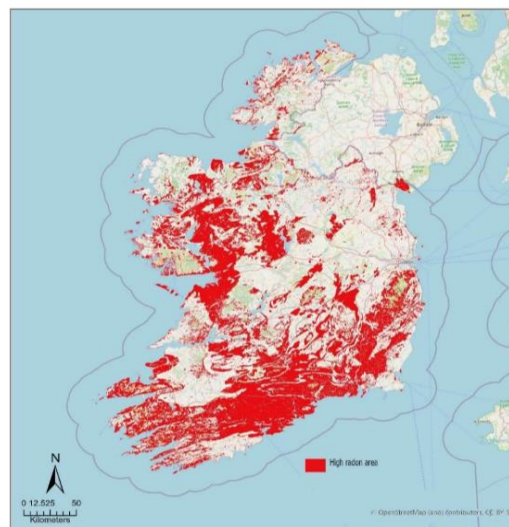
Seven volunteers attended the two-day national Civil Defence Officers Association Training Seminar in Cavan.

Building Control

Building Regulation Technical Guidance Document C, which covers the health risk from radon gas, has been amended. This standard now includes a much more accurate radon map, as shown.

From 1st October 2023, all new dwellings and extensions must include the required radon protection measures. This may include radon blankets and sumps under the floor. Existing dwelling owners can check the radon levels from their Eircodes and may need to follow this up with full radon test for the property.

Map 1 - EPA Radon risk map for use with Technical Guidance Document C



Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?eastng=?&northing=?&id=EPA.RadonMapForUseWithTechnicalGuidanceDocumentC>

EPA Radon Risk Map

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of October 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 74 planning applications received during the month of October of which 65 were valid. In addition, there were 35 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 19 Pre-Planning Requests 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) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) 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	9	13	56	1	79
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	5	4	20	0	29
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	11.11% (1)	46.15% (6)	12.50% (7)	100% (1)	18.99% (15)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	0	1	2	0	3
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development / Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt nár údaraíodh

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Enforcement complaints regarding unauthorised developments received 1st – 31st October 2023.

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 2023 / Deireadh Fómhair 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	October 2022 / Deireadh Fómhair 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	21	247	19	224
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not 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	3	219	22	238
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	25	192	19	191
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	2	11	7	19
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	5	9	1	5
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

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 2023 / Samhain 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	0	6
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	0	7
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	20	23
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	1
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	6
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

Placemaking and Physical Development

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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:

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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:

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
	Old Newry Rd
	Wolfe Tone Tce
	Fairgreen Rd
	Northgate St
	Market St
	The Square Shrub Borders
	Old Coes Rd
	Rock Rd
	Point Rd
	Ecco Rd
	Castletown Rd
	John St
	Philip St
	Riverside Crescent
	Laurels
	Ramparts
	Armagh Rd
	Moorland /Lennon Melia Crescent
	Inner Relief Rd at Bothar Na Feirme
	Riverside Walk
	Racecourse Rd
	Centenary Rd

	Dublin Rd Mourne View Walkway Ardee Rd Carrick Rd Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk Castleross hedgerow Ashling Pk Estate River Grids Bottle Banks at Long Walk Harp Car Park Meadow Grove Barrack St Gateway at Hoeys Lane cleared every day and area litter picked The rubbish was collected from Tallanstown and Louth Village
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht Nightly By Contractor 200 Bins Solar Bins emptied All Tubs replanted Flower Tiers replanted with winter plants
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain Contract Sweeper as per contract nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract Road sweeper concentrating on leaf drops during autumn season Dublin Road at Hospital pathway. Fr Murray Park

	Oriel Terrace St Helena's Road Ardee Road Carrick Road Footpaths
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain 200 Litter Bins throughout the town by contractor nightly as part of the street bin collections
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Ring Buoys checked Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk Some ropes replaced this month. The lifebuoys were checked by outdoor staff in Cooley region.
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker Repairs carried out to playground surface Car Parking area cleaned in Muirhevnamor Green Flag awarded for St Helenas and Ice House Hill again for 2023/2024 Dundalk Retained its Gold Medal in the Tidy Towns Awards The playgrounds were checked by outdoor staff in Cooley region.

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> The patching crew were patching on RD197 Arthurstown – Charlestown. Tar patching carried out on RD192 Drumleck and on RD151 Lannat – Monaghan Border. The tar patching crew finished patching RD151 and the also patched on RD181 Cuillenstown and on RD178 Newtowndarver – Babeswood. Tar patching ongoing on RD180 Darver and RD226 Drumcar. <u>Dundalk</u> Tar Patching using the Pro Works since November 23, 2023. Areas repaired include Seafield Lawns and Ashbrook on going.
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<u>Cooley</u> The patching crew were sweeping and cleaning around gullies at various locations in the area following heavy rain. The drainage crew were putting out 804 on RD205 to remove a bad dip in the road where it had sunk. They were also opening outlets on the Knockbridge – Louth Village Road and on the Grange Road. The drainage crew were cleaning back drains on RD201 Reaghstown – Mills of Louth and opening outlets at RD151 Lannet. The jetter was brought in and began to clean gullies. The drainage crew were opening outlets on RD176 Bannons Cross

	– Corderry and on RD175 Mills of Louth- Mullacrew. A start was made on opening outlets at RD177 Killcrouney – N52. <u>Dundalk</u> None currently	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<u>Cooley</u> Dealt with the aftermath of Storm Debi which included dealing with fallen trees and clearing debris from various roads. There were trees down at Reaghstown – Springhill, Mills of Louth – N2, Tallanstown – Ardee, Tallanstown – Duffy’s Cross, Mullacrew and Dromiskin. <u>Dundalk</u> 7 trees fell in Dundalk during the last Storm. Two in Ice House Hill, others in estates, on the by Pass and at the top of Ardee/ Knockbridge Road. Branches fell at Dublin Road outside the property opposite Niall Clarkes Oil. Grass cutting Biodiversity areas	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<u>Cooley</u> <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	On Going Repairs. Bulb Replacement- Electrician called to Castletown Traffic lights at Ecco Rd and lights out at Quay St, Electrical Fault	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<u>Cooley</u> <u>Dundalk</u> Replaced Bollards on Newry Road	

	Replaced damaged Cycle Lane markers in town Replaced numerous faded signage in areas around town Strimmed and Trimmed branches from Signage on Approach Roads	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<u>Cooley</u> <u>Dundalk</u> Dundalk all the usual areas. Dumping of Sofas and Mattresses in areas continued Inner Relief Road and Woodview again this month. Entrance to Woodview Estate- Black bags being dumped weekly. Moorland Road- Fly Tipping Inner Relief Rd Racecourse road- removed 3 tons of Timber flooring and mattresses. Old Coes Rd Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly Hoey's Lane- 3 lorry loads of household furniture dumped and this was lifted.	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Cleaned Graffiti off Road Signs. Graffiti cleaned from Bins in town centre.	



Drainage works in Muirhevnamor

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí N/A
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht • Blackrock – 6 days/week • Knockbridge – once a week • Dromiskin – once a week • Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain N/A
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain N/A

Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
	• Blackrock (7No.) checked weekly • Annagassan (11No.) checked weekly
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
	• Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly • Blackrock – checked weekly

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Tar patching on LP-3161 Rock Road Blackrock LP-3136 Carrickrobin Hackballscross LT-31252 Clonaleenaghan Hackballscross LS-7126 Cortial Kilkerley LS-7127 Kilkerley Road Kilkerley LP-3122 Balrobin Kilkerley LT-31251 Barronstown Hackballscross LP-7160 Sandylane Blackrock RD187 Drumeenagh and on RD170 Allardstown – Walterstown Cross RD170 and also patched RD175 Mullacrew RD174 Thomastown N/A N/A	Road repairs and patching & cleaning up Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	LS-7114 Killin Bridge a Crinn, LS-7105 Dungooly Kilcurry. RD217 Maine – Annagassan and on RD172 Mills of Louth – Louth Village. RD206 Crowmartin and on the R166 Castlebellingham – Annagassan road.	Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.

Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha		Clearing fallen trees & debris.
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán		Footpath renewal
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	Xerox junction	Major repair works completed
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A N/A	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Louth Village and in Annagassan	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage installed
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, LS-7100 Whitemill Faughart, LS-7114 Killen Blackrock, Tallanstown	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



New road markings in Castlebellingham

Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht 37 Daily 20 Tuesday and Thursday 3 Tuesday and Thursday
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain N/A
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Ardee Town River Dee Salterstown Port Beach

**Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Number of sites checked daily /
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
Corpacmhainne**

Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at both locations.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	LS-5267 Funshog LS-5268 Belpatrick LP-2225 Ballynagassan LP-2223-30 Verdonstown LP-2223-0 Johnstown LT-12972 Everetts Lane LP-1233-7 Hilly Road Ardee LS-6237 Church lane Dromin LP-2290 Brannagans Cross LS 6237-0 Dromin LP-1297-0 Kells Road Collon LS 2255-0 Mullacurry	RWP 2023 RWP 2023
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	R170-104 Barn Road Dunleer R 170-37 Ravel R170-66 Dromin R166-234 Martinstown Cross LT 12972-0 Everetts Lane LS 6269-0 Knockaleva R169-0 Woodlands N2 Mullameenan LS 6224-0 Castlelane LT 52597-0 Oberstown LS 5262-16 Rathlust LP-2223-0 Johnstown R170 at the Ravel Ballnagasson Estate gullies LS 2255-0 Mullacurry	

Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	LP-2215-0 Mansfieldtown LP 1297-0 Leaby Cross LS-5262-16 Analog to Ballapousta L-5266-0 Ballapousta to White Mountain R165 with L-1260-0 Shanlis cross	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	John Street Ardee	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Maintenance on signage on Regional roads in Ardee Rural	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Roadworks at Monasterboice



Roadworks at Nursery Cross, Collon



Roadworks at Funshog- Before & After

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair

Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí

- Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when recourses allow and green areas.
- Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.
- Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also, all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m.
- Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week.
- Preparation Lu Lighting Festival – clean route and pedestrian barriers.
- Removal of Bonfire material at St Laurence Pk, Moneymore, Skelly's Lane, Brookville, Ballsgrove, Rathmullen, St Finian's Pk, Beechwood Drive and The Glen.

- Particular attentions to litter picking Mell Riverwalk and St Dominic's Pk.

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
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Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead
 Clogherhead Beach
 Port Beach
 Termonfeckin
 Baltray
 Seapoint Carpark

7 Daily
 8 Daily
 6 Daily
 6 Daily
 3 Daily
 3 Daily

- Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.
- 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.
- Dominic's Park & Mell River walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's 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.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.
- Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing + street furniture.
- Up-grade of litter bins at Shop St (outside Church), High Lane steps, Crosslanes (opposite HSE carpark), Scarlet St (opposite Hanratty's Pub)

- Up-grade of litter bins at Rathmullen Rd (outside St Olivers School), Marleys Lane (outside ESB sub-station), Platin Rd (entrance to Elmwood) and Barrack Hill.

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre

Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain

- Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow.
- Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.
- Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.
- Drogheda town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).
- Particular attention on road sweeping to North Strand, Boyne Rd, Dublin Rd, Ballymakenny Rd, Chord Rd, Greenhills, Cement Rd, North Rd, Platin Rd, Marys St and Rathmullen Rd.
- Cleaning of Steams at The Glen and Greenhills.
- Replacement of Storm Water manhole on Green area at Ballymakenny road.
- Graffiti removal from litter bins – town centre.

Painting of railings at St Dominic's St.	
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	R132 Tullyeskar LS-6270-17 Tinure LS-6286 Maidens cross to Harestown LS-6293 Red Gap Tower Road LP-2310 Ballymakenny LS-6270-0 Castlolumney LS-6323-0 Rosehall	RWP Kilsaran RWP Kilsaran

Drainage Works

Road Gully repairs planned at Crosslanes – Underground service survey to commence week 6th November, Gully up-grade commenced week 20/11/23 – replacement of 7 no. gullies and restatement of road surface – due for completion 1/12/23.

LCC's crew

- Preparation for Christmas Light switch on – pedestrian barriers / bollards.
- Footpath repairs at Wheaton Hall, Castlewood and Stameen.
- Pothole repairs at Dublin Rd, IDA Rd, Knockbrack Downs, Fair St, Chord Rd, Yellowbatter & Ballymakenny.
- Storm water manhole at Ballsgrove housing estate – reinstated due to cover collapse.
- Placing of barriers in front of dangerous wall at Broadmeadows / Brookeville.
- Placing of pedestrian carrier at Martello Village – monitor road surface cracking after recent storms.

Road Works Program – Resurfacing works at

- Up-grade of New Road Gullys and reinstatement of existing gullies

	Crosslanes, due for completion 01/12/2023. - All roads on RWP 2023 list now complete. CIS Lanes: - Stumpa & Burren 100% complete. Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2023 – on going dropped kerbs & tactile paving at, (60%) - Cement Rd - Dublin Rd - Priests Lane - Marian Pk.	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	LP-2307 Newtownstalaban Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing Gully cleaning contractor Drogheda Town appointed and due to commence on 29/11/23.	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	LS-2956 Togher Road LP- 2240-0 Togher Crossroads N51 Old Slane Road LS-6322-0 Hill of Rath to M1 N51 at Townley hall - Cleared R170 Walshestown Railway Bridge R166 Reynoldstown on Togher Road LS-6317-0 Sheepgrange to N51 LP-2318-0 Ardagh LS-6274-0 Gallstown Road R168 Nursery Cross	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Footpath repairs at Wheaton Hall, Castlewood and Stameen.	

