



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 7th November 2023
7^ú Samhna 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 Aitiuil, 2001.

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – October 2023

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the November 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 several aspects of the October 2023 performance: -

- Continued measured expenditure with good income performance to date.
- We continue to operate Water Services under the original Service Level Agreement as we await an effective date to be agreed with Uisce Eireann. After that we will have no effective role in water services.
- The re-opening of the Housing Grants Schemes.
- The launch of the Brigid 1500 Festival.
- The successful and spectacular Lu Festival of Light in Drogheda.
- The appointment this month of our first wholetime Biodiversity Officer.
- The continued speedy construction of the PANCR project.

Finally, I would like to note the progress currently being made on our 2nd LECP Plan which is going through Municipal Districts now and will be brought to plenary Council in the New Year.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st October 2023
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 31 Deireadh Fomhair 2023

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Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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

Other responsibilities include, Water Services and Information & Communication Technology

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

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

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 31st of October 2023 / Caiteachas go dtí 31st Deireadh Fomhair 2023

| Section/Rannóg | Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/10/2023 | Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023 | % Spent to/ % Caite go 31/10/2023 |
|--|---|---|--|
| Housing/Tithíocht | €40,859,297 | €57,155,409 | 71% |
| Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht | €18,028,021 | €27,351,782 | 66% |
| Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce | €6,454,187 | €8,619,589 | 75% |
| Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha | €15,933,893 | €23,666,110 | 67% |
| Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta | €15,394,119 | €20,837,206 | 74% |
| Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste | €7,289,143 | €10,361,634 | 70% |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas | €1,117,945 | €1,468,858 | 76% |
| Miscellaneous/Ighnéitheach | €10,728,849 | €9,018,942 | 119% |
| | €115,805,454 | €158,479,531 | 73% |

Income to 31st of October 2023 / Ioncam go 31st Deireadh Fomhair 2023

| Section/Rannóg | Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/10/23 | Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023 | % Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/10/23 |
|--|--|---|---|
| Housing/Tithíocht | €38,590,695 | €58,718,513 | 66% |
| Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht | €6,684,529 | €16,635,478 | 40% |
| Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce | €5,648,130 | €8,303,355 | 68% |
| Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha | €9,192,068 | €14,403,330 | 64% |
| Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta | €1,452,003 | €2,295,719 | 63% |
| Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste | €908,535 | €1,208,037 | 75% |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas | €375,483 | €543,472 | 69% |
| Miscellaneous/Ighnéitheach | €9,584,160 | €11,296,768 | 85% |
| 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 Iarmhéid Dochair | €0 | €500,000 | 0% |
| | €113,482,896 | €158,479,531 | 72% |

The above is the current position as of the 31st of October 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 31st of October 2023 are as follows:

Debtors as of 31st of October 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31st Deireadh Fomhair 2023

| | Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh | Invoices/ Sonraisc | Receipts/ Fáltais | Write Offs/ Discríobhanna | Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais | €7,546,239 | €83,831,994 | (€69,749,452) | €50 | €21,107,831 |
| Other Local Authorities/Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile | €56,584 | €976,492 | (€865,944) | (€6,577) | €160,555 |
| Rates/Rataí | €7,561,465 | €34,469,827 | (€30,467,782) | (€2,242,159) | €9,321,351 |
| Rents/Cíosanna | €2,621,885 | €12,300,997 | (€12,142,323) | (€13,810) | €2,766,749 |
| Loans/Iasachtal | €295,384 | €1,696,589 | (€1,689,822) | (€0) | €302,151 |
| Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha | €10,943,505 | €6,731,390 | (€3,511,472) | (€2,769,608) | €11,393,815 |
| Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin | €717,575 | €409,979 | (€306,604) | (€47,355) | €773,595 |
| Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach | €1,804,894 | €10,174,449 | (€8,865,773) | (€104,796) | €3,008,774 |
| Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána | €31,547,531 | €150,070,717 | (€127,599,172) | (€5,184,255) | €48,834,821 |

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of October 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.

additional funding that may be available to the local authorities. The Draft Budget will be up on Decision Time and hard copies will be delivered to Councillors on Monday the 13th of November.

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. We are in the final stages of preparing the Draft Budget for 2024. We are still waiting for clarification from Central Government on any

Water Services

Uisce Éireann

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

Water Quality / Cáilíocht Uisce

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

Water Conservation / Caomhnú Uisce

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

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

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

Capital Programmes/Cláir Chaipitiúla

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

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

Tallanstown Rationalisation / Cuíchóiriú Bhaile an Tallúnaigh

Detailed Design is being progressed by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers. LCC are liaising with Uisce Éireann and their consultants to progress the project. The project will include works at Mullacrew

Reservoir with proposed new Pumping Stations at Allardstown and Bannons Cross. Planning permissions have been granted for both Bannons Cross PS and Allardstown PS.

Omeath WWTW / Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Ó Méith

The Construction Phase at both the Pumping Station and Wastewater Treatment plant is currently progressing. The associated rising main is substantially complete. The Project is progressing and programmed for completion in October 2023.

Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)

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

Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation / Athshlánú an Líonra Séaraigh Aitiúil

The 2023 Programme has now commenced with works currently underway in the Drogheda Agglomeration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

existing large diameter sewer are being progressed within UÉ.

Dundalk LNRP / Clár um Atreisiúchan Líonra Áitiúil Dhún Dealgan

A Strategic Review is underway for Dundalk Wastewater Treatment Plant and Blackrock Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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. Mains testing is currently progressing with permanent reinstatement to be undertaken upon completion.

Greenmount WTW Upgrade/Uasghrádú Ionad Cóireála Uisce Dhroim Chatha

Uisce Éireann are progressing the design of proposed Upgrade Works at Greenmount Water Treatment Works. The Council continues to engage with the design team on relevant data gathering and site visits. Planning application is programmed for Q2 2023 with procurement to follow in late 2023.

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. Works have been undertaken within the Wastewater Treatment Plant and at both the East Meath Pumping Station and the Bryanstown Pumping Station. The next phase of the Capital Programme involves works to the anaerobic digesters within the plant and works to manhole covers at various locations within the network.

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

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

Cockle Hill PS Upgrade / Uasghrádú Stáisiún Ceadéalacháin Chnoic na Ruachan

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

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/ Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

UÉ contractors GMC commenced on site in February 2023. The project is programmed for completion within 8 months.

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

The site investigation for the South Drogheda Wastewater Network has been completed and the draft design is progressing. Design Workshop 4 was completed on 7th March 2023.

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Clár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Clár Athshlánúcháin

Uisce Éireann undertook 1 rehabilitation work project in October.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 12 find & fix type repairs in October.

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú.

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

Water Scouring Programme 2022 / Clar Sciúrtha Uisce 2022

The Council Crew undertook uni-directional network flushing in Bryanstown area of Drogheda and Fane Bridge / Dromiskin area of Dundalk in October.

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

39 essential water tasks were carried out in October.

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 24 new connections, 22 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 19 Planning Applications in October.

Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

The Networks Section prepared 6 Service Maps in October.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/10/2023 and the 31/10/2023 there were 796 support calls logged in the IT support system. Security and Application Software were the highest category of support requests in October.

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 October 34% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

169,719



Blocked Sender

1,392



Blocked at gateway

22,007



Blocked by spam /virus

34,213



Blocked by content rules

630



Potentially harmful emails

34.32%

Louth County Council Website

There were 16,467 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in October.

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

Channel Types

| CHANNEL TYPE | VISITS | ACTIONS |
|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| Direct Entry | 4,485 | 59.5% 16,284 |
| + Search Engines | 1,825 | 35.9% 9,821 |
| + Websites | 343 | 3.7% 1,027 |
| + Social Networks | 101 | 0.9% 256 |
| + Campaigns | 2 | 0% 2 |

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

The Council provides 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 1881 views in October, an average of 62 views a day.

Item Views this Period

1,881

Avg Item Views Per Day

62.70

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 Stiúrtóireacht 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 / Stiúrtóir**



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.

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 LECP Actions, Objectives and Outcomes plan was made to the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC with feedback received. The draft plan is being updated with the additional feedback and will be back with the SPC in November 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. 20 applications were completed to grant stage with a report on same submitted to the Department in October 2023.

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. 42 applications were received by the closing date.

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.

Faite Ireland organised a FAM trip to Carlingford on the 11th October for a group of German journalists. Sea Louth were asked to provide welcome packs for the journalists.



German journalists delegation in Carlingford

Brigid 1500: Louth birthplace of Brigid

The full program of events for the Brigid 1500: Louth Birthplace of Brigid was launched to a full foyer of invited guests on the 19th of October in County Hall. The full program of events can be viewed on <https://www.visitlouth.ie/visitor-info/brigid1500.html>



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

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 commenced with a drop-in event on Friday 6th October in Dundalk Town Hall from 10am to 2pm. A draft plan is being prepared at present.

Urban Animation - Lú Festival of Light, Drogheda

The 2023 festival launched on the 27th of October. It ran until the 4th of November. This year there were spectacular audio-visual shows at St Peter's Church on West Street, The Old Abbey, St Laurence's Gate, a light installation at the former Methodist Church Garden on St Laurence's Street and a water screen audio visual show at St Dominic's Bridge. As part of the festival the legacy installation was installed in the Drogheda Tourist Office (The Tholsel). The legacy installation will show highlights of the festival to date and is available to view during the Tourist Office opening hours.

In addition to all the shows, there was on-street entertainment with fire breathers, face painting etc.



The Old Abbey, Drogheda during the Lú Festival of Light

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

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

Boyne Valley Flavours

Boyne Valley Bites

The Boyne Valley Bites dining campaign is now active in Athboy, Trim, Drogheda and Kells. Boyne Valley Flavours is working on the ground closely with the participants.

Boyne Valley Flavours Strategy

The Food Development Officer has been working with Repucon Consulting in relation to the new 5-year strategy and the members' consultation is due to take place in November.

Samhain Festival

The Samhain Festival of Food and Culture in Kells took place from the 2nd to 5th November.

LEO Louth

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

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

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

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

Green for Micro



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

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

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

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

Business Training



During October LEO held four training courses delivered to 53 attendees. They included Advanced Canva, Digital Marketing for Business, an E-Commerce Management Development programme and a Start Your Own Business course.

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.

Two Trading Online Voucher applications have been approved in October.

Business Advice Clinics

Twenty-six business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the County during October.

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.

Thirteen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of October.

Microfinance Ireland Business Loan



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

During October 2 loan applications were submitted to MFI and another 1 was approved.

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 one application received in October.

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

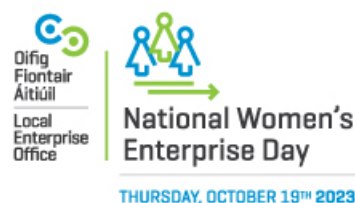
LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Student Enterprise Programme



Delivery of the Student Enterprise Programme 2023-2024 has commenced with 17 second level schools in the County participating.

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED)



An annual countrywide initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices. On October 19th, 2023, LEO Louth and LEO Meath hosted an in person event in the Monasterboice Inn, with over 100 in attendance. It was a very successful event with a guest panel featuring Cathy O'Connor Stylist, Caroline Duffy Designs and Carina Conyngham of Slane Castle and The Rock Farm Slane. The event was hosted by MC Miriam Simon.



(L-R): Lorna Cooney - LEO Meath, Caroline O'Connor - Stylist, Sarah Mallon - LEO Louth, Miriam Simon MC, Carina Conyngham - Slane Castle, Caroline Duffy Design and Nicola Mitchell - LEO Meath



(L-R): Lorna Cooney - LEO Meath, Caroline Duffy - Designer, Miriam Simon, MC, Carina Conyngham - Slane Castle and Caroline O'Connor – Stylist

Louth Business Awards

Dundalk Chamber hosted their annual business awards on 21st October 2023 in the Carrickdale Hotel. LEO Louth was represented by Sarah Mallon and Niamh Dennehy at the event. Niamh Dennehy presented the award sponsored by LEO Louth “Best Use of Digital Marketing & Social Media” to The Gift & Art Gallery.



(L-R): Aidan Callan, Dundalk Chamber Skillnet, Una McGoey, President, Dundalk Chamber, Michelle Rafferty, the Gift & Art Gallery and Niamh Dennehy, LEO Louth

European Relations



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government

PEACEPLUS

The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on Wednesday 11th October to further develop the concepts for the PEACEPLUS Programme and to incorporate feedback from the September roundtable consultation.

The PEACE team and our consultants, Blu Zebra, are working on the PEACEPLUS Action Plan and the draft of this will be presented to the Partnership at the next meeting, the date of which is to be finalised.

PEACE IV

There was also an installation of a bench at the PEACE IV Peter's Hill shared space in October. This bench enhances the ability of the space for being a place to reflect and experience the town of Drogheda.



New bench installation at Peter's Hill PEACE IV Shared Space in Drogheda

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 was extended until 23rd October. Dozens of volunteers covered stretches of the whole coast of the county during October. The Heritage Officer is the regional coordinator for the survey in County Louth.

Louth County Council appointed a Biodiversity Officer in October. They will be responsible for developing a Biodiversity Plan and will advise the Council on biodiversity related issues and the Council's obligations in relation to protecting biodiversity.

Monuments

The graveyard wall at the Holy Trinity Heritage Centre in Carlingford (part of the Carlingford town wall) has been repaired and the adjacent public footpath reopened. The works were commissioned by the local Church of Ireland Select Vestry and were funded by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme through Louth County Council.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

Following the two retained fire service strikes in June and August, settlement proposals were issued by the Labour Court and the Workplace Relations Commission, and these were accepted in a ballot. These changes are now being implemented in Louth.

The settlement proposals included an increase in the number of retained personnel to twelve per station.

