



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 October 2023
6^ú Deireadh Fomhair 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 – September 2023

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the October Monthly Agenda of Louth County Council for your consideration. This report has also been prepared under Section 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some aspects of the September 2023 performance: -

- I have now signed the Master Co-Operation agreement with Uisce Éireann on Friday last as outlined in my email to you.
- The publication of the two-year review of the County Development Plan. 2021-23.
- The award received by the Planning Section from the Irish Planning Institute under the category of Planning Workplace of the Year.
- The significant amount of road works that have been completed during this month.
- The continued progress on site at PANCR works.
- The successful completion of three Public JPC meetings which were well attended across the county.
- The continued high level of activity across the spectrum of housing functions, is evidenced on the ground across the county.

Please take some time to review the contents of this report.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 30th September 2023
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 30 Meán Fomhair 2023

Contents / Clár Ábhar

<u>Support Services / Seirbhísí Tacaíochta</u>	4
Financial Reports / Tuairiscí Airgeadais	
Water Services / Seirbhísí Uisce	
Information & Communication Technology / Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide	
<u>Strategic Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach</u>	13
Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch	
Local Enterprise Office / Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil	
European Relations / Caidreamh Eorpach	
Heritage/Oidhreacht	
Fire & Emergency Services / Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála	
Civil Defence / Cosaint Shibhialta	
Planning / Pleanáil	
Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha	
Planning Enforcement / Forfheidhmiúcháin	
Forward Planning / Pleanáil Chun Cinn	
<u>Placemaking and Physical Development / Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhísticiúil</u>	26
Roads & Local Services / Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla	
Physical Development / Forbairt Fhísticiúil	
<u>Organisational Development / Forbairt na hEagraíochta</u>	62
Corporate Services / Seirbhísí Corporáideacha	
Community Support & Sport / Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spórt	
Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action / Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide	
Veterinary Services / Seirbhísí Tréidliachta	
Human Resources / Acmhainní Duine	
<u>Social Development / Forbairt Shóisialta</u>	84
Housing / Tithíocht	
Cultural Services / Seirbhísí Cultúrtha	
Archives / An Chartlann	
Libraries / Leabharlanna	
Arts / Na hEalaíona	
Museum / An Iarsmalann	
<u>Ukrainian Humanitarian Response / Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine</u>	110
Ukrainian Humanitarian Response	

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 September 2023 / Caiteachas go dtí 30 Meán Fomhair 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas labhíir go dtí 30/09/2023	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023	% Spent to/ % Caite go 30/09/2023
Housing/Tithíocht	€34,630,178	€57,155,409	61%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€15,529,711	€27,351,782	57%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€5,895,903	€8,619,589	68%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€13,628,661	€23,666,110	58%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€13,776,667	€20,837,206	66%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€6,527,686	€10,361,634	63%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€1,003,494	€1,468,858	68%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€9,472,650	€9,018,942	105%
	€100,464,950	€158,479,531	63%

Income to 30th of September 2023 / Ioncam go 30 Meán Fomhair 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/ioncam labhíir go dtí 30/09/23	Budget Income/ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 30/09/23
Housing/Tithíocht	€33,018,984	€58,718,513	56%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€5,131,163	€16,635,478	31%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€4,972,397	€8,303,355	60%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€8,062,018	€14,403,330	56%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€1,306,622	€2,295,719	57%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€799,472	€1,208,037	66%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€355,186	€543,472	65%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€9,345,918	€11,296,768	83%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,469,827	€34,708,660	99%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€6,577,465	€9,866,198	67%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi larmhéid Dochair	€0	€500,000	0%
	€104,039,052	€158,479,531	66%

The above is the current position as of the 30th of September 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 September 2023 are as follows:

Debtors as of 30th of September 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 30 Meán Fomhair 2023

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€7,546,239	€65,547,668	(€56,067,235)	€50	€7,026,722
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Local Áitiúla Eile	€56,584	€923,006	(€566,346)	(€6,577)	€406,667
Rates/Rataí	€7,561,465	€34,469,827	(€27,889,713)	(€1,499,306)	€12,642,273
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,621,885	€11,137,424	(€10,883,946)	(€13,810)	€2,861,553
Loans/Iasachtal	€295,384	€1,516,582	(€1,505,440)	(€0)	€306,526
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€6,322,163	(€2,890,966)	(€2,769,608)	€11,605,093
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€717,575	€361,207	(€282,465)	(€46,475)	€749,842
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáitheach	€1,804,894	€8,863,280	(€7,913,781)	(€73,179)	€2,681,214
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€31,547,531	€129,141,157	(€117,999,892)	(€4,408,905)	€38,279,890

Above are the debtor balances as of 30th of September 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.

Budget 2024 Meeting

The date for the 2024 Draft Budget Meeting has been agreed for Monday the 20th of November 2023 directly following the normal monthly council meeting. The dates for the Municipal/ Borough District meetings to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan have been agreed for Monday 16th of October 2023 to be held before the normal monthly council meeting.

Water Services

Master Co-Operation Agreement

The Chief Executive has signed the Master Co-Operation agreement with Uisce Éireann on Friday 29th of September 2023. This now means that control of Water Services will fully transfer to Uisce Éireann within a short period of time. We will inform you of the actual transfer date when it is agreed.

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 both Public and Private water supplies is continually undertaken by Louth County Council and an independent INAB accredited laboratory.

Water Conservation / Caomhnú Uisce

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

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

CSL have been appointed as Contractors for this project. The pre-commencement meeting took place on 14th Sept 2023. The project shall include new Pumping Stations at both Bannon's Cross and Allardstown, a disinfection kiosk at Mullacrew Reservoir, access road to Mullacrew reservoir and the provision of relevant telemetry and SCADA at Cavanhill WTP.

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 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 in Omeath.

Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation / Athshlánú an Líonra Séaraigh Aitiúil

The 2023 Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation Programme is progressing with works currently underway in the Drogheda Agglomeration.

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

The Council continue to liaise with Uisce Éireann and their consultants (Arup Consulting Engineers) on the Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP). The Project Consultants are progressing the Hydraulic Model for the agglomeration and the Stage 4 Report.

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 in the Detailed Design stage.

Coe's Road Pumping Station / Stáisiún 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. Council 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. Permanent reinstatement has been completed along the route of the rising main.

Greenmount WTW Upgrade/Uasghrádú Ionad Cóireála Uisce Dhroim Chatha

Uisce Éireann are progressing the design of proposed Upgrade Works at Greenmount Water Treatment Works. The Council continue to engage with the design team on relevant data gathering and site visits. An updated programme is awaited.

Drogheda WWTP/Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann is continuing to carry out works at Drogheda Wastewater Treatment Plant and is committed to resolving any potential odour issues arising from the wastewater plant or the network. Uisce Éireann continues to work closely with EPS Ltd who operate the plant on behalf of Uisce Éireann. 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). Council staff are currently liaising with Uisce Éireann and the project consultants in various aspects of the project. Design works are currently being progressed.

Cockle Hill PS Upgrade / Uasghrádú Stáisiún Ceadéalacháin Chnoic na Ruachan

The project commenced on site in April and works are progressing on site.

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/ Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

UÉ contractors GMC commenced on site in February 2023. Works have been substantially completed with final reinstatement programmed for Q4 2023.

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 being progressed by the Project Consultants.

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Clár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Clár Athshlánúcháin

Uisce Éireann is currently carrying out 1 rehabilitation scheme (R166 Termonfeckin to Drogheda) works in September.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook no find & fix type repairs in September.

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú.

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 5 first fix type repairs in September.

Pressure Management

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 1 PRV installation in September.

Water Scouring Programme 2023 / Clár Sciúrtha Uisce 2023

Louth County Council Crew undertook uni-directional network flushing in Dundalk, town centre in September.

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

46 essential water tasks were carried out in September.

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 22 new connections, 12 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 34 Planning Applications in September.

Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

The Networks Section prepared 0 Service Maps in September.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

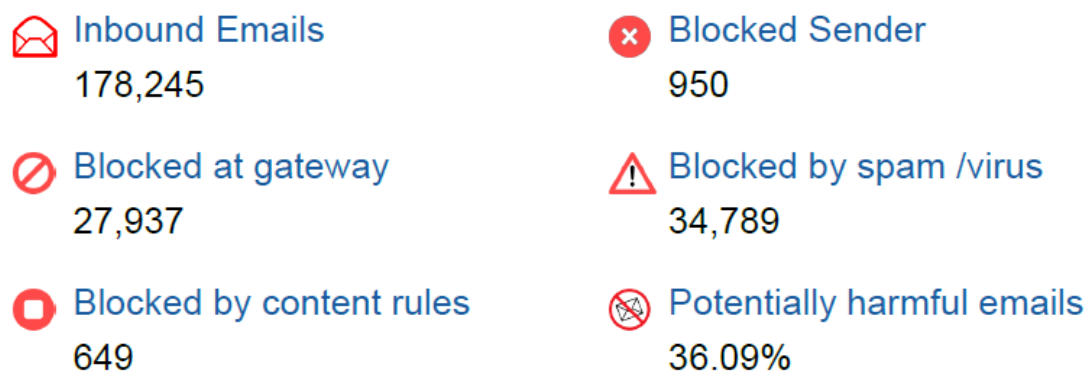
Between 01/09/2023 and the 30/09/2023 there were 791 support calls logged in the IT support system. Security and Application Software were the highest category of support requests in September.

From: 09-01-2023 00:00 To: 09-30-2023 23:59

	Closed	Open	Count
Accessories	11	0	11
Application Software	126	7	133
Desktop/Laptop	8	0	8
General	24	0	24
Mobile Devices	13	0	13
Network	103	3	106
Not Assigned	0	87	87
Operating System	2	0	2
Printers	24	3	27
Security	198	9	207
Services	57	1	58
Telecoms	34	1	35
User Administration	79	1	80
Count	679	112	791

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 September 37% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



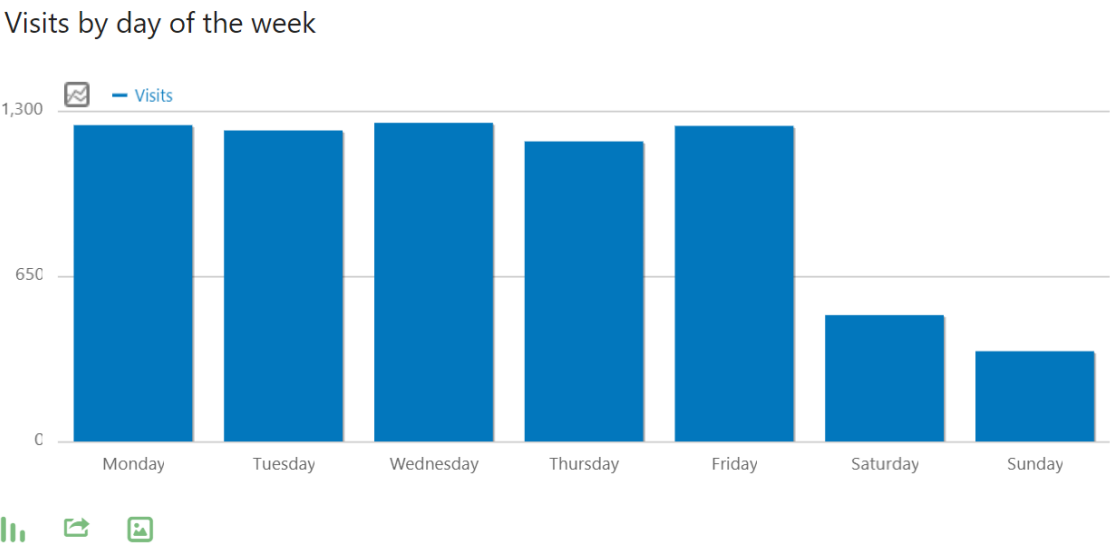
Louth County Council Website

There were 16,870 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in September.

The majoity of visitors accessed the website directly, search engines were the next most popular entry point, followed by from other websites and social networks.

For the first time this year Job Vacancies was the highest visted page in September, followed by Planning, Library and Dog Pound.

The below charts indicates that the website receives the majority of it’s visits mid-week, with the most visits on Wednesdays during September.

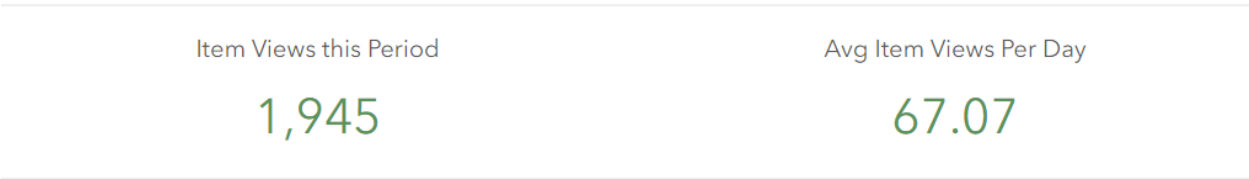


Related report: Visits per local time

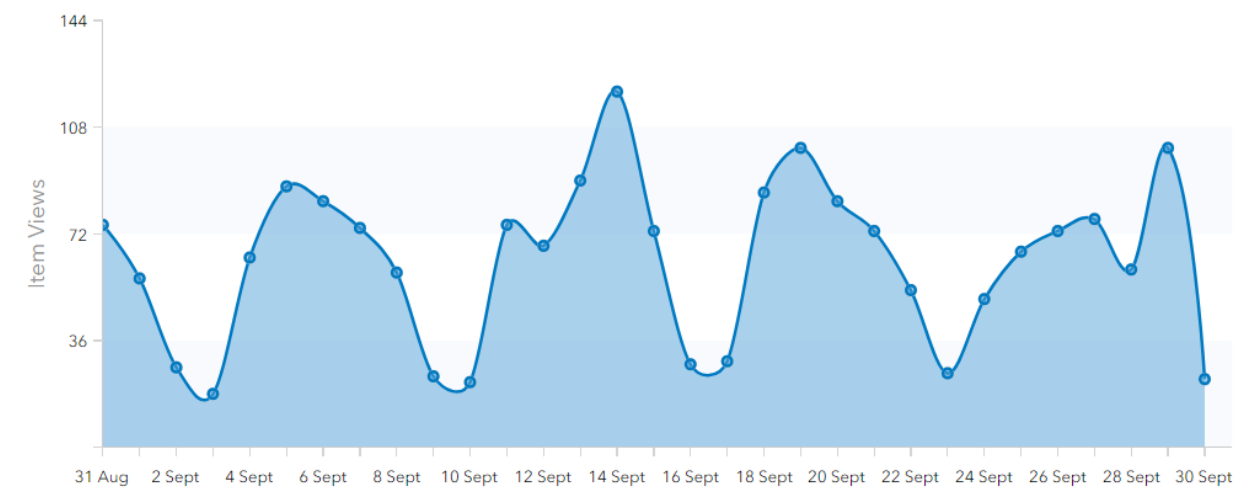
This report was generated using data from 2023-09-01 – 2023-09-30.