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	• Green lamp out at bull ring/Mary's bridge at the end of shop street. (fault not on RMS) • Platin Road/Beamore road (vehicle presence fail detector) • DR08, Donore Rd - Marleys Lane (R132 I) Red man lamp fail, and possible PBU fault no sound when green man is in operation • RMS PC fault (unable to start RMS system) • DR29 Platin Rd/Beamore Rd Drogheda -vehicle presence fail detector • DR04, R132 @ Bull Ring/North Quay/South Quay Jct (R132D) – • Green lamp out at bull ring/Marys bridge at the end of shop street • DR12 Marsh Rd - Scotch Hall Jct – Green lamp fail on the Marsh Road at Scotch Hall delivery area	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	• Up-grade of road markings at Crosslanes on completion of drainage works.	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Up-grade of Signage and Poles on-going town centre – Magdalene St, Hardman Gardens, Bothar Brugha, Dyer St, Stockwell Lane, Fr Connolly Way, West St, Francis St, Marley Court, St Dominic's Pk, Shop St, Scarlet St & Mayoralty St. LP-2310 Ballymakenny New bend ahead signs and chevron signs	

Weed killing / Marú fiailí	N/A	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	Illegal signage Illegal dumping at Calvary Cemetery A new case has been created: Case 358169: EPA pollution report 25 10 2023 02:09 PM Early morning inspections Southside location Rathmullen Marleys Lane Old Hill Bottle Banks IDA road clean at Bottle banks Ballsgrove house St Dominics Park Rose Vale Estate, Drogheda North Side Inspected daily. Mell car park Bessexwell Lane	Action taken FPN issued. Liaised with Complainant Area checked and complaint passed to Meath Co Co Dumping removed no evidence. Dumping removed no evidence. Issues surrounding servicing resolved through warden service liaising with parish. Dumping removed no evidence. Dumping at property matter referred to housing office. Dumping FPN to issue Autumn leaves etc. referred to operations for cleaning.

	Batchelor's Lane- King Street Car Park Bolton Square O' Reillys Car Park	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Low cost safety works at Scarlet Street



Drainage works at Newtownstalaban



Low cost safety works at Scarlet Street (2)



Roadworks at Tinure- Before & After

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been received from 2 number tenderers. These tenders will be assessed from compliance and quality submissions.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services has been procured and they are liaising with the agents of landowners. A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service.

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

Bord Pleanála has made a confirmation order on the 1st August, 2023 confirming with minor modifications the above-named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedules thereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Louth County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily and temporarily. The CPO became operative on the 20th of Sept. The latest date for judicial review was the 25th October. Approval has been sought from TII to issue a 'notice to treat' to make the CPO scheme active.

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders. Technical acceptance report has received its initial approval for structures. Tenders have been received from archaeology teams for carrying out test trenching. A consultant has been appointed for geotechnical advice for some soft soils areas and options are currently being developed for these areas. Tenders have been issued for hedge removal and temporary fencing and are due in on the 5th December.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Work on progressing the Phase 3 design of the scheme has stopped, as the €600,000 allocation received for 2023 was to meet current project commitments and was not sufficient to allow the design process to continue. There has been no response to a Monaghan County Council request for an additional €600,000 to complete the Phase 3 design work, which was submitted to TII on the 8th March 2023. The Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council wrote to TII again in June 2023 requesting the re-instatement of funding to continue the design process – no response has been received.

The N2 Project Team can be contacted by landowners and members of the public via the N2 Project Phoneline 087 340 3786, or email: ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie

N52 Ardee Bypass

A local environmental group were granted leave in the High Court for a Judicial Review against An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Boards directions to Louth County Council concerning the preparations of an EIAR and NIS.

The Applicant has confirmed it is not filing any further papers by way of response to the Bord or the State Respondents; this means that the pleadings are "closed" & case is ready for a hearing.

A hearing is set for Tuesday 9th April 2024 and it is scheduled to take 3 days so will continue on Wednesday 10th April and Thursday 11th April. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

Port Access Northern Cross Route Phase1

A Notice to enter was issued by Louth Co. Council to the landowners affected by this phase of the project.

Clonmel Enterprises, employed by HISCO, are working on the section of road from the R132 to Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane.

Kerbing, cycle path and footpath work are substantially complete on the mainline. Surface, binder, and base layers have been laid on the new route between Twenties Lane and North Road R132.

Realignment of the Twenties Lane is well advanced in partnership with CFS Homes, and tie-in is being created by Clonmel Enterprises. The first phase of realignment is open to traffic. The remainder of the road is being realigned by Clonmel Enterprises. It is envisaged that the road will be handed over to the Council in Q1 2024.



R132 Roundabout



Ballymakenny Roundabout

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

The contractor commenced work on the LCC owned lands section on 24th April 2023 with a proposed programme of 16 No. weeks to

complete. Road formation completed, drainage and services completed. ESB have now completed diversion works so Contractor is to return to site to finish phase 1 in early Dec 2023.

Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners, a valuation process has started. Other mechanisms for acquiring the lands are also being explored.



Junction

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

The Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for DoT to progress two of the schemes, namely D7 & D6 towards feasibility stage has been completed and the final Report has been submitted to the Council forwarded to the Dept. of Transport for approval.

Tender documentation to engage a consultant to carry out a constraints study, feasibility study and options reports will be released to the market in Dec.

Greenways

Carlingford Lough Greenway - Omeath to Newry

(Joint project with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region)

Section 1 - Carlingford to Carlingford Marina

Site clearance, drainage and footpath construction continues in Carlingford from the Pier towards the Marina.



Works in Section 1 Carlingford

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Works are progressing well with the site clearance complete; subbase placement and mainline drainage in Section 2. Spreader onsite to commence laying of base and final surface.

Permanent fencing installation is approximately 70% complete. Seawall repairs are complete.



Seawall repairs through Omra Park

The culvert installation was completed following approval from Loughs Agency.



Culvert installation on Lower Shore Road

Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the CPO land parcels. The Council has appointed a land valuer for the land acquisition in Section 2.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

A revised major planning application was submitted in Feb 2023 and granted in March. The minor planning application for the route change was submitted in April 2023 and received its planning on the 26th of Oct. 23. Works have commenced Nov. 2023 in NI to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk.



Cross-border section of CLG installed

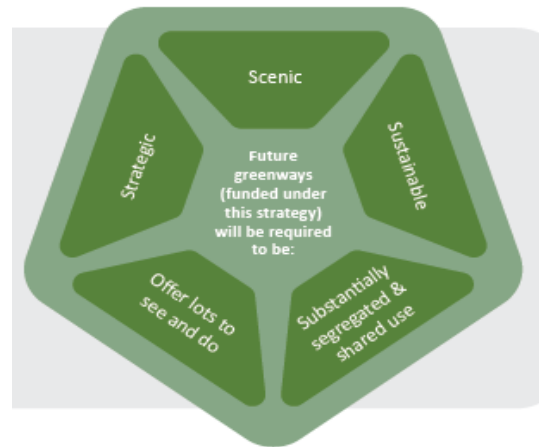
The project partners are continuing to meet monthly to review and assess the various aspects of the project.

TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

Draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) has been approved by TII. Mapping, flooding information and other relevant databases have been shared with the appointed consultant to enable the constraints to be recorded.

Phase 1 public consultation will take place on Thursday the 7th December at Carlingford Heritage Centre. The aim of this public consultation is to receive feedback on the Project Study Area, the constraints identified and any other features/opportunities within the study area that the Project Team should consider. The feedback and submissions received through this public consultation will be considered by the Project Team and will help to inform the development of the project.



Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (DTTAS, July 2018)

The delivery of this scheme going forward will be under the TII Project Management Guidelines.

The Total Performance Period for the Contract is 40 months (Phase 1 – 6mths, Phase 2 – 8mths, Phase 3 – 20mths, Phase 4 – 6 mths).

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Beach Accessibility Project relates to better accessibility to the beach areas at Templetown, Clogherhead and Port beaches.

Applications under the ORIS Fund are being made for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Following discussion with the developer and the Department of Housing this scheme is now being progressed by the developer, assisted by offset of development levies under agreement with the Council. Main carriageway works are nearing completion. Works are ongoing on the Marsh Road.



Overall layout of the Road, image from of Google Maps.

LIHAF Project

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are continuing this scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Roadwork is complete on the Castletown Road in preparation for a pedestrian crossing now ready for ESB connection. A substantial upgrade of IW watermain is currently taking place.

A road closure is in place from Monday the 17th April last. Changes to traffic management have taken place from the 27th of November with access to more houses to the south via a newly realigned section of road with cycle lanes and footpaths. This plan will be in place until February when road works will continue north. Facilities are in place for access to all properties and housing development schemes.



Culvert adjacent to Roundabout and council housing.



Realigned approach to roundabout and 93 social housing units on the right

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Encapsulation completed with up and over scaffolding, with encapsulation over. Main Steel Members flogging ongoing prior to commencement of shot blasting. Pointing of stonework completed on North side of bridge on inside of walls. Specialist Contractors onsite removing vegetation off stonework on outside of bridge. Road Closure with traffic diversions has been implemented and is being maintained on a daily basis.



Obelisk Bridge Steel Support Beams after "flogging" by specialist contractors



Drone footage of Bridge Encapsulation

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Ceiling and Wall lining systems commenced. Cupola installed, awaiting external cladding and louvre installation by Specialist Contractors. AOV installed and roofers closing out unfinished slating. Pointing of unfinished areas ongoing. AV First Fix completed for Council Chamber



Block B Cupola installation



Block B Fit out

Block N: New Link Building

Window trimming installation ongoing. External render second coat application ongoing. Several Rooms plastered and screed poured to several rooms. Mechanical and Electrical fit out continuing.

Secondary Steel on West elevation abutting Francis Johnson Building ongoing. Mineral Paint Coat applied to stonework. Opening to Francis Johnson Building commenced. Roof works for Sedum Roof buildup ongoing.



Block N: Mechanical Plant installation



Block N New Link Building : Fit out



Block N New Link Building : Plastered Meeting Room 1

Block C: Community Services Building

Internal Fit out ongoing. Ceiling insulation completed. Mechanical and Electrical fit out continuing. Painting continuing. Roof Ventilation installed on ridge and slating around continuing. Brick dismantling East Elevation for reuse on West Elevation ongoing. South Area Planters excavation works commenced with monitoring of works by ACSU Archaeologists. Medieval Well, drains and assortment of broken pottery unearthed. Block C Lift Hallway Floors pre screed pour, all now completed



Block C Central Room with truss painting and ceiling insulation installation.

Block E: Annex Building

Parapet conservation works nearing completion.



Block E Annex Building : Parapet Conservation Works



Block C (South Side) -Archaeological Dig -Medieval Well, 19th Century Drain and assortment of broken Pottery located

Dunleer Fire Station

Consultants appointed, designer currently working on preliminary proposals and options on site layouts continue. Site surveys completed. Final purchase of the lands process is on-going.

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation to be submitted in Dec.

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The draft Hydraulic report has been reviewed by the OPW / LCC; the JV are currently completing the wave overtopping assessment with the final report due in the New Year. Preliminary options assessment for an extensive range of possible Flood Relief Measures continues to be developed and assessed. There is a Formal Emerging Options Workshop scheduled for early January 2024. The proposed locations for ground investigation works have been finalised along with accompanying environmental and archaeological assessments. Tendering will be carried out in the New Year. Additional seasonal environmental surveys, e.g. wintering bird's surveys are being carried out. The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by LCC and OPW. Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. Hydraulic analysis continues with the Core design runs, sensitivity and blockage assessment runs now

complete and being assessed. RPS have completed the draft hydraulics report and the Council and OPW are currently reviewing, and queries are being resolved. Additional topographical surveying has been carried out and the hydraulic model updated accordingly. Options assessment has begun and will continue over the next few months. The preliminary Ground Investigation report is due in the coming weeks, which will help inform the options development phase of the project.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

OPW and the Council have commenced information gathering including ICWWS, latest LiDAR, River survey, Topo (including thresholds), CCTV, Beach profiles, Bathymetry, etc. Procurement of CCTV and Topo Contractors to complete the information required to begin in first quarter 2024. A data collection exercise has been carried out to collate data from the recent flood event. This data will be used to inform the project and calibrate hydraulic modelling.

Marine Projects

Coastal Protection Works – Drummullagh (Omeath), Bellurgan and Ballynamoney/Ballagan.

The appointed ecologist continues to prepare the Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statements required for planning permission under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act. The ecological work has been completed with queries being resolved by ecologist.

The Council are in the process of preparing the draft Section 177AE Applications (NIS) for each of the three locations, with the aim of submitting the applications to An Bord Pleanála in December 2023.

Following on from the NIS submission the Council have a meeting in January with the Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to discuss the application for the foreshore permission for proposed coastal protection works.

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE consent and foreshore consent, it is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1 2024, with construction works anticipated to commence in Q2 2024.

Schools Programme Projects

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

Site acquired. Department of Education have submitted a planning application. Further information is due to be submitted by the applicant.

Ardee E.T.N.S.

A contractor has been appointed and work commenced on the 10th July with mobilisation and site clearance. Drainage, foundations, and ground works are ongoing.



Access Road Construction



Site Clearance for the school site on the left

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

As constructed drawings of the completed emergency lighting has been issued by the PSDP. The contractor is due to resolve a roof leak issue.

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council have appointed Weev to install and operate 25 rapid electric vehicle chargers at locations across the border region in the Republic of Ireland.

SITE BUILD STATUS

Site 13	TOBERCURRY; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 14	NAVAN; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 7	VIRGINIA; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 4	CARRICKMACROSS; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 9	BUNCRANA; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection

Site 8	BALLYBOFEY; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 3	DUNDALK; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 1	ARDEE; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 2	DROGHEDA All works complete, awaiting ESB connection



Works completed Ardee Car-park .



Works completed Dundalk (Tennis Club)

The full list and maps across all regions can be view on the project website by clicking on the below link:

<https://www.fasterevcharge.com/provisional-locations-for-faster-project-charging-stations-revealed/> .

Information is available at the following outlets:

Channel	URL
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge
Twitter	https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge

Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/fasterevcharge/
Linkedin	https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project
TikTok	https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterevcharge
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxddlpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ

Civil works are all complete and chargers installed, awaiting connecting for all sites by the ESB.

Active Travel Investment Program

2023 Budget Allocation

On the 1st February 2023 The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €5.3 million. This budget is to proceed with the design, planning and detailed design of twenty-four (24) number Active Travel Projects.

The Active Travel Projects funded are for promoting Walking and Cycling Infrastructure and development of transport studies for Drogheda and Dundalk.