Louth Fire Service and HR Section have started a joint recruitment campaign under a Recruitment Plan. The objective is to increase the number of fire fighters and officers in all retained brigades to the new national complements. It is hoped that over the next six months the number of retained personnel will substantially increase. This will require recruits and breathing apparatus courses and an officer's course to be arranged in Dundalk Training Centre.

The incident statistics for Quarter 3 show the following:

1. Drogheda remains the busiest station with 108 callouts in Louth and 55 in Meath during the quarter.
2. The number of ambulance assists remains high even though some of these calls were not attended to during the strikes.
3. The number of gorse and wildland fires this year was much less than the peak year of 2020 despite a few warm spells.
4. The most common incident type is a fire alarm activation. Bills are now being issued when the fire brigade mobilises to these calls.
5. Fulltime mobilisation times have remained low at approx 1.3 minutes.

Drogheda Fire Brigade attended the Irish Ports Safety Week in Drogheda Port and assisted in a casualty recovery exercise from a vessel in the port.



**Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Course
(Hacketstown)**

Incident types within Station Areas: Quarter Three 2023

| Type | Ardee | Carlingford | Dunleer | Drogheda | Dundalk | Meath | Other Areas | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Fire/Aircraft | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Alarm Activation | 8 | 1 | | 22 | 19 | 7 | | 57 |
| Fire/Bus/Coach | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Car | 1 | | 1 | 8 | 11 | 4 | | 25 |
| Fire/Caravan | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Chimney | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Fire/Controlled Burning | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Domestic | 2 | 1 | | 12 | 6 | 3 | | 24 |
| Fire/Persons Reported | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| Fire/Fire (General) | | | 1 | 5 | | | | 6 |
| Fire/Forest | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Gorse | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 4 |
| Fire/Grass | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| Fire/Hay/Barn | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Industrial | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 6 |
| Fire/Institutional | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Fire/Motorcycle | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Fire/Oil/Petrol | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Small/Bin/Skip | 2 | | 1 | 20 | 14 | 9 | | 46 |
| Fire/Smoke Issuing | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Fire/Truck | | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Fire/Vegetation | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Alarm/Carbon Monoxide | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| SS/Ambulance Assist | | 1 | | 11 | 8 | 3 | | 23 |
| SS/Animal Rescue | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Electrical | | | | 1 | 3 | | | 4 |
| SS/Entrapment | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Explosion | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Flooding | | | | 3 | 4 | 3 | | 10 |
| SS/Garda Assist | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| SS/Gas Leak | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Hazardous Material | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Lift Persons Trapped | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 5 |
| SS/Lockout | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| SS/Make Scene Safe | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 5 |
| SS/Marine Emergency | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Oil Spillage | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| SS/Other | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| SS/River Rescue | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/RTA | 3 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 45 |
| SS/Smell of Gas | | | | | | | | 0 |
| SS/Trees Down | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 6 |
| SS/Water Leak | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total no. of Incidents: | 22 | 8 | 9 | 108 | 89 | 55 | 2 | 293 |

Average Mobilisation Times (H:M:S) Quarter 3 – 2023

| | | Time to Mobilisation | |
|-------------|--------|----------------------|----------|
| | | Fire | Non Fire |
| Ardee | LH11A1 | 00:05:56 | 00:07:16 |
| Carlingford | LH12A1 | 00:06:26 | 00:05:43 |
| Dunleer | LH13A1 | 00:05:32 | 00:05:10 |
| Drogheda | LH14A1 | 00:01:28 | 00:01:29 |
| | LH14A2 | 00:08:20 | 00:07:43 |
| Dundalk | LH15A1 | 00:01:24 | 00:01:39 |
| | LH15A2 | 00:06:22 | 00:05:32 |

by Louth County Council. This included updates on a regional major emergency exercise on 5th December.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence provided medical cover to the Cyclocross League event for five days.

Civil Defence provided an emergency response to five incidents during October under the National Ambulance Service Community First Responder 999 Scheme.

Training was provided as follows:

- Weekly Training
- Communications level 1 training
- Communications level 2 training
- Cardiac First Responder Advanced Recertification
- Cardiac First Responder Community Recertification
- Emergency First Responder Recertification

Building Control

The Building Control Officer analysed commencement notice data and noted a large increase in the number of houses commenced in Louth during the first nine months of 2023, compared with the same period in 2022. The largest increase in house starts was in Dundalk, up from 104 units to 460 units.

Amended Radon regulations are being issued, including a revised Radon map.

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

The Fire Service Training Programme was affected by the strikes during the Summer. Some training courses were deferred. The following training courses were delivered during October:

- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Course
- Cardiac First Responder Refresher Courses
- Health and Safety Course for Monitoring Committee members

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved two new fire tenders for Louth at a cost of approximately €800,000.

The Fire Prevention Section inspected all the dance license renewal applications received and issued fire safety requirements. Several applications were adjourned pending compliance with the requirements.

Major Emergency Management

There were national severe weather briefings during September in relation to Storm Babet and further tidal and wind events.

The regional Major Emergency Working Group meeting took place in Clones on 3rd October, chaired

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning Service Indicators for Louth County Council for the month of September 2023 are given below in tabular form.

Planning Development Management

There were 94 planning applications received during the month of September of which 86 were valid. In addition there were 36 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 24 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 | (B) Housing Developments | (C) Individual Houses | (D) Other applications- not requiring EIA | (E) Other applications- requiring EIA | (F) Total for all categories of development in County Area |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| (i) Number of applications determined | 11 | 18 | 48 | 1 | 78 |
| (ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information | 4 | 11 | 21 | 1 | 37 |
| | 18.18% (2) | 38.89% (7) | 10.42% (5) | 0% (0) | 17.95% (14) |
| (iii) Percentage of applications refused | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| | 0% (0) | 0% (0) | 25% (1) | 0% (0) | 16.67% (1) |
| (iv) Number of appeals determined | | | | | |
| (v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal | | | | | |

Planning – Enforcement

The Planning indicators are given below in relation to Enforcement complaints regarding unauthorised developments received 1st – 30th September 2023.

| Description | Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development | | September 2022 | Year to Date |
|--|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | September 2023 | Year to Date | | |
| Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated | 21 | 226 | 23 | 205 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-----|----|-----|
| Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation. | 3 | 216 | 16 | 216 |
| Number of Warning letters issued | 7 | 167 | 27 | 172 |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued. | 1 | 9 | 4 | 12 |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Number of Injunctions | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Prosecutions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The Planning Indicators are given below in relation to Short-Term Letting Enforcement received during the month.

| Description | Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings | |
|--|--|--------------|
| | October 2023 | Year to Date |
| Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated | 0 | 6 |
| Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up | 0 | 0 |
| Number of cases closed/resolved through negotiation. | 1 | 7 |
| Number of cases currently under investigation | 20 | 23 |
| Number of Warning Letters issued | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued. | 0 | 6 |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Injunctions | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Prosecutions | 0 | 0 |

Placemaking and Physical Development

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair

Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí

Fairgreen

Wolfe Tone Terrace

Market St

The Square Shrub Borders

Old Coes Rd

Rock Rd

Point Rd

Ecco Rd

Castletown Rd

Old Newry Rd

Riverside Crescent

Laurels

Ramparts

Armagh Rd,

Mooreland /Lennon Melia Crescent

Inner Relief Rd at Bothar Na Feirme

Riverside Walk

Racecourse Rd

Centenary Rd

Dublin Rd

Mourne View Walkway

Ardee Rd

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Carrick Rd</p> <p>Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk</p> <p>Castleross hedgerow</p> <p>Ashling Pk Estate</p> <p>River Grids</p> <p>Bottle Banks at Long Walk,</p> <p>Harp Car Park,</p> <p>Meadow Grove</p> <p>Barrack St</p> <p>Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day and area litter picked</p> |
| Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí | <p>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</p> <p>Nightly By Contractor- 200 Bins</p> <p>Solar Bins Power washed.</p> <p>3 damaged bins removed and replaced with new bins.</p> <p>All tubs in full flower</p> <p>Plant Tiers at Market Square still in good flower</p> <p>Hanging baskets all removed and stored.</p> |
| Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre | <p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <p>Contract Sweeper as per contract. Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract</p> |
| Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra | <p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> |
| By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections | 200 Litter Bins throughout the town |

| | |
|---|--|
| Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála | Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Ring Buoys checked. Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk. All up to standards this month. |
| 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 Park and Ashling Pk Car Parking area cleaned in Muirhevnamor. Green Flag awarded for St Helena's Park and Ice House Hill Park again for 2023/2024 and the raising of both flags was held on the 13 th October. Dundalk retained its Gold Medal in the Tidy Towns Awards in October |

| | Location / Suíomh | Notes / Nótaí |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre | <u>Cooley</u> None currently <u>Dundalk</u> Tar Patching using the bagged tar | |
| Drainage Remediation / | <u>Cooley</u> | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Feabhasúchán Draenála</p> | <p>None this month</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None this month</p> | |
| <p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees/ Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p> | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Pruning low branches from trees in Market Square and Anne Street</p> <p>No damage during the latest Storm</p> <p>Removing rouge plants from shrubberies</p> <p>Grass cutting coming to an end for the season.</p> | |
| <p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p> | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None currently</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None this month</p> | |
| <p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</p> | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None currently</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>On-going Repairs (bulb replacement)</p> | |
| <p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p> | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None this month</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None this month</p> | |
| <p>Signage / Comharthaíocht</p> | <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Ongoing advanced warning signs are being replaced at road junctions.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Replaced Bollards on Newry Road.</p> | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>Replaced damaged Cycle Lane markers in Town.</p> <p>Place reflective tape on street Bollards.</p> <p>Replaced numerous signage for faded ones in areas around the town.</p> <p>Trimmed branches from Signage on approach roads.</p> | |
| <p>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</p> | <p><u>Cooley</u> Dumping at Haggardstown and Templetown.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Dumping of sofas and mattresses in areas of Inner Relief Road and Woodview again this month.</p> <p>Entrance to Woodview Estate- black bags being dumped weekly.</p> <p>Dumping reported at the following locations: Moorland Road, Inner Relief Road, Racecourse Road, Ath Leathan estate, Bypass at WUXI Roundabout, Old Coes Rd., Salt town.</p> <p>Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly.</p> | |
| <p>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</p> | <p>Graffiti cleaned from Road Signs</p> <p>Graffiti cleaned from Bins in Town Centre</p> | |



Roadworks at Monksland



Refurbished Playground at Carlingford

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

| | |
|--|--|
| Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair | Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackrock – 6 days/week• Knockbridge – once a week• Dromiskin – once a week• Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week |
| Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí | Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht N/A |
| 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 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly • Blackrock – checked weekly |

| Location / Suíomh | | Notes / Nótaí |
|---|---|---|
| Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre | <p>Tar patching LP-3161 Rock Road Blackrock, LP-3136 Carrickrobin HBX LT-31252 Clonaleenaghan, HBX LS-7126 Cortial Kilkierley, LS-7127 Kilkierley Road Kilkierley, LP-3122 Balrobin Kilkierley, LT-31251 Barronstown, HBX LP-7160 Sandylane Blackrock. Rd187 Drumeenagh Rd170 Allardstown – Walterstown Cross. Rd170</p> <p>Also patched: Rd175 Mullacrew. Rd174 Thomastown</p> <p>N/A</p> | <p>Road repairs and patching & cleaning up</p> <p>Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming</p> <p>Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)</p> |
| Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála | <p>LS-7114 Killin Bridge a Crinn, plus LS-7105 Dungooly Kilcurry. Rd217 Maine – Annagassan. Rd172 Mills of Louth – Louth Village. Rd206 Crowmartin. R166 Castlebellingham – Annagassan road.</p> | <p>Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha | | Clearing fallen trees & debris. |
| Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán | | Footpath renewal |
| Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta | N/A | |
| Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre | N/A N/A | Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings |
| Signage / Comharthaíocht | Louth Village and in Annagassan | Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage |
| 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 | |



Road markings near Darver School



New road markings at Stabannon

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 | Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht |
| Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon | 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 / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne | Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil |
| 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 2223-0 Johnstown LP 2225-0 Ballygassion LP 1297-27 Kells road, Collon LP 2226 -44 Charleville road LS 6269-0 Knockaleva LS 6270-0 Guns town LS 5234-0 Silver hill LP 1209-0 Glack LP 2214-30 Crossabeagh |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála | Repairs to manhole on the N33 Outlets and back drains at Martins Cross. Outlets from Dillionstown to Annagassan. | |
| Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha | N/A | |
| Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán | Main street, Dunleer John street, Ardee | |
| Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá | N/A | |
| Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre | N/A | |
| Signage / Comharthaíocht | Maintenance on signage on regional roads Ardee Rural | |
| Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach | N/A | |
| Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí | N/A | |

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

| Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair | <p>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steps (22) and lane ways weekly when recourses allow in addition to 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 on Saturdays p.m.• Drogheda Rural Bring Banks are cleared daily during working week.• Power washing of Town Centre steps – on-going.• Preparation Lu Lighting Festival – clean route and pedestrian barriers.• Removal of Bonfire material at housing estates.• Particular attention given to litter picking at St Dominick’s Pk / Mell River, The Dale, Clintons Lane and Town Centre.• Particular attention to cleaning at St Dominick’s Pk, for Green Flag. |
|---|---|
| Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí | Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht |
| Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead | 7 Daily |
| Clogherhead Beach | 8 Daily |
| Port Beach | 6 Daily |
| Termonfeckin | 6 Daily |
| Baltray | 3 Daily |
| Seapoint Carpark | 3 Daily |

- Drogheda Town Centre. Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.
- 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.
- Dominic’s Park & Mell River walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Municipal District Rural area’s public pitter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches at Port Oriel, Seapoint, Termonfeckin, and Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads to Drogheda town emptied twice a week.
- Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing + street furniture.
- A new bin placed on Ramparts Walk.