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

The Council 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 1,945 views in September, an average of 67 views a day.



Usage Time Series



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

Thomas McEvoy
Director / 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 27th September. Amanda Smyth, Program Manager for Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) gave a presentation on focusing on the opportunities available, key actions planned and next steps to progress same.

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

A meeting of this SPC took place on Tuesday 19th September which discussed an update on the LECP process, Economic Development & Tourism, and business supports and local authority incentives.

Economic input to Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2029 process is ongoing. A presentation on the draft plan was made to the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC with comments requested. The draft plan is being updated with additional feedback and will be back with the SPC in October for review.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022 (Omeath)

24 applications were received by Louth County Council under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. Work has been undertaken, the result of which has had a positive visual impact on the overall appearance of Omeath.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2023

The scheme opened to applications on Monday 3rd April, the closing date for receipt of applications was Friday, 29th September 2023.

Delegation from Jinan, China

We welcomed a nine-person delegation from Jinan, China on Friday 29th September. The delegation was led by Mr. Li Kaisen, Deputy Minister of Organisation Department of Jinan Municipal Party Committee. The purpose of the visit was to exchange economic trade and promotion policies.



Mr. Zhang Lei, Deputy Director, Talent at Work Division, Jinan Municipal Party Committee; Mr. Li Kaisen, Deputy Minister, Organisation Dept of Jinan Municipal Committee with the Chief Executive, Joan Martin

Tourism

Festival Funding 2023

Festivals which received funding from Louth County Council are ongoing. Please keep an eye on www.visitlouth.ie and our social media channels where we will be promoting these festivals and other events taking place throughout the county.

sea louth

sea louth has been shortlisted in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in the ‘Supporting Tourism’ category. The awards will take place on the 23rd November, 2023.

Brigid 1500

Works are being finalised to plan a gala concert to close the Brigid 1500 commemorations together with a full programme of events. It is intended to launch the programme in October.

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

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. The public consultation process is due to commence in October.

Urban Animation - Lú Festival of Light, Drogheda

The 2023 festival will launch on the 27th October running through to the 4th November (no show on the 1st & 2nd November). Plans are underway for an even more spectacular event in 2023. An application for additional funding under the Urban Animation scheme has been successful and approved by Fáilte Ireland.

Click [here](#) to see the video highlights of the 2022 festival.

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 of the streets, shopping and parking information.



Wayfinding totem at Millmount

Boyne Valley Camino – Spanish delegation visit

A delegation from the Galicia region in Spain, including their President visited Drogheda on 21st September to experience the Boyne Valley Camino. The delegation visited many points of the Boyne Valley Camino which is part of the Celtic Camino route affiliated to the Camino de Santiago in Spain.



Camino Delegation in the Drogheda Tourist Office

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.

Shared Island Funding

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

Work on same has commenced. The Department of the Taoiseach extended the deadline for this scheme to the 30th of November, 2023.

Boyne Valley Flavours

Boyne Valley Bites

Workshops were held in Drogheda and Navan with chefs Tara Walker and Conor Halpenny showcasing how local food and drink could be highlighted. A recipe pack and producer directory of local craft drinks and food has been produced to share with the trade.

Boyne Valley Flavours Strategy

The food development officer has been working with Mark O'Connell of Repucon Consulting in relation to the new 5-year strategy, which included circulating surveys, facilitating and attending consultations with members and steering group committee members.

Samhain Festival

Work on the Samhain festival in Kells is ongoing. It was successfully launched at culture night on the 22nd of September. The festival will take place from the 2nd to 5th November with information and tickets available here: <https://boynevalleyflavours.ie/pages/samhain2023>.

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

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 support.

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.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

'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.

Business Training



During September LEO held four training courses delivered to 61 attendees. They included 'An

Introduction to TikTok for Business', 'Book Keeping for Small Business' and two 'Start Your Own Business' courses.

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.

Six Trading Online Voucher applications have been approved in September.

Business Advice Clinics

Twenty-two business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during September.

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.

Nineteen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of September.

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

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 September.

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. Further information on this grant can be found here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Innovation Exchange North East

Peter McGrane represented LEO Louth at the official launch of the Innovation Exchange North East by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Simon Coveney at The Mill Enterprise Hub on 22nd September. The Innovation Exchange is a government initiative backed by Skillnet Ireland, where businesses facing digital transformation challenges are connected with innovative solutions providers with the talent to help them achieve their ambitions.

Grow Remote Community

Peter McGrane represented LEO Louth at the launch of the new Grove Remote Community for local remote working in the Market House, Dunleer on 15th September. Grow Remote is a social enterprise on a mission to make good quality job

opportunities available to everyone, regardless of their location.



Peter McGrane, LEO Louth with Cllr. John Sheridan

Building Better Business

Niamh Dennehy represented LEO Louth at the Building Better Business conference organised by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on 22nd September in DKIT. LEO Louth had a stand at the conference and LEO Louth client Laura Armada-Buch of The Juiceworks participated on one of the speaker panels.



Simon Coveney, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Eilín Connolly, LEO Monaghan; Niamh Dennehy, LEO Louth; Pauline Mulligan, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Mairéad McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union; Conor Craven, LEO Cavan

North East Creative Conversations Conference

Sarah Mallon represented LEO Louth at the North East Creative Conversations Conference on Exploring International Design Markets on 6th September in the Ballymascanlon Hotel. 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.

Blas Na hÉireann

Sarah Mallon represented LEO Louth at the Blas na hÉireann Irish Food Awards on 28th September in Dingle where ten Louth based businesses were shortlisted for awards.

European Relations



PEACEPLUS

The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on Monday 4th September and discussed the next steps of the eligibility and feasibility of concepts for the PEACEPLUS programme. This meeting also gave agreement for a roundtable public consultation to be held.

This public consultation went ahead at Muirhevnámór Community Centre on the 20th September where groups and members of the public gave their feedback and contributions to the further development of PEACEPLUS concepts.



Chief Executive Joan Martin speaking at the PEACEPLUS Public Consultation in Muirhevnámór Community Centre



Members of the public and representatives from groups at the PEACEPLUS Public Consultation in Muirhevnámór Community Centre

Meetings between the PEACE team and our consultants, Blu Zebra, continued in the background

throughout this process and in preparation for these events. 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

Biodiversity

CoastWatch 2023

Coast Watch 2023 began on 15th September and volunteers are needed to cover one or more 500m stretches of the whole coast of the county by mid-October.

Nest boxes for swifts

The liaison continued with National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff and with voluntary groups in efforts to get nest boxes for swifts made and erected on public and other buildings around the county.

Two wildlife rangers for Louth

A new Wildlife Ranger has been appointed to cover the southern part of County Louth. Robert O'Dwyer will lead on wildlife issues in south Louth, while Jen Lynch will continue to deal with them in the northern part of the county.

The Heritage Officer showed Robert around the Clogherhead SAC, the only European site that is mostly in public ownership (of Louth County Council).

The Heritage Officer also met the north Louth Wildlife Ranger, Jen Lynch, to discuss possible projects to remove self-seeded alien conifers on or adjacent to the Carlingford Mountain SAC and invasive cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) on the intertidal area of Carlingford Lough.

Monuments

Community Monuments Fund

An updated application for Ministerial Consent was written for proposed conservation works at Cappocksgate, Ardee.

Preparations continued for monument conservation works at both Glaspistol and Taaffe's towerhouse castles and to carry out a condition survey of Drogheda's town walls.

The National Monuments Service was also contacted following a report of the deliberate destruction of field monuments by a landowner. The Office of Public Works (OPW) was contacted in relation to maintenance of the wall at the Old Abbey in Drogheda.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved an extension and upgrade to Dundalk Regional Fire Service Training Centre at a cost of €2.9 million. Louth County Council will shortly be going to tender for a Design Team for this project.

The industrial action by retained fire service members which had been suspended on 17th August ended on 5th September when the WRC proposals were accepted in a SIPTU ballot. The implementation of the improvements contained in the proposals has commenced.

A recruitment campaign for the retained service has started and will continue in the coming months.

Five full-time recruits completed their 17-week recruit's course in Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre on 22nd September. The pass-out ceremony took place in the Training Centre on 20th September. The course included several Louth Station Officer Instructors.

Louth Fire Service members attended three Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Courses in Hacketstown Training Centre, Co. Carlow.

Cardiac First Responder refresher courses started for fire service personnel on 28th September.

The design of the new fire station in Dunleer is continuing. The Fire Prevention Section inspected several licensed bars and nightclubs in relation to the renewal of their annual licences.

Major Emergency Management

There was a regional Major Emergency Working Group meeting in Dublin on 5th September chaired by Louth County Council. This included a presentation by Alice Doherty, Senior HSA Inspector on the storage and transport of dangerous goods by road.

The Regional Major Emergency Steering Group, chaired by Louth County Council, met in Dundalk on 13th September.

There was a Met Éireann briefing and a Severe Weather Assessment Team meeting on 26th September in relation to Storm Agnes. The storm was limited in Louth and no additional emergency measures were required.

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

The following events were provided with medical cover:

- Cyclocross, Jenkinstown for five days
- Pulse Triathlon event at Port Beach, Clogherhead
- Garda Tony Golden Memorial Cycle

Civil Defence attended the Emergency Services Day Parade and Exhibition in Drogheda.

Civil Defence provided an emergency response to six incidents in the National Ambulance Service Community First Responder 999 Scheme. These included cardiac arrests and other emergencies.

Training as follows:

- Weekly Training
- Emergency First Responder (EFR) recertification
- Hugs @ Home Training (Critical Incident Stress Management)

Building Control

The number of dwellings for which Commencement Notices were received by the Council in the first 9 months of 2023 showed a large increase from the same period in 2022. There was an increase from 551 in 2022 to 1047 in 2023.

Louth hosted the quarterly Regional Building Control & Market Surveillance meeting on the 27th September. This was attended by Building Control staff from midland and North East counties, National Building Control Office staff and DHLGH staff.

Amended Radon regulations will be issued shortly, including a revised Radon map.

The national construction products surveillance office in Dublin has highlighted issues with certain construction products and this has required inspections, including in Louth with the Building Control Officer.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of August, 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 107 planning applications received during the month of August of which 79 were valid. In addition there were 24 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 25 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	6	11	33	0	50
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	1	6	15	0	22
(iii) Percentage of applications	0.00% (0)	36.36% (4)	9.09% (3)	0.00% (0)	14.00% (7)

refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh					
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	2	0	2	0	4
(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 August, 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	
	August 2023 / Lúnasa 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	August 2022 / Lúnasa 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	23	205	27	182
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	13	213	16	200
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	15	160	16	145
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	8	0	8
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	4	0	4
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures / Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Déanmhais Chontúirteacha

The Planning Indicators listed below are in relation to Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period July to September 2023.

Tá na Táscairí Pleanála thíos liostaithe bainteach le Fógraí a eisíodh faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Seirbhísí Sláintíochta) 1964 sa tréimhse Iúil go Meán Fómhair, 2023.

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidhmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha	
	July – September Iúil – Meán Fómhair 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhas Contúirteach a osclaíodh	14	28
Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (1)(a) – Ag Tabhairt ordú d’úinéir obair a dhéanamh	14	38
Number of Section 3 (2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (2)(b) – Obair le déanamh ag CCL	0	0
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 2 – Áit Chontúirteach	0	1
Number of Dangerous Structures entered on the DS Register	11	25
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	1	3
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0
Number of Dangerous Structures Removed from the DS Register	0	6
Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh	3	12

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	
	September 2023 / Meán Fómhair 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 didn't 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	6
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	21	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

Forward Planning

Adoption of the Louth County Council Development Contribution Scheme

Pursuant to Section 48 (9) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, Louth County Council, at its meeting held on 18th September 2023, adopted a Development Contribution Scheme that applies to development within the functional area of the Council, with the exception of the area covered by the North Drogheda - R132 to Dublin - Belfast

Railway Line Development Contribution Scheme (Map Reference No. DDSCS1).

Full details of the scheme are available at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/development-contribution-schemes/>.

Response(s) Issued to Submissions Received

Responses issued in relation to the Public Consultation on Irish Rail Timetables and the Newry Southern Relief Road – Stage 3, EIA Consultation.

Irish Planning Institute - Planning Awards 2023

The Irish Planning Institute Awards were held in Clontarf Castle on 28th September. The Planning Section of Louth County Council received a Commendation under the category of Planning Workplace of the Year. This category celebrates planning authorities, consultancies and in-house planning teams which support and contribute to the professional development of their teams and the wider profession. The Commendation also recognises how the Council supports and develops young planners in their career development and also addresses diversity and inclusion.



Presentation of Award at Clontarf Castle

Progress Report on the County Development Plan 2021- 2027

A 2 year progress report on the County Development Plan 2021-2027 was circulated to members on 29th September 2023, detailing progress since the adoption of the Plan on 30th Sept 2021.