The status of the ongoing Active Travel projects is as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows;

Band 1	€0 - €0.5M;
Band 2	€0.5 - €10M;
Band 3	> €10M;

They also divide the evolvement of a Capital Investment project into a seven-phase process, i.e. (Phase 1 to Phase 7 inclusive) with seven Gateways Reports i.e. hold points, were local authorities are to prepare and

submit Gateway Reports for sign-off before obtaining approval to advance to the next phase.

The seven different phases are as outlined below...

- PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose
- PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection
- PHASE 3: Preliminary Design
- PHASE 4: Statutory Processes
- PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement
- PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation
- PHASE 7: Close-out and Review

The status of the ongoing Active Travel projects is as outlined in the table below.

During the months of October and November 2023, the Active Travel Team undertook engagement with several key stakeholders and resident groups i.e., Non-statutory Public Consultation and received very positive feedback on our proposals. These discussions were very beneficial, and all comments will be used to inform the preliminary and preparation of Part 8 documents.

Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€415,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023. The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants quickly moved into Phase 3 Preliminary Design. A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates... 12th September 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councilors 27th September 2023 – Design Team met with several key stakeholders in person. 11th October 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 9th Oct to 20th October 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions. The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process above and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report. A Gateway 3 Report is scheduled to be completed by early December 2023. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route. Drogheda Bridge of Peace to MacBride Railway Station – Active Travel Project Phase 2 – Non-statutory Public Consultation 	Proposed Part 8 display end of Q1 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Consultants RPS Group has commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed.	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in early 2024 in advance of public consultations. Date of on-line Briefing to be confirmed.	
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Gateway 2 Report completed in November 2023 and submitted to the NTA for approval. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31st August 2023 and a Public Consultation Day was held in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14th September 2023. The consultation period expired on Friday 22nd September 2023 and the Design Team are currently reviewing all submissions.  <u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u>  <u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u>	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	LCC received Gateway 2 Report from Design Consultants at start of October and report was submitted to the NTA on 27th October 2023. The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants, have commenced to assess some elements in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates... 19th June 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councillors 31st August 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person. 14th September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 11th Sept to 22nd September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.  <u>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</u>	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€200,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	For the North Road, Drogheda, a Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates... 19th June 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councillors 31st August 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person.	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				14th September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 11th Sept to 22nd September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report. It is hoped to have a joint briefing with Drogheda MD members and Bettystown Laytown MD members early in 2024, subject to Meath Co. Co. to give members an update on options from MacBride Train Station to Southgate Roundabout in County Meath.  <u>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</u>	
Drogheda: Boyne Bus. Park Link Road.	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Please refer to relevant update in this report.	Part 8 Completed
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€550,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 Report was approved by the NTA in May 2023. Junction traffic modelling completed in July 2023. Gateway 3 Report (Preliminary Design Report) was submitted to the NTA in early August 2023 and we are currently awaiting approval from the NTA. A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates... 26th July 2023 – Online Briefing given to Dundalk MD Councillors 3rd August 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person.	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				21st September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Dundalk Library 19th Sept to 29th September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process.  <u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout</u>	
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€464,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19th June 2023. Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 4th October 2023. A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates... 26th October 2023 – Public Consultation Day to be held in Dundalk Town Hall 23rd October to 3rd November 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions	Proposed Part 8 display end Q1 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u>	
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€400,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29th June 2023. Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 "Statutory Process". DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package. In October 2023 we held a number of meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route. The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process. The Active Travel Team met five key residents' groups on the 4th & 5th Oct 2023, to discuss key areas of contention i.e. parking etc, in order to amend some proposals in advance of Part 8 publication.  <u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u>	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€250,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synthesised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed "Proposed Active Travel Links" as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps. Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) After a procurement competition, consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27th July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with the consultants gathering baseline information. Baseline Report completed and we are now assessing Forecast Transport Demand. This ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA at end of November 2023.	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA at end of November 2023.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. The Active Travel are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	2024
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee	N/A
Termonfeckin Active Travel elements	€165,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Procurement	Project was issued to tender in March 2023. Tenders returned and successful contractor appointed.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda	€600,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above. Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed. Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	November 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda				Traffic, Drone & Topographical Surveys to be completed Nov 2023. Joint Gateway 2 & 3 Reports submitted to the NTA at the end of Nov 2023.	

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate Design Audits and reports are almost concluded by Turley Planning, the lead project design consultants, in final preparation of the planning package to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

The overall objective of the Westgate vision project is to be a catalyst for positive regeneration in the Westgate area and the broader town centre. This project aims to recover the streetscape and provide a new transformative gateway in the West End of Drogheda.

The key themes of the project are, creating enhanced public spaces, pedestrian linkages and public realm, ensuring inclusivity for all, improving connectivity and legibility for the community and for visitors/tourists to the town, capitalising and respecting the rich heritage of the town centre location and employing sustainable development principles throughout.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material. The statutory planning information to be presented to An Bord Pleanála and will include the following drawings and documents:

Westgate Drawings

Design Drawings

Site Location Plan (existing and proposed)
Abbey drawings (existing and proposed)
Abbey Gable (existing and proposed)
Riverside Pavilion drawings
Sections drawings
Design Details drawings

Specialist Drawings

Lighting
Drainage Drawings
Roads Engineering Drawings

Westgate EIAR Volumes 1 to 3

Westgate Planning documents

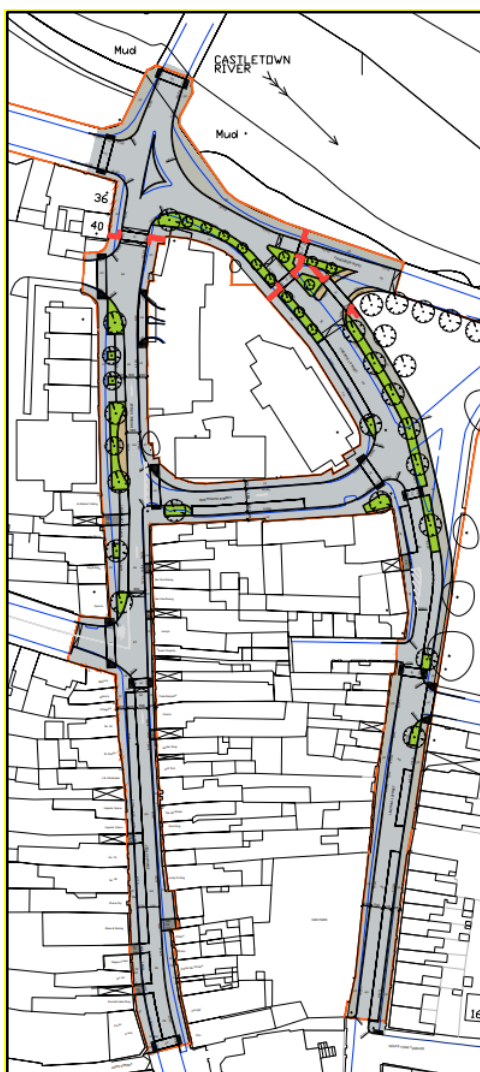
Access and Active Travel Management Strategy
Westgate Natura Impact Statement
Westgate Planning Statement
Preliminary CEMP
Public Lighting Design Reports
Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment
Stage 1 Road Safety Audit
Tree Survey



St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk) Phase 1

BDP Ltd are the Urban Design Team for the first phase of the St. Nicholas Quarter project.

Phase 1 of the project, which received Part 8 approval in April 2018, involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Site investigations to confirm locations of services are due to be completed in the coming weeks. The detailed design stage has been completed and the documents for the tender for a contractor are now being prepared. It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in Q2 2024. A public engagement day was held on Wednesday 29th November in Dundalk Town Hall where residents and stakeholders had a chance to review drawings and information on the delivery of this project. It was a well-attended event with great feedback received on the day.



Phase 2

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project is the design of an acceptable concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. This concept will then be progressed for Part 8 planning with full public consultation. The consultancy services tender has now been finalised and BDP have been appointed as the successful tenderer. A kick-off meeting has been held and stage I of the project has commenced.

URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

On-site inspections and discussions with property owners have been taking place. The assessment of selected properties under the Derelict Sites Act is ongoing. The formal process of acquiring the initial properties under compulsory acquisition will commence in Q4 2023.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

The National Monuments Department has confirmed that they are in approval of most of the proposals, however two items remain to be agreed. Further information in relation to the outstanding items has been provided to National Monuments and a response is awaited.

The tender documentation for the appointment of a works contractor is complete other than confirmation of the additional changes requested by national monuments.

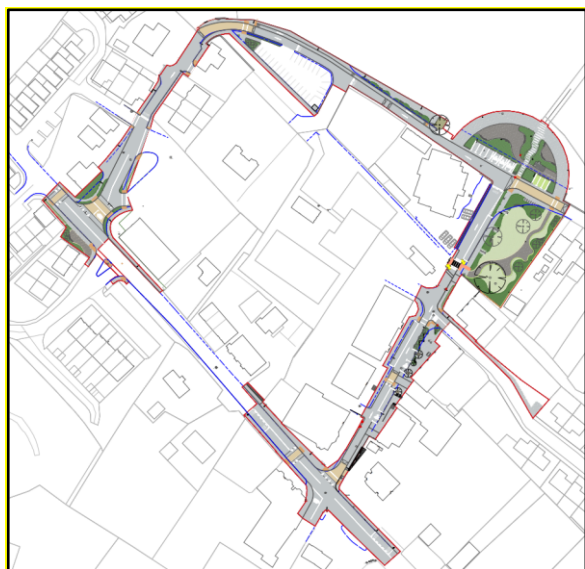
Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8 process at the July Dundalk Municipal District meeting. The Council have met with the RRDF section in the Department and discussed the next steps for the project.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

Glas Civil Engineering have been appointed to deliver this contract. Works commenced on site at the start of October, with the initial focus being on installing all new utility infrastructure to underground overhead ESB cables and drainage. There is ongoing public engagement with local stakeholders to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. The proposed works are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths.



Ardee 2040

The Ardee 2040 design Audits, and reports are almost concluded by Turley Planning, the lead project design consultants, for the finalised planning package to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

The Ardee 2040 project will enhance the streetscape and amenity areas in Ardee with a focus on the key areas of Main Street, the Old Railway Lands and new amenity lands to the east of the town centre.

The objective of Ardee 2040 is to develop projects that support regeneration, compact growth, and sustainable development. The key themes are creating quality gateways, public spaces, recreational areas, sporting areas and public realm in Ardee, improving connectivity and legibility for all members of the community and for visitors/tourists to the town. The project aims to capitalise and respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by providing new and better quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports are necessary and in progress, to be included in the Part 8 process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining (Faite Ireland) - The Green, Carlingford

The new outdoor dining facility is now completed. The new benches were recently installed, and landscaping is completed. The opening event for the project was held on 22nd November and officially opened by Mark

Mohan from Failte Ireland and Joan Martin, Louth County Council Chief Executive.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The Part 8 report for Collon Playground is being completed and will be presented to the members at an upcoming Ardee Municipal meeting. Further to the tender assessment process, the finalising of the appointment of contractors is ongoing.

The Part 8 planning report for Termonfeckin Playground is complete and will be presented to the members at the December Drogheda Municipal meeting.

The water tower at Termonfeckin has been demolished above ground. The water tower foundations and associated pipework will be removed in the coming weeks.

Site analysis in Termonfeckin is underway examining services and existing infrastructure.

Part 8 planning is being prepared for St. Dominic's Park including AA Screening Stage 1 report. It is anticipated that a Part 8 will be published for St. Dominic's Park in Q1 2024

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The public consultation period on the draft Town Centre First Plan has now been completed. The submissions received have been reviewed and where appropriate been incorporated into the Plan. A productive meeting with the local traders was held to provide clarity in relation to some elements of the plan. The Plan was formally adopted by members of the Town Team on the 23rd November thus completing the Plan development process. The Plan will officially be launched in January.



Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

Building Design Partnership (BDP) have been appointed as the urban design consultants for the Town Centre First Plan for Clogherhead.

Discussions have taken place with local representatives and work is ongoing in relation to the formation of the town team.

An initial site visit has been carried out in Clogherhead with the design team and council officials.

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

The Organisational Development Directorate includes the central services required to maintain and administer this Local Authority. This includes Corporate and Human Resources. It also includes the Community and Climate functions and all aspects of Waste Management Services and Veterinary Services.

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

- Corporate Services
- Community Support & Sports
- Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

Áiríonn an Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt na hEagraíochta na seirbhísí lárnacha a theastaíonn chun an tÚdarás Áitiúil seo a chothabháil agus a riaradh. Áirítear leis seo Acmhainní Corparáideacha agus Daonna. Áiríonn sé freisin na feidhmeanna Pobail agus Aeráide agus gach gné de Sheirbhísí Bainistíochta Dramhaíola agus Sheirbhísí Tréidliachta.