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre

Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain

- Town Centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months when resources allow.
- Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.
- Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.
- Drogheda town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular attention on road sweeping to Ballsgrove, Trinity St, Marsh Rd and Termonfeckin Rd. • Planned clean up and removal of dumping material at Skelly's Lane, Moneymore & St Laurence's Drive. • Particular attention to routes identified on IBAL inspection at Marsh Rd, Marley's Lane, Termonfeckin Rd & Rathmullen Rd. • Road sweeping at all flooding locations to remove leaves blocking Gullys. |
| Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra | Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain 35 No. emptied once a week, washed and disinfected. |
| Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála | Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) • 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday) |
| Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne | Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, skate park, adult exercise equipment). 3 playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) emptied and disinfected. • Graffiti Removal at Treadagh View. |

| Location / Suíomh | Notes / Nótaí |
|---|--|
| <p>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</p> | <p>LS-6270 Castlolumny, LS-6302 Milltown, LS-6319- Church Lane Tullyallen LS-6248 Briarhill LS-6292 Monasterboice to Tinure LS-6247 Milltown LT-63192 Tullyallen LP-2240 Togher</p> <p>Drainage Works</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road Gully repairs planned at Crosslanes – Underground service survey to commence week 6th November. 2. Gully cleaning including storm line at Castlewood. <p>LCC's Crew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place sand bags in Drogheda Town in event of flooding from recent storm. • Preparation for Lu Lighting – pedestrian barriers. • Footpath repairs at College Rise, Ulster's Lane, Maple Drive & Cherrymount. • Pothole repairs at Congress Ave, Mount St Oliver & Cherrymount. • Reinstatement of Public Light on West St. • Storm water manhole at Greenhills – reinstated due to storm damage. • Reinstatement of Kerbs at Hardman Gardens. • Placing of barriers in front of derelict Building on Narrow West St. <p>Road Works Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender due to carry out reinstatement works on Boyne Rd. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Road Gullys and reinstatement of existing gullies Crosslanes, due to commence November. • All roads on RWP 2023 list now complete. CIS Lanes. • Burren 90% complete. | |
| <p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p> | <p>Flooding on Friday on 20th October 2023 Drogheda and South Louth - road flooding signs put up at the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Red Gap Tinure 2. Tubertoby 3. Seapoint (impassable later in the Day) 4. Baltray to Drogheda 5. Newtownstalaban 6. Drogheda to Termonfeckin Rd 7. Old N1 Monasterboice to Mullary 8. Monasterboice at the under pass. 9. Newline Monasterboice 10. Tower Rd Monasterboice. 11. Sandpit <p>Boyne Waste (attended Flooding at the Following places)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Old N1 Monasterboice to Mullary 2. Marsh Rd Drogheda 3. Newtown Monasterboice (Stream had burst its banks and flooded the area so must wait until water subsides) 4. Newline Monasterboice 5. Tower Road Monasterboice 6. Tenure Village and Road to Castlelumney. 7. Dunleer at the school (Ongoing Problems Flood cleared but pipe work needed) 8. Clonmore Road and at Graveyard 9. Togher Rd (Up from Darby's pub) 10. Cartown Rd 11. Church on Ballymakenny Rd | |

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|--|--|--|
| | <p>12. Castlewood Dublin Rd Drogheda 13. Milltown Lane 14. Calvary Graveyard Drogheda</p> <p>Crew Brought out Sandbags to 1. Townrath 2. Tullyallen 3. Sandpit (Houses on the Road)</p> <p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing • Tenders in for gully cleaning contract – County Wide.</p> | |
| <p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p> | <p>Trees cleared on • Rath Mullen Rd – storm damage.</p> | |
| <p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p> | <p>• Footpath repairs at College Rise, Ulster's Lane, Maple Drive & Cherrymount.</p> | |
| <p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR10 – R132 @ Dual Carriageway Pedestrian (lights out) • DR32 – Boyne Valley Jct (Red man lamp out) • DR03 – R132 James St / Scotch Hall jct (Possible PBU fault/stuck) • DR13 – Donore Rd / Bottle Lane (vehicle phase D Amber) • Speed VMS mell road one sign out • DR06 – R132 at Westgate / Fair St junction Secondary red light exiting Fair Green | |
| <p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yellow box and Disabled parking bay outside St Peters Graveyard. 2. Francis Street 3. Scarlet Street 4. Marley's Lane 5. Laburnum Square | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Signage / Comharthaíocht | Up-grade of Signage and Poles on-going town centre. | |
| Weed killing / Marú fiailí | N/A | |
| Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair | Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads. | |
| Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach | <p>Bonfire material:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boice Court • Moneymore • Rathmullen • IDA industrial estate • Donore Road <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marley's Lane. 2. King Street car park 3. Mell car park | <p>Locations identified from interaction with local reps plus monitoring. Environment crews removed debris.</p> <p>Warden services have carried out several location visits to garage retailers to advise regarding proper storage of materials to prevent illegal removal for bonfires.</p> <p>Ongoing liaising with An Garda and colleagues in Fire Service in order to work in partnership and support during this particular season.</p> <p>Dumping checked no evidence. Removed by environment team.</p> <p>Dumping checked no evidence. Removed by environment team.</p> <p>Dumping checked no evidence. Removed by environment team.</p> |

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| Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí | N/A | |
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Low cost safety works at Congress Avenue, Drogheda



Works on Baltray Road, Drogheda

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

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

A North South Ministerial Infrastructure Sub Group meeting was held on the 19th of Sept with one to be held in November.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services has been procured and they are liaising with the agents of landowners. A 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, authorities Louth County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily and temporarily. The CPO became operative on the 20th of Sept. The latest date for judicial review was the 25th October

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 out to tender with a return date in late November. A tender has been issued for geotechnical advice for some soft soils areas and options are currently being developed for these 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.

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

N52 Ardee Bypass

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

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

The Barristers for the respective parties shall liaise with each other to agree prospective hearing dates & they are to come back to Court on 7th November with this complete meaning that on 7th November a hearing date will be assigned.

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 Louth Co. Council to the landowners affected by this phase of the project.

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



Ballymakenny Roundabout looking west

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

The contractor has commenced work on the LCC owned lands section on 24th April 2023 with a proposed programme of 16 No. weeks to complete. Road formation completed, drainage and services completed.

ESB have now completed diversion works so Contractor is to return to site to finish project in early Nov 2023. Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners, a valuation process has started. Other

mechanisms for acquiring the lands are also been explored.



Junction

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

The Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for DoT to progress two of the schemes, namely D7 & D6 towards feasibility stage has been completed and the final Report has been submitted to the Council forwarded to the Dept. of Transport for approval. Tender documentation to engage a consultant to carry out a constraints study, feasibility study and options reports will be released to the market in Nov.

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

Works have commenced in Carlingford on Section 1. Site clearance, drainage and greenway construction working from the Marina entrance towards the village is ongoing.



Works in Section 1 Carlingford

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Works are progressing well with the site clearance; subbase placement and mainline drainage substantially complete in Section 2. Seawall repairs are ongoing. Permanent fencing installation has begun at the northern end of the site.



Site clearance through Omra Park



Permanent Fencing installation Cornamucklagh

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

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

A revised major planning application was submitted in Feb 2023 and granted in March. The minor planning application for the route change was submitted in April 2023 and received its planning on the 26th of Oct. and works commencing in Nov. 2023 for the boardwalk. Advance works have begun to complete works in Victoria Lock and at the northern side of the border.

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

The 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 was held on the 2nd of Oct. Mapping, flooding information and other relevant databases are being shared to enable the constraints to be recorded.

It's envisaged that a Public Consultation event on the overall study area will be held in Q4. 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 Recreations 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. Applications under the ORIS Fund are being made for Port (Lurganbuoy) and Templetown.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

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



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

LIHAF Project:

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are continuing the scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Roadwork is complete on the Castletown Road in preparation for a pedestrian crossing now ready for ESB connection. Substantial upgrade of IW watermains is currently taking place. A road closure is in place from Monday the 17th April 2023.



Road section with Cycle lanes and footpaths



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



Drone footage of deck removal

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

The encapsulation base deck to allow removal of bridge Concrete deck is completed, and concrete deck, along with underlying steel plates have been removed over the last two weeks allowing Structural Engineers to visually inspect Main Bridge Steel Members. Encapsulation Stage 2 has commenced with up and over scaffolding, with encapsulation over the coming days to allow next stage of shot blasting steel for further examination of Steel Members prior to making final decision on selection of steel remedial repair and replacement works. A Road Closure with traffic diversions has been implemented and is being maintained daily.



Obelisk Bridge Concrete Deck fully removed with protection sheeting laid out underneath on scaffolding platform

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Final Conservation brick remedial works are being closed out. Additional Windows installed. First Fix Ventilation Services installation ongoing and additional audio visual (AV) First Fix Containment Trays to host AV Cameras and Audio Equipment. Lime Mortar repointing continuing. Roof works now 85% completed, awaiting Cupola Delivery and automatic opening vents to allow final completion of same. Internal Wall lining system approved to commence over coming weeks.



Refurbished Sash Windows East Elevation



Block B rebuilt Brick Arch South Elevation



Block N New Link Building : Window Installation

Block N: New Link Building

Window installation commenced, to be completed over coming days. External render ongoing. Wall lining systems continuing. Brick remedial works are ongoing.

Ventilation Contractors first fix pipework install ongoing. Final sections of RC Slab to rear of Block N abutting Operations Yard under construction following Testing of water mains and sterilisation of same.



Block N New Link Building : Window Installation



Block N: New Link Building sound insulation, grounds for AV and first fix wiring in Meeting Room

Block C: Community Services Building

All floors are now screeded. Internal Compartmentation Walls in Roof Space commenced. First fix mechanical and electrical continuing. Truss Refurbishment Treatment and repainting commenced. Carpenters boxing out for restored ornate Roof Ventilators. Slating continuing, with Eastern pitch on Eastern Block salvaged slates from original roof getting installed.



Block C Lift Hallway Floors pre screed pour, all now completed.



Block C Truss Ironmongery Treatment

Block E: Annex Building

External first render coat applied, and parapet conservation works commenced.



Block E Annex Building : Parapet Conservation Works

Dunleer Fire Station

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

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continue to work on Stage 1 of the Project. The Draft Hydraulic Report has been reviewed by the OPW / LCC 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 options being considered. The proposed locations for ground investigation works are being finalised and the environmental and archaeological assessments being carried out. LCC have completed a review of historical SI information and this along with proposed ground investigation works will help inform the options development. Additional seasonal environmental surveying e.g. wintering bird's surveys are being carried out.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by LCC and OPW. Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

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

completed the draft hydraulics report and LCC and OPW are currently reviewing. Additional topographical surveying has been carried out and the hydraulic model updated accordingly. Options assessment has begun and will continue over the next few months.

The preliminary Ground Investigation report is due in the coming weeks, which will help inform us about the options development phase of the project.

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

OPW and the Council have commenced information gathering including ICWWS, latest LiDAR, River survey, Topo (including thresholds), CCTV, Beach profiles, Bathymetry, etc. Procurement of CCTV and Topographical survey Contractors to complete the information required to begin in first quarter 2024.

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

Ardee E.T.N.S.

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



Access Road Construction



Site Clearance for the school site on the left

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

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

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



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

| SITE BUILD STATUS | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site 13 | TOBERCURRY; Civil works complete with CT cabinet stood. Awaiting line markings; and ESB site visit to confirm point of connection. |
| Site 14 | NAVAN; CT Cabinet delivered to Meath CC Contractor on-site. Retention sockets to be delivered. |
| Site 7 | VIRGINIA; Civil works complete Awaiting delivery of the CT cabinet; CT cabinet stood and retention sockets fitted. Carriageway Reinstatement works complete. Awaiting line markings and ESB site visit to confirm point of connection. |
| Site 4 | CARRICKMACROSS; Civil works ongoing Awaiting delivery of the CT cabinet (concrete reinstatement around will be required); CT |

| | |
|--------|---|
| | Cabinet stood and awaiting line markings; Awaiting approval of block paving to match the existing |
| Site 9 | BUNCRANA; Existing footway excavated out ESB cabinet bends installed; ESB ducting complete to the existing pole and permanently reinstated. Civil works completed & awaiting line markings following meeting on permanent reinstatement. |
| Site 8 | BALLYBOFEY; ESB site visit to confirm point of connection & Civil works completed 12/10/2023. |
| Site 3 | DUNDALK; Excavation works carried out under Archaeologist Supervision. Civil works completed with CT cabinet dropped and reinstatement completed. |
| Site 1 | ARDEE; Excavation works carried out under Archaeologist Supervision. Civil works is progress. |
| Site 2 | DROGHEDA Excavation works carried out under Archaeologist Supervision. Civil works in progress. |



Ground works completed Ardee Car-park



Ground works completed Dundalk (Tennis Club) Car-park



Civil Works underway Donore Rd Car-Park Drogheda

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

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

Information is available at the following outlets:

| Channel | URL |
|------------------|---|
| Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge |
| Twitter | https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge |
| Instagram | https://www.instagram.com/fasterevcharge/ |
| Linkedin | https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project |
| TikTok | https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterevcharge |
| YouTube | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxddlpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ |

Civil works are currently ongoing at Virginian, Co. Cavan, Carrickmacross, Co.Monaghan. Navan, Co. Meath, Tobercurry, County Sligo. With works to commence on the other site early Oct.

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 status 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 evolution 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 status of the ongoing Active Travel projects are as outlined in the table below.