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
	Dundalk By Pass
	Old Coes Rd
	Rock Rd
	Point Rd
	Ecco Rd
	Castletown Rd
	Old Newry Rd
	Riverside Crescent
	Laurels
	Ramparts
	Armagh Rd
	Mooreland /Lennonmelia 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 Park
	Market Square, Borders and Planters

	Mount Avenue Castleross hedgerow Ashling Park Estate River Grids Bottle Banks at Long Walk, Harp Car Park, Meadow Grove Barrack St Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day and area litter picked Cooley Isolated locations including Templetown, Gyles Quay, Shilling hill
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht Nightly By Contractor – 200 Bins Street bins all repainted and replaced Stand alone dog bins removed as dog waste being place in street bins Maxwells Row Philip St Fatima Pk Tom Bellew Ave Ard Easmuinn Fagan Corner Bellewsbridge Solar bins power washed All tubs in full flower All hanging baskets and barrier boxes in full flower at present Bins emptied in the Cooley by outdoor staff, Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown, Gyles Quay. New solar bins

	installed in Carlingford village by outdoor staff
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain Contract sweeper as per contract- Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra By contractor nightly as part of the street bin collections	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain 200 Litter Bins throughout the town As per bin maintenance in Cooley
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. Replaced new rope attached to 3 Ring Buoys in the last month. Carried out by Water Safety Officer in Cooley.
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 play equipment at St Helena's and Muirhevnemor In Cooley, checks conducted by Area Staff

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> Surface dressing in Cooley Slievenaglogh - L S 70830. <u>Dundalk</u> Tar Patching using the bagged tar at Oaklawns. Resurfacing works at the Rampart Road.	Road repairs
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<u>Cooley</u> Drainage works at Willville, Aghameen & Ballogley <u>Dundalk</u> None at this time	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<u>Cooley</u> None at this time <u>Dundalk</u> Pruning low branches from trees in Clanbrassil St Grass cutting all areas	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<u>Cooley</u> None at this time <u>Dundalk</u> None at this time	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	<u>Cooley</u> Survey on pedestrian lights (working or not) been conducted at this time <u>Dundalk</u> Ongoing repairs. Bulb replacement, sequencing of lights checked at Castletown Rd and St Mary's Rd	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> R173 after recent surface dressing, Bush school	

	<u>Dundalk</u> None at this time	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing advanced warning signs are being replaced at road junctions. <u>Dundalk</u> Replaced bollards on Newry Road. Replaced centre island bollards at Hill St Bridge, Park Drive. Replaced numerous new signage for faded in areas around town. Trimmed branches from Signage on approach roads. Hedge Trimming on approach roads and along By Pass.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<u>Cooley</u> Recent road side dumping at Haggardstown. <u>Dundalk</u> Dumping of sofas and mattresses in areas of By Pass and Woodview. Muirhevnemor play areas. Entrance to Woodview Estate- Black bags being dumped weekly Mooreland Rd Inner Relief Rd Racecourse Rd Ath Leathan estate By Pass at WUXI roundabout Old Coes Rd Saltown Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	<u>Cooley</u> None this month. <u>Dundalk</u> Graffiti removed from Road Signs. Graffiti removed from Bins at St Helena's Pk.	



Plaining works at Aghameen Park, Dundalk



Footpath works at Point Road, Dundalk

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	LP-3161 Rock Road Blackrock, LP-3136 Carrickrobin Hackballscross (HBX) LT-31252 Clonaleenaghan HBX, LS-7126 Cortial Kilkerley, LS-7127 Kilkerley Road Kilkerley, LP-3122 Belrobin Kilkerley, LT-31251 Barronstown Hackballscross, LP-7160 Sandylane Blackrock. R187 Drumeenagh and on R170 Allardstown – Walterstown Cross. R175 Mullacrew, R174 Thomastown.	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. R217 Maine – Annagassan R172 Mills of Louth – Louth Village. R206 Crowmartin 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 Tráchtá	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 Annagassan	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage
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	



Roadworks at Tallanstown



VRS at Killanny

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	LP 2239-0-20 Mountain Road L 52101 Cookstown L 12333-0 Mullanstown LP 1228-14 Richardstown Road LS 6237-0 Cappoge LP 2290-0 Priest Hill LP 2295-25 Collon LS 6216-0 Stabannon LS5267-0 Funshog, LS 5258-0 Millockstown, LP-5259-0 Stony Lane Ardee, LP 2215-0 Mansfield town, LS 6216-0 Pollbrock, LP 2250-0 Dysart, LS 5256-0 Jumping Church, LS 6238-0 Castlethomas, LP 2223-0 Johnstown,	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	LP 2295 Brannigans Cross to R168, LP 2254-0 Rathescar to Dromin cleaning yard at sewage works Ardee R132 with junction of the R169 outlets LS 2254-2 lane at Dromin L5234 Silverhill, Piped crossing at Mountain Road	

Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	N/A	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Main street Dunleer Dropped kerb disabled bay Ardee, McCreanor's Terrace Ardee, Main street Dunleer digging out footpaths, Removing of 2 hour parking signs in car parks, Removing and then replacing damaged 30kph at entrance to Beech Wood Drive	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	N2 at Daiy's Cross, N2 at Collon, Parking sign Poles and signs Ardee Town, Removing weight restriction signs in car park in Ardee town,	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



New N2 signage

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 when resources 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.

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
Port Oriel Pier, 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 and 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.
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., Teromenfeekin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure. - Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday. - Jetter van one week in Peters St and old hill - Jetter van sewers .
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain Empty circa 35 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 Copacabana	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Between 4 & 5 daily checks (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	LS-6279-0 The Dales, LS-6283-0 Callystown, LS-6289-0 Coach Road, LP-2308-24 at Pope's Cross Monasterboice, LS-6317-0 Sheepgrange LS-6252-0 Trean Road Dunleer LS-6323-1 Kearneys Road Killineer LS-6311-0 Killineer LS-6326-0 Townrath Drainage Works Gullies checked at Hardmans Gardens LCC's crew Pot hole repairs at: • Cord Rd • Catherines steps • St Laurence Park Road Works Program – Resurfacing works at Trinity Street complete
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	R167 Queesborough LP-2278-32 Sandpit LS-6326-0 Townrath Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing Gully cleaning on-going on approach roads, town centre streets and estates.

Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	Fallen tree removed from the Monasterboice Road	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Steps on Cord Road	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	DR04, R132 @ Bull Ring/North DR52 - Ardee ped @ Castle Fault DR29 Platin Rd/Beamore Rd Drogheda	Chamber lid replaced Phase Red A Fault Lights out
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre		
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Signs/poles repaired at Bolton street	
Weed killing / Marú fialí		
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	St. Catherine's Steps Ramparts Moneymore/Twentie's lane	Black bags removed, no fines issued EPA complaint ongoing Ongoing dumping, litter removed

	Waterhill Steps	Litter removed, penalty notice issued
	Chapel Lane	Mattresses removed
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



New Louth County Council Signage at North Quay, Drogheda



New bollards at Cherrymount



Works at Crushrod Avenue, Drogheda

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been released to the restricted panel of Contractors with a return date of the 27th Oct. 2023. Consultation meeting CM#3 to took place with the selected contractors on the 18th to the 20th of September.

A North South Ministerial Infrastructure Subgroup meeting was held on the 19th Sept with a further meeting of this group to be held in November.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services has been procured and they are liaising with the agents of landowners. A Category 3 Bridge checker has commenced on the project. A Letter of intent has been issued for mussel fishermen valuation service provider.

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

An Bord Pleanála has made a confirmation order on the 1st August, 2023 confirming with 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 September.

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders. Technical acceptance report has received its initial approval for structures. Archaeological test trenching package is currently being prepared for field work and testing. A tender has been issued for geotechnical advice for some soft soils' areas.

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 Board's directions to Louth County Council concerning the preparations of an EIAR and NIS. The matter came before the High Court on the 18th July for mention and was adjourned to Tuesday 24th October 2023.

Judge Hyland ordered that the Applicant be given until 30th September 2023 to file any opposition papers. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

Port Access Northern Cross Route

A Notice to Enter was issued by the 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.

Stream works are now complete, and earthworks are now substantially complete. Works are ongoing on the installation of utilities. Kerbing and footpath work have commenced on the mainline. 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. 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 Q2 2024.



Aerial View of PANCR Phase 1 progress image from Google Maps

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Contractor has commenced work on the Council owned lands section on 24th April 2023 with a proposed programme of 16 weeks to complete. Road formation completed, drainage and services completed. Delays to progressing this section of work are due to awaiting the ESB to carry out a shutout to transfer lines over to new cabling. 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 and 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 October.

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 and Section 2 Omeath to the Border Construction works contract has been awarded to GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd. Works are progressing well with approx 50% of the greenway temporarily fenced and topsoiled stripped. Approx 30% of the greenway earthworks were completed.



Sub base Placement



Earthworks adjacent to the Navigation Beacons

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.

A revised major planning application was submitted in February 2023 and granted in March. The minor planning application for the route change was submitted in April 2023 and it is anticipated that Planning Permission in N.I. will be decided upon in Q3 2023 and works commencing in Q4 2023.

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.

The appointment of the design and environmental consultant has now been completed with a kick-off meeting being held on the 2nd of October.

It's envisaged that a Public Consultation event on the overall study area will be held in Q3. 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.

The Preliminary designs are now complete and issued to the Members for information purposes. The Consultant has made the final amendments to the screening reports – all three schemes have been screened out. Budget estimates have been provided and each of the 3 schemes are below the threshold for Part 8. It is envisaged that 3 individual applications under the ORIS Measure 2 Fund will be made.

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.



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

LIHAF Project:

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are continuing in the scheme. Earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Roadworks are commencing on the

Castletown Road in preparation for a pedestrian crossing and junction improvement. A road closure is in place from Monday the 17th April 2023.

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Mobilisation work (i.e. site compound etc) now complete. The Contractor's specialists (ecologist, conservationist, bat survey, etc) have now completed their site visits and baseline reporting to inform method of working. The encapsulation of the bridge in temporary works has now commenced. Works to the structure involve the removal of the old redundant inspection platform; stripping back all rust from the steel members, replacement of steel members which have degraded beyond safe level of service and repair of all other members and rivets. Also, removal of the existing concrete deck and reinstallation of a new deck, painting of all steel members; repair off and re-pointing of piers and stonework.

A Road Closure with traffic diversions has been implemented.



Encapsulation system commenced

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Bay window continues to be rebuilt. Window installation, further brick remedial works and repointing with lime mortar are all underway.

First floor joist straps all installed, and roof (with exception of Cupola) now slated out. First Fix Mechanical and Electrical completed.



View From Evercam of Block B Slates



Lime Mortar repointing Block B

Block N: New Link Building

Waterproofing layer to Roof now completed.

Mechanical & Electrical Contractors first fix cable and pipe runs completed. Clear Story Glass Steel support brackets installed. RC Slab to rear of Block N abutting Operations Yard under construction. All Windows installed with external render due to commence in the coming days.



Block N: New Link Building internal walls fit out



**Block N New Link Building : Foyer (Reception) Area
First Fix completed**

Block C: Community Services Building

Concrete floors have been poured into the entrance hallway, toilet and cleaner's store. Refurbished and spliced roof trusses have been installed. East room roof has been felted and battened and floor plywood fixed. Wallhead restoration works have been carried out. First Fix Electrical and Mechanical has commenced.



Block C West Room with Refurbished Trusses installed. Rafter install commenced, with felt and batten and slating to follow over the coming days

Dunleer Fire Station

Consultants have been appointed and the Designer's work on preliminary proposals and options on site layouts continue. Site surveys have been completed. The process of land purchase is on-going.

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer Joint Venture (JV) continue to work on Stage 1 of the Project. The Draft Hydraulic Report has been reviewed by the OPW / Council with subsequent comments being considered/ The JV are currently completing the wave overtopping assessment. Preliminary options assessment for an extensive range of possible Flood Relief Measures continues to be developed. The JV is currently considering proposed developments which may overlap with the options being considered. The proposed locations for ground investigation works are

being finalised and the environmental and archaeological assessments being carried out. Additional seasonal environmental surveying e.g. wintering bird's surveys are being procured.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised. 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 are currently analysing results and writing hydraulics report.

Additional topographical surveying is being carried out and the hydraulic updated model accordingly.

Options assessment has begun and will continue over the next few months.

The Fieldwork elements of the preliminary Ground Investigation works are completed, and the Laboratory testing of samples is underway with report due in the coming weeks.

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 have commenced a data review of the Carlingford and Greenore Flood Defence Project to reappraise the Options identified in the Flood Risk Management Plan. The data review will include additional rainfall data collection and modelling. Two temporary rain gauges are now operational, installed at Carlingford Fire Station and at the rear of

Carlingford Library for rainfall data collection, providing additional data to inform project design and development.

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. It is envisaged that this ecological work will be completed by October 2023.

The Council is in the process of preparing the draft Section 177AE Applications for each of the three locations, with the aim of submitting the applications to An Bord Pleanála in October/November 2023.

Thereafter, and subject to planning permission, 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 has been acquired. Department of Education have submitted a planning application.

Ardee E.T.N.S.

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



Sod Turning on the 17th August, Cllr Dolores Minogue, Cathaoirleach

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

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

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



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



FASTER Project Launch, in attendance Joan Martin CE Louth Co. Council, Pamela Arthurs EBR, Andrew King SEUPB and Philip Rainey Weev.

Civil works are currently ongoing at Virginia, Co. Cavan, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. Navan, Co. Meath, Tobercurry, County Sligo. Works to commence on the other sites early October.

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

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 current statuses of the ongoing Active Travel projects are 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, where 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 current statuses of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below.

Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: St. Dominick's Bridge.	€111,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Works are 100% completed. The Bridge is open to pedestrian and cycle traffic. LOUTH CO. COUNCIL will be organising an official opening in September 2023. The Project Team will be undertaking a maintenance inspection in September 2023 in advance of expiry of the contractor's liability period i.e. 12 months. It's proposed to host an official opening in November 2023. Drogheda MD members will be notified of date in due course.	Substantially completed in November 2022
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€415,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Revised Gateway 2 Report submitted to the NTA in Feb 2023. LOUTH CO. COUNCIL & NTA Officials met in Drogheda on Friday 8th September 2023 to inspect and review a number of Active Travel Projects in the town. On the 12th September 2023 an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme was given to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors. The Active Travel met key stakeholders in Drogheda Library on the 27th September 2023. A Non-statutory Public Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Options is proposed to run from Monday 9th October to Friday 20th October 2023. The project information, including study area maps and typical proposals, will be hosted on the consultation portal available from 9th October 2023 at... https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/drogheda-active-travel-phase2. An in-person consultation event where the public can meet with the design team, will be held at Drogheda Library on Wednesday 11th October from 3pm to 7.30pm. Louth Elected members (councillors, TD's & Senators) will be invited to a close session on Wednesday 11th Oct 2023 from 2pm – 3pm). LOUTH CO. COUNCIL received Gateway 2 Approval from the NTA on 27th September 2023.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS 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. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in November 2023 in advance of public consultations. Date of on-line Briefing to be confirmed.	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2024
Drogheda: R168 Collon rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS Group have commenced design and are currently developing options. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19 th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31 st August 2023 and a Public Consultation Day was held in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14 th September 2023. The consultation period expired on Friday 22 nd September 2023 and the Design Team are currently reviewing all submissions.	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2024
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS Group have commenced design and are currently developing options. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19 th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31 st August 2023 and a Public Consultation Day was held in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14 th September 2023. The consultation period expired on Friday 22 nd September 2023 and the Design Team are currently reviewing all submissions.	This received Pathfinder status approval on the 14 th Oct 2022. Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€200,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS Group have commenced design and are currently developing options. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19 th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31 st August 2023 and a Public Consultation Day was held in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14 th September 2023. The consultation period expired on Friday 22 nd September 2023 and the Design Team are currently reviewing all submissions.	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
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. An on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Dundalk Municipal District Councillors was held on 26th July 2023. Comments / observations raised by Councillors were considered in the preliminary design. On Thursday 3rd August 2023 we conducted meetings with a number of key stakeholders along the route. A Public Consultation Day was held in Dundalk Library on Thursday 21st September 2023. The consultation period expired on Friday 29th September 2023 and the Design Team are currently reviewing all submissions.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€464,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	LOUTH CO. COUNCIL received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19th June 2023. Meetings held with SMT, Councillors and Public Bodies on the relevant scheme in June 2023. LOUTH CO. COUNCIL have met a number of key stakeholders in June 2023. Gateway 3 Report due to be submitted to the NTA by end of Sept 2023.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
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 plan to hold a number of meetings with resident groups along the route. (dates TBC).	Proposed Part 8 late Q4 2023

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 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. 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.	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.	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.	2024
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.	2024
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	Design Team have prepared preliminary design drawings. LOUTH CO. COUNCIL are liaising with adjacent landowners with regards to agreeing land take. Tenders to be issued in Mid Q3 2023.	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

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
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 4. Scoil Aonghusa, 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 3rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced. Traffic Survey & Topographical Surveys to commence end of July 2023. Drone Surveys to be conducted in September in line with new school year.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning pack is in the final stages of preparation for submission to An Bord Pleanála for the planning consent process. Turley Planning, the lead consultant for the Westgate Urban Design Team, is finalising the planning package.

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

Planning documents

- Access and Active Travel Management Strategy
- Westgate Natural 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)

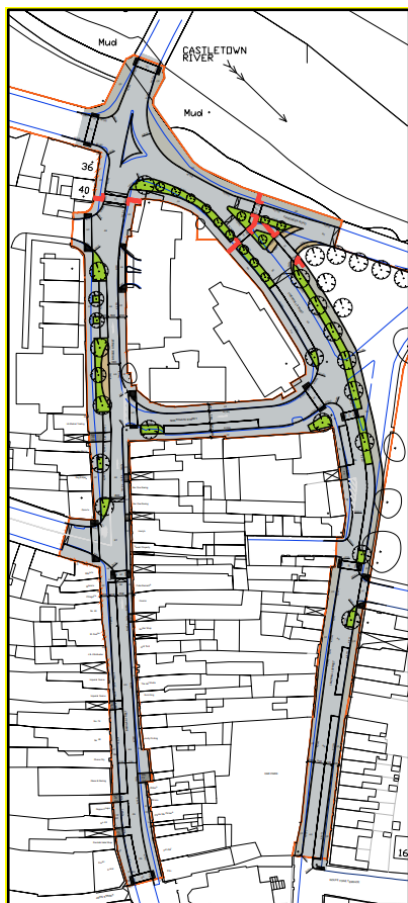
Phase 1

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. Topographical, GPR and traffic surveys have all been completed to allow for the detailed design to progress. The final layout has been finalised, with approval received to progress with the tender documents for the appointment of a contractor. It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in Q1 2024.

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 the successful contractor is currently being appointed.



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 the majority of the proposal; however two items remain to be agreed. The Council has requested a meeting to discuss the outstanding items.

The tender documentation for the appointment of a works contractor is complete other than any required changes requested by National Monuments. These will now be updated in line with approval.

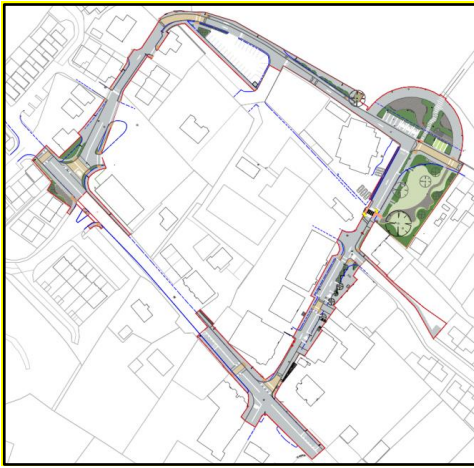
Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



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. The pre-start meeting for the project has been held and the contractor has mobilised their site facilities. The proposed works are anticipated to commence in October on a phased basis with completion due 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 planning documents and drawings for Ardee 2040 are in the final stages of preparation for the planning consent process to An Bord Pleanála. Turley Planning have been the lead consultants for Ardee 2040 Urban Design Team with the project looking to 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 capitalize and

respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by provision of new and better-quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycle ways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

Additional Projects

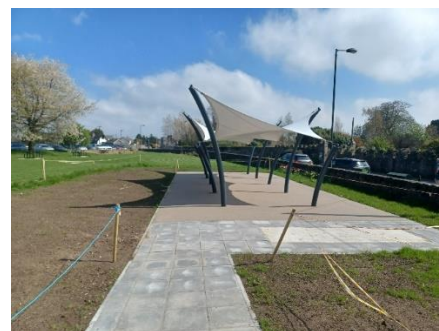
St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports are necessary and in progress. These are required before Part 8 can be published.



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

The new outdoor dining facility has now reached substantial completion, with initial snags complete onsite and re-seeding completed to affected boundary. The landscaping works have now been completed and new picnic tables and benches have been procured and will to be installed in October.



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.

Part 8 for Termonfeckin is on public display in Fair Street offices, Drogheda. It is also available to view on the Council Consultation Portal and National Part 8 Planning Portal. Submissions or observations can be made in writing or via the National Part 8 Planning Portal before 5pm on 24th October.

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 Q4.

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

Preparation of the draft Town Centre First Plan is now finalised. The draft plan will now be sent

to the local Councillors and town team for their review and comment. The public consultation period to obtain the views of the local community will commence in October.



Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

The process to appoint urban design consultants is progressing, with engagement with the design team likely to begin in October.

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

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

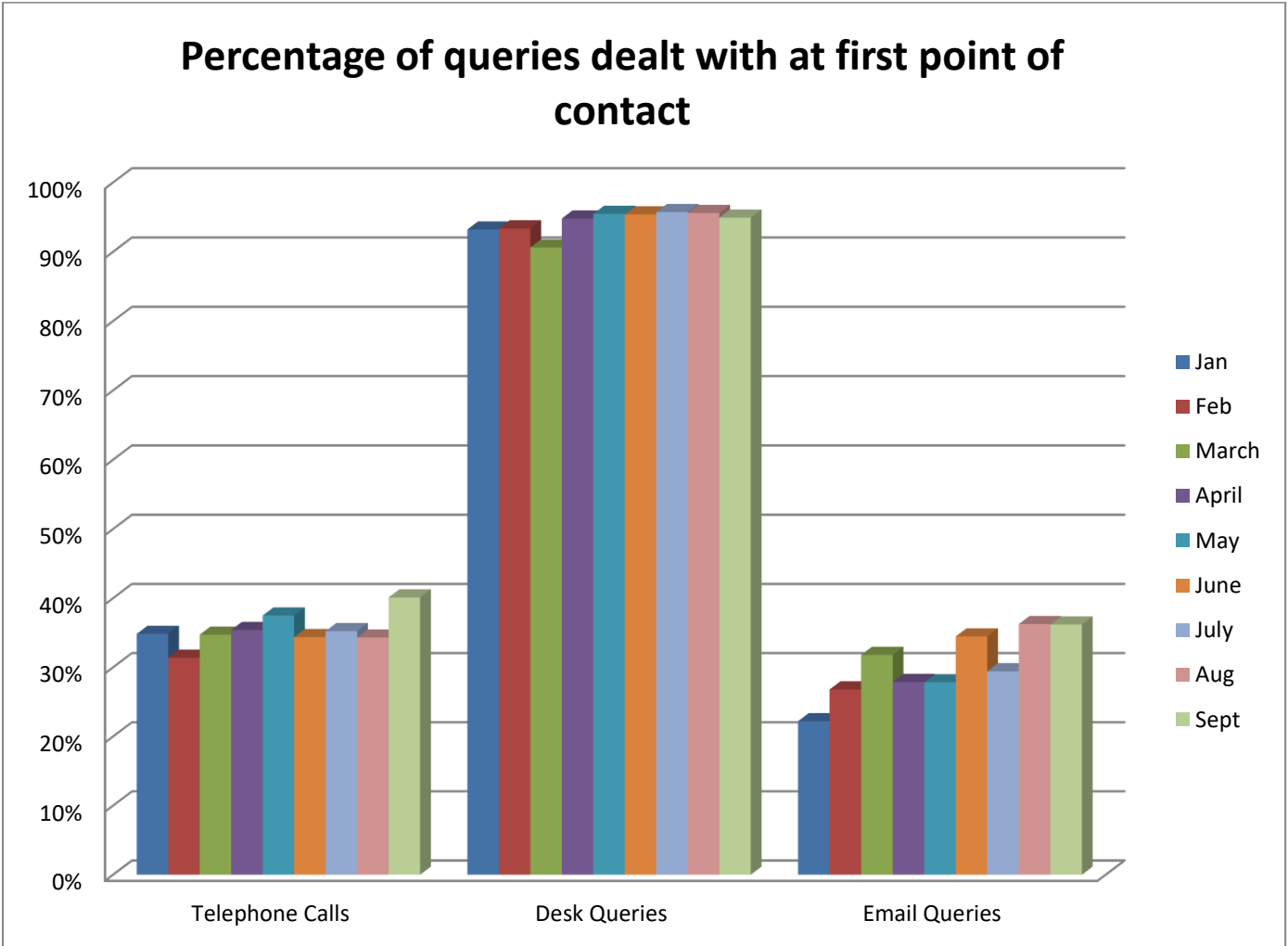


Joe McGuinness
Director / Stiúrthóir

Corporate Services

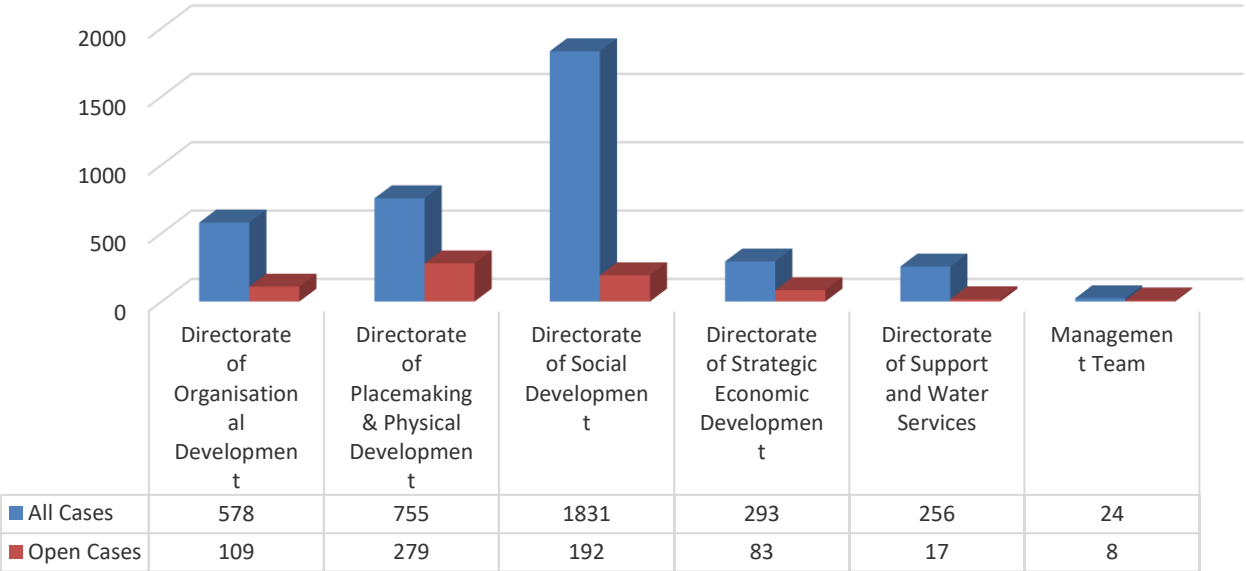
Customer Services Report

During the month of Sept 2023 Customer Services dealt with 13,496 queries, 6745 calls, 1318 e-mails and 5433 counter queries.