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine

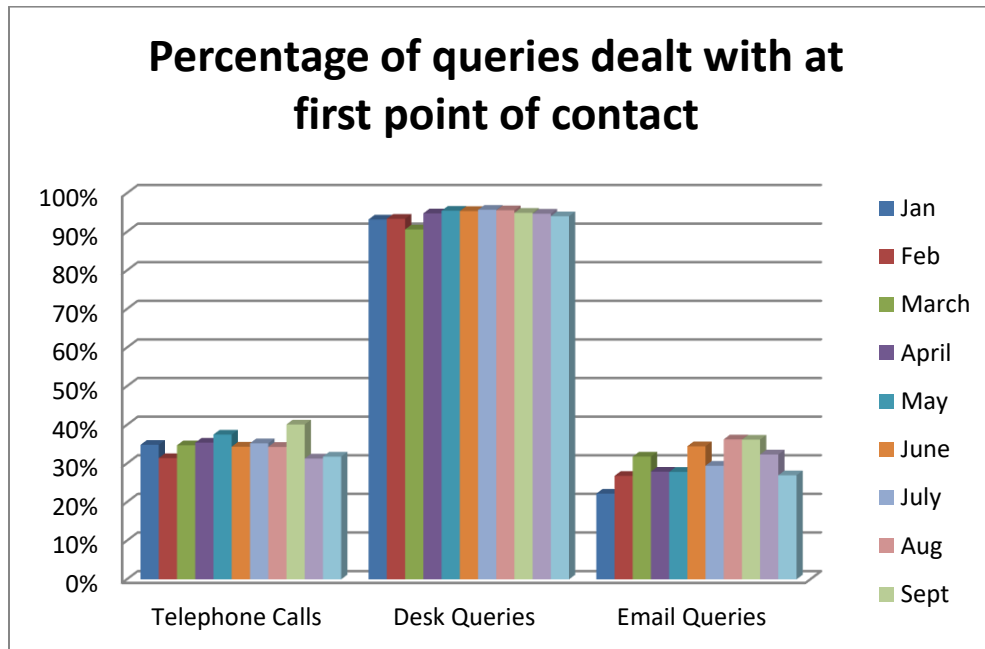


Joe McGuinness
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir

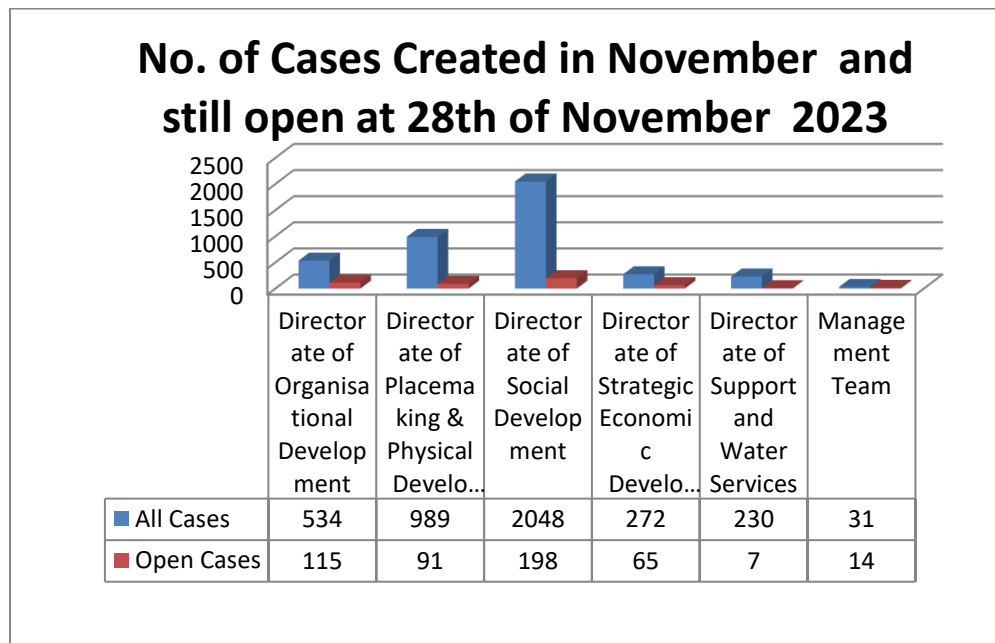
Corporate Services

Customer Services Report

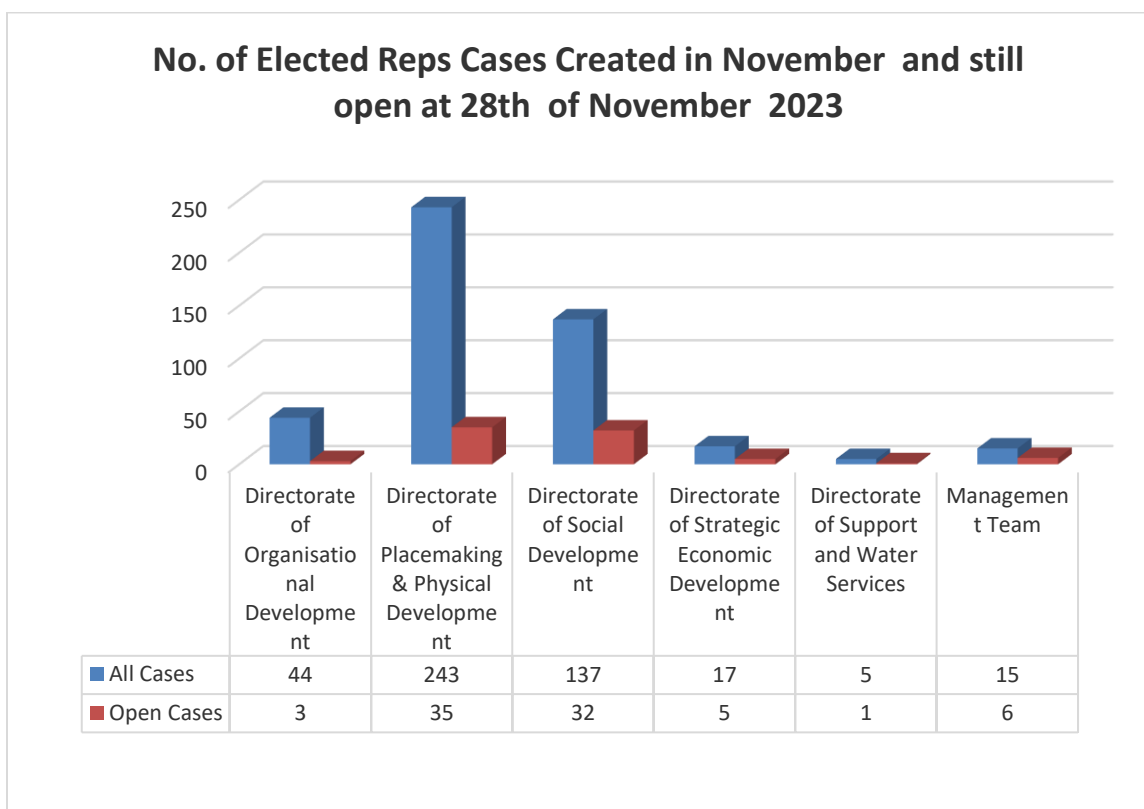
During the month of Nov 2023 Customer Services dealt with 14,822 queries, 7774 calls, 2063 e-mails and 4688 counter queries.



There were 4104 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during November 2023 of which 490 (11.9%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During November 2023, 461 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 82 (17.7%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2022 Total Jan-Nov	2023 Total Jan – Nov	2023 Nov ONLY
FOI	107	116	12
DSAR	10	11	1
Data Protection Request (AIE)	3	7	1
	11	19	0
Ombudsman	12	19	2
Complaints	28	36	6

Electoral Register

The National Awareness Campaign for checktheregister.ie began on the 6th November. This campaign is TV and Radio led and also includes digital ads. The campaign highlights the changes to the electoral registration process and invites the public to engage with the process specifically to either confirm or update their details -

including by adding their date of birth, PPSN and Eircode. The campaign led to a huge increase in on-line applications for the Franchise Team to process. 808 applications were made through www.checktheregister.ie in November, in comparison to 279 applications received in October.

The Franchise Team attended several events in November including presenting at a Migrant

Information Event in Drogheda and promoting the register at a Community Safety and Well Being Event in Ballsgrrove, Drogheda, and a Well Being Event for PLC students in O’Fiach College, Dundalk.

Promotional ads continue to run on iRadio and LMFM.

Field Officers undertook a huge amount of work during the summer, gathering a wealth of information from electors, the Franchise Team finished inputting the details into iReg in November. Louth has now 96% of households with a valid Eircode, this is a fantastic achievement and one of the highest in the Country.

We are continuing to strive towards the most accurate Register for County Louth.



Community Support



Age Friendly Louth Programme

The Louth Older People’s Council held their latest meeting in Drogheda Civic Offices on 9th November 2023.

Drogheda Credit Union is the latest business in Co Louth to receive Age Friendly accreditation under the Age Friendly Business Programme and staff from Drogheda Credit Union reported back to the OPC members on the progress of the programme to date.



Olivia Garner Drogheda Credit Union, Joe Grogan Louth OPC Chairperson, Patricia White Drogheda Credit Union

Members of the OPC discussed developing a potential Creative Ireland project with Creative Ireland Co Ordinator Melissa Hayes, around challenging ageism, and highlighting stereotypes around ageing in Co Louth. This will align with Goal No. 5 Action 5.2. Actions contained in the draft LECP support the Age Friendly Programme to deliver a suite of ageism awareness initiatives.

Members of the Active Travel Team gave the members an overview of the Active Travel plans for Co Louth, particularly Drogheda & Dundalk.

OPC members agreed to proceed with the Christmas Bag project which sees the preparation and delivery of several hundred Christmas Bags packed full of presents and treats for older and vulnerable people across Co Louth. Bags are prepared by the Community Team in LCC and dispensed by community partners such as An Garda Síochána Meals on Wheels & Disability Louth etc. of The next OPC meeting will take place in Ardee Civic Offices in early December and will be the final OPC meeting of 2023.

Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Forum

The Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Forum held a migrant information event in the Glenside Hotel in Drogheda on 8th November 2023.

The purpose of the event was to showcase the work of the Joint Migrant Forum to date and to provide further information on services and supports to new communities, international protection applicants and migrants on topics such as employment, education, housing, and welfare entitlements.

There were over 25 exhibitors at the event, several presentations from local migrant community groups such as Culture Connect and Cultur highlighting the integration projects and anti-racism work they carry out in the community. There was also an energetic dance performance from Hands 4 Unity, a wellness yoga workshop, and an arts & crafts corner for young kids.



African Dance performance from members of Hands4Unity at the Migrant Information Event



Attendees at the Migrant Information Event

The final meeting of the current Forum is scheduled to take place on 7th December 2023 in Navan, Co Meath.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The primary aim of the LECP is to set out the objectives and actions needed to support the economic and community development of the county for the next 6-year period. The LECP is an important way to set out how Government, local authorities and other stakeholders can work together to ensure that their initiatives, programmes, and projects support an improved quality of life for people living and working in Co Louth.

On 16th October the Economic SPC and the LCDC signed off on the revised Socio-Economic Statement and detailed objectives and outcomes for the draft LECP.

A draft LECP framework was subsequently presented to each of the three municipal districts for observation and consideration of consistency with

- Consistency with the Core Strategy and objectives of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027
- Consistency with the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern & Midland Region
- Consistency between the economic and community elements of the draft Local Economic & Community Plan.

Members approved the matter in accordance with the requirements of Section 66C (2)(b) and 66C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The draft LECP framework will also be presented to the Eastern Midland Regional Authority also for observation and consideration of consistency with the Louth County Development Plan, Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy and the community and economic elements of the draft LECP.

The item is on the December Agenda of the Eastern Midland Regional Authority.

In addition to the preparation of the Local Economic & Community Plan, a two-year Implementation Plan is also being prepared. At present a series of online workshops are currently taking place with key stakeholders and lead partners in relation to the preparation and delivery of the Two-Year Implementation Plan. The purpose of the workshops is to fully consider the resources available to all relevant lead stakeholders to deliver the actions in the draft Louth LECP 2023-2029 and to agree the actions that will be delivered during the first two years of the plan.

Louth Comhairle na nÓg Update

Comhairle na nÓg Annual Meeting

Louth Comhairle na nÓg held their Annual Meeting in Muldoon's in Ardee on the 26th October. 91 young people from all over county Louth took part in networking, workshops, and fun activities with the overall aim of connecting young people's voices with decision makers.

The event workshops focused on young people's mental health and provided a discussion forum for young people to articulate their views on issues happening in the community. This year the young people discussed Drugs and Alcohol Abuse, Community Safety and Social Inclusion. The outcome of these discussions will provide the workplan for Louth Comhairle for 2024 and builds on the work in previous years.



Attendees enjoying a workshop at the Comhairle na nÓg Annual Meeting

Healthy Ireland Youth Event

On the 3rd November Louth Comhairle na nÓg took part in a Healthy Ireland Event to promote Young People getting active and Minding their Mental Health. The event took place in Redeemer FRC and the young people participated in workshops in Tai Chi, Assertiveness, Laughter Yoga, and fun activities. Over 70 young people from youth groups all over county Louth took part and Paula Keenan, Healthy Ireland Louth Coordinator was in attendance.

The event wrapped up a larger project under Healthy Ireland to provide activities for young people. During the project over 100 young people took part in Outdoor Activities such as water sports and archery, young people developed projects to highlight Mental Health Issues and then took part in the Event in Redeemer.



Comhairle na nÓg Healthy Ireland Youth Event Redeemer FRC, Dundalk

Community, Quality of Life & Creativity SPC

On the 15th of November members of Comhairle na nÓg gave a presentation on their work and plans for 2024 to the Community SPC. The young people highlighted the busy year they have had including Cross Border Events, Visiting Dail Eireann, Comhairle Gaeltacht, the Annual Conference and meeting President Joe Biden during his official visit to Dundalk.

The members also gave an update on their consultations with young people which have helped influence the development of the LECP, SICAP, Leader, Peace Plus programmes and a variety of consultations at regional and National Level. In 2023 the young people consulted on Community Safety, Drugs and alcohol abuse and Social Inclusion. It will be these topics which influence the workplan for 2024.

Pride of Place Awards evening 2023

Drogheda and District Support 4 Older People basked in well-deserved tributes at the 2023 IPB Pride of Place Gala awards ceremony, a prestigious event held on November 10th in Armagh. The gala, hosted by UTV's Pamela Ballantine and broadcasted live, showcased community initiatives in this highly regarded all-island competition.

Demonstrating exceptional commitment and community spirit, Drogheda and District Support 4

Older People secured the top honour in the Age-Friendly category, underscoring the organisation's dedication to supporting the elderly in the Drogheda community. Meanwhile, Outcomers Dundalk earned recognition as finalists in the competitive Community Wellbeing Category.



Drogheda and District support 4 older people along with Community Support team members.