During the months of September and October 2023, the Active Travel Team took four number Active Travel projects to Non-statutory Public Consultation and received very positive feedback on the proposals

Drogheda Bridge of Peace to MacBride Railway Station – Active Travel Project

Phase 2 – Non-statutory Public Consultation



Drogheda Active Travel Schemes



Phase 1 – Non-statutory Public Consultation

Dublin Road, Dundalk Pedestrians & Cyclists Scheme Phase 2: Non-statutory Public Consultation



Active Travel Projects

| Project Name | Allocation 2023 | Project Band | Current Phase | October 2023- Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road) | €415,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023. The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants quickly moved into Phase 3 Preliminary Design.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th September 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councillors 27th September 2023 – Design Team met with several key stakeholders in person. 11th October 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 9th Oct to 20th October 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions. <p>The Design Team will now consider all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> | Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024 |
| Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design. | €100,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>RPS has commenced design and are currently developing options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed. <p>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.</p> | Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024 |
| Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB. | €100,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>RPS Group have commenced design and are currently developing options.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31st August 2023 and a Public Consultation Day was held in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14th September 2023. The consultation period expired on Friday 22nd September 2023 and the Design Team are currently reviewing all submissions.</p> | Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024 |

| Project Name | Allocation 2023 | Project Band | Current Phase | October 2023- Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project) | €400,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>LCC received Gateway 2 Report from Design Consultants at the start of October and report was submitted to the NTA on 27th October 2023.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants have commenced to assess some elements in Phase 3 Preliminary Design.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19th June 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councillors 31st August 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person. 14th September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 11th Sept to 22nd September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> | Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 |
| Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design. | €200,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>For the North Road, Drogheda, a Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19th June 2023 – Online Briefing given to Drogheda MD Councillors 31st August 2023 – Design Team met with several key stakeholders in person. 14th September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Drogheda Library 11th Sept to 22nd September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions. <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> | North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 |
| 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 |

| Project Name | Allocation 2023 | Project Band | Current Phase | October 2023- Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---|--|---|
| Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project) | €550,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 3 Preliminary Design | <p>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.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26th July 2023 – Online Briefing given to Dundalk MD Councillors • 3rd August 2023 – Design Team met with a number of key stakeholders in person. • 21st September 2023 – Public Consultation Day held in Dundalk Library • 19th Sept to 29th September 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions. <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process.</p> | Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 |
| Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge | €464,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 3 Preliminary Design | <p>LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19th June 2023. Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 4th October 2023.</p> <p>A Non-statutory Public Consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Options were / are due to be held on the below dates...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26th October 2023 – Public Consultation Day to be held in Dundalk Town Hall • 23rd October to 3rd November 2023 – Online Portal open for public submissions. | Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024 |
| Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station. | €400,000 | Band 3 >10mil | Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process | <p>Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29th June 2023.</p> <p>Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 "Statutory Process". DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package. In October 2023 we held several meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route.</p> | Proposed Part 8 late Q2 2024 |

| Project Name | Allocation 2023 | Project Band | Current Phase | October 2023- Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process. | |
| Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham | €250,000 | Band 1 < 0.5mil | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | N/A |
| Hoey's Lane, Dundalk | €150,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose | Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. | 2024 |
| Mill Street, Dundalk | €250,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose | Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. | 2024 |
| Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk | €150,000 | Band 2 <10mil | Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose | Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. | 2024 |

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

| Project Name | Allocation 2023 | Project Band | Current Phase | October 2023- Project update | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda | | | | | |

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

Preparation of the Westgate planning pack is almost concluded, and 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

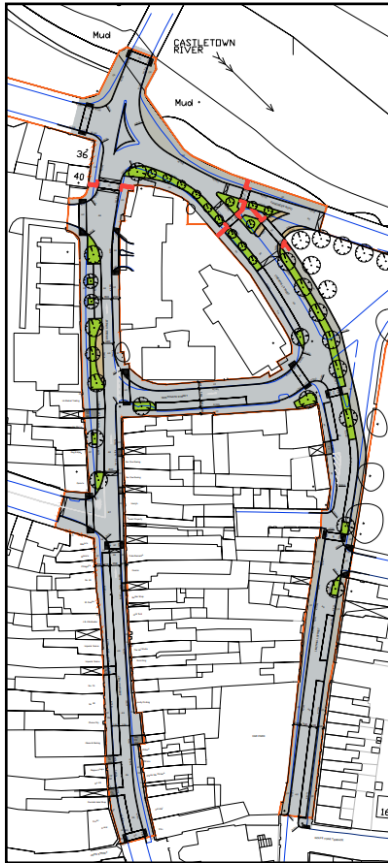
- Access and Active Travel Management Strategy
- Westgate Natura Impact Statement
- Westgate Planning Statement
- Preliminary CEMP
- Public Lighting Design Reports
- Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment
- Stage 1 Road Safety Audit
- Tree Survey



St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

BDP Ltd are the Urban Design Team for the first phase of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. Phase 1 of the project, which received Part 8 approval in April 2018, involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Site investigations to confirm locations of services are due to be completed in the coming weeks. The detailed design stage has been completed and the documents for the tender for a contractor are now being prepared. It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in 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 BDP have been appointed as the successful tenderer. A kick-off meeting has been held and Stage 1 of the project has commenced.

URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

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

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

The National Monuments Department have confirmed that they are in approval of most of the proposal, however two items remain to be agreed. A further meeting has been held with National Monuments with the appointed design team now working on design options for the two outstanding items.

The tender documentation for the appointment of a works contractor is complete pending confirmation of the additional changes requested by National Monuments.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



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

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

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



Ardee 2040

The 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 capitalise and respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by providing new and better-quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

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



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

The new outdoor dining facility is now completed. The new benches were recently installed, and landscaping is completed.



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 District meeting. Further to the tender assessment process, the finalising of the appointment of contractors is ongoing.

Submissions or observations of Termonfeckin Part 8 closed on 24th October. The Part 8 report is being completed and will be presented to the members at an upcoming Drogheda Municipal District meeting.

A works contractor has been appointed to demolish the water tower at Termonfeckin and clear the site.

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

A public consultation event was held on 25 October in the Market House Dunleer in relation to the draft Plan and was very well attended.

The draft Town Centre First Plan will be available online and open for comment until 8 November.



Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

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

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

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

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

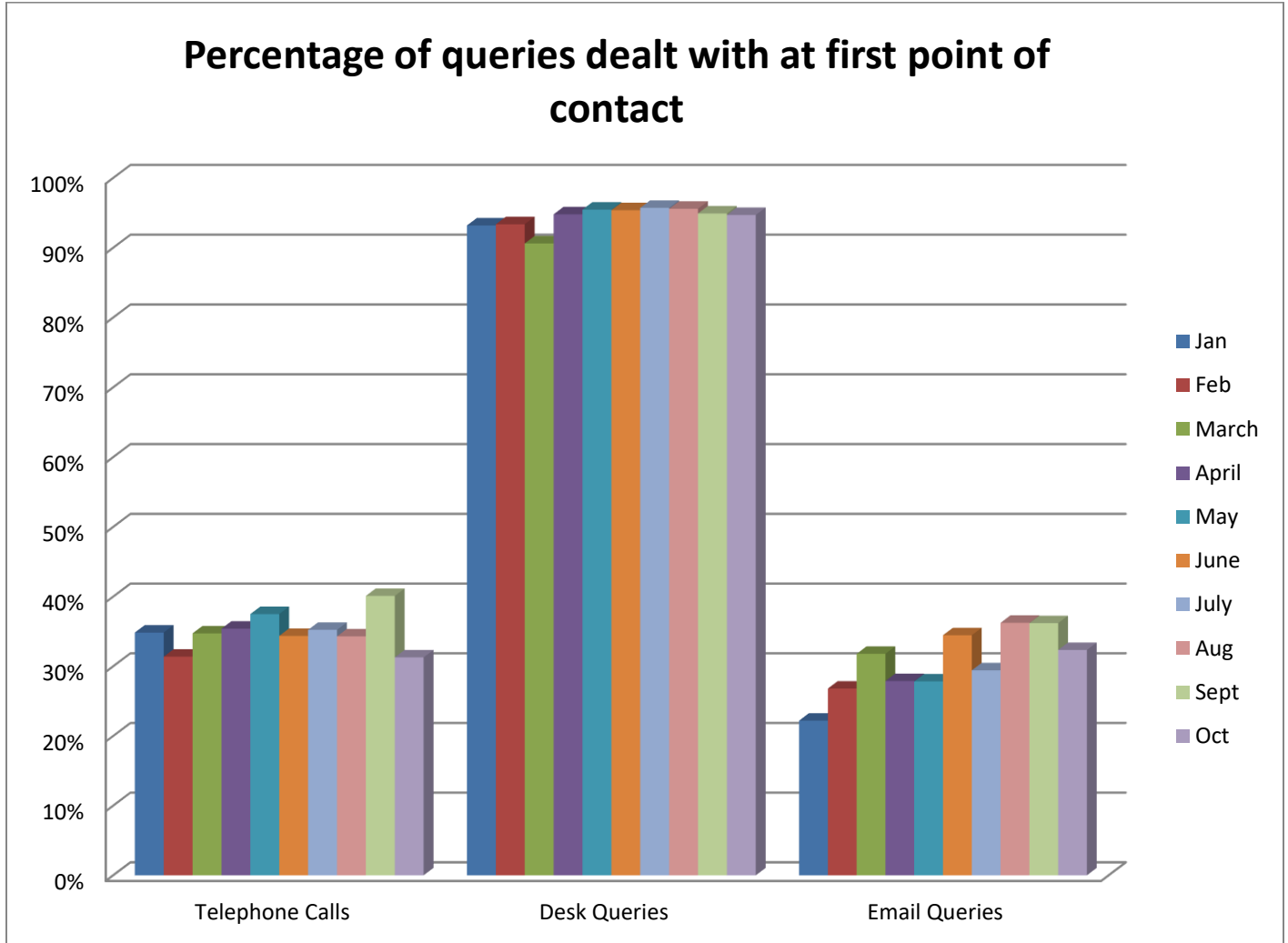


Joe McGuinness
Director / Stiúrthóir

Corporate Services

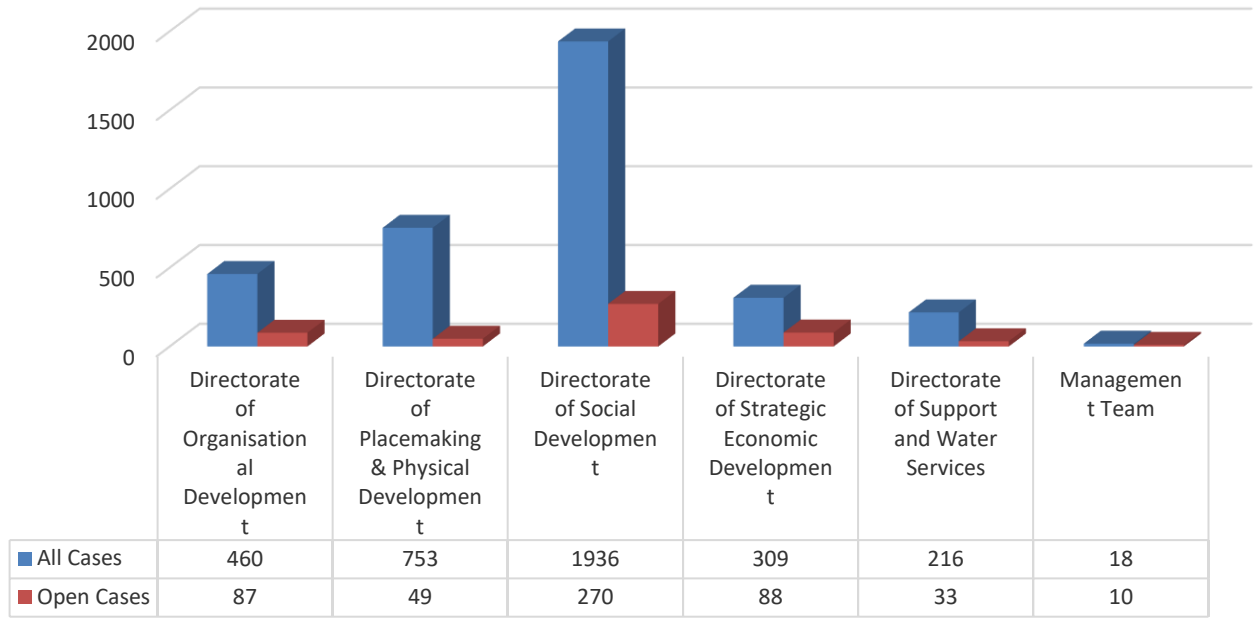
Customer Services Report

During the month of Oct 2023 Customer Services dealt with 13,262 queries, 6931 calls, 1,271 e-mails and 5060 counter queries.