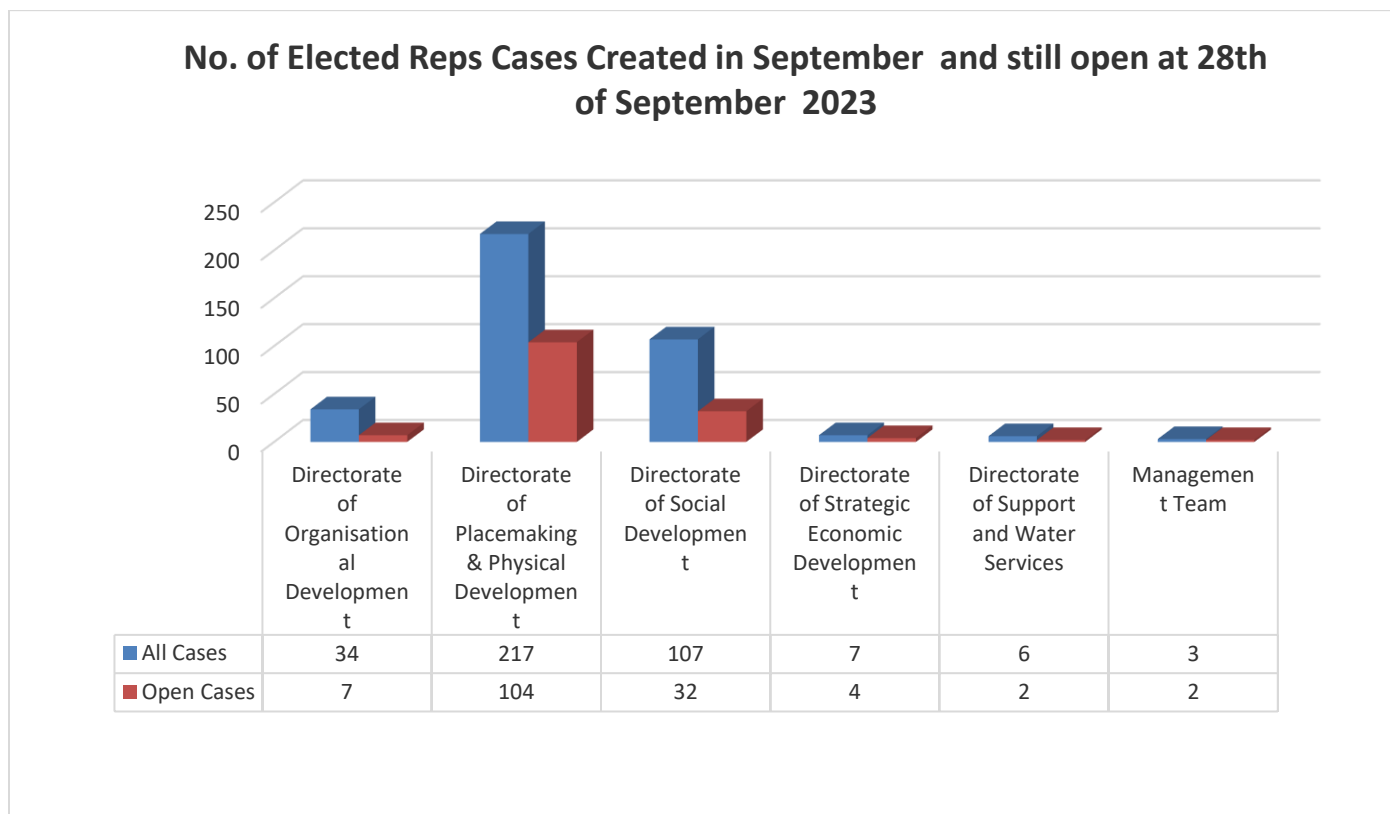


There were 3737 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during September of which 688 (18%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in September and still open at 28th of September 2023



During September 2023, 374 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 151(40%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Requests Received	Same period 2022 (JAN-SEPT 2022)	2023 Total (JAN-SEPT)	JULY 2023 (Month of SEPT only)
Freedom of Information	95	94	4
Data Protection Request	2	8	3
Data Subject Access Request	7	10	0
Access to Information on Environment	12	15	2
Ombudsman Complaints	8	14	3
LCC Complaints Policy	24	26	1

Electoral Register

The Franchise Team attended an Equality for Women event in Drogheda. A presentation was made on the Register of Electors and the changes that have happened since the inception of the

Electoral Reform Act 2022. The Team was on-hand to answer any queries that attendees might have. The Team also visited Drogheda Library to promote awareness of the Register of Electors.

The Department sent the Franchise Section “check the register” flyers translated into 14 different languages. We in turn had these flyers printed and we hope to distribute them at various events and to migrant groups over the coming weeks.

Promotional ads in relation to the Register are now running on iRadio and LMFM.

Louth now has 95% of households with a valid Eircode. This is a very high number and we hope that the townland project we are working on at the moment will increase this figure even further.

We are continuing to see large number of applications coming in from www.checktheregister.ie. All electors are encouraged to log onto www.checktheregister.ie to ensure *all their details are correct*.

Community Support

Louth Age Friendly Programme



Older People's Council

The Louth Older People's Council held a meeting in County Hall on 13th September 2023.

There was a packed Agenda of items for consideration and discussion. As part of our programme to raise awareness of the various services available to older people in Co Louth, Maeve Montgomery Dementia Care Advisor was invited to attend the OPC meeting and gave the members a presentation on her role and the various dementia care services available to people living with Dementia in Co Louth. The members were also given an update on the Age Friendly Business Programme in the County and it was noted that Drogheda Credit Union is the latest business to get awarded Age Friendly accreditation in the county. Graham Russell from Louth Sports Partnership gave the members an overview of the events and

activities organised & arranged for older people and supported by the Louth Sports Partnership. Siofra McCrum from DKIT gave a presentation to the members on her area of research relating to older people. She is seeking older people to take part in a survey looking at older people's attitudes to psychotherapy. Members also discussed various projects they are supporting and reviewed progress to date. The next OPC meeting will take place in Drogheda in November 2023.



Maeve Montgomery Louth Dementia Care Advisor pictured with Iain and Venora from Louth Older People's Council

Joint Policing Committees

The County Louth Joint Policing Committee held 3 public meetings in September 2023. The meetings were held in Ardee on 19th September, Dundalk on 20th September and Drogheda on the 21st September.

The theme of all the meetings was Personal Safety and Crime Prevention. Ciara Brady from the Road Safety Authority spoke at all meetings and gave a presentation on roads safety. Sgt Heavey from An Garda Síochána also spoke at all meetings, and he gave a presentation on crime. Members of the public had an opportunity to speak directly to An Garda Síochána and LCC Officials and raise issues of interest and concern with them.

Issues such as drug dealing and drug taking, speeding, fly tipping and anti-social behavior were some of the issues discussed. The issue of proposed Garda restructuring with Louth becoming part of the larger Louth, Cavan & Monaghan Division were also discussed. Member of the public

expressed concerns at the loss of Community Gardaí and proposed changes to community policing and drugs teams because of proposed changes.



Sgt Heavey AGS & Ciara Brady RSA



Ardee JPC Meeting 19.09.2023

Pride of Place

The Pride of Place judges were warmly welcomed by Louth County Council, to meet the nominees for this year's competition on Thursday, 7th September. The events were held in Drogheda and Dundalk, where nominees showcased the exceptional efforts and initiatives of their communities within the county.

This year the two outstanding community initiatives chosen to represent the county were "Drogheda District Support 4 Older People" entered the "Age

Friendly Initiative" category, while "Outcomers" Dundalk is competing in the "Community Wellbeing" category.

The highly anticipated results of the competition will be revealed at a gala event on the 10th of November at the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh. Louth County Council extends its heartfelt wishes for success to both of its nominees.



Pride of Place Judges visiting Outcomers Dundalk



Pride of Place Judges visiting Drogheda District Support 4 Older People

Town & Village Renewal Schemes

Thirteen expressions of interest were received under the 2023 TVRS scheme which is designed to support the revitalization of rural Ireland through a renewed focus on town centre economic and social recovery and regeneration. This year the scheme allows for five applications to be submitted from Louth, these applications must meet all the criteria of the scheme. Click on the link for further information

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/funding/town-and-village-renewal-scheme-2023/town-and-village-renewal-scheme-2023/>

Works were completed recently under a previous Town & Village scheme, carried out by Louth County Council in partnership with Ballymascanlon and Rathcor Union parishes. The project included repair of a boundary wall at the Heritage Centre and the refurbishment of the public conveniences in Carlingford.



Repair of a boundary wall at the Heritage Centre in Carlingford

CLÁR 2022

Under the 2022 CLÁR scheme, Louth County Council in partnership with Carlingford Tidy Towns, has recently installed a fleet of new solar powered compacting litter bins across the village of Carlingford.

The award winning solar powered bins which automatically compact waste are ideal for managing general and recycling waste.

The BriteBins, in combination with a unique software data management platform, allow Louth County Council crews the ability to monitor real-time fill-levels across the litter bin fleet in Carlingford.



Real-time fill-levels litter bin in Carlingford.

Louth in Bloom 2023 Competition

Invitations have been sent out and RSVP's are to be confirmed by Monday 2nd October. Transport is being organised to and from the event.

This awards ceremony is an exciting opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication of volunteers who contribute to making Louth shine. We hope to ensure the event is a memorable and festive occasion for those attending.

Healthy Ireland Fund

In October 2022 the local authority's 'Healthy Louth' programme ran a three-month public consultation to inform the actions set out within the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 Local Strategy for Louth. During this public consultation it became apparent that the overriding issues among participants were concerns about mental health and a lack of awareness of local support.

It was recognised that struggles with mental health can lead to anxiety, low mood, and depression, and although people are encouraged to reach out and ask for help, the findings from the public consultation highlighted that many don't know where to find the support they need.

Following on from the public consultation Louth County Council's 'Healthy Louth' programme is leading the formation of the first Louth Wellbeing Network, 'Mindful Connect'. Work is well underway in relation to gathering information on all the groups, organisations and charities across the county, alongside the statutory organisations and relevant national organisations. These will be fed into a digital resource that will support the Wellbeing Ambassadors in their role. It will also be reviewed and updated on a regular basis and made available via the Louth County Council website.

The second phase of the project will be the recruitment of Wellbeing Ambassadors. The Wellbeing Ambassador Programme will train and supports individuals who would like to take action to help support the mental health and wellbeing of others. A Wellbeing Ambassador will be a member of the public, perhaps a person who is already a volunteer in their community, or indeed anyone who would like to be involved. The training provided by SOSAD Ireland will provide the Wellbeing Ambassadors with the skills to use their voice and networks to promote positive conversations about mental health in their community. They will be a source of information, provide mental health and wellbeing signposting support and be passionate about advocating mental health and wellbeing in the community. Recruitment of the wellbeing Ambassadors will commence in October 2023.

The project is being funded by Healthy Ireland, a government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society.



LEADER Programme

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

Promoter	Amount
St. Brides GFC Community Walkway Extension	€7,405.87
Ardee & District Community Trust CLG Our Tomorrow is Today.	€10,000.00
Marketing for Me ZOMA Business Development	€52,746.00
EOH Milltown Stables Ltd Milltown Stables	€8,489.34
Hoeys Timber Sales Ltd CNC Machining Centres with Flat Tables	€97,196.25
Louth Local Development CLG Protection of Natural Habitats Training Programme	€5,680.14
Total	€181,517.60

Social Integration and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028 (SICAP):

The call for tender for SICAP 2024 – 2028 has now closed on eTenders. The evaluation process is underway, and it is still anticipated that the contract will be awarded towards the end of the year.

PPN

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN held a Secretariat Meeting on September 5th in Drogheda.

Municipal District Meetings

Louth PPN's MD meetings took place as follows:

- Drogheda – The Mill, September 12th at 10am
- Ardee – DeeHub, September 13th at 2.30pm
- Dundalk – Creative Spark, September 13th at 6pm

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. Louth PPN mentors will provide support on the following topics:

- Committee Skills (including governance, law, and HR)
- Funding Applications
- Activity / Event Management
- Social Media

The mentoring service was made available to all PPN member groups on 21st August and this service will continue to be offered until the end of 2023.

Youth

Louth PPN's Youth Project will involve the training up of young people to sit on various boards and committees confidently and comfortably – it is hoped that this training will help build capacity of community groups to have their voices heard at

decision and policy making structures in the County both now and in the future. It is anticipated that this training will take place in early December.

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.
- Construction of bee-hotels
- Planting of wild-flower meadows to encourage pollinating insects.

The site has been surveyed and the planting areas for trees and wild flowering have been identified. The planting of native trees will take place late Oct / early Nov and the planting of wild flowers before then.

Equality for Women in Louth

Louth PPN in collaboration with Louth County Council and Louth Local Development hosted a seminar on the local political system in Monasterboice on 19th September from 10am.

Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards 2023 Planning for the annual Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards event is on-going with the date set for November 9th 2023. Nominations are now closed and a review of same is ongoing.

Training for Q3 & Q4

Louth PPN will offer training to PPN members on the following topics:

- Social Media – October 2nd, 9th and 16th 7-9pm (online)
- Canva – September 25th 7-9pm (online)
- Property Marking Machine (TBA)

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre

After Schools Basketball

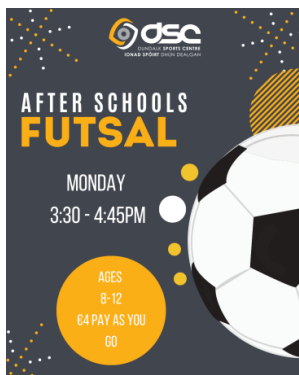
The always popular 'After Schools Basketball' returned on the 6th of September. The sessions, which are coached by U20's Irish International Elijah Faapito are a huge success, with 38 children attending on the second week back.

The classes are held every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:45pm in the main hall of the Dundalk Sports Centre. Costing €4, pay as you go. The basketball sessions are suitable for all ability levels.



After Schools Futsal

The After Schools Futsal sessions are held every Monday from 3:30 to 4:45pm, costing €4. The sessions include a fun warm-up, followed by fundamental skill development such as passing, dribbling, and shooting. Sessions will also include attacking/defending drills and 5v5 matches. Futsal is fantastic for children who want to try a new sport or for those who want to work on their football skills.



Strength & Balance

The falls prevention programme has seen continued success this month with a new record of 35 members participating in the class one week. The class is designed to increase older adults muscle strength, bone density, balance and confidence. However, it is the members themselves who make the class a success. Every week the effort levels and commitment seen from the participants is absolutely fantastic. It is no wonder that the majority scored above average for their age group in agility and cardiovascular fitness during some fitness tests we conducted this month. There are two classes on offer every Wednesday in the Dundalk Sports Centre.

Beginners: 10:30 to 11:30am | Advanced: 11:30am to 12:30pm. Classes cost €3 and include tea/coffee afterwards. For more information please phone reception on (042) 939 2987 or email dscsupervisors@louthcoco.ie.

Tennis

Dundalk Sports Centre got a surprise visit from one of its members this month. Babs Weiberg, who trains at the centre won bronze at the Visually Impaired Tennis World Championships in Poland this month. She came in to showcase her trophy and thank the staff for their help over the years.