Members of Outcomers Dundalk along with Cathaoirleach Paula Buttery & Chief Executive Joan Martin

Minister Launch's Town & Village Renewal Schemes in Carlingford

Minister Heather Humphreys recently the launched two transformative projects in Carlingford, marking a significant milestone for the community. The launch event, with invited guests and the enthusiastic 1st class pupils from St. Oliver's National School, showcased the successful outcomes of initiatives funded under the Town & Village Renewal Schemes. Among these notable projects was the redesign and refurbishment of the much-loved Carlingford playground, a hub of happiness for locals and visitors alike. Additionally, attention was

given to the refurbishment of public conveniences, ensuring improved amenities for all. Notably, essential repairs were carried out on a section of the ancient boundary wall encircling the Heritage Centre, preserving a vital piece of the town's rich history.



Minister Heather Humphreys launches Carlingford playground assisted by 1st Class from St. Oliver's National School.

Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign

The Community Support Team has embarked on a Dog Fouling awareness campaign, taking to the airwaves of LMFM throughout the entire month of November. This initiative is designed to elevate consciousness about responsible dog ownership, particularly addressing the persistent issue of dog fouling. For those eager to engage with the campaign or access the Dog Fouling radio advert, information can be found at the following link: https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/louth_county_council/la-test-news/dog-fouling-campaign-2023.html

Greener Christmas Poetry Competition 2023

The closing date for the Greener Christmas Poetry Competition was 27th November. Entries poured in from primary schools across the county, the competition has captured the attention of young minds eager to express their creativity. This year, the spotlight is on Food Waste Awareness, aligning the poetic activities with an important environmental cause. The competition is exclusively open to students in 4th, 5th, and 6th classes in all primary schools throughout the county.

Blue Flag Award and Green Coast Award Applications for 2024

Building on the achievement of this year's Green Coast and Blue Flag Awards, the environmental stewardship continues as the Green Coast Award application for 2024 for Seapoint Beach in Termonfeckin has already been officially submitted to An Taisce. The commitment to upholding environmental excellence extends to the completion of Blue Flag Award applications for 2024, with Clogherhead, Port, and Templetown beach applications being meticulously prepared by the Community Support Team before 30th November closing date.

PPN

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN held its final Secretariat Meeting of 2023 on November 13th online.

Thematic Projects

Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

The aim of this project is to share the vast wealth of knowledge and experience which currently exists across the community and voluntary sector of County Louth with other community groups within Louth PPN's membership.

The mentoring service was made available to all PPN member groups and all groups who applied to receive mentoring have been matched and are currently working with their mentors.

Youth

Louth PPN's Youth Project will involve the training of young people to sit on various boards and committees confidently and comfortably. This training will help build the capacity of community groups to have their voices heard at decision and policy making structures in the County both now and in the future. The training course took place on the 25th and 26th November.

Environment

Louth PPN's environment project will involve multiple aspects including:

- Re-introduction of the red squirrel at Rathescar lake, Dunleer. A community-based planting of native trees such as the Hazel tree which will offer food and shelter to wildlife. This is due to take place before the end of November.
- Construction of bee-hotels in collaboration with the local branch of the Men's Sheds
- Planting of wild-flower meadows to encourage pollinating insects.

Equality for Women in Louth

The launch of a Report focusing on driving equality for women in Louth was launched in Monasterboice on 29th November as part of a collaboration between Louth Local Development, Louth County Council and Louth PPN.

Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards 2023

The annual Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards event took place on the evening of 9th November 2023.

LEADER

LEADER Programmes

Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programme 2021-2023:

PROMOTER NAME	AMOUNT
NR Rubber Products Ltd Supply & Installation of Three Phased Electricity	€21,690.00
Louth Local Development CLG Protection of Natural Habitats Training Programme	€14,200.35
Dundalk Youth Centre CLG Arts Engagement 2022-2023	€12,000.00

Louth Local Development CLG Tourism Skills Programme	€8,886.75
GEO Trenchless Solutions Ltd Newrath Yard Renovation	€7,881.66
Roche Emmets GFC Community Floodlit Walking Track Extension	€35,239.07
Ardee Tidy Towns Ardee Tidy Towns 5 Year Plan	€6,254.55
Fit is an Attitude Ltd t/a The Juice Works The Juice Works Production & Storage Expansion	€1,685.25
Ardee & District Community Trust CLG Our Tomorrow is Today	€4,480.00
TOTAL	€112,317.63

Sports

Dundalk Sports Centre



Dundalk Sports Centre achieved the National Quality Standard award.

Dundalk Sports Centre has achieved an Outstanding (Gold) NQS Award for the Fifth Year running and its sixth award in six 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 NQS Awards are the only industry specific award for the leisure, health, and fitness sector in Ireland.

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Louth Local Sports Partnership Sports Club Volunteer of the Year Awards, a huge success!

Louth Local Sports Partnership's inaugural Sports Club Volunteer of the Year Awards took place in the Carrickdale Hotel on 6th November with 102 volunteers from sports clubs across the county honoured on the night. The awards were held for the first time to recognise the voluntary effort it takes to deliver sport and physical activity across the county. Each club in Louth were invited to nominate a volunteer as recognition of their contribution to the club.

The event was attended by over 250 people and invited guests expertly hosted by MC for the evening Sky Sports presenter and Boyne Rugby club member Kieran O'Sullivan.

Also in attendance was Minister of State for Sport & Physical Education, Thomas Byrne TD, Louth County Council Chairperson, Cllr Paula Butterly, Louth County Council CEO, Joan Martin, local Councillors, TD's, Senators and representatives from Sport Ireland and National Governing Bodies of Sport.

The inaugural awards were a huge success, and it is planned to run these awards as an annual event to highlight the volunteers who are essential to the provision of sport and physical activity in Louth.



Cllr Paula Butterly, Cathaoirleach, Louth County Council and Minister Thomas Byrne TD at the LLSP Sports Club Volunteer of the Year Awards



LLSP Sports Club Volunteer of the Year Awards

Federation of Irish Sport Volunteer in Sport Awards launched

The Federation of Irish Sport recently launched the 2023 Volunteers in Sports Awards. Supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships these dedicated volunteers are the backbone of sporting communities, and it's time to celebrate their unwavering commitment.

For more information and to submit your nominations visit www.volunteersinsport.ie



Graham Russell, LLSP, Irish Sports Federation CEO Mary O'Connor and David Gillick launch Federation of Irish Sport Volunteer in Sport Awards

Sport Ireland 2023 Winter Initiative launched

The third year of the Winter Initiative was launched by the Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education, Thomas Byrne TD, with the aim of getting as many people as possible exercising and participating in physical activity over the coming winter months.

With over 700 events and activities planned across the country there is a specific focus on encouraging people to try their hand at a new sport they may not have experienced before.

A full list of all the events and activities planned all around the country that people can get involved in is available on the Sport Ireland website at <https://www.sportireland.ie/winter-initiative>



Sport Ireland 2023 Winter Initiative launch

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

A total of 20 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in November 2023, some of which remain open pending further investigations. A total number of 343 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in November 2023	Total Received in 2023
Air & Noise	5	95
Farm	1	15
Waste/C&D	12	173
Water Quality	2	60

Waste Management

A total of 12 complaints were received in November 2023 relating to Waste. There were 2 complaints received regarding Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste. All complaints relating to waste were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Byelaws 2019

Waste Byelaws (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) were introduced in 2019. The key objectives of the Waste Byelaws are:

- To encourage households and businesses to manage their waste in an environmentally responsible manner.
- To promote better segregation of household and commercial waste.
- To ensure only authorised waste collectors are used to dispose of waste.
- To reduce illegal dumping and backyard burning of waste.

Implementation of the Byelaws is conducted by both litter wardens and waste enforcement officers. This legislation is very challenging to enforce. One of the challenges is in relation to the presentation of waste. Many apartments/houses can only present their waste on narrow streets particularly in town centre locations. The use of individual bins and access to bins by lorries in these areas can be difficult.



Letters are continuing to be issued to householders and businesses in areas where bin presentation is a prevailing issue. This involves obtaining evidence on waste arrangements in place.

Failure to comply with the above by-laws can result in a Fixed Payment Notice of €75 being issued by Louth County Council to the householder.

Article 27 By-Products

Article 27 of the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 126 of 2011) makes a distinction between the regulatory regime for substances or objects that are defined as “waste” and those that are instead to be viewed as a “by-product” and certain criteria must be met for it to be considered a by-product and not a waste.

By-product notifications are made to the EPA through an online portal. Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section have a role to carry out

site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria of notification.

A total of 23 notifications have been received to date in 2023 by Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section for investigation.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

All litter wardens continue to engage with members of the public daily on litter matters in the county.

1,090 investigations have been completed by our litter team in 2023 to date.

In November our wardens completed 88 investigations. Out of these 88 investigations evidence was found in 11 cases and fixed penalty notices have been issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

One of our litter wardens had a successful prosecution in relation to illegal dumping at a clothes bank in Drogheda this month. The person was fined €300 and ordered to pay the council’s clean-up cost of approximately €590.

Our litter wardens continue to investigate all reports received by Louth County Council of littering and illegal dumping within urban and rural areas. They also continue to engage with businesses advising on litter mitigation measures and actively patrolling litter hot spots. Illegal signage is also removed and fixed penalty notices issued accordingly.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in November. All waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found and the waste subsequently removed.



A five-hour foot patrol was conducted by all wardens in Drogheda during November. The purpose of the patrol system is to show a high visibility presence that is both a deterrent and a reassurance to both the public and the business community.

Louth County Council's environment team aims to educate and encourage responsibility from others to feel comfortable to report offenders of litter and waste offences. All areas of Drogheda and its environs were patrolled including Moneymore, The Twenties, Lismore, Ashfield, St Dominics Park, The ramparts, The Glen, King Street, Palace Street, North Quay, West Street.

Fixed penalty notices were issued for evidence found within waste dumped in the Moneymore area of the town. Other areas of the town were targeted for dog fouling awareness with free dog bag holders handed out and stencils refreshed on the public pavement to remind the public it is an offence not to clean up after their dog.



IBC's located by Louth County Council

Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning

The Waste Management Act (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 allowed farmers as a last resort, to dispose of green waste by burning i.e., untreated/uncontaminated wood, trees, tree trimmings, leaves and brush or other similar waste generated by agricultural practices.

The exemption was reopened for a final three-month period on 1st September 2023 to 30th November 2023.

In November 2023, we have received 35 applications to date.

Air / Water / Noise Pollution

There were 2 water quality complaints and a further 1 farm related complaint received in November which were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

There were 4 Air Pollution complaints and 1 Noise Pollution complaint received during November 2023.

Climate Action

The Climate Action Team has supported the recent application on 'Louth Urban Food Sanctuary' made by Louth Creative Ireland towards the Creative Climate Action Fund II and attended the recent launch of the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary (LUFS) at Creative Spark, Dundalk.

Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 6 Integrated Bulk Containers (IBCs) dumped in November at a cost of €7,488.60 approx. So far in 2023 there have been 108 IBC's dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of approximately €134,794.80



The Community Climate Action Officer recently attended the Sparks residential in Carlow as part of the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary project.

The Climate Action Team also hosted a recent artwork competition with Louth Libraries for Sustainable Development Goals Week 2023. The Goal selected for the theme this year was 'Affordable and Clean Energy'. There was a large number of entries, and the competition was very successful. The winners were selected in line with Climate Action Week 2023. The Climate Action Team and Louth Libraries have contacted all the winning students and called out to the schools with their prizes.



Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 all Local Authorities are required to produce a Climate Action plan to cover a five-year period.

On the 24th of February, the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan called for all Local Authorities to commence drafting a climate action plan for their area. Each Local Authority will have 12 months to deliver on this requirement.



Louth County Council's Draft Climate Action Plan is currently available to view online and is open for submissions through the following link <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-climate-action-plan>

The Climate Action Team will also host a number of workshops for the public to attend, details can be found on the poster below.



Louth County Council have signed up as signatories to the EU Mission on Adaptation, this was announced on the 29th September at the R&I Research Days online webinar.



Climate Adapt 2022

Community Climate Action

The Community Climate Action fund was launched by Minister Ryan. Training around state aid and administering this fund was attended by the Climate Action Coordinator and Community Climate Action Officer.

The Community Climate Action fund will be available to non-profit community groups across Louth. The Climate Action Team will launch this funding at a later date.



Framework for the Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

November 2022

The Community Climate Action Officer also hosted a week-long series of online webinars for community members in Louth. Each workshop focused on a theme within the Community Climate Action Fund. The Community Climate Action Officer has visited a number of community groups in Louth to speak about the upcoming fund and discuss any queries they may have in relation to the Community Climate Action Fund.

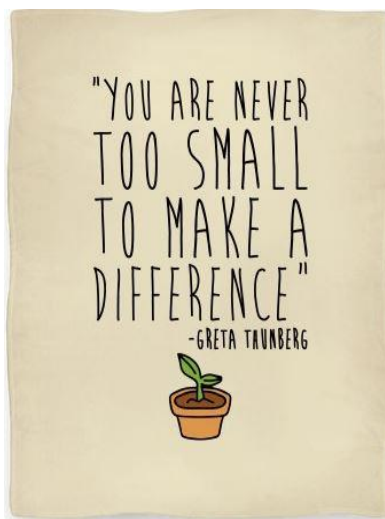
Louth Science Festival

The Louth Science Festival ran from 13-26 November with a wide programme of events and workshops for adults and children including sessions on biodiversity and climate change.

Joint presentations were delivered to 60 primary school children across the County by Community Climate Action Officer Fiona Lennon and Biodiversity Officer Helen Hanratty.

Presentations aimed to raise awareness of the range of simple actions that can be taken by us all to reduce our impact on the planet and help tackle the twin threats of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The children carried out quizzes and activities to learn more about the topics, creating simple bird feeders to bring home.



Education and Awareness Initiatives

V & W continue with onsite School visits, linking in with their green school projects. They explain the process involved in Recycling and what becomes of the different materials. Each group is presented with a Certificate of Attendance.

V & W have expanded their 'Biodiversity Area' at Drogheda Recycling Centre. They incorporate this area into their education programme for all students attending their on-site school tours.



V & W's Education Officers continue to work with Tidy Towns groups and Community groups promoting both Recycling Centres and the benefits of recycling.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update – Cultural Event Louth Science Festival 2023

This project is in its third year and at its co-implementation phase.