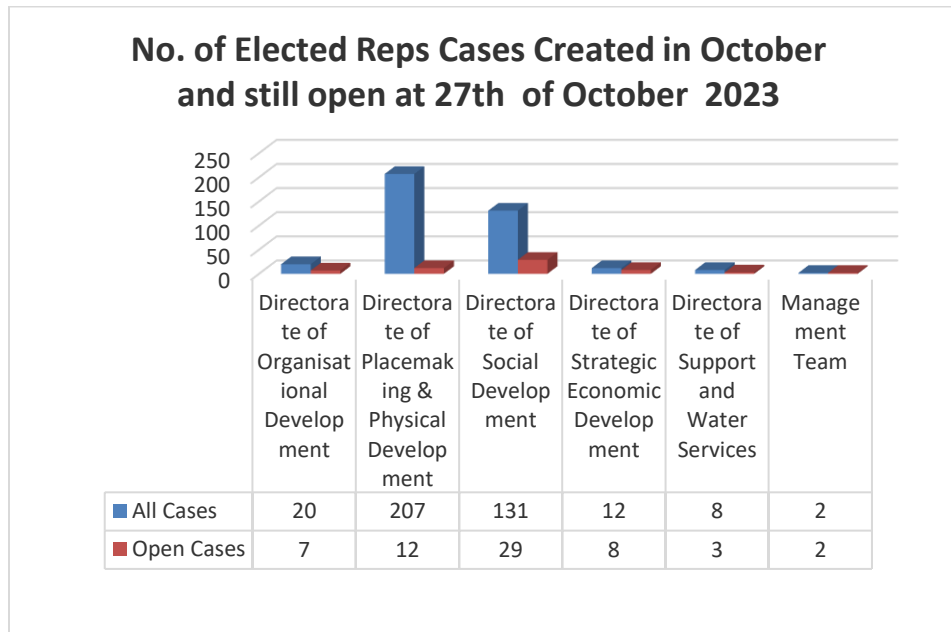


There were 3,692 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during October 2023 of which 537 (14.5%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in October and still open at 27th of October 2023



During October 2023, 380 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 61(16%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

| Request Received | 2022 Total Jan-Oct | 2023 Total Jan – Oct | 2023 Oct ONLY |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| FOI | 100 | 103 | 9 |
| DSAR | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Data Protection Request | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| (AIE) | 12 | 19 | 4 |
| Ombudsman | 10 | 18 | 4 |
| Complaints | 26 | 29 | 3 |

Electoral Register

On Wednesday 25th November 2023, a representatives from the Electoral Commission visited Louth County Council and spoke with Joe McGuinness, Director of Services and staff from the Franchise Section. Topics covered included how Louth County Council maintain the Register, challenges faced whilst maintaining the Register and activities which we have engaged in to ensure completeness and accuracy of the Register.

Some interesting stats which were presented to the Electoral Commission were as follows:

| Category (on current Electoral Register) | Count | %age |
|--|-------|--------|
| Total Electorate | 94974 | |
| Total Electorate with DOB Populated | 93023 | 97.96% |
| Total Electorate with Eircode Populated | 90225 | 95.01% |
| Total Electorate with Email Address | 3227 | 3.4% |
| Total Electorate with Contact Number | 2849 | 3% |
| Total Electorate with DOB & Eircode | 88796 | 93.5% |
| Total Electorate with PPSN | 3634 | 3.83% |

The stats above, highlight the work which has been carried out over the past number of years ensuring that data captured on the Register is accurate and up to date.

All electors are encouraged to log onto www.checktheregister.ie to ensure all their details are correct.



Aoife O’Sullivan, Electoral Commission; Tim Carey, Electoral Commission and Joe McGuinness, Director of Services.

Community Support



Age Friendly Louth Programme

Age Friendly Louth welcomed almost 200 people to the Ardee Parish Centre on 4th October 2023 to celebrate Positive Ageing Week.

The theme of the Expo was Keeping Safe at Home, and the event featured a number of key speakers on topics such as physical & mental health, online safety, fire safety crime prevention and how technology can help us stay safe in our homes. Presenters were from the Louth Fire Service, the HSE, An Garda Síochána, AIB/Fraudsmart, The Alzheimer's Society (Ireland) and Drogheda District Support 4 Older People.

Volunteers from Drogheda District Support 4 Older People gave a presentation on the Seniors Alert Scheme. This is a scheme providing funding for a personal monitored alarm, connected to a contact centre to enable older people of 65 or older, to continue to live securely in their homes with confidence, independence and peace of mind.

In addition to the suite of speakers there were over 35 service providers, community groups, organisations and state agencies exhibiting at the Expo showcasing the services and supports they offer to older people in County Louth to enable and support positive ageing. This included exhibitors providing information and help on community support, finance, health, well-being, sports & leisure, recreation & technology to name but a few. Older people from all over Co Louth attended the Expo, and whilst attendees availed of the refreshments the crowd was entertained by the Castlebellingham Ukulele Band.

If you would like further details on the Age Friendly Programme in Co Louth or you would like to be

added to the mailing list for any future Age Friendly events/activities please contact agefriendly@louthcoco.ie or 042 9324389 for further details.



Age Friendly Louth Expo 2023



Sgt John Heavey An Garda Síochána, Aileen Murray HSE, Joe Grogan Chair Louth OPC, Ann Egan Louth OPC, Sinead McVerry Age Friendly Programme Manager, Mary Dunne Louth OPC



Enjoying the Ardee Age Friendly Expo



Some more attendees at Ardee Age Friendly Expo



Castlebellingham Ukulele Band

Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Forum

The Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Forum held a meeting on 6th October 2023. Members progressed the project to encourage migrants, international protection applicants and members of new communities to register to vote.

Members also reviewed and agreed on details regarding the Migrant Information Event scheduled to take place in the Glenside Hotel, Dublin Rd, Smithstown, Drogheda, Co. Meath, A92 Y196. The purpose of the event is to showcase the work of the Joint Migrant Forum to date and to provide further information on services and supports to new communities, international protection applicants and migrants on topics such as employment, education, housing, and welfare entitlements. There will also be a well-being workshop and an arts & crafts corner for young kids.

The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled to take place on 7th December 2023.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

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

On 16th October the Economic SPC and the LCDC signed off on the revised Socio-Economic Statement and detailed objectives and outcomes for the draft LECP. A draft LECP framework will now be presented for observation and consideration of consistency to the 3 Municipal Districts in early November and to the Eastern Regional Assembly for same.

In addition, a series of online workshops will take place with key stakeholders and lead partners in relation to the preparation and agreement of a Two Year Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan will include actions of all relevant stakeholders that can contribute to the achievement of the LECP High level Goals and will take into consideration the programmes and funding streams available as well as other resources to deliver the LECP.

Louth In Bloom 2023 Awards Ceremony

The Community Section of Louth County Council proudly hosted the second "in-person" Louth In Bloom awards ceremony at Bellingham Castle on the evening of Monday, 23rd October 2023, celebrating the hard work, dedication and passion that our community invest in making our county beautiful.

The essence of the ceremony revolved around acknowledging remarkable accomplishments across eight diverse categories including housing estates, best gardens, best presented hospitality and business premises, biodiversity and sustainable innovation. The Cathaoirleach of Louth County

Council and the respective Cathaoirleach from each Municipal and Borough District unveiled the winners, while our esteemed guest speaker on the night – author, environmentalist and native of County Louth - Ms. Éanna Ní Lamhna presented the awards.

The evening culminated with the Chief Executive congratulating all the winners and announcing the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution Award – Ms. Helen Byrne, Dundalk Tidy Towns.



Helen Byrne, Dundalk Tidy Towns receiving the Outstanding Contribution Award from guest speaker Éanna Ní Lamhna.



Róisín Cotter, first place winner in the Best Garden Category in the Municipal District of Dundalk and the Overall County Winner.

For a list of all the winners on the night and more photos please click [here](#)

Town & Village Renewal Schemes

Works were completed recently under a previous Town & Village scheme, carried out by Louth County Council's Community Section and Placemaking & Physical Development Section, in partnership with Carlingford Tidy Towns. The project involved the refurbishment of the playground in Carlingford, a much-used facility in the popular tourist village.



Newly refurbished Playground in Carlingford

Healthy Ireland Fund

Louth County Council and the HSE launched 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth.'

Louth County Council, in conjunction with the HSE, are launching the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' campaign on Tuesday 3rd Oct 2023 in the Market House Dunleer.

The campaign aims to help improve the health and wellbeing of breastfeeding mothers, babies, and

their families through the development and promotion of breastfeeding friendly businesses, organisations, and communities in County Louth.

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. The campaign receives the full support of the Louth Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Click on links for informative videos produced as part of the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' campaign:

<https://youtu.be/n-bE31NOuvE>
<https://youtu.be/Ax5OpHa5W6U>

For more information on the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' campaign, please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/programmes/healthy-louth/we-re-breastfeeding-friendly-louth/> or contact the Healthy Louth Coordinator, email: healthylouth@louthcoco.ie



Attendees at the launch of 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth.'



Cllr Paula Butterly, Cathaoirleach, Louth County Council, Joan Martin, Chief Executive, Louth County Council, Paula Keenan Healthy Louth Coordinator, Bridie Pepper HSE, Orla Harrington and her daughter Lilah at the launch of 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth'

Louth County Council launched 'Mindful Connect' on World Mental Health Day

Louth County Council, in collaboration with Meath County Council and SOSAD Ireland, launched 'Mindful Connect' on World Mental Health Day, Tuesday 10th Oct 2023.

The aim of the project is to have a network of trained volunteers across the county who will be able to recognise if someone needs help. They will be available to chat to them, and if needed signpost the best support and services that may be able to help. They will not be counsellors but will have had the training to understand mental health issues and can point the person in the right direction for support and help."



Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Coordinator, Yvonne Duggan Louth County Council and Mark Garvey and Lorraine Savage, HSE at the launch of 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth.'

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.

For more information on the 'Louth Wellbeing Network and Wellbeing Ambassador Programme' please visit:

<https://louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/programmes/healthy-louth/healthy-louth-funded-projects/>

To contact the Healthy Louth Coordinator, email: healthylouth@louthcoco.ie



Joan Martin, Chief Executive, Louth County Council, Cllr Tommy Reilly Cathaoirleach Meath County Council, Aishling O'Donnell, Meath County Council and Paula Keenan Healthy Louth at the Launch of 'Mindful Connect'



Finbar Gethins, SEO, Carol Murphy SOSAD, Joan Martin, Chief Executive, Louth County Council, Cllr Tommy Reilly Cathaoirleach Meath County Council, Aishling O'Donnell, Meath County Council and Paula Keenan Healthy Louth and Fiona Fallon SEO, Meath County Council at the Launch of 'Mindful Connect'

Link to sign up for Mindful Connect Ambassador Training

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWlQ_QdhDFfHcO7e5K4R5_1EtnIsRvMn4MXUdQsmq4FTRB-mg/viewform

Haggardstown/Blackrock Information Event

Healthy Louth Attended the Haggardstown/Blackrock Information Event on 24th October for families in the area. Hosted by TUSLA and the HSE. The event gave people in the area the opportunity to engage with service providers in the area and in Dundalk. There was a wide range of services present from Healthy Louth, Louth Libraries, Tuath Housing, and O'Fiach College.



Haggardstown/Blackrock Information Event

PPN

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN held a Secretariat Meeting on October 23rd in Drogheda.

Plenary Meeting

Louth PPN's Plenary Meeting took place on Tuesday 24th October at 6pm in the Ardee Parish Centre.

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre

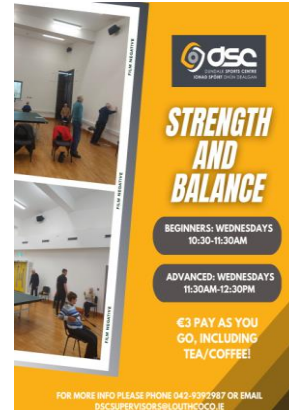
Throughout the month of October there have been over 500 adults attending our four morning programmes; Active Dance, Active Aging, Strength & Balance and Chair Yoga.

Active Dance

Active Dance is a one-hour dance class held every Monday from 10:30am to 11:30am in the main hall. Dance styles vary from week to week and are influenced by songs which the participants have requested from the instructor.



month. It is fantastic to find out that new members are being recommended to come along via their family and friends. The class offers two experience levels of beginner and advanced. The beginner class is held every Wednesday from 10:30am to 11:30am and the more advanced on Wednesdays from 11:30am to 12:30pm.



Active Ageing

This is one of Dundalk Sports Centre's four older adult programmes. It is a variety of activities including chair-based exercises, Boccia, target games and many more. This programme has proved to be very successful with over 30 older adults participating each week. The Programme runs every Tuesday 10.30am to 11.30am (€3 pay as you go) followed by tea/coffee and biscuits.



Chair Yoga

Due to increasing demand, a second chair yoga class has now been added to the timetable. Classes are now on every Wednesday from 10:30am to 11:30am and 11:30am to 12:30pm. The classes are a fantastic opportunity for adults to get moving in a safe and relaxing environment. We encourage all our older adults to attend, especially after participating in our Active Ageing and Strength & Balance classes earlier in the week. Classes cost €3 with social tea & coffee afterwards.



Strength & Balance

Dundalk Sports Centre's strength and balance programme has continued to grow with many new members trying out the class for the first-time last

Pilates

After a break over the summer months Pilates has returned with our new instructor Maeve Kenny. Classes are held every Monday evening from

8:30pm to 9:15pm and Tuesday morning from 10:00am to 10:45am, costing €5 per session. We ask that new members arrive at least 5 minutes early as they will need to complete a registration form.



Badminton & Pickleball

It has been fantastic to see more and more new members signing up to play sports such as Badminton and Pickleball. Members can book courts in the main hall with equipment provided.

Courts cost €8 per hour from the hours of 9am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and €10 per hour from 6pm to 10pm and weekends. To book a court simply phone reception on (042 939 2987).



Development Basketball

The competitive basketball season has begun. However, for any players who want to get extra practice in or simply play for some fun, Dundalk Sports Centre offers the Development Basketball programme. The sessions are held on Saturdays from 12am to 3pm, costing €4.



Walk in activities

Dundalk Sports Centre offers walk-in activities for the community such as: Table Tennis, Badminton, Basketball, Pickleball and Tennis. To check availability call Dundalk Sports centre on [\(042\) 939 2987](tel:0429392987)



Women's Basketball Sports Night

This coach led social basketball program is perfect for women who want to try out basketball or ex-players who just want to socialise and have some fun. The Women have played friendly games with other social teams and have had in house games with our girls from the development basketball programme. This programme is on every Monday night 8pm to 10pm, €5 pay as you go.