Babs Weiberg took up tennis in 2018 and is a fantastic advocate for the sport of Visually Impaired Tennis.

Having won a tournament in Madrid earlier in the year, Babs was in great form for the World Championship.



Babs Weiberg won bronze at the Visually Impaired Tennis World Championships in Poland

Lourdes Stadium

Bootcamp

Lourdes Stadium most recent 6 Week Outdoor Bootcamp started on Tuesday 12th September and will run until Thursday 19th October. The Bootcamp gives people the opportunity to meet others, achieve exercise goals and be supported on their exercise journey by instructors over the 6 weeks. The Bootcamp runs every Tuesday and Thursday evening and implements a mix of cardio and strength based sessions suiting all fitness levels.



Fit Walk

On Tuesday 26th September, Lourdes Stadium facilitated an LLSP organised programme in conjunction with Fit Walk Ireland for 4 hours. The programme consisted of some theory, walking, exercises and fun games to get people moving and chatting to one another.



Fit Walk in Lourdes Stadium

Bowls Event

Twenty-five bowls players attended the last bowls mixed open fun tournament of the year at the Lourdes Stadium outdoor bowling green.

There were 8 teams in action, each consisting of 3 or 4 players, with everyone getting ample bowling competition against other teams and the opportunity to socialise. Several local clubs were represented with other participants coming from North Dublin, Dundalk and Newry. All in all, it was a fantastic day that was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. Well done to the winners (Team 1) and runners up (Team 6) on the day.



Bowling Tournament at Lourdes Stadium outdoor bowling green

Casual User Hours for Lourdes stadium are as follows:

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2023

Louth Local Sports Partnership will be facilitating the following Volunteer & Coach Education workshops in the coming months for volunteers and sports coaches in Louth.

Safeguarding

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	Oct 5 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Oct 19 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Nov 2 nd 2023 6:30pm	Online

Safeguarding Level 1	Nov 16 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Dec 7 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Social Media for Community Groups	November 23 rd , 2023 6:30pm	Online
-----------------------------------	--	--------

Disability Inclusion

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Autism in Sport	Oct 18 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Coaching Teenage Girls

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Coaching Teenage Girls	Nov 28 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Physical Literacy

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Physical Literacy Workshop	Oct 17 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Coaching Children Series

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Coaching Children Successfully in Sport	October 24 th 6:30pm	Online
Child Cantered Coaching	November 7 th 6:30pm	Online
Physical Literacy 1	November 14 th 6:30pm	Online
Physical Literacy 2	November 21 st 6:30pm	Online

Volunteer Support Workshops

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Involving & Managing volunteers with additional support needs	October 19 th , 2023 6:30pm	Online

For further information on volunteer and coach education workshops please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.

Coaching Teenage Girls Workshop

Louth Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with Meath, Monaghan and Cavan Local Sports Partnerships is delighted to host a series of workshops this autumn to support coaches and volunteers working with teenage girls in Sport and Physical Activity.

Coaching Teenage Girls is designed specifically to support coaches of girls 12-17 years of age. It will enable coaches to create a positive experience of sport and physical activity for girls in their formative years. Enhancing the environment where girls can enjoy their sport leads to a positive experience of being involved with sport in their club. This will then aid in retention within their given sport.

For further information please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318



COACHING TEENAGE GIRLS IN SPORT WORKSHOP

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
FROM 6:30PM - 9:30PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM
€10 PER PARTICIPANT

LIMITED AVAILABILITY
PRE-REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

- ✓ Needs of Teenage Girls
- ✓ Retention Rates
- ✓ Positive Coaching Environments
- ✓ Communication & Relationships
- ✓ Maturation/Body Image & Sport

To register: <https://eventmaster.ie/event/K305SpnHGx>

Logos: SPORT IRELAND, MEATH Local Sports Partnership, CAVAN Local Sports Partnership, LSP, MONAGHAN Local Sports Partnership

Louth LSP Launch Daily Mile Lú in every classroom in every primary school in Louth

Louth Local Sports Partnership is delighted to officially launch our Daily Mile Lú resource to support

children in your school to be physically active for fifteen minutes during the school day alongside their classmates.

Daily Mile Lú is a social physical activity, with children running, jogging, skipping, or simply just moving at their own pace in the fresh air with their classmates.

We want every primary school pupil in Louth to have the opportunity to participate in the Daily Mile Lú and we have provided every classroom in every primary school in Louth with Daily Mile Lú resources to support the children and teachers to participate.

How Daily Mile Lú works:

- It takes place during the school day at a time of the principal's or teacher's discretion.
- Children run, jog, skip, walk, push or simply just move around a designated route in the school yard at their own pace.
- Once the 15 minutes of activity is completed the children return to their classroom and record their activity on the class Daily Mile Lú wall chart.
- Schools are encouraged to undertake the Daily Mile Lú programme with their classes for a period of 8 weeks at a time. This 8-week programme can be repeated multiple times during the school year.

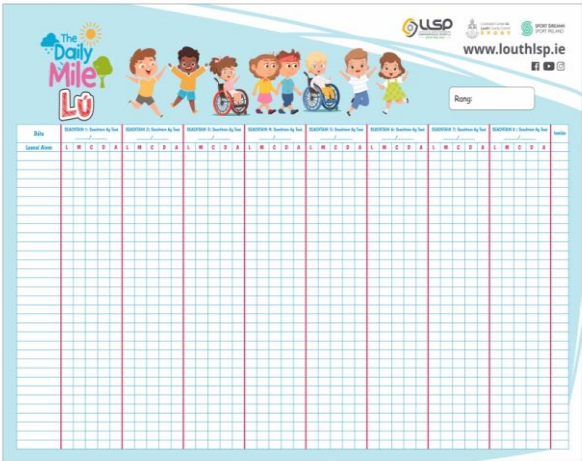
Benefits of the Daily Mile Lú Programme

- There is no set up, tidy up or equipment required.
- No staff training is needed and there is no additional workload for teachers.
- Children can participate in their uniforms so no PE kit or changing time is needed.
- It is a social, non-competitive and fun activity which allows the children to track their own individual progress.
- It encourages the children to be aware of their health and the benefits of physical activity

- It is a fully inclusive activity; every child, whatever their age or ability can participate fully in the Daily Mile Lú
- Finally and most importantly the children return to class re-energised and ready to learn!

Please see the link below for two Daily Mile Lú promotional videos; one in English and one as Gaeilge which capture the programme vision and impact.

English version: https://youtu.be/e7D_0NCAqr8
 Irish Version: <https://youtu.be/LNoRs166pXI>
 For further information please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318



Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Summary of Complaints

A total of 31 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in September 2023, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 307 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in September 2023	Total Received in 2023
Air & Noise	9	86
Farm	4	12
Waste/C&D	14	153
Water Quality	4	56

Waste Management

A total of 14 complaints were received in September 2023 relating to Waste. There were no complaints received regarding Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste. All complaints relating to waste were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI)

The Department approved funding of €82,300 for the completion of 5 projects including:

- Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event – V&W Dundalk
- Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event – V&W Drogheda
- Mattress and Soda Amnesty Collection Point Ardee
- Castletown River Clean-up
- Muirhevnamor Alley-way Clean-up

All projects have been completed successfully for ADI 2023.

A Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event was held at V&W Civic Amenity Centres in Dundalk and Drogheda on the 30th Aug 2023 and Kieran & McGee Ardee Livestock Sales yard, Ardee on the 31st Aug 2023 which were very successful. A total of 2,174 Mattresses and 2,135 Couches were collected over the two days.



Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event at V&W civic amenity centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth.



Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event at Kieran & McGee Ardee Livestock Sales Yard, Ardee, Co. Louth



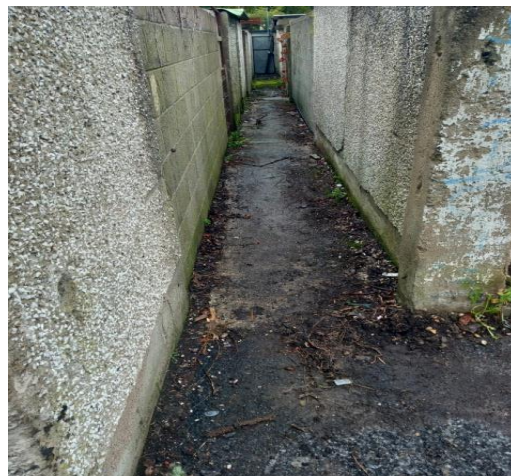
Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event at V&W civic amenity centre, Drogheda, Co. Louth



A number of alleyways in the area of Muirhevnamor, Dundalk, Co. Louth were successfully cleared of waste material.



Before photo of waste deposited in area of Muirhevnamor, Dundalk, Co. Louth



After photos of alley-ways and waste ground cleared in Muirhevnamor, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Waste recovery and landfill levies

The Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth, has signed new regulations to encourage recycling and reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill and incineration.

The Waste Management (Landfill Levy) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 and the Circular Economy (Waste Recovery Levy) Regulations 2023 have come into effect on 1 September 2023.

The legislation introduces a waste recovery levy of €10 per tonne (or 1,000kg), and a €10 increase to the existing "landfill levy" to €85 per tonne.

The Department of the Environment Climate and Communications in a press release issued following the signing of the new regulations point out that:

“As the levies apply only to ‘black’ bin waste, householders can manage the impact of this charge by sorting their waste and reusing and recycling as much as possible to minimise their overall household waste charges. The EPA has noted that the quantity of household waste managed in Ireland in 2020 equated to 372kg per person, with 39% going into the black bin. The level at which the recovery levy is being introduced, and the size of the increase in the landfill levy, should mean that any additional costs arising for householders will be very modest as the levies only apply to black bin waste.”



Householders and businesses can manage their waste collection charges by minimising the waste they produce, and by improving their waste segregation practices maximising the amount of material they place in the mixed dry recyclable and bio-waste (brown) bin.

[Mywaste.ie](https://mywaste.ie) contains a wealth of information to help those householders and businesses seeking to minimise their waste or who are unsure how to manage their waste correctly.

The recovery levy will not apply initially to the recovery of construction and demolition (C&D) material.

Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2019

Under these regulations, refuse must be segregated and stored in suitable receptacles for collection by authorised waste contractors. 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.

Following a number of complaints regarding illegal dumping and bin presentation in the areas of Linenhall Street, Chapel Street, Market Street and Williamson’s Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth, a number of letters were issued to residents in these areas informing them of Louth County Councils Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2019. Engagement with residents around Williamsons Place, Dundalk is on-going with evidence of waste arrangements been obtained from residents. Follow-up letters have been issued to properties where no response has been provided.

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.



Bin presentation on Chapel Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Farm Plastics

The IFFPG (Irish Farm Film Producers Group Ltd) is Irelands only approved farm plastics recycling compliance scheme and will be running farm plastic collections at the following locations in early October 2023.

Knockbridge, Drummonds Ltd	Mon 2nd Oct
Ardee, Drummonds Ltd	Wed 4th Oct
Townrath, Drummonds Ltd	Thur 5th Oct

Waste Facility Permits & Certificate of Registration

Currently there are 26 Waste Facility Permits and there are 4 Certificates of Registration (COR) in operation in Co. Louth. There are two Waste Facility Transfer Applications currently being assessed in September 2023.

Annual Return Validations Checkpoints

Four road checkpoints have been completed by the waste enforcement team so far in 2023, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority. As a result, warning letters for non-compliances have been issued with the potential for future enforcement if required.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

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

A total of 9 litter Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in the month of September. Of these, 1 was issued in Dundalk town and 8 in the remaining County wide area.

There have been 916 litter investigations completed to date with 102 carried out in the month of September. There have been 183 litter Fixed Penalty Notices issued in the year to date.

During September one of our Litter Wardens had a successful legal prosecution in Drogheda District Court for a large volume of waste dumped at Chapel Lane, Mell, Drogheda, Co Louth.

Our litter wardens continue to investigate all reports of littering and illegal dumping within urban and rural areas. Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in September. All waste has been searched for evidence and subsequently removed.



A five-hour foot patrol was conducted by all wardens in September. The areas covered were Lordship, Gyles Quay, Templetown, Shelling Hill, Greenore and Carlingford. The main emphasis was on dog fouling with the use of spraying stencils to bring awareness to the public on cleaning up after your dog.



Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 3 IBC's dumped in September 2023 at a cost of €3,744.30 approx. So far in 2023 there have been 97 IBC's dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of approximately €121,065.64.



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.

On 27th January 2023, regulations were signed to provide for an extension to the exemption which expired on 1 January 2023, until 28th February 2023.

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

In September 2023, we have received 22 applications to date.

Air / Water / Noise Pollution

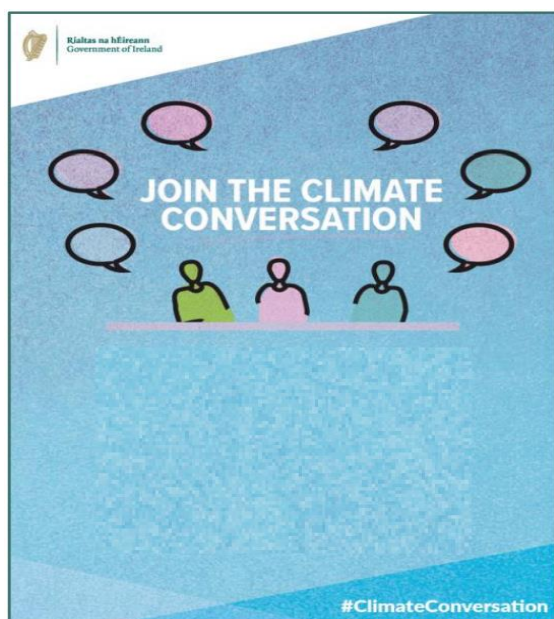
There were 4 water quality complaints and a further 4 farm-related complaints received in September which were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

There were 4 Air Pollution complaints and 5 Noise Pollution complaints received during September 2023.

Bathing Water

There was a temporary bathing prohibition notice placed at Templetown on the 31st August 2023 but this was removed following an inspection and the sample results taken showing excellent readings. The elevated readings was probably because of recent heavy rainfall. Results for all the beaches are available on www.beaches.ie The bathing water season has now ended since the 15th September 2023.