Dundalk is a pilot city for this project. 3 Visionary Solutions are proposed as part of the EU Horizon 2020 Funded Varcities project at the outdoor space at the County Library and Museum, Dundalk, known as 'The Dundalk Pilot'.

As part of the project requirements, Louth County Council is required to participate in local cultural events to promote the Varcities Project. The Council participated in the Louth Science Festival with its Varcities Project at the County Library on the 16th November, 2023. Students from Dun Dealgan NS, Ó'Fíach College, DKIT, some Local Elected Representatives of Louth County Council and members of the public joined the Varcities Team from Louth County Council and Dartekk Ltd, from Malta at the Louth Science Festival 2023. Participants learned about the new future for the Dundalk Library & Museum Quarter, with its three VARCITIES #VisionarySolutions: • Outdoor Learning Pod • Urban Green Sensory Garden • Sensor-equipped bike-stations

Dartekk Ltd. demonstrated the Varcities exciting new GoNature Game, which is currently well advanced in its development stage. GoNature is a digital game which takes players on a tour of Dundalk. Real time data from sensors installed at the site, is incorporated into the game promoting sustainability, as an Immersive, Fun #VR experience designed for all ages. Excellent feedback was received from participants confirming how they enjoyed the experience. Varcities new GoNature game will be available for all to download FREE on the 'App Store' and 'Google Play' in March 2024. Dun Dealgan NS students, really loved the idea that they were involved in the development process of a game, which will feature their school and surrounding area.



Students from Dundalgen NS enjoying the GoNature Game at the Louth Science Festival.

Commencement of Construction Works

Work commenced on implementation of the projects 3 Visionary Solutions at the Library and Museums Courtyard during the first week of November. Council staff parking has been relocated to the public car park at the County Library to enable the works.



Construction works have commenced for the Varcities Project at the Open Space at the County Library

Follow the Projects Progress and **Like and Share** and help us raise Public Awareness

<https://www.facebook.com/VARCITIES>

<https://twitter.com/VARCITIES1>

<https://www.instagram.com/eu.varcities/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2ogZP3ne_Tbl_xwf1-5iQ/videos?view=0

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/varcities-green-cities-are-healthier-cities/>

Feasibility Study on the Adoption of Alternative Fuel Vehicles for Local Authorities

In September 2022 Monaghan County Council in collaboration with the East Border Region was awarded Shared Island Funding for a Feasibility Study on the Adoption of Alternative Fuel Vehicles for Local Authorities. Louth County Council, Armagh, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Ards and North Down Borough Councils and Meath County Council partnered with Monaghan County Council for that project. On the 22nd November representatives from Louth County Council attended the official Launch of this Feasibility Study at the Hillgrove Hotel, Co. Monaghan. The purpose of this study was to identify viable low and no carbon vehicle fleet options to support each LA's broad aim to reduce its Organisational Greenhouse Gas emissions. This study sets out a strategic roadmap to assist Local Authorities in achieving their targets for Net Zero Emission Vehicle Fleets.



Delegates attending the Launch of the Feasibility Study in Co. Monaghan

Energy Efficiency Performance

Energy Management System and ISO50001: 2018 - 2 – Day Audit for Accreditation Renewal

On 23rd and 24th November 2023, the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) carried out an audit of Louth County Council's Energy Management System. The purpose of the audit was to confirm that the management system has been established and implemented in accordance with the

requirements of the relevant standard (ISO 50,001:2018) and can achieve the organisations policies and objectives.



Opening Meeting of a 2-Day Audit of Louth County Council's Energy Management System

The finding by Donal Harlow, Lead Auditor for NSAI, was that Louth County Council can be recommended for registration with IS EN 50001:2018. The next stage in the process is that NSAI consider that formally and we would expect that they would ratify the decision of the auditor and issue a new certificate for another 3-year term.

During the last two 3-year cycles of such registration, the number of the Council's Significant Energy Users has increased from 4 to 9 indicating reduced energy use by those energy users. The Significant Energy Users (SEU's) are: Public Lighting; Transport Fleet; Dundalk County Hall; Dundalk Town Hall; Dundalk Fire Station; Dundalk County Library; Dundalk County Museum; Dundalk County Archives Building and Drogheda Fire Station.



Graphic: Energy efficiency progress by Louth County Council's Significant Energy Users

Optimising Power @Work Programme

Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in the 2 buildings participating in the OPWs Optimising Power @Work Programme. They are County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall. Council staff meet with OPW's consultants Aramark monthly to review energy reports prepared for both buildings and discuss potential new energy saving measures, and plan and develop staff energy awareness days.

An Air sourced Heat Pump installed for County Hall and Solar Photo Voltaic equipment for Dundalk Town Hall in 2021 are now contributing to improved energy efficiency in both buildings. Energy use at County Hall has reduced by 30% from 2016, whilst Dundalk Town Hall has achieved 40% Energy Savings compared to 2014.



Energy Improvements by Louth County Council in 2023

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 30th November 2023, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and thirteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County. Louth County Council has carried out ninety-nine inspections in the year to date.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs impounded November 2023	
Total dogs impounded	24
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	16
Surrendered by owners	8
No dogs reclaimed by owners	11
No of dogs rehomed direct	10
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	4
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/11/2023	4
Dog Licences November 2023	
No of Licences sold	504
Licence Checks:	
House calls	159
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	147
Fixed Penalty Notices	15

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Byelaws 2003

Horses impounded November 2023	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	3
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	2
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 30/11/2023	1

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs) November 2023	
Total no of registered DBEs in Louth (as at 30/11/2023)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



Falkor is not available for rehoming at this time and will be transferred into the care of a Registered Charity in due course.



This little dog, who is only about 1-2 years old, was found straying near Dundalk, and taken to safety by a kind member of the public. The Dog Warden went straight out to collect her as soon as the call came in.

"Falkor" (Pound name) was immediately transferred to the [Louth County Council Dog Pound](#) and into the care of the Registered Veterinary Nurse for assessment. It was determined that anaesthesia would be necessary to deal with the extensive matting and filth that covered Falkor's entire body, was causing significant pain and discomfort, and which had caused injury to the skin. In addition to a full-body shave, several stitches, nail clipping and ear cleaning were required.

Falkor is recovering from the ordeal with a full tummy, a soft bed, a cosy coat, underfloor heating, and a heat-lamp.

Social Development Forbairt Shóisialta

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.

Cultural Services, a wide range of initiatives and programmes designed to make living in Louth a stimulating, safe and rewarding experience, including the arts, 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 hinbhuanaithe ar fud ár gContae

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha, réimse leathan tionscnaimh agus cláir atá deartha chun saol spreagúil, sásúil, sábháilte a chur ar fail i gContae Lú, na healaíona, agus ár leabharlanna san áireamh

Ger Murphy
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir



Housing

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 2021-2024. The following work done within County Louth in the period 20th October – 19th November 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20th October – 19 November 2023	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	11	166	70	247
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	3	18	10	31
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	1	2	3
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	14	185	82	281

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 19th November 2023. Also included at Table 5 is the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	92
Female	85
Total	177

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	32
25-44	89
45-64	47
65+	9
Total	177

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	96
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	81
Total unique individuals	177

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children in Louth	19	23	31
Total	19	22	29
Couples with dependent children in Louth	16	36	52
Total	16	36	52

Table 6 - Housing First

	Louth
Number of tenancies established	39
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	32

Official Opening of Tusla Child & Family Agency Aftercare Facility at the Laurels, Dundalk.

In collaboration with Tusla, Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) and Louth County Council, a new Aftercare Facility for young adults leaving aftercare was opened on Monday 23rd October 2023.



Staff from the Council's Homeless Section attended the opening of the new Aftercare Facility in Dundalk.

Housing Allocations up to 28th November

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	42	6	2	3
Drogheda	71	17	52	21
Dundalk	116	9	73	12
Total	229	32	127	36

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	5
Dundalk	12
Drogheda	5
Total	22

Housing List

November	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	399	624	1023	2046
HAP Transfer List	304	1148	1641	3093
Total Housing List	703	1772	2664	5139

There are **288** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **49** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

The 2023 Summary of Social Housing Assessments was completed, and the return submitted to the Department on 20th November, 2023. A total of 511 applications were contacted. A total of 153 applications were closed. Below is a breakdown of the terminations.

Reason for Terminations	No. of files closed
Whereabouts unknown	19
Adequately Housed	3
Over the income limit	4
No Local connection	3
Deceased	1
No response	101
No response to further information	22

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,093**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
304	1148	1641	3093

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **912**.

Current Rents Arrears as at 29 th November 2023	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	182	€72,416
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	142	€107,712
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	890	€2,963,429
TOTAL	1214	€3,143,557

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in the escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in November 2023:

Letter Type	Month	Number Issued
1st Reminder	November	76
2 nd Reminder	November	41
Final Reminder	November	13
Total issued		130

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **85** new payment plans commenced in November 2023 (up to and including 29th November).

4,409 Rent statements were issued to tenants during the week commencing 27th November 2023. Statements are issued to customers twice every year.

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 26 th November 2023	Total
Ardee Municipal District	9
Dundalk Municipal District	10
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	24
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	43
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	4
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	47

Note: Currently **12** social units are being used as temporary accommodation for homeless or

emergency and are not included in the above figures.

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	25 th October – 26 th November 2023	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	820	6,403
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	691	4,988
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	91	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	38	345

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program

The 2023 Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme is progressing on programme. Our initial allocation of 105 has been exceeded and we are on target for delivering 204 units in 2023. In line with the Department funding there is a mix of deep retrofits and shallow retrofits.

	Number of Units	Of which complete
Ardee MD	59	59
Dundalk MD	73	73
Drogheda BD	73	73

Private Rental Inspections

Private Rental Inspections	25 th October – 26 th November	Year to Date
Properties inspected monthly	113	507
Advisory Letters issued	69	262
Improvement Notices issued	0	47
Private Inspections	1	7
HAP Inspections	85	347
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	17	25

Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	5	87
RAS Re-Inspections	0	8
AHB Re-Inspections	5	20
Inspections from Complaints	1	14
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	4	93

Tenancy Engagement

1 st November 2023 to 29 th November, 2023	Drogheda ^a	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	16	8	21	45	243
Post-tenancy inspections	5	0	16	21	239
Tenancy Investigation Visits	26	7	16	49	406
Tenancy Investigations Remote	3	2	8	13	76

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st to 29 th November	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	6	5	9	20	192
ASB cases Ongoing	6	5	10	-	-
ASB cases complete	7	0	10	17	175

Case = a unique incident of anti-social behavior, not the number of complaint forms received

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st November to 29th November	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	0	5	5	66
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	19
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	10
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	5

Affordable Housing

The Council has received approval from the Department of Housing for an Affordable Housing Scheme in Blackrock, Co. Louth. The 10 properties will be ready in late January 2024. The details will be advertised in the next few weeks on local radio, social media and print media. Other discussions are ongoing with other developers for Affordable units in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Vacant Homes

An online application to survey vacant homes was developed by the Department of Housing. At the start of May, staff in the Housing section began the survey and logged the results on the app. **1,599** properties have been surveyed throughout the county and **832** have been deemed vacant or derelict. We have started to engage with property owners to bring the property back into use with the aid of the Croi Conaithe grant.

Acquisitions

The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. In

November the Council has purchased three properties.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Repair and Lease

To reflect the national ambition for the repair and leasing scheme (RLS), as committed to in Housing for All, national delivery targets were set for RLS of 660 units for 2022 – 2026.

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Finished to be inspected
1	Dundalk	2	Finished to be inspected
1	Dundalk	2	Under negotiation for works
6	Castlebellingham	2	Pre planning

Vacant Property refurbishment Grant, November 2023

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, funded by the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund was launched on 14 July 2022. To increase the number of vacant and derelict properties being brought back into use, the Grant is being further expanded from 1 May 2023.

When the Grant was launched it was made available to eligible vacant properties in towns and villages. Following a review, a decision has been made to

expand availability of the Grant nationwide to eligible vacant properties in cities, towns, villages, and rural parts of the country. The Grant has been expanded from 1st May 2023 to include:

1. The inclusion of one property which will be made available for rent, by the owner, in addition to one grant for a property which will be the principal private residence of the owner i.e., a maximum of two grants will be available to an individual, with only one grant available for a property to be rented;
2. Changing the property eligibility date, which is currently pre-1993 for the build date, to include vacant and derelict properties built up to and including 2007; and;
3. Increasing the current maximum grant rates from €30,000 to €50,000 for vacant properties and from €50,000 to €70,000 for derelict properties.

Croí Cónaithe November 2023

Applications Submitted:	118
Approved:	47
Rejected:	6
Withdrawn	7
Funding Issued to Applicant	1
Rental Applications	29
Principal Private Residence	89

Mortgage to Rent November 2023

Active MTR Applications Total	32
AHB MTR Applications Active	13
AHB MTR completed 2023	01
Private MTR Applications Active	19
Private MTR completed 2023	17
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	02

Under MTR, a borrower gets to stay in their home and agrees to give ownership of the home to the MTR provider. This means the borrower becomes a social housing tenant of their local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB). This arrangement is entered into voluntarily and agreed between the borrower, their lender, and the MTR provider. After five years have passed, the borrower might be given the option to buy the home back if they are able to do so.