Lourdes Stadium

Bootcamp

Lourdes Stadium finished their most recent 6 Week Outdoor Bootcamp on Thursday 19th October. The Bootcamp gave people the opportunity to meet others, achieve their exercise goals while being supported on their exercise journey by instructors over the 6 weeks. The Bootcamp ran every Tuesday and Thursday evening and implemented a mix of cardio and strength-based sessions suiting all their fitness levels.



Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coaching Children Series

Louth local Sports Partnership in conjunction with Meath, Monaghan and Cavan Local Sports Partnerships began a series of workshops in October to support coaches and volunteers working with children in Sport and Physical Activity. The first workshop began on October 24th with three more workshops to follow:

Workshop 2 – Nov 7th: Coaching

Child-Centered

Workshop 3 – Nov 14th: Developing Physical Literacy through Sport 1

Developing Physical Literacy through Sport 1

Workshop 4 – Nov 21st: Developing Physical Literacy through Sport 2

Developing Physical Literacy through Sport 2

Coaching Ireland developed the four modules specifically to provide candidates with a basic understanding of children's sport and physical activity and best ways to optimise children's enjoyment, participation, and positive outcomes. The concepts of physical literacy and holistic development run throughout the series of workshops and will be covered in detail.

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



Activator Pole Walking Programme in partnership with Dundalk Library

In October Louth Local Sports Partnership were delighted to launch a new Activator Pole walking programme in partnership with Dundalk Library starting on Thursday November 2nd from 11am – 12:30pm.

Activator Poles were designed by Canadian therapists and are particularly suitable for people with balance concerns or mobility issues or those with low fitness levels who want an introduction to physical activity. Using the poles is becoming an increasingly popular way of walking that has many benefits, such as:

- improves stability.

- reduces impact on hips/knees.
- develop core strength.
- improved posture.
- promotes better gait pattern.

It is suitable for people of all ages and abilities and is particularly recommended to people who suffer from MS, Parkinson's, Arthritis, or recovering from hip/knee surgery or injury. For further information please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318



Connect Family Resource Community Walking group with at Lourdes Stadium

LLSP
LOUTH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
COMHAIRTOICHT SPORT LU

6 WEEK ACTIVATOR POLE WALKING PROGRAM

LET'S GET WALKING

Meet at Dundalk Library

OLDER ADULTS PROGRAMME
Starting Thursday
November 2nd at
11am-12.30pm

TEA & COFFEE SERVED AFTER EACH SESSION

For more information
email julie.duffy@louthcoco.ie

SPORT IRELAND
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council
SPORT

FREE

Women's Social Soccer

Louth LSP began an 8 Week Women's Social Soccer every on October 17th Running every Monday evening 7pm - 8pm until December 11th at DKIT Sport Indoor pitches in Dundalk. This programme is for women who do not currently play competitive Soccer at club level, and for women who want to enjoy some exercise in a fun and relaxed environment.

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

New Community Walking Programme launched with Connect Family Resource Centre Drogheda

Louth LSP have launched our newest community walking group with Connect Family Resource Centre in Moneymore Drogheda. The group recently completed their Walk Leaders training in Lourdes Stadium Drogheda with FitWalk Ireland and are now starting their weekly community walks in the stadium and surrounding walkways and parks in Drogheda.

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 12 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in October 2023, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 319 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

| Complaint Type | Received in October 2023 | Total Received in 2023 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Air & Noise | 4 | 90 |
| Farm | 2 | 14 |
| Waste/C&D | 4 | 157 |
| Water Quality | 2 | 58 |

Waste Management

A total of 4 complaints were received in October 2023 relating to Waste. There was one complaint 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.

Claims were submitted to the Department on the 6th Oct 2023 totaling €91,707.49.

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 both came 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.



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://www.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.

Deposit Return Scheme

Ireland will soon be introducing a Deposit Return Scheme. In February 2024, when you buy a drink in

a plastic bottle, aluminum or steel can that features the Re-turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink. When you return your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full. There will be return points across Ireland.

The legal framework for the Deposit Return Scheme is the Separate Collection (Deposit Return) Regulations 2021 (SI 599 of 2021). Under the DRS Regulations, it is the responsibility of producers to establish the Deposit Return Scheme and to nominate an operator of the scheme for approval by the Minister.

PET Plastic bottles and aluminum and steel cans between 150ml and three litres will be covered by Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme.

A 15c deposit will apply to containers of 500ml or less and deposit of 25c for each container above 500ml.

Shoppers don't have to return a can or bottle to the shop they bought it in – it can be returned to any shop.

The Scheme will be operated by Deposit Return Scheme Ireland CLG, trading as Re-turn, who Minister Smyth appointed in July 2022.

All producers and retailers are legally obliged to register with Re-turn.

Registration is open from today at www.re-turn.ie

Local Authorities will have a role to play in terms of enforcement for Producers/Retailers who haven't signed up to the scheme or are not fully complying with the Deposit Return Scheme Regulations and this will be confirmed in due course through the Eastern Midlands Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA).

For further information visit: <https://re-turn.ie/> or <https://re-turn.ie/#questions>



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

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

Farm Plastics

The IFFPG (Irish Farm Film Producers Group Ltd) is Irelands only approved farm plastics recycling compliance scheme. Farm Plastics collections were completed during the first week of Oct 2023.

Article 27 By-Products

Article 27 of the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 126 of 2011) makes a distinction between the regulatory regime for substances or objects that are defined as “waste” and those that are instead to be viewed as a “by-product” and certain criteria must be met for it to be considered a by-product and not a waste. By-product notifications are made to the EPA through an online portal. Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section has a role to carry out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria of notification.

A total of 19 notifications have been received to date in 2023 by Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section for investigation.

Checkpoints

Six 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.

1002 investigations have been completed by our litter team in 2023 to date.

In October our wardens completed 73 investigations. Out of these 73 investigations evidence was found in 22 cases and fixed penalty

notices have been issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

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

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





were issued for evidence found within bags of waste dumped in the Dowdallshill & Maxwell's Row area of the town. Other areas of the town were targeted for dog fouling awareness with free dog bag holders handed out and stencils refreshed on the public pavement to remind the public it is an offence not to clean up after their dog.



A five-hour foot patrol was conducted by all wardens in Dundalk during October. All areas of Dundalk and its environs were patrolled. Fixed penalty notices

Abandoned Vehicles

The Waste Management & Environment team are committed to actively investigating reports of abandoned vehicles within the County. To date this year, the Waste Management & Environment Section has received 49 complaints regarding abandoned vehicles which have all been investigated.

Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 2 Integrated Bulk Container's (IBCs) dumped at the end of September (not reported in the last Monthly report) at a cost of €2,496.20 approx. So far in 2023 there have been 99 IBC's dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of approximately €123,561.84



IBC's located by Louth County Council

Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning

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

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

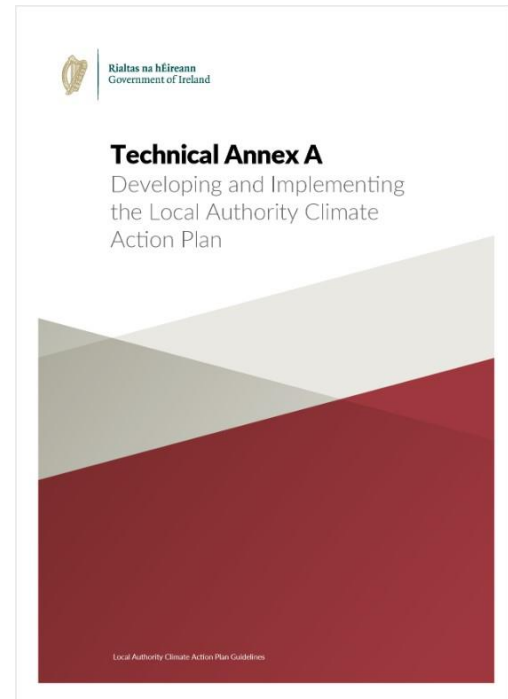
In October 2023, we have received 20 applications to date.

Air / Water / Noise Pollution

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

There were 3 Air Pollution complaints and 1 Noise Pollution complaint received during October 2023.

Climate Action



Preparation of a Baseline Emissions Inventory for County Louth has been ongoing. The Climate Action Team have 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.

The Climate Action Team has begun preparation of an issues paper on the topic of Community Gardens and Allotments for County Louth. This paper, when complete, will go on to inform future council

decision-making on the topic and will be presented to the Climate and Energy SPC.

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



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.

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.

Annual reporting for the actions contained in the Climate Adaptation Strategy was completed in October.

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

Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

Drafting of the Draft Climate Action plan for Louth County Council has continued in-house during the current reporting period. This has been the focus of the Climate Action Team throughout 2023.

Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2023 all Local Authorities are required to produce a Climate Action plan to cover a five-year period.

The Climate Action Team have 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 are planning for upcoming public consultation on the draft climate action plan. This will follow the statutory consultation process and allows members of the public to offer their views and opinions on climate action in Louth.



Strategic Environmental Documents have been prepared for the draft Climate Action plan. This will follow the national legislation for all plans or projects to be screened for SEA.

Louth County Council has received an offer of a training program to be delivered by representatives from the European Government for the Climate Action Team in LCC. This program will consist of online training. LCC is the first of the Local Authorities in Ireland to avail of this assistance. It will focus on the area of Climate Adaptation.



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.

The Community Climate Action Officer and the Biodiversity Officer recently attended an EU funding workshop in Monaghan, which looked at funding streams available across the EU.



Biodiversity

Helen Hanratty joined Louth County Council's Climate Action Team as biodiversity officer on 2 October.

As biodiversity officer Helen will work to further develop and implement a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth, helping to fully integrate biodiversity conservation into Council plans, policies and actions and drive the delivery of local action.

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 sites in Dundalk and Drogheda along with Kieran & McGee Livestock Sales Yard in Ardee recently held the ‘Mattress & Sofa Amnesty Day’ as part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023. This was a very busy event where members of the public disposed of their old mattresses and sofas free of charge on the day.



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

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



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

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Energy Efficiency Performance

Louth County Council’s energy efficiency at the end of 2022 was 45.78% compared to the baseline year of 2009, according to SEAI’s Annual Report for Public Sector Bodies for 2022.

The Council’s plan to meet its 2030 energy targets is referred to as the Gap-to-Target Plan.

Gap-To-Target Plan to 2030

The Council has a carbon emissions savings target of 1,000t, to achieve the 2030 reduction. The Gap to Target Plan involves several different projects as the roadmap to 2030.

One such project is the implementation of an energy behavioral change programme at County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall. That project involves a Service Level Agreement between Louth County Council and OPW, that results in participation in their 'Optimising Power at Work' Programme. The roadmap also involves an ongoing programme of energy improvement works by the Council, some completed, some in progress, more planned.

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

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

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

Sensors are being used to measure several different parameters at the site including people presence detection (at a new bench) and detection of bikes.

The sensors are part of the Council's Visionary Solutions, which will see the greening and regeneration at the pilot site and sensor data will be used to populate the upcoming Health and Well-Being Platform, currently under development.

Tholsel Building, Drogheda

Expert specialist consultation is continuing to procure the full extent of works necessary to restore the roof of the Tholsel building. Meanwhile, the building is re-occupied and business as usual has resumed on the ground floor while the work on the roof is continued.

Millmount, Drogheda

A section of wall at Millmount, Drogheda collapsed recently. Further works are necessary to properly repair the wall and to limit the risk of similar issues in the future. And it is planned to commence those shortly.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st October 2023, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and thirteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County. Louth County Council has carried out ninety-one inspections in the year to date.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

| Dogs impounded October 2023 | |
|--|-----------|
| Total dogs impounded | 16 |
| Seized under Section 16 | 0 |
| Strays | 12 |
| Surrendered by owners | 4 |
| No dogs reclaimed by owners | 8 |
| No of dogs rehomed direct | 6 |
| No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups | 5 |
| No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/10/2023 | 2 |

| Dog Licences October 2023 | |
|--|------------|
| No of Licences sold | 571 |
| Licence Checks: | |
| House calls | 363 |
| Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days) | 226 |
| Fixed Penalty Notices | 5 |



Dogs impounded during October 2023 (above)

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996
Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

| Horses impounded October 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 31/10/2023 | 0 |

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

| Dog Breeding Establishments October 2023 | |
|---|----------|
| Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/10/2023) | 6 |
| Hunt | 1 |
| Boarding Kennels | 2 |
| Training Kennels | 1 |
| Welfare | 2 |

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 September – 19th October 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

| 20 September – 19 October 2023 | Ardee MD | Dundalk MD | Drogheda MD | Total |
|--|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility) | 11 | 90 | 59 | 160 |
| Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation | 3 | 48 | 10 | 61 |
| Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Not eligible from outside county or non HRC | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total number of Person who presented as Homeless | 15 | 143 | 70 | 228 |

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

Table 2: Gender

| Gender | Total |
|--------------|------------|
| Male | 100 |
| Female | 88 |
| Total | 188 |

Table 3: Age Groups

| Age Group | Total |
|--------------|------------|
| 18-24 | 34 |
| 25-44 | 104 |
| 45-64 | 43 |
| 65+ | 7 |
| Total | 188 |

Table 4: Accommodation Type

| Accommodation Type | Total |
|---|------------|
| Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) | 90 |
| Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) | 98 |
| Total unique individuals | 188 |

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 | 16 | 20 | 27 |
| Couples with dependent children in Louth | 18 | 39 | 51 |

Table 6: Housing First

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| | County Louth |
| Number of tenancies established. | 39 |
| Number of individuals currently in tenancy | 32 |

**Housing Allocations
Up to 25th October**

| District | LA | LA Refusal | AHB | AHB Refusal |
|----------|-----|------------|-----|-------------|
| Ardee | 38 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Drogheda | 66 | 15 | 47 | 18 |
| Dundalk | 96 | 8 | 62 | 11 |
| Total | 200 | 29 | 111 | 32 |

Transfers

| District | Number |
|----------|--------|
| Ardee | 5 |
| Dundalk | 11 |
| Drogheda | 5 |
| Total | 21 |

Housing List

| October 2023 | Ardee | Drogheda | Dundalk | Total |
|---------------------------|-------|----------|---------|-------|
| Housing List | 418 | 675 | 1095 | 2188 |
| HAP Transfer List | 301 | 1151 | 1639 | 3091 |
| Total Housing List | 719 | 1826 | 2734 | 5279 |

There are **290** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **47** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,091**

| Ardee Municipal District | Drogheda Borough District | Dundalk Municipal District | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| 301 | 1151 | 1639 | 3091 |

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **925**.

| Current Rents Arrears as at 26 th October 2023 | No of Accounts | Value |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Rents between 4-6 weeks old | 194 | €73,507 |
| Rents between 7-12 weeks old | 173 | €140,892. |
| Rents greater than 12 weeks old | 860 | €2,906,255 |
| TOTAL | 1227 | €3,120,654 |

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 October 2023:

| Letter Type | Month/Year | Number Issued |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1st Reminder | October 2023 | 82 |
| 2 nd Reminder | October 2023 | 55 |
| Final Reminder | October 2023 | 27 |
| Total issued | | 164 |

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **66** new payment plans commenced in October 2023 (up to and including 26th October).