Climate Action



Preparation of a Baseline Emissions Inventory for County Louth has been ongoing. The Climate Action Team has been collecting information on how much CO₂ is emitted by all business, buildings, houses, industry, transport / travel and agriculture in the county.

This information will form the base for decision making when the preparation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan for Louth commences later this year.

As a requirement of the National Climate Action Plan, 2021, all Local Authorities are required to produce a County-level Climate Action plan. Louth County Council has begun preparation for this process which formerly started in Q1 of 2023.

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.

The Climate Action Team also recently attended an introductory meeting with Creative Ireland and members of the public to discuss Louth's Urban Food Sanctuary.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

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

A review of the current goals and objectives of the CCAS has commenced and this will form the basis for the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Louth, to be developed over the next 18 months (timelines not yet fixed nationally).

Draft Guidance documents were issued to help Local Authorities prepare for the development of Climate Action Plans which will incorporate all the relevant National Climate Action targets at a local level.

Each section of the Council is now required to report as part of the Monthly Chief Executive Report on Climate Action projects and initiatives that are ongoing.

The climate action team also hosted several workshops with various sections within Louth County Council which looked at the overall targets associated with the Climate Action Plan and delivered a presentation on Louth's Baseline Emissions Inventory.



Climate Action workshop, Cooley Room, County Hall.

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.

The Climate Action Team has completed a Tier 2 emissions baseline for the entire county. This evidence base will be used to develop actions to allow the county to decarbonise in accordance with the 2030 national target of a 51% reduction in CO₂ and to achieve net zero by 2050.

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.

Additional preparation for this process continued during this period.

The Climate Action Team also recently hosted an online pre-draft public consultation on the Local Authority Climate Action plan for members of the public to attend. The Climate Action Team also have welcomed any feedback from members of the public through an online survey, which can be found on the Louth County Council website, this allows members of the public to offer their views and opinions on climate action in Louth.



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.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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.

V&W Circular Economy Project

V&W operate the Civic Amenity Site on behalf of Louth County Council. Part of their contract stipulates that they must carry out initiatives to foster the Circular Economy.

After the success of the “African Bicycle Appeal”, V & W officially launched the “Ukraine Appeal”.

V&W have joined forces with a local bike repair business which fix and donate used bicycles for refugees from Ukraine, around the Dundalk area. V&W have allocated an area at the recycling centre to accept suitable bicycles from the public. They grade, sort and organise delivery of these bikes to the local bike repair business. Repaired bicycles are then distributed to Ukraine refugees in the area.



Ukraine Appeal, V&W Centre Dundalk

V & W also continue to supply the men's sheds with organic compost and request the public to donate garden tools for their work projects.

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.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 30th September 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 eighty-four inspections in the year to date.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs impounded. September 2023	
Total dogs impounded	15
Seized under Section 16	1
Strays	7
Surrendered by owners	7
No dogs reclaimed by owners	3
No of dogs rehomed direct	4
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	6
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/09/2023	3

Dog Licences September 2023	
No of Licences sold	532
Licence Checks:	
House calls	228
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	58
Fixed Penalty Notices	16

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses impounded. September 2023	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0

Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 30/09/2023	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments September 2023	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 30/09/2023)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



Dogs impounded during September 2023 (above)

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 / 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 August – 19th September 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 August – 19 September 2023	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	9	148	85	242
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	3	32	20	55
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	5	5	10
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	1	2	0	3
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	13	187	110	310

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	82
Female	76
Total	158

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	25
25-44	86
45-64	39
65+	8
Total	158

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	81
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	77
Total unique individuals	158

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	12	13	22
Couples with dependent children in Louth	18	39	51

Table 6 - Housing First

	County Louth
Number of tenancies established.	40
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	32

**Housing Allocations
At 26th September, 2023**

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	33	6	2	3
Drogheda	61	15	45	11
Dundalk	84	6	42	9
Total	178	27	89	23

**Transfers
At 26th September, 2023**

District	Number
Ardee	4
Dundalk	11
Drogheda	3
Total	18

Housing List

At 26 th September, 2023	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	432	655	1052	2139
HAP Transfer List	298	1160	1646	3104
Total Housing List	730	1815	2698	5243

There are **289** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **45** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is 3,104

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
298	1160	1646	3,104

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **951**.

Current Rents Arrears as at 26 th September 2023	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	209	€81,000
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	172	€138,166
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	846	€2,896,106
TOTAL	1227	€3,115,272

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 September 2023:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	September 2023	117
2 nd Reminder	September 2023	65
Final Reminder	September 2023	31
Total issued		213

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **57** new payment plans commenced in September 2023 (up to and including 26th September).

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 25 th September 2023	Total
Ardee Municipal District	17
Dundalk Municipal District	11
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	31
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	59
Vacant Properties (CPO units not yet ready for occupation) (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	62

Note: Currently 9 social units are being used as temporary accommodation for the homeless or emergency and are not included in the above figures.

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	25 th August – 25 th September 2023	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	568	4,894
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	408	3,776
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	123	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	38	275

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	35
Dundalk MD	73	71
Drogheda BD	72	38

Private Rental Inspections

	25th August – 25th Sept 2023	Year to Date
Properties inspected monthly	67	262
Advisory Letters issued	3	115
Improvement Notices issued	0	44
Private Inspections	0	5
HAP Inspections	48	172
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	8
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	14	64
RAS Re-Inspections	1	2
AHB Re-Inspections	1	1
Inspections from Complaints	3	10
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	23	89

Tenancy Engagement

1st September 2023 to 27th September 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	9	10	11	30	174
Post-tenancy inspections	0	0	13	13	204
Tenancy Investigation Visits	0	0	23	23	326
Tenancy Investigations Remote	0	0	5	5	56

Anti-Social Behaviour

1st September to 27th September	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	8	2	14	24	152
ASB cases Ongoing	6	2	14	22	149
ASB cases complete	7	0	7	14	122

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1st September to 27th September	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	0	3	3	53
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	19
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	10
Tenancy Warnings under Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	1	5

Affordable Housing

The Council has made an application to the Department of Housing for an Affordable Housing Scheme in Blackrock, Co. Louth. A decision is expected in September. Other discussions are ongoing with our 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. 1551 properties have been surveyed throughout the

county and 816 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 September Louth County Council purchased 8 properties.



Recently acquired properties in Drogheda & Dundalk

Long Term Leasing Properties Pipeline

Units	Address	Beds
14	Clanbrassil St	1
12	Paradise Place	1
1	30 Castletown Road	1
3	30 Castletown Road	3
1	31 Woodville Manor	3
1	49 The Park	4
1	112 Brookville	3
33		

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

September 2023 Monthly Report	
Active MTR Applications Total	33
AHB MTR Applications Active	06
AHB MTR completed 2023	01
Private MTR Applications Active	21
Private MTR completed 2023	12
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	06

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 in a position to do so.

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	Under construction
1	Dundalk	2	Under construction
1	Dundalk	2	Under negotiation for works
6	Castlebellingham	2	Pre planning

Croi Conaithe, Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

September 2023 Monthly Report		
Applications Submitted:		94
Approved:		32
Rejected:		4
Withdrawn		6
Funding Issued to Applicant		1
Rental Applications		17
Principal Residence	Private	77

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.

Home Loans

2023 Budget Allocation	€8,030,000
LAHL Approvals at 26/09/2023	€4,599,936

Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 26 th September, 2023	
Total number of Applications at 26/09/2023	59
LAHL carried over from 2022	5
Invalid/Returned	11
Approved	25
Declined	26
For review	0
Outstanding – waiting on further information	2

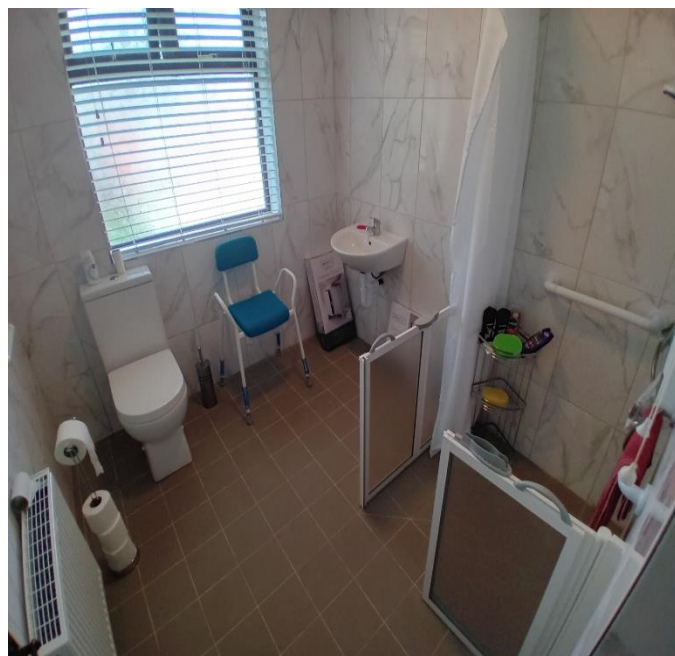
Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Whilst grant applicants cannot be accepted at present due to the high volume of applications on hand, where there are exceptional cases when a

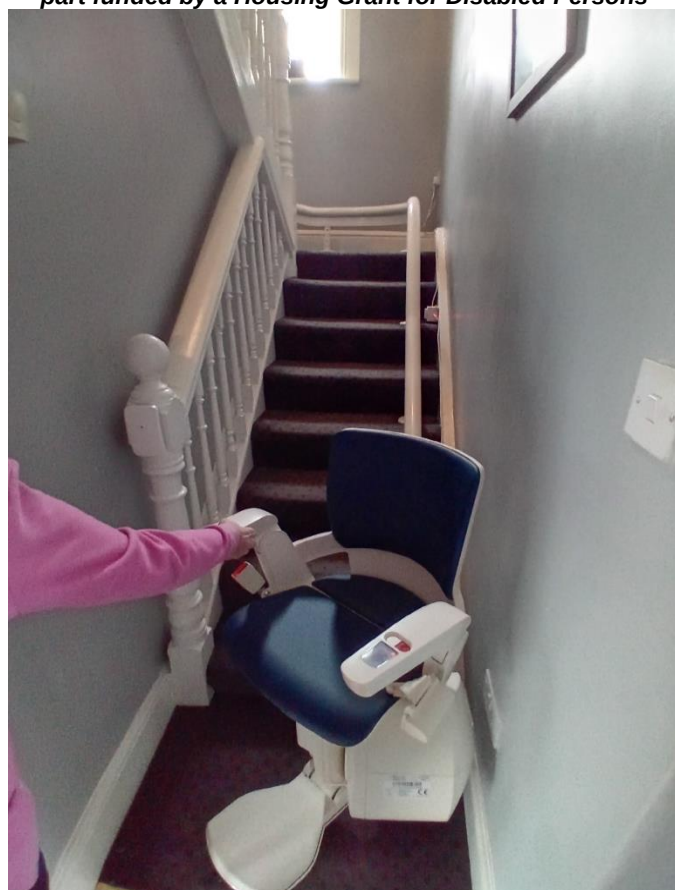
hospital discharge cannot be facilitated, the Council will accept an application form for assessment.

The Budget Allocation for 2023 is €3,048,590. €609,718 will be funded by Louth County Council. Preparations are being finalised to re-open the grants scheme before the end of October 2023. There will be a new application process which will enable a speedier examination of applications and subject to funding, an earlier offer of a grant.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Sept Monthly Total	YTD Total
Applications completed 2022	42	17	175	-	234
Applications on hand 27/09/2023	194	29	273	-	496
No. Grants Approved 01/09/2023 to 27/09/2023	20	5	9	34	228



Level Access Shower installed in Dundalk in September, part funded by a Housing Grant for Disabled Persons



Stair lift installed in Drogheda in September, funded by 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
Muirhevnemor, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	On Site	31/10/2024	3no. * 2 bed & 8no. * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	19/02/2025	27no. * 3 bed, 4no. * 4 bed, 8no. * 1 bed Apt, 25no. * 2 bed Apt & 8no. * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/05/2025	29no. * 2 bed, 23no. * 3 bed, 9no. * 4 bed, 10no. * 1 bed Apt, 6no. * 2 bed Apt, 16no. * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 1 Approved	05/12/2025	2no. * 2 bed Apt, 2no. * 2 bed, 2no. * 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	31/10/2023	10no. * 2 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/6	6	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/6	6	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.

Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	5/6	6	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	6/6	7	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt., 1no. * 2bed
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	17/11/2023	1no. * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	17/11/2023	1no. * 3 bed
Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	19/06/2024	1no. * 3 bed
Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth - Infill	1/1	6	Completed	01/08/2023	6no. * 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	12no. * 3 bed
Clos Emer, Saltown, Dundalk	1/1	8	On-site	31/10/2023	16no. * 2 bed
Medebawn Close, Avenue Road, Dundalk	1/1	4	On-site	31/10/2023	2no. * 2 bed Apt, 2no. * 1 bed Apt.
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2023	12no. * 2 bed Apt.
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	2/5	1	Completed	31/03/2023	1no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	3/5	1	On-site	30/09/2023	1no. * 3 bed

Newtown Wood, Drogheda	4/5	9	Funding Approved	30/06/2024	4no. * 3 bed, 5no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	8	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	6no. * 3 bed, 2no. * 1 bed
Cardee, Dublin Road, Dundalk	1/1	1	Completed	23/05/2023	1no. * 4 bed

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
10-16 The Alleys, St Peters Place, Drogheda	P McVerry	14	Stage 2 Approved	30/03/2025	Fourteen * Studio apartments
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
Kincora House, 1-2 Seatown	P McVerry	8	Stage 1 approved	30/12/2024	Eight * 1 Bed apartments
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
3 Paradise Place, Drogheda	P McVerry	4	Stage 1 approved	01/09/2025	Four * 1 Bed apartments

CALF DELIVERY

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non Part V/ Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	1/2	5		On site	30/10/2023	• 2 Two bed Bungalow, • 1 Three bed Bungalow, • 2 Three bed semi detached
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	2/2	6		On site	30/10/2023	• 2 Three bed Bungalow, • 1 Three bed semi detached • 3 Two bed terraced houses
Newfoundwell Road, Drogheda Cluid Housing	2/2	39		On site	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	30/10/2023	• 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	30/10/2023	• 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	30/10/2023	• 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	2/3	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	20/10/2023	• 4 One bed apt, • 54 Two bed apt • 8 Three bed apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	3/3	69		On site	01/10/2023	• 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	30/09/2023	• 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
Connolly's 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 recently approved. 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.