Local Authority Home Loans

2023 Budget Allocation	€8,030,000
LAHL Approvals at 28/11/2023	€5,373,056

Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 28th November	
Total number of Applications at 28/11/2023	72
LAHL carried over from 2022	5
Invalid/Returned	11
Approved	31
Declined	29
For review	0
Outstanding – waiting on further information	6

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

On the 24th of October, the Grants scheme re-opened for acceptance of grant applications. The new application process will enable a speedier examination of applications and subject to funding, an earlier offer of a grant. Applications will not be accepted unless all the criteria in the new checklist is met.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Nov Month Total	YTD Total
Applications completed 2022	42	17	175	-	234
Applications on hand 29/11/2023	168	19	286	-	473
No. Grants Approved 01/10/2023 to 29/11/2023	12	0	2	14	282



Bathroom Adaptation completed in the Dundalk-Carlingford LEA, part-funded with a Housing Grant for Disabled Persons



Bathroom Adaptation completed in Ardee in November, part funded with a Housing Grant for Disabled Persons

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamor, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	On Site	31/10/2024	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	19/02/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/05/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 2 Approved	30/01/2026	2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	72	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	105	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	43	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	20	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC – Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed

Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/6	10	On-site	31/12/2023	10 * 2 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/6	6	On-site	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/6	6	On-site	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	5/6	6	On-site	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	6/6	7	On-site	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 1 * 2 bed
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 3 bed
Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	30/09/2024	1 * 3 bed
Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth - Infill	1/1	6	Completed	01/08/2023	6 * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	100	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
San Giovanni, Clogherhead	1/1	12	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	12 * 3 bed
Clos Emer, Saltown, Dundalk	1/1	8	On-site	31/12/2023	16 * 2 bed
Medebawn Close, Avenue Road, Dundalk	1/1	4	On-site	31/12/2023	2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 1 bed Apt.

Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/03/2024	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	2/5	1	Completed	31/03/2023	1 * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	3/5	1	Completed	30/09/2023	1 * 3 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	4/5	9	On-site	31/12/2023	4 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	4	On-site	31/03/2024	4 * 2 bed
Cardee, Dublin Road, Dundalk	1/1	1	Completed	23/05/2023	1 * 4 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	On-site	31/03/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	On-site	30/06/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site	31/12/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	31/12/2024	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.

CAS DELIVERY

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	<u>Projected Substantial Completion Date</u>	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk,	Tuath	10	Stage 3 Approved	03/09/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/01/2025	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments

St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/03/2025	Four * 1 Bed units
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	02/03/2025	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

CALF DELIVERY

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non Part V/ Part V	Project Status	<u>Projected</u> Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	1/2	5		On site	30/11/2023	• 2 Two bed Bungalow, • 1 Three bed Bungalow, • 2 Three bed semi detached
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	2/2	6		On site	30/11/2023	• 2 Three bed Bungalow, • 1 Three bed semi detached • 3 Two bed terraced houses
Newfoundwell Road, Drogheda Cluid Housing	2/2	39		Delivered	30/06/2023 DELIVERED 15/06/2023	• 12 One bed apt, • 27 Two bed apt
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	1/3	40	36/4	On site	15/12/2023	• 1 Three bed detached, • 10 Two bed terraced, • 14 Three bed semi detached, • 15 Three bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	46	43/3	On site	15/12/2023	• 13 Two bed terraced, • 18 Three bed semi detached • 15 Three bed terraced

Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	47	41/6	On site	30/03/2024	• 2 Four bed detached, • 11 Two bed terraced, • 1 Three bed detached, • 22 Three bed semi detached • 11 Three bed terraced
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	85	69/16	On site	15/12/2023	• 8 Two bed apt • 7 Two bed duplex, • 24 Three bed duplex, • 22 Three bed terraced, • 22 Two bed terraced • 2 Four bed terraced
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12		On Site	01/03/2024	• 12 three bed houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	1/2	49	43/6	On site	31/12/2023	• 18 One bed apt, • 7 Three 3 bed duplex, • 5 Three bed terraced, • 5 Two bed apt • 14 Two bed duplex
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	2/6	14		Delivered	21/04/2023 DELIVERED 15/06/2023	• 6 One bed apt, • 8 Two bed apt, • 6 Two bed terraced • 4 three bed terraced
Donore Road Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	66	59/7	On site	31/12/2023	• 4 One bed apt, • 54 Two bed apt • 8 Three bed apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	3/6 4/6 5/6 6/6	8 10 42 12		Delivered Delivered On-site On-site	Delivered Delivered 30/11/2023 28/02/2024	• 30 one bed apt, • 11 Two bed apt 18 Three bed duplex • 6 Two bed terraced • 4 Three bed terraced

Drybridge, Drogheda North & East Housing	1/1	16		On site	20/11/2023	• 2 Three bed apt, • 10 Two bed apt • 4 One bed apt
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	2/2	16		On site	31/03/2024	• 9 One bed apt, • 2 Three bed apt, 1 Two bed duplex • 4 One bed semi detached
Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On site	29/03/2024	• 20 One bed apt • 10 Two bed apt
Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On Site	17/05/2024	• 31 One bed apt • 9 Two bed apt
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/04/2024	• 7 One bed apt • 7 Two bed apt • 3 Three bed apt
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	19/06/2024	• 27 One bed apts • 22 Two bed apts

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The Co Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions for Community, Library, and Legal Services which are currently in progress and is working with staff in relation to same. The IT revised retention schedule was the last one to be approved and issued out. To date, revised records retention schedules for Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport, and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment and Enterprise & Economic Development 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 and the Co Archives. Work is continuing to take place in reviewing and appraising records for retention as archives or for destruction with work on both Housing and the Waste section's records being done recently.

Louth History & Society book

Geography Publications with the support of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society and Louth County Council launched their book Louth History and Society Interdisciplinary essays on the

history of an Irish County in Dundalk on 23rd November in County Hall. The Drogheda event will take place on 30th November in the Boyne Valley Hotel. The book is the 30th in the county History and Society series and is edited by Emeritus Professor William Nolan of UCD. The Archivist was a contributor to the volume with a chapter on Louth's Archives and also spoke on the night of the launch.



Co Archivist Lorraine McCann speaking on the night of the launch of the Louth History and Society book (image courtesy of Cllr Maeve Yore)

History Ireland

The Nov/Dec 2023 issue of the Local Archives series in the magazine History Ireland featured an article on cinema licence registers written by Archivist Lorraine McCann.

War Memorial Remembrance Service

The Annual War Memorial Remembrance Service took place on 11th November 2023 at the war memorial at the Crescent with refreshments afterwards in the Co Archives where there was a small display regarding World War I. This event remembers all those who gave their lives in war and in the service of others.

Decade of Centenaries

As part of the Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023, Louth County Archives in collaboration with the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society has created an online exhibition called 'Lasting Legacy' on the post-Truce period 1921 – 1923 and was placed online last month. It is available on <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/archives/louth-1916-1923/>.

It features noteworthy documents and photographs with explanatory text which narrates this turbulent stage of our history. It focuses on local events that occurred in County Louth and includes topics such as the Dáil courts, policing and justice, elections, infrastructure damage and compensation claims, the role of women, the 'Big House' burnings, and the border and customs controls.

The online exhibition follows the '*Dundalk Jail during the Civil War*' book that was produced in 2022 about events that led up to the 'Hole in the Wall' jail escape in July 1922. This book is still available from the County Archives. The Decade of Centenaries Programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Research Enquiries

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service continues to receive a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics (historians, archaeologists, social scientists, etc), professionals (solicitors, engineers, planning consultants, etc), family historians, students, and state agencies. The Archivist also supports staff in various sections with many business-related enquiries.

Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded at the end of this year as the current system is now at the end of life. It will be upgraded to a modern system with enhanced features and

improved speed. It will be hosted on the Cloud. Preparation work for the upgrade is ongoing.

Donating Archives

The Service welcomes donations of archives and records from the public that relate to all aspects of the development of County Louth including material from community groups, clubs and societies, national schools, individuals, local organizations and local 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 or by telephone at 042-9324358.

Climate Action

The Co Archives supports corporate Climate Action Goals. Environmental conditions in the Co Archives building are being monitored and reviewed by Facilities staff along with the Archivist.

Installation of a glazed partition in the lobby area of the building is currently taking place. This will assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building. They are receiving funding support from the SEAI scheme.

Libraries

Sensory Library Service - Magic Table

Available in the Ardee, Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries, this facility is ideal for those with sensory difficulties, on the Autism Spectrum, and for people with Dementia. Family/Group bookings to use the Magic Table can be made by emailing libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie or contacting your local branch.



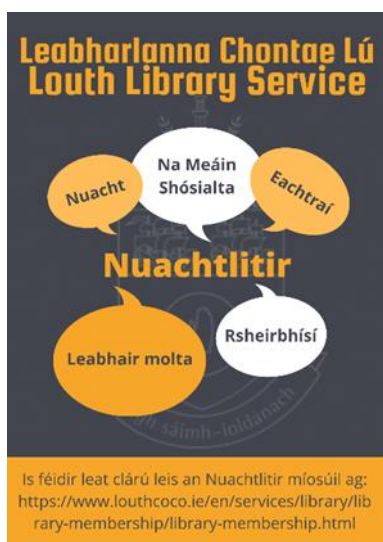
Participants using the Magic Table in Drogheda Library

Irish Newspaper Archives



Louth researchers can now access historical Irish newspapers from 1738 to the present day on public PCs in library branches through the Irish-based Irish Newspaper Archives gateway. The archives consist of over 6 million pages of newspaper content from titles across the island of Ireland including local papers such as The Dundalk Democrat, The Drogheda Independent as well as other national and provincial papers. Through the newspaper obituaries Irish genealogists can search, retrieve and view births, deaths and marriage records from 285 years' worth of Irish newsprint.

Library Newsletter



Sign up here to receive our monthly newsletter:
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/library-membership/louth-library-newsletter-emailing-list-registration.html>

Click here to read the current newsletter:
<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/blog-and-newsletter/>

Capital funding announced to provide new computers, laptops and iPads in public libraries

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has announced funding of €1.3 million for the provision of new computers, laptops, iPads and other information and communication technology in public libraries across the country.

The investment, in the Libraries Capital Programme, will assist libraries in becoming more digitally inclusive. Communities across the country are set to benefit from the initiative – with a particular focus on supporting young people, our elderly, and our disadvantaged.

Louth Library Service will receive nearly €17,000 in funding for the provision of new laptops and notebooks.

The funding will also support the new public library strategy, '[The Library Is the Place](#)', which was launched by the Minister in the new Portlaoise Library in July. The strategy promotes the vision of public libraries as leaders in enabling and supporting all people, across all communities, to be informed, connected, literate individuals, skilled for life. It also commits to support strategic actions to develop public libraries as enablers of digital services and facilitators of digital skills development while also recognising the importance of enhancing digital inclusion and providing up to date ICT infrastructure.

A key strategic action is the development of a new national 'Skills for Life' umbrella programme which, it is intended, will be available through all library authorities by the end of 2024. This programme will support lifelong learning by helping people to improve their basic digital skills, media literacy and business and employment skills.

The funding will enable the replacement of outdated I.T. hardware with new devices for the benefit of library users of all ages. In supporting digital inclusion, Louth Library Service will provide literacy and technology skills training for those looking for work. As part of our Library of Sanctuary status it is vital that we continue to support marginalised and

disadvantaged communities to access digital services.

Dormant Accounts Funding 2023

Louth Library Service is delighted to announce the introduction of further equipment to enhance and complement our services to older people, children and adults with additional sensory needs and those with dyslexia. The new initiatives were launched in Dundalk Library by Director of Services' Ger Murphy on the 8th November and are funded under the 2023 Dormant Accounts Fund from the Department of Rural & Community Development and Louth County Council.

The C-Pen Reader Pen is a new inclusive technology service which is now available from all Louth Library branches. This is a reading tool designed to improve and enhance reading and learning and is particularly beneficial to people with dyslexia, those who may be experiencing problems with their vision, or anyone learning a new language. Their introduction will assist Louth Libraries in continuing to reach out to older people, children from disadvantaged communities, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

We are also delighted to announce the introduction of noise cancelling headphones and adult fidget blankets. Headphones are available to use in the library for children and adults with sensory issues who may feel overwhelmed in the busy environment. Fidget blankets are available for use in Dundalk Library for adults with Dementia who visit with their families or day care centres or while using the Magic Table. Fidget blankets help to calm and reduce anxiety, as well as providing stimulation. For more information visit your local Louth Library branch.



Acting County Librarian Amanda Branigan, Senior Executive Librarian Linda Larrigan, Director of Services Social Development, Ger Murphy, Executive Librarian Sarah McAllister



Healthy Ireland
at your Library

Mindful Colouring Group for Adults

This colouring group continues every Wednesday at 3pm in Dundalk Library. Colouring is a simple activity that has a myriad of benefits – relaxation, clarity, focus etc. No booking required.

"Healthy Eating for Tots", with SafeFood



Speakers Anna Daly & Joana Fernandes da Silva at Dundalk Library

Dundalk Library held an event in collaboration with SafeFood & Libraries Ireland on the 8th of November, with Anna Daly, influencer, and TV presenter. Anna spoke with Safefood nutrition expert Joana Fernandes da Silva about child nutrition for tots.

Louth Science Festival 2023



One of the most highly-anticipated events in Louth Library Service's calendar, Louth Science Festival took place from November 13th – 26th.

Dr. Barry Fitzgerald, the Superhero Scientist



Superhero Scientist Barry Fitzgerald

Dr. Barry Fitzgerald, the Superhero Scientist, joined us in Dundalk and Drogheda libraries to launch Louth Science Festival. Families learned all about Santa's top secret advancements in science and engineering that enable him to deliver presents to children everywhere.



Participants in Dundalk Library at Superhero Scientist

Barn Owl Workshop

Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland visited Drogheda & Ardee Libraries to raise awareness about Barn Owl conservation for Louth Science Festival. All participants for this adult workshop learned about these majestic birds and make a model to take home.



Aoife McPartlan of Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland

Messy Play

Beyond the Bump delivered a science-themed Messy Play session. Children used all their senses to explore trays of taste-safe, sensory materials.

Messy Play is proven to support children's curiosity, and provide new experiences in a safe, controlled environment.



Participant in Drogheda Library at Messy Play

Go Nature Workshop



Ursula Conlon speaking in Dundalk Library

Louth Library Service hosted a 'Go Nature' workshop/demo on Thursday 16th of November for the Varcities Team from LCC as part of Louth Science Festival 2023. Pupils from Dun Dealgan N.S. had the opportunity to experience "Go Nature" which is a cool virtual reality experience / game that will be available as part of the Varcities project at Dundalk Library. Dundalk's Varcities pilot will focus on the implementation of visionary Solutions within the courtyard area of Dundalk Library and Museum. The visions include the creation of an outdoor Learning Pod, outdoor urban green learning and

sensory garden for health and well-being and sensor equipped bike-stations.