Vacant Properties

| Vacant Properties on 24 th October 2023 | Total |
|--|-----------|
| Ardee Municipal District | 16 |
| Dundalk Municipal District | 13 |
| Drogheda Municipal Borough District | 29 |
| Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties | 58 |
| CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County) | 4 |
| Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO) | 62 |

Note: Currently 12 social units being used as temporary accommodation for homeless or emergency and are not included in the above figures.

Maintenance Calls

| Maintenance | 26 th September – 24 th October 2023 | Total (YTD) |
|---|--|-------------|
| No. of Maintenance Requests Received | 689 | 5,583 |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Completed | 522 | 4,297 |
| No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress | 135 | N/A |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Refused | 32 | 307 |

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 | 51 |
| Dundalk MD | 73 | 72 |
| Drogheda BD | 72 | 38 |

Private Rental Inspections

| | 26 th September – 24 th October 2023 | Year to Date |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Properties inspected monthly | 132 | 394 |
| Advisory Letters issued | 78 | 193 |
| Improvement Notices issued | 3 | 47 |
| Private Inspections | 1 | 6 |
| HAP Inspections | 90 | 262 |
| RAS Inspections | 0 | 0 |
| AHB Inspections | 0 | 8 |
| Private Re-Inspections | 0 | 0 |
| HAP Re-Inspections | 18 | 82 |
| RAS Re-Inspections | 6 | 8 |
| AHB Re-Inspections | 14 | 15 |
| Inspections from Complaints | 3 | 13 |
| Virtual Re-Inspections | 0 | 0 |
| Properties made Compliant | 0 | 89 |

Tenancy Engagement

| 1 st October 2023 to 26 th October 2023 | Drogheda ^a | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly Total | Yearly Total |
|---|-----------------------|-------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training | 5 | 6 | 13 | 24 | 198 |
| Post-tenancy inspections | 3 | 0 | 11 | 14 | 218 |
| Tenancy Investigation Visits | 6 | 0 | 25 | 31 | 357 |
| Tenancy Investigations Remote | 2 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 63 |

Anti-Social Behaviour

| 1 st October to 25 th October | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Yearly |
|--|----------|-------|---------|--------|
| ASB Cases* Received | 11 | 4 | 5 | 172 |
| ASB cases Ongoing | 7 | 0 | 11 | - |
| ASB cases complete at 25 th October, 2023 | 18 | 4 | 14 | 158 |

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

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

| 1 st October to 25 th October | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly | Yearly |
|---|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| Verbal Warnings | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 61 |
| Written Warnings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Tenancy Notifications | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Tenancy Warnings under Housing Act, 2014 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

Affordable Housing

Louth County Council has received approval from the Department of Housing for an Affordable Housing Scheme in Blackrock, Co. Louth. The properties will be ready in January 2024. The details will be advertised in the next few weeks on local radio, social media and print media. Other discussions are ongoing with 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. **1,599** properties have been surveyed throughout the county and **832** have been deemed vacant or derelict. We have started to engage with property owners to bring the property back into use with the aid of the Croi Conaithe grant.

Acquisitions

Louth County 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

October Louth County Council purchased 17 properties.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Drogheda

Repair and Lease

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

| Units | Address | Beds | Notes |
|-------|------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Dundalk | 2 | To be delivered by end of November |
| 1 | Dundalk | 2 | To be delivered by end of November |
| 1 | Dundalk | 2 | Under negotiation for works |
| 6 | Castlebellingham | 2 | Pre planning |

Vacant Property refurbishment Grant, October 2023

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

When the Grant was launched it was made available to eligible vacant properties in towns and villages.

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

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

Croí Conaithe, Vacant Property refurbishment Grant, October 2023

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Applications Submitted: | 103 |
| Approved: | 42 |
| Rejected: | 5 |
| Withdrawn | 8 |
| Funding Issued to Applicant | 1 |
| Rental Applications | 21 |
| Principal Private Residence | 82 |

Mortgage to Rent

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Active MTR Applications Total | 38 |
| AHB MTR Applications Active | 06 |
| AHB MTR completed 2023 | 01 |
| Private MTR Applications Active | 26 |
| 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.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Applications on hand 27/09/2023 | 179 | 18 | 251 | - | 448 |
| No. Grants Approved 01/10/2023 to 25/10/2023 | 21 | 5 | 14 | 40 | 268 |

Home Loans

Local Authority Home Loans

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2023 Budget Allocation | €8,030,000 |
| LAHL Approvals at 25/10/2023 | €4,852,116 |

| Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 25th October, 2023 | |
|--|----|
| Total number of Applications at 25/10/2023 | 67 |
| LAHL carried over from 2022 | 5 |
| Invalid/Returned | 11 |
| Approved | 29 |
| Declined | 28 |
| For review | 0 |
| Outstanding – waiting on further information | 4 |



Bathroom Adaptation completed in October in Drogheda part funded by a Housing Grant for Disabled Persons

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

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

| Status | HAG | MAG | HOP | Oct Monthly Total | YTD Total |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----------|
| Applications completed 2022 | 42 | 17 | 175 | - | 234 |



Stairlift installed in Dundalk in October, 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 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Muirhevnamor, 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 | Completed | 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 | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Coulter Park, Dundalk, | Tuath | 10 | Stage 3 Approved | 03/09/2024 | Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit |
| Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth | Dublin Simon | 30 | Stage 2 Approved | 15/01/2025 | Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments |
| St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda | North & East | 4 | Stage 3 Approved | 30/03/2025 | Four * 1 Bed units |
| Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth | Women's Aid Dundalk | 12 | Stage 1 approved | 02/03/2025 | Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments |

CALF DELIVERY

| Project Name | | Total Number of Social Units Expected | Non Part V/ Part V | Project Status | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type |
|--|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing | 1/2 | 5 | | On site | 30/10/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Three bed Bungalow, • 1 Three bed semi detached • 3 Two bed terraced houses |
| Newfoundwell Road, Drogheda Cluid Housing | 2/2 | 39 | | Delivered | 30/06/2023 DELIVERED 15/06/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 One bed apt, • 27 Two bed apt |
| Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing | 1/3 | 40 | 36/4 | On site | 30/11/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | 30/11/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Four bed detached, • 11 Two bed terraced, • 1 Three bed detached, |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 Three bed semi detached • 11 Three bed terraced |
| Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing | 1/1 | 85 | 69/16 | On site | 31/11/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 three bed houses |
| Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing | 1/2 | 49 | 43/6 | On site | 31/12/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 to 15/06/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 One bed apt, • 8 Two bed apt, • 6 Two bed terraced • 4 three bed terraced |
| Donore Road Drogheda Cluid Housing | 1/1 | 66 | 59/7 | On site | 31/11/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 One bed apt, • 54 Two bed apt • 8 Three bed apt |
| Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing | 3/6 4/6 5/6 6/6 | 8 10 42 12 | | Delivered Delivered On-site On-site | Delivered Delivered 30/11/2023 28/02/2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | 30/10/2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 One bed apt, • 2 Three bed apt, 1 Two bed duplex • 4 One bed semi detached |
| Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing | 1/2 | 30 | 19/11 | On site | 29/03/2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 One bed apt • 10 Two bed apt |
| Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing | 2/2 | 40 | | On Site | 17/05/2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 in collaboration with the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society has created an online exhibition called 'Lasting Legacy' on the post-Truce period 1921 – 1923 that is now available on

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/archives/louth-1916-1923/>.

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

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

Research Enquiries

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

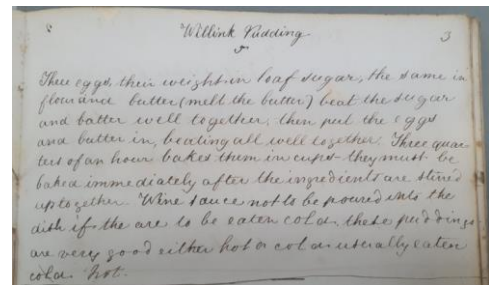
various sections with many business-related enquiries.

Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded at the end of this year as the current system is now 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.



Page from recipe book of Sophia Juliana Penelope de Salis, 1847, Filgate of Lisrenny Papers.

Climate Action

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

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

Libraries

3D Printer



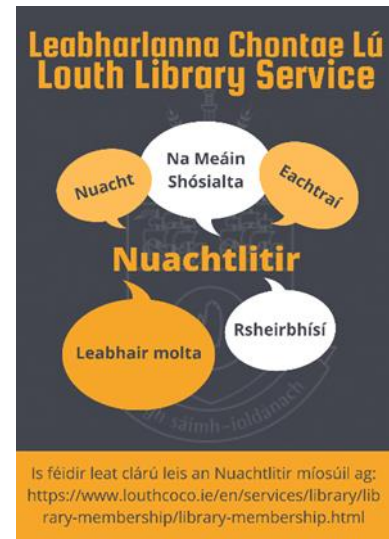
3D printer facilities are now available in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries. 3D printing works by using a plastic filament instead of ink to build up a shape, layer by layer. Library users can create or choose a design and send the design to the 3D printer to print. If you would like to avail of our 3D printer please contact Dundalk Library on 042 9353190 or Drogheda Library on 041 9876162.

Irish Newspaper Archives



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

Library Newsletter



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

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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainable Development Goals Artwork Competition

Louth Library Service and the Climate Office of Louth County Council held a schools art competition to celebrate Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week.

The theme for the artwork competition was Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and

Clean Energy. There were two categories from Junior Infants to 2nd class and from 3rd to 6th class with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each category.



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.

‘Tired of Anxiety’ with Dr Sarah Cassidy

To mark Mental Health Day, Dr Sarah Cassidy from Smithfield Clinic presented a series of talks on the very important topic of child and adolescent mental health in Drogheda, Ardee and Dundalk Libraries.



Dr Sarah Cassidy, Olivia McCoy Counsellor & Yvonne Duggan Executive Librarian

Children’s Book Festival



Children’s Book Festival which took place during the month of October aims to spread the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families, authors and illustrators, teachers and librarians all over Ireland. Louth Library Service had over 15 events with over 500 attendees. Louth Library Service was delighted to host events by Moo Music, Vroom – Town, while local authors Erika McGann & Nicola Pierce held workshops for primary schools. During October library branches ran a targeted Recommended Reading campaign of Irish authors as part of the Discover Irish Kids Books campaign.



Author Nicola Pierce in Drogheda Library





Author Erika McGann in Drogheda Library

Children’s Book Festival Event in Mosney

Louth Library Service & Meath Libraries held a children’s event on the 14th of October in Mosney for Children’s Book Festival. Billy Bubbles, children’s entertainer held a magic show for children and families.

We attended a “Friends of Mosney” meeting in October and provided information on the array of services and events available to residents in Drogheda Library. We also donated some Little Book at Bedtime storybooks to support the Community Library in Mosney.



Eve Morrisson (Meath Libraries) Suzie O’Connell, Mosney & Leona Burgess (Louth Library Service)

Moo Music Event

Jenny from Moo Music North East facilitated two fun interactive music workshops for babies and toddlers in Drogheda Library to celebrate Children’s Book Festival in October.



Moo Music Facilitator Jenny in Drogheda Library

Storytime Children’s Book Festival

Drogheda Library welcomed all our little readers to for a magical morning of books, music and song, we can’t wait to see you all again for Halloween Storytime Special.



Participant at Storytime event in Drogheda Library

Little Library at Bedtime



English. Children, along with their families, are invited to join the library to begin their library membership journey, ensuring they have access to a lifetime of books.

Soothing Stories – Sensory Storytime



Soothing Stories event in Dundalk Library

This sensory Storytime for pre-walkers under 12 months was created to support First 5 Little Book at Bedtime Initiative. It consisted of soothing stories for bedtime using books, textures, scarves and music. The event centred around the Tovertafel Magic Table projected onto the floor creating the new 'Magic Carpet' for a magical adventure in our 'Room for All'.

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

Roderic O’Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth along with Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development recently launched the First 5 Little Book at Bedtime initiative in collaboration with public libraries.

Free bedtime story books and library wallets are available at all library branches for children of 4 years and under. One free book is available, along with a Bedtime Reading Tips guide for parents and guardians and titles are available in both Irish and

As part of Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023, Helena Byrne gave a talk in Drogheda Library on the 14th of October on “The Origins of Women’s Soccer in County Louth”. Helena Byrne is a librarian specialising in web archiving and is an independent researcher focusing on the history of women’s football in Ireland. Her previous academic publications cover both web archives and sports history.