Decade of Centenaries

As part of the Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023, Louth County Archives is creating an online exhibition relating to the period which will feature noteworthy archives

and explanatory text. It will be produced in collaboration with the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society. It is expected to be completed and online in October. The Decade of Centenaries Programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Research Enquiries

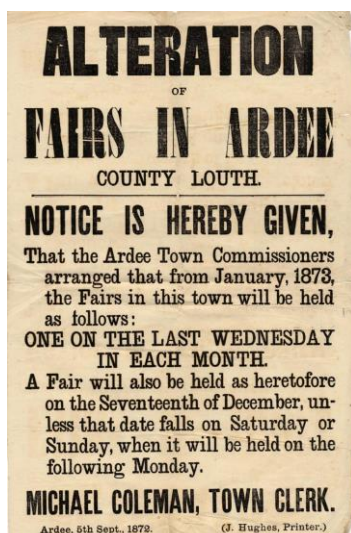
The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service continues to receive a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics (historians, archaeologists, social scientists, etc), professionals (solicitors, engineers, 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.



Notice of alteration of fairs in Ardee by Ardee Town Commissioners 5 September 1872.

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 new BMS (Building Management System) for the heating plant was completed at the end of July and an induction meeting took place in September. De-stratification fans were installed in late August. These improvements will assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building. They are receiving funding support from the SEAI scheme.

Libraries

eServices



The wide range of services include:

- Borrow Box for free eBooks & eAudiobooks, Press Reader for newspapers & Libby for magazines.
- Transparent Language Online with over 100 languages to choose from.
- Universal Class for various courses.

eServices information sessions are held every month in:

Dundalk Library on the last Friday of every month from 11am - 12pm

Drogheda Library on the last Thursday of every month from 2.30pm-3.30pm

Ardee Library on the last Friday of every month 10.30am-11.30am

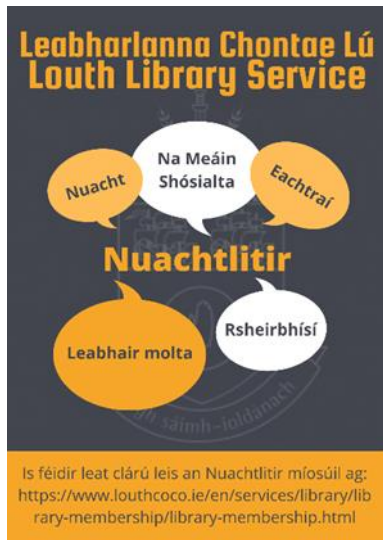
For more information on the above please email Libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie or the library website <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/online-services/>

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

Louth Library Primary Schools Service



Louth Library Schools Van

The Primary Schools Service has started its route of the county for the 2023/2024 school year. In the first three weeks of September, the team visited eight schools, with more than 360 visitors boarding the van to pick books for their classrooms. New members have signed up to the library; largely Junior Infants who have availed of the Little Library

Book Bag to help them navigate their new life at Big School.

Culture Night 2023



Culture Night 2023 was celebrated in Louth Library Service branches on Friday, September 22nd.

Dundalk Library celebrated Culture night with Artist Shauna Swords who worked on a colourful collage of our natural history. Adults and children alike had great fun contributing to the collage. Musicians from Scoraiocht Lann Leire followed the art with an amazing seisún

In Drogheda Library, 'UNITED', a collaborative photographic exhibition between Irish and Ukrainian photographers was launched and will be on display until the 30th of September.

Ardee Library held a family friendly evening with music from local musicians - The Ardee Intermezzo Ensemble and Uke' n' Rollers Ukulele band.



Artist Shauna Swords in Dundalk Library



Irish and Ukrainian photographers in Drogheda Library



The Ardee Intermezzo Ensemble in Ardee Library



Sustainable Development Goals Week

The National Library Strategy “The Library is the Place” recognises how the library sector will support national SDG activities to support relevant outcomes and impact on Ireland’s contribution to the Voluntary National Review process at the UN in 2023.

Louth Library Service celebrated SDG week in September by highlighting how library programmes align to SDGs.

The Right to Read programme supports:

- SDG 4.6: Universal literacy and numeracy
- SDG 4.2: Equal access to quality pre-primary education

- SDG 9C: Universal access to information and communications technology

The Decade of Centenaries programme supports:

- SDG 11.4: Protect the world’s cultural and natural heritage
- SDG 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

Our Library of Sanctuary status aligns to:

- SDG 10.2: Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion

The Healthy Ireland programme promotes:

- SDG 3: Good health and well-being.

Our suite of digital services supports:

- SDG 9C: Universal access to information and communications technology
- SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



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.



Summer Stars

Summer Stars is a National Right To Read programme, which encourages children to read for

enjoyment during their summer holidays. Throughout the summer months, Louth Library Service welcomed over 850 children who participated in Summer Stars by visiting their local library branch to pick up a reading card and Summer Stars bag.

Library branches hosted closing ceremonies to mark the end of Summer Stars where all children who participated were invited to collect a certificate of achievement. Congratulations to, all our winners of our Summer Stars Zoo competition.

Thanks to all the readers for participating in the Summer Stars programme.



Winner of the Summer Stars Zoo competition

Little Library Book Bag

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER?

PLEASE SEE A MEMBER OF STAFF TO
COLLECT YOUR **FREE LITTLE LIBRARY**
BOOK BAG AND BECOME A **LIBRARY**
MEMBER TODAY



Libraries Ireland has put together a **free** bag of books for all children who are starting primary school this year. Louth Library Service has welcomed lots of 4 and 5 year olds in to collect their book bags and to begin their library membership journey. Book bags are available in both Irish and English and contain:

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. Little Library book bags can still be collected at Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Dunleer & Carlingford libraries with contact details available here:

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/find-a-branch/>

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. Brian Hanley, Assistant Professor in Twentieth Century Irish History at Trinity College Dublin held a talk entitled "Republicanism, Crime and Paramilitary Policing, 1916-1945" in Dundalk Library on Friday 1st September at 3pm.

The recording of this talk is available to view on the Louth Library Service crowdcast channel here: <https://www.crowdcast.io/c/zet52ao8uey9>

Historian in Residence, Dr Thomas Tormey has published an essay to mark the anniversary of the General Election in 1923. It is entitled "**Monday 27 August 1923: General Election in Irish Free State**" and is available to view on the Louth Library Service Blog Shelf Life [here](#)

'Great Irish Politics workshop' with David McCullagh



Pupils from CBS, Dundalk, Muchgrange NS in Dundalk library



Pupils from St Joseph CBS Drogheda

Pupils from CBS, Dundalk, Muchgrange NS and St Joseph CBS Drogheda had a fascinating live online workshop with author and RTE presenter David McCullagh where they discussed all the things that make our country work in terms of Irish politics.

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Louth Library Service Podcast



National Walking Day 2023 or Get Ireland Walking is a national initiative that aims to maximise the

number of people participating in walking - for health, wellbeing and fitness - throughout Ireland.

Librarian Siobhan McGuinness speaks to Barry Casey Louth Community Sport Development Officer based in Louth Local Sports Partnership.

To listen click here <https://shorturl.at/ntzO2> or scan the QR code in the poster above.

Children's Events

Dundalk Library

Moo Music workshops took place in Dundalk Library during September. The musical workshops for babies and toddlers were enjoyed by all who attended.



Moo music in Dundalk library

Drogheda Library

A Children's back to school craft workshop took in Drogheda library. Children created photo frames and a fun pencil craft.



Participant with craft piece in Drogheda Library

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.

Age Action Computer Classes

Computer classes will continue in Dundalk and Drogheda library throughout the month of September and October. The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience

To book email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie

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

Alzheimer's Café



September was the perfect time to kick-off Dundalk Library's latest initiative, The Alzheimer's Café . We welcomed Louth Dementia Advisor, Maeve Montgomery, as guest speaker followed by music by Scale Force and refreshments. The Magic Table is designed specifically for people with mid to late stage Dementia and the demonstration was welcomed by all who attended - perfect for Alzheimer's Awareness Month! This is a warm, welcoming event continuing the third Tuesday of every month.

Drogheda Library **041 9876162**

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 welcome.

Ardee Library **041 6859023**

Ardee Library Conversational Irish

Conversational Irish for Beginners will be 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 will meet 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

Culture Night

Culture Night 2023 took place on Friday Sept 22nd. We supported 24 events across the county on the night from traditional music sessions to artist gallery tours, workshops, Poetry SOS Clinics and exhibitions. Events started at 4p.m across the county and ran until the wee hours in some venues! Thank you to all who submitted applications for funding to deliver events on the night, and to those who ran events even without funding because they wanted to be part of the national coming together!



Artist Riley Waite working in the studio in An Táin during his residency.

For Culture Night Riley ran several workshops and had an open evening in the gallery space. Writer in Residence, Rashida Iyer also held a reading session and Musician in Residence Mark Corcoran performed an end of residency showcase.

Drogheda Classical Music Series

DCMS launched on Sunday 24th September in St. Peters' Church of Ireland in Drogheda with a phenomenal concert featuring Lise de la Salle & Hermes Quartet. The series announced in August the appointment of its new Artistic Director, Gavan Ring, and this year's lineup of concerts include Kahlo Piano Quartet, John Finucane, Jessie Grimes & Finghin Collins and the Irish Baroque Orchestra. See [here](https://www.droghedaclassicalmusicseries.com/) for details of all events. The series runs until April 2024.

Droichead Arts Centre

For Culture Night Droichead hosted the International Song Group in a performance involving several cultural members.

Highlane's Gallery Exhibition

Exhibition – Carapace continued throughout September in Highlane's Gallery. This first major solo exhibition by artist Niamh McGuinne launched on August 26th and the exhibition brings together sculpture, print and film, which all look at the need for self-preservation, to listen to yourself and to learn and read the signs your body is trying to show you. The exhibition will close on 7th October.

For Culture Night Highlane's ran 'Drop in Drawing Workshops' throughout the day, there was a gallery talk by Brendan Matthews and their Five good Things Cafe hosted its annual Tasting Plates.

An Táin Arts Centre

The artist in Residence exhibition by Riley Waite took place in the Basement Gallery throughout September, with huge interest in his work. Riley has been a dedicated and hard-working artist through his time in An Táin and creating some incredible pieces, one of which has been acquired by the Arts Office for the county collection.



The International Song Group in rehearsals ahead of Culture Night in Droichead Arts Centre.

They also had the Moneymore Women's group who were premiering their new podcast 'Making Wave', which was funded through Creative Ireland. There was a Q & A session after the podcast was played and then Roisin Ward Morrow and SJ McArdle performed music in the Café bar.

Creative Ireland Louth

Women in Wellness

A new 6-week programme will start in Dundalk library on 6th October every Friday at 10:15am. Facilitators Tracey O'Brien and Breda Marron will offer practices to help awaken a state of wellbeing in each person. To book a space or for more information contact Dundalk library on 042 9353190

Sean Corcoran Series

On Friday 8th September the inaugural Sean Corcoran Series launched in Highlane's Gallery in Drogheda. This first weekend festival saw a range of traditional performers gathering across 5 venues in Drogheda delivering live performances, workshops, and talks. Over 600 people attended the events across the weekend with almost all events booked out. Further events are being planned across the next 12 months to commemorate Sean and his legacy.

Other National Funding Streams:

Arts Council – The Arts Council have an extensive range of funding streams opening this October.

- Writers in School Scheme (ongoing)
- Opening in October will be:
 - Architecture Project Award
 - Arts Participation Award
 - Circus Project Award
 - Dance Project Award
 - Film Project Award
 - Literature Project Award
 - Music Project Award
 - Street Arts and Spectacle Award
 - Theatre Project Award
 - Traditional Arts Project Award
 - Visual Arts Project Award
 - Young People, Children and Education project award
 - Festivals Investment Scheme (for festivals June – Dec 2024)

For details on all of the see [here](#)

Museum

Aiken Barracks - 50th Anniversary



Marking the legacy – the Barrack's involvement with the UN Peacekeeping force

The Museum recently hosted an exhibition to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Aiken Barracks. The Museum is hosting display of items

associated with the garrison. The exhibition ran to early September.

Currently

The Museum has changed the content of a number of cases – specifically those at Reception and on the First Floor Gallery. At Reception we now have a handmade wooden model of GNR locomotive and a coach. We have also added a fossilised vertebra of what is believed to be an ichthyosaur.



Model of GNR locomotive and stagecoach

We have also moved some items pertaining to the Battle of the Boyne on the First Floor Gallery and are planning to add some newer display items in the coming weeks.



On display at Reception an Ichthyosaur vertebra

The Museum was one of the venues for An Táin's live action adventure game Incognito. The game

was a live action-adventure using a smartphone app. Participants included students from Coláiste Rís as well as members of the public and was evidently popular with everyone involved.

Recent acquisitions

Over the past number of weeks the Museum has added a number of diverse items to the collection. Examples include:



The commemorative booklet marking the dedication and opening of the Church of the Holy Family.





A number of girl's dolls



A wedding dress from the 1970s.

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

Figures as at 29/09/2023

Property offers recorded to date	43
Owners successfully contacted	43
Properties allocated to date	26
Beneficiaries assigned to date	77
Assessments	37
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	26
Properties with minor works required	1
Properties withdrawn	9
Properties not viable	7

Refurbishment Programme

The Council are facilitating the delivery of accommodation under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) led Refurbishment Programme for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Following refurbishment, The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) entered into a contract with the provider to manage and operate the facility.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have issued letters of intent to Contractors to enter contracts for offers of accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection (BOTPs) at the following addresses on a self-catering basis.

- Brook Buildings, Ardee Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 PW25. This accommodation is expected to be ready to receive approximately 23 BOTPs by the end of November 2023.
- 29 Laurence Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 FAEO. This accommodation is expected to be ready to receive approximately 26 BOTPs by end of January 2024.