Ursula Conlon from Louth Local Authorities spoke about the project along with Neil Baldacchino, DARTTEK who developed the game as a citizen engagement tool. The Go Nature Game gave the participants an opportunity to engage and interact with VARCITIES Pilot site through augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR)

Climate Action & Biodiversity



Participants in Dundalk Library

CBS Primary, 3rd Class joined Louth County Council's Community & Climate Action Officer Fiona Lennon & Helen Hanratty, Biodiversity Officer for a talk on Climate Action & Biodiversity in Dundalk Library.

Mini Beasts Workshop



CBS Primary Students

Junior infants from CBS Primary Dundalk got to see a selection of different tarantula species, a dragon headed cricket, a giant Asian mantis, a leaf insect and giant African snails as part of Louth Science Festival 2023 in Dundalk Library.



Library staff met with community stakeholders at a Right to Read network meeting in Dundalk Library on Tuesday the 28th of November.

Right to Read is a national Libraries Ireland programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The meeting provided an opportunity to connect with partners that we work closely with in Louth Library Service and consider opportunities for collaboration.

Little Library at Bedtime



Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth along with Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development recently launched the First 5 Little

Book at Bedtime initiative in collaboration with public libraries.

Free bedtime story books and library wallets are available at all library branches for children of 4 years and under. One free book is available, along with a Bedtime Reading Tips guide for parents and guardians and titles are available in both Irish and English. Children, along with their families, are invited to join the library to begin their library membership journey, ensuring they have access to a lifetime of books.

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital neonatal reading project

Louth Library Service is collaborating with HSE Librarian, Ruth O'Rourke and Deirdre Bradley, Speech & Language Therapist from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital on a neonatal reading project. The reading project provides board books for loan to parents/guardians and staff to read to neonatal babies. Library staff provided expert advice on recommended baby board books for purchase for the project. The Library Service also provided information on the 'Right to Read' Programme including the promotion of 'Little Library at Bedtime' and the "Bedtime Reading Tips" leaflet aimed at 0–4-year-olds. Reading to babies encourages cognitive development, bonding and overall wellbeing.



Deirdre Bradley Speech & Language Therapist, Ruth O'Rourke HSE librarian & Executive Librarian Theresa McNally

Louth County Childcare Committee

Dundalk Library welcomed families from Louth Area Based Childhood Programme Parent and Toddler group where each child joined the library, received a Book at Bedtime and enjoyed a Storytime session.



Elaine and Susan from Louth County Childcare Committee

World Children's Day

Louth Library Service was invited by Louth Area Based Childhood to celebrate World Children's Day on the 20th of November by visiting local primary schools and pre-schools.

Library representatives visited Scoil Mhuire na nGael, Gaelscoil Dhun Dealgan, St Joseph's National School, Cooley Community Playgroup, Eimiles Little Pre-School, Rampark National School, Muchgrange National School & St Oliver's National School. Members of the Fire Service, Coast Guard and the Defence Forces were in attendance also and the children had great fun learning about the services available in their local community.



Executive Librarian Leona Burgess with members of the Fire Service, Coast Guard and Louth ABC.

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023



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

Dr. Margaret Ward held a talk in Dundalk Library on Friday the 3rd of November at 3pm: 'A Cold House for Women' gender and the early years of the Northern Ireland state.

Dr Margaret Ward is Honorary Senior Lecturer in History at Queen's University, Belfast. She is a well-known feminist historian, whose many publications include Hanna Sheehy Skeffington: suffragette and Sinn Féiner, her memoirs and political writings and Fearless Woman: Hanna Sheehy in 2021.

Margaret is currently researching the afterlives of northern women who were active in the republican movement in the 1920s. The talk is available to view on Louth Library Service crowdcast channel: <https://www.crowdcast.io/@louth-library-service>

Decade of Centenaries Reception

Acting County Librarian, Amanda Branigan represented Louth Library Service at a recent reception in Dublin Castle on 24 November hosted by An Taoiseach, to acknowledge the contributors to the Decade of Centenaries programme



Louth Library Service Acting County Librarian Amanda Branigan with fellow County Librarians and An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

Outreach

Migrant Information Event

Louth Library Service held an information stand at the Migrant Information Event in The Glenside Hotel on Wednesday the 8th of November. The event organised by the Louth/Meath Joint Migrant Integration Forum showcased the range of supports available to migrants in Louth & Meath.



Geraldine Monaghan (Meath Libraries) and Leona Burgess (Louth Library Service)

Children's Events

Parent & Toddler Mornings

- Every Thursday 10am-12pm in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries
- Every Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm in Ardee Library

Baby Book Club

Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age during Baby Book Club,

- The first Wednesday of each month in Dundalk Library
- The first Tuesday of each month in Drogheda Library.

Adult Events

Dundalk Library [\(042\) 935 3190](tel:0429353190)

At the recent Alzheimer's Café at Dundalk Library, Singers from Canagí sang some old-time favourites and gave a lovely rendition of 'The Harbour', a beautiful song of peace. This is a warm, welcoming event continuing the third Tuesday of every month.



Canagí Singers at the Alzheimer's Café in Dundalk Library

Drogheda Library 041 9876162

Drogheda Library celebrated the centenary of WB Yeats Award of the Nobel Prize. Drogheda Creative Writers recited poetry from the collection of Yeats.



Drogheda Creative Writers

Brigid 1500 Programme

As part of Brigid 1500' programme, Drogheda Library delivered a workshop on natural pigment and ink making with Grainne Murphy from Creative Spark, Dundalk. Grainne showed the group how to make their own sketchbook. Participants chose colours from nature, the local landscape and were taught the basics of capturing pigments from nature, creating inks and experimenting with mark making techniques.



Participants at the workshop in Drogheda Library

Creative Writing Group

Would you like to be part of a Creative Writing group? Come along to our Creative Writers Group to meet fellow writers on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 2.30pm-4pm. New members' are welcome.

Age Action Computer Classes

Computer classes will continue in Dundalk and Drogheda Library. The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience. This programme will run through mid December and new classes will start in January 2024. To book email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie

Ardee Library 041 6859023

Ardee Library Conversational Irish

Conversational Irish for Beginners is held every Thursday morning at 10.30am- 12.30pm. Suitable for those with a cúpla focal. All welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Peer led learning- all you need is a desire to speak as gaeilge!
Ardee Library Language Conversation Exchange

Every Tuesday evening, 6pm. Always wanted to learn a new language or practice what spoken languages you already know? Ardee Library Conversation Exchange is the perfect place to do this. Peer led language learning through conversation- all languages welcome!

Ardee Library Board Games Club

Fancy honing your Chess skills? Maybe Draughts is more your thing? Why not give Scrabble a go? Attend the Ardee Library Board Game Club every Saturday afternoon at 2.15pm. Bring a friend or meet new people for a chat while playing your favourite board game.

Film Screenings at Ardee Library

Ardee Library continues to screen films every Tuesday afternoon at 2.15pm.

The Vere Foster Writers Group

The Vere Foster Writers Group meets every second Friday. This is a group for adults to share their writings with others and build confidence in their writing. New members are very welcome!

Arts

Ardee Baroque

Ardee Baroque celebrated its 20th year with the festival running on Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th November. Due to structural works in St. Marys in Ardee this year's festival took place in the newly restored Collon Church.



The Irish Baroque Orchestra with Artistic Director Peter Whelan.

The Irish Baroque Orchestra performed on the Saturday night to a packed house with their artistic director, Peter Whelan. Sunday afternoon then saw the internationally acclaimed Fretwork ensemble playing.



Dr. Gavan Ring speaking with students of Ardee Community School at the outreach workshop as part of this year's festival.

As well as the 2 key concerts Gavan Ring, curator of this year's festival, also carried out a performance and workshop session in Ardee Community School on Thursday 23rd.

An Táin Arts Centre

Basement Gallery Exhibition

III Communication – OMIN. III Communication is a body of work created by OMIN that looks at how we as humans perceive and interact with information. Running until 22nd December in the gallery, Tues to Sat 10am – 4pm. For further details see [here](#)

The Grannies Tour

Following the success of their Bealtaine programme earlier this year, 'The Grannies' returned for a tour of Louth's nursing homes and residential facilities in November. In partnership with Louth County Council Arts Office, they visited 8 facilities to perform their hilarious show. The national tour was supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, and it was great to be able to bring them to Louth to brighten up the cold dark days for many of the residents.



'The Grannies'

Highlane's Gallery Exhibition

Exhibition: Micheál O'Connell's System Interference

Micheál O'Connell a.k.a Mocksim's practice involves messing about with everyday functional processes and technologies. That includes the digital network and online world, but also heavier infrastructures in the landscape. Arguably the work touches on environmental concerns but in obtrusive ways, and other interpretations are possible. A range of works will be on display including printed material, sound recordings and the artists signature 'simupoems' (short moving image pieces). The exhibition runs until 17th Feb 2024. For full details see [here](#)

Droichead Arts Centre

The Drogheda Traditional Music Weekend

It took place at the end of November with performances from Gerry O'Connor, Ruth Clinton, Gerry Cullen, Brendan Matthews, Edel Fox and Neill Byrne. There was also a special singing session, a tribute to Geordie Hanna, which featured special guests Ailish and Rosaleen Hanna.

Exhibition

'To Shape and To Form' – Curated by Dorothy Smith, the exhibition features work from 3 artists who have shaped and formed their own vision and language using organic and natural shapes and images. The featured artists are Suzanne Carroll, Emma Ray and Gina Petrea. The exhibition launched on 18th November and will remain in the gallery space until 20th January. For full details see [here](#)

Drogheda Classical Music Series

DCMS continued its series with Kahlo Piano Quartet performing on November 12th last. Throughout the performance you could hear a pin drop right up to the end when they received a raucous standing ovation from the crowd.



David Tobin of the Kahlo Quartet performing at St. Peters in Drogheda at the Drogheda Classical Music Series event on 12th November.

The DCMS runs until April 2024 with a performance each month. For details of all remaining events see [here](#)

Creative Ireland Louth

Louth Urban Food Sanctuary

Filming has begun on some of our tutorials and videos for the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary project. The website which will launch in December will feature footage of our key growers and gardeners including farmer Tony McGuinness, Pamela Whittaker and Roisin Cotter. Following our recent launch event and survey we are also finalising our list of produce for growing in the spring and these will be listed on the website also.

For any keen gardeners who would like to get involved in the project and take part in trying to grow some of the unique produce we will be trialing you can contact creativeireland@louthcoco.ie

Arts and Creative Ireland Funding:

Please note the Arts Office will be holding information evenings on the 2024 funding opportunities from both the Louth County Council Arts Grants and from the Creative Ireland Louth Programme. These information evenings will be on:

Tuesday 5th December – Dundalk Library @ 6.30.p.m

Wednesday 6th December – Drogheda Library @ 6.30.p.m

Thursday 7th December – Ardee Library @ 6.30.p.m

Places will be limited due to space so if you are interested in attending, please email arts@louthcoco.ie indicating which session you wish to attend.

An online video of the presentation will also be made available on the arts office website after all the information evenings are finished. All funding streams will open for application on Monday 11th December and will remain open until 7th February 2024. Application forms will be uploaded on the website [here](#) before 11th December opening date.

Museum

Currently



Display of the first Irish jerseys for the Irishwomen's team

The Museum's exhibition 'From Small Acorns ...' opened on November 18th last. Celebrating the history of women's soccer in Ireland the exhibition highlights the strong leading role played by people from Louth had in developing the sport here. This leadership took place at both a playing and administrative level involving the Paula Gorham as well as Kevin and Nan Gaynor. The exhibition will run to late January 2024. Items of note include some jerseys worn Irish women's team; an Irish international cap given to Paula Gorham as well as a crystal vase presented to her on her induction to the FAI Hall of Fame; a Stade de Reims pennant presented to an Irish side during their two week tour of Ireland in 1973.



Exhibition opening



The complete story - a replica jersey from the first internationals and Paula Gorham's Hall of Fame vase

Science Week



Using math's to predict tidal systems

The Museum also hosted several workshops to mark this year's Science Week. Among the topics to be discussed was how football explains science; how mathematical modelling can be used to clean the oceans as well as the maths that underpins Pokemon.



The maths behind Pokemon

Most recently



The Battle of Messines, an Old Dundalk Lecture

Fane Valley'- A house and its occupants, gone but not forgotten. The lecture tells the story of 'Fane Valley' house and its occupants by Conor M. J. Kenny.

The Battle of Messines presented by a Mr Philippe Mingels a World War 1 expert. Musician and composer Tracey McRory who performed a number of hauntingly evocative music reflecting local stories of World War 1.

The CLAHS lecture was entitled: The Rose in the Gap: Dance Music of Oriel from the Donnellan Collection and given by musician Gerry O'Connor, well-known local fiddle player.

Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

This Directorate is a temporary creation to lead on the response to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Response and is led by the undersigned.

Is cruthú sealadach í an Stiúrtóireacht seo chun ceannaireacht a thabhairt ar an bhfreagairt ar Fhreagra Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine agus tá sí faoi stiúir ag an té atá sínithe thíos.

Yvonne O'Brien
Acting Director / Stiúrthóir Gníomhach



Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 30/11/2023

Property offers recorded to date	47
Owners successfully contacted	47
Properties allocated to date	29
Beneficiaries assigned to date	87
Assessments	39
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	29
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn	10
Properties not viable	8

Healthy Ireland funded Integration Support

The Ukraine Response team organised yoga classes in Dundalk and older adults exercise classes in Drogheda with funding awarded from Healthy Ireland for Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Health and Wellbeing Support.



Yoga Classes in St. Gerard's Hall, Dundalk



Older Adults Exercise Classes in the Barbican Centre, Drogheda

Local Authority Integration Team

Integration teams are being rolled out nationally in every local authority. Louth is one of the first local authorities to appoint its Integration Team, consisting of an Integration Support Coordinator, 2 X Integration Supports Workers and 1 administrator. The role of the team is to compliment mainstream services by linking in with and coordinating integration supports for 4 refugee cohorts:

- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)
- International Protection Applicants
- Programme Refugees, and
- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status.