Helena’s talk links with several centenaries including the banning of women’s football by the FA in 1921,

the foundation of the FAI, GNR (later Dundalk FC) joining the Leinster Senior League in 1922 as well as marking the Republic of Ireland's participation in the Women's World Cup. The Origins of Women's Soccer in County Louth is available to view on the Louth Library Service crowdcast channel: <https://www.crowdcast.io/@louth-library-service>

Flor Mac Carthy “Children and the President of Ireland”

Flor Mac Carthy held a talk for 6th class children on the 27th of October entitled “Children and the President of Ireland”. Flor is a journalist and author and her bestselling book “The Presidents Letters” was shortlisted for Best Irish Published Book 2021. During the talk Flor discussed our current president and each of the nine previous presidents and their role. She took her audience behind the scenes of Áras an Uachtaráin, the president's letters and what kind of president the children would like to represent them when they become eligible to vote.

This talk was supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as part of Louth County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023



St Joseph's Mell National School 6th Class

Louth Library Service Podcast



To celebrate the Lú Festival of Light in Drogheda this October, Librarian Siobhan McGuinness will interview Trevor Connolly, CEO of Love Drogheda. Lú Festival of Light, is a spectacular urban animation show from the 28th of October to the 5th of November, with a magical mix of lights, colour and sound bringing some of our historic buildings and stories of yesteryear to life. To listen to October's episode [click here](https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/louth-libraries-podcast) <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/louth-libraries-podcast>

Children's Events

Dundalk Library



Dr Niamh Shaw in Dundalk Library

Scientist Dr Niamh Shaw spoke to 2nd year students from St. Vincent's secondary school Dundalk about

space exploration and her upcoming Antarctic mission.

Parent & Toddler Mornings

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

Baby Book Club

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

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

Adult Events

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



Speakers at the Alzheimer's Café

The Alzheimer's Café at Dundalk Library welcomed Karen Coan from Alone as October's guest speaker followed by music from library staff member Micheal O'Brien and refreshments. This is a warm, welcoming event continuing the third Tuesday of every month.

Drogheda Library 041 9876162

Drogheda Library welcomed the Drogheda Creative Writers for a fantastic Halloween Spooky Stories & Poetry session.



Members of the Drogheda Creative Writers in Drogheda Library

Creative Writing Group

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

Age Action Computer Classes

Computer classes will continue in Dundalk and Drogheda library throughout the month of 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

Ardee Library 041 6859023

Ardee Library Conversational Irish

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

Ardee Library Language Conversation Exchange

Every Tuesday evening, 6pm. Always wanted to learn a new language or practice what spoken languages you already know? Ardee Library Conversation Exchange is the perfect place to do

this. Peer led language learning through conversation- all languages welcome!

Ardee Library Board Games Club

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

Film Screenings at Ardee Library

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

The Vere Foster Writers Group

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

Arts

An Táin Arts Centre

Basement Gallery Exhibition – IMBAS – Creative Spark presents a new exhibition showcasing the work from their Artist – in – Residence Programme for the year 2022/2023. The exhibition brings together an extraordinary collection of new works that have been created during the residency programme.

IMBAS, is an old Irish word, meaning inspired or inspiration, often used to refer to creative, poetic and performed wisdom. The artists featured in this exhibition include Louise Gardiner from Meath, Clara McSweeney from Cork, Niamh Clarke from Down, Yulia Gasio. Ukraine born, based in California and Scarlett Rebecca based in Wales. The exhibition runs until 11th November.

Highlane's Gallery Exhibition

A parent & toddler workshop was held in October focusing on Martina O'Brien's exhibition 'Midnight

Zone' which opened in October. Artists Jenny Slater and Caoimhe O'Dwyer invited participants on an immersive underwater creative journey exploring Martina's work using your senses through print, collage, drawing and mixed media all while connecting and creating with other families within the exhibition space.



Participants at the parent and toddler workshop in Highlane's Gallery.

These activities are especially designed to go at the child's pace so as to capture their imagination whilst having fun and learning new techniques in this unique exhibition.

Exhibition: Martina O'Brien's Midnight Zone

Midnight Zone responds to industrial and scientific practices that are transforming our relationships with the ocean, from the extraction of the seabed through deep sea mining, to research into the effects of climate change on deep-water corals.

Drawing on O'Brien's time on two marine expeditions in the Atlantic Ocean, and archives of Irish scientific work that has sought to map, understand, and vision these ecosystems, the exhibition brings together a range of media, including sound and visual installations. The exhibition runs until Sat 18th November.

Droichead Arts Centre

October was jam packed with events in Droichead with the annual Leanbh festival kicking off with OCD and Me on 3rd October. Events and workshops continued throughout the month including I Am Baba, Púca Puppets & Circus 250. The annual Spooks Parade was held on Friday 27th October and Halloween saw a range of spooky themed workshops throughout the day on 31st October.



One of the workshops held in Droichead Arts Centre as part of the Leanbh Festival

Makers Making More

A special workshop on arts council applications and what makes a good one! The interactive style Q & A workshop looks at enhancing knowledge of the application process, from identifying what category of funding is best for the artist empowering your choices on how you answer questions on the application form. The workshop was facilitated by Lian Bell who has over 25 years of experience working with some of the most significant arts organisations and contemporary performance makers.

Drogheda Classical Music Series

DCMS continued with its second concert which was held on 12th October. Pianist Michael McHale made a welcome return to Drogheda for a special solo recital to mark his 40th birthday. DCMS continues

until April 2024 with the next event being held on 10th November with Kahlo Piano Quartet. See [here](#) for details of all events.

World Harp Day

World Harp Day was Saturday 21st October and was celebrated with events happening in venues nationally. The Louth Music Generation group was on hand to deliver a wonderful concert in St Nicholas Church in Dundalk with performances from the local Harp Ensemble and Nos Nua.

Creative Ireland Louth

Louth Urban Food Sanctuary

Friday 13th proved lucky for Louth locals as the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary officially launched in Creative Spark. The project, led by Louth County Council in partnership with Creative Spark, and funded under the Creative Climate Action fund, aims to empower the people of Louth with the skills to develop local food resilience.



Organic Gardener Roisín Cotter doing her planting demonstration on garlic at the LUFs launch.

Over 50 people were in attendance when Gary Clark, project manager with Creative Spark, gave a presentation on the project and spoke about the aims of the project to use our changing climate to tackle local food resilience and sustainability. Lara Scmhidht from the Dundalk Inclusive Garden group also spoke about the importance of community gardens in bringing people together and how a project like this can be such an influence to get

people working together for a better future. Pamela Whittaker was on hand at her Community Garden table showcasing some local cordials and syrups which everyone enjoyed. Organic Gardener Roisin Cotter gave everyone a lesson in growing your own garlic, with participants being able to take away their own potted garlic bulb to look after and grow over the next few months.



The Louth Urban Food Sanctuary (LUFS) team. From L to R: Pamela Whittaker, Roisin Cotter, Melissa Hayes, Moya Hodgers, Rory Sheehan, Fiona Lennon, Gary Clarke, Eimear McNally & Sarah Daly.

The Louth Urban Food Sanctuary will run until the end of 2024 and for more information on the project contact creativeireland@louthcoco.ie and keep an eye out for the new website www.louthurbanfoodsantuary.com which will be launching in the coming weeks.

Women in Wellness

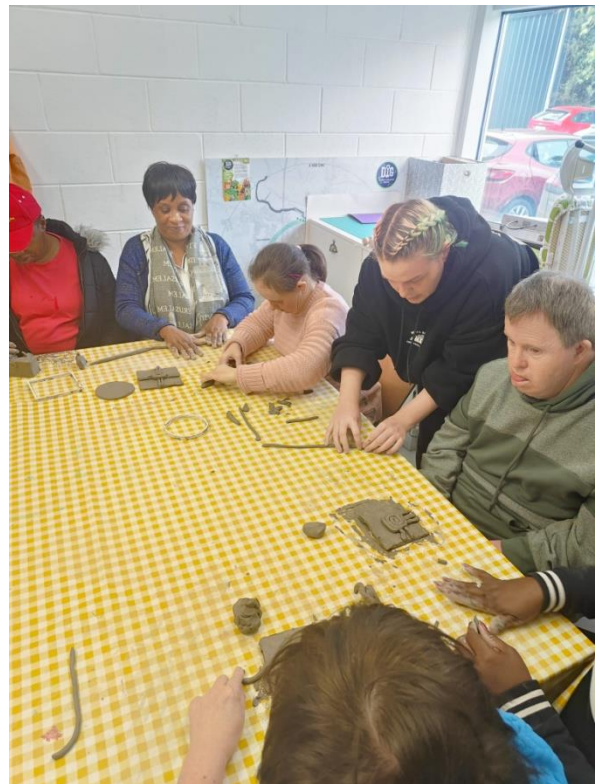
The Women in Wellness programme launched on 6th October in Dundalk Library. The programme has been receiving very positive responses from those lucky enough to be able to participate. Facilitators Tracey O'Brien and Breda Marron offer practices to help awaken a state of wellbeing in each person.

The Dundalk workshops continue into early November and the Ardee workshops will open in mid-November. To book a space or for more information contact Dundalk library on 042 9353190 or Ardee Library on 041 685 9023

Artist in the Community – Brigid1500

Workshops are continuing as the Artist in the Community project continues into the autumn and winter months. This year long project is one of our key events for the Brigid1500 programme and sees 5 artists working with several community groups and schools to create a series of exhibition pieces for the 2024 Brigid1500 festival here in Louth.

Led by artist Grainne Murphy of the Creative Spark print studios, artists Susan Farrelly, Una Curley, Clare McAteer & Etaoin O'Reilly are creating a series of works of mixed discipline. with the are working with groups including Gaelscoil Dun Dealgan, swimming groups at Annagassan and Templetown, St. John of Gods Venegas Centre and Ardee Active Retirement Group.



St. John of Gods members at a workshop with Ceramicist Etaoin O'Reilly as part of the Artist in the Community Project.

This project is funded jointly by Creative Ireland Louth and the Louth County Council Brigid1500 programme.

For more details on the Brigid1500 programme see [here](#) or email brigid1500@louthcoco.ie

Congratulations also to all the team at the SEEK Festival who won their category in the Culture Heritage and Tourism Award at the recent Louth Business Awards. Creative Ireland Louth has been proud sponsors of the festival since its inception in 2019. Well done to all the team on a wonderful achievement.

Arts and Creative Ireland Funding:

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

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

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

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

Booking is essential for these sessions. For booking details see [here](#)

An online video of the presentation which will be given at these sessions will be made available online week beginning 4th December and all funding streams will open for application on Monday 11th December and will remain open until early February 2024.

Museum

The Museum is in the process of running a variety of family and school focused events in the run-up to Halloween. Activities include mask-decorating and colouring and will run over the last week of the current school term as well as the mid-term break. All activities are free.



Decorations of Halloween masks

In addition to the above the Museum was involved in the launch of the Brigid 1500 Festival at County Hall this month, providing two exhibition panels for the morning.



St Brigid's Cloak

Most recently

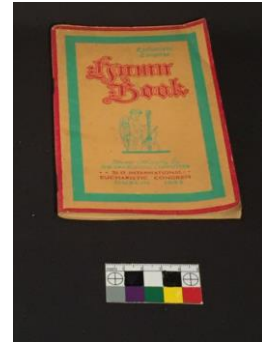
The County Museum, Dundalk participated in the recent Age Friendly Expo held on 4th October 2023 in Ardee. Though the theme of the event was Keeping Safe at Home the opportunity to showcase the Museum as a venue for groups, organisations and services working with Older People in the county was a welcome one and proved particularly popular with delegates.



Age Friendly Expo



Age Friendly Expo Stand



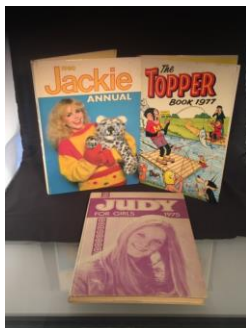
A missal from the Eucharistic Congress in 1932



A selection of handheld puppets for a children's puppet show

Recent acquisitions

Over the last month the Museum has continued to add to the diversity of items to the collection. Recent examples include:



A selection of children's annuals from the 1970s and 1980s

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 / Stiúrtóir Gníomhach



Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 31/10/2023

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Property offers recorded to date | 44 |
| Owners successfully contacted | 44 |
| Properties allocated to date | 27 |
| Beneficiaries assigned to date | 81 |
| Assessments | 38 |
| Assessments currently underway | 0 |
| Properties assessed as suitable | 27 |
| 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) enter a contract with the provider to manage and operate the facility. Work is ongoing with a number of proposals in an iterative process to facilitate to the point of contract with DCEDIY

Brook Buildings, Ardee Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 PW25 is due for contract with DCEDIY by Week 2 November. Thereafter, 20 beneficiaries of Temporary Protection will be allocated to this accommodation.

Integration Support

The Ukrainian team organised a Halloween trip to Navan Adventure Centre with funding awarded from Healthy Ireland for Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Health and Wellbeing Support. 87 residents from Louth County Council's Centres went on the trip. The children enjoyed pumpkin carving, an obstacle course, a disco and a variety show.



Local Authority Integration Team

Louth County Council is in the process of appointing an integration team. The team's focus will be to facilitate Integration of refugees from day 1. The team will work with other stakeholders, such as NGOs, Government Departments, State Bodies / Agencies, the Community Response Forum, and Government funded programmes such as SICAP to support and coordinate services for 4 different cohorts of people, including.

- IP applicants
- Those with status
- Programme Refugees (IRPP)
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection - BOTP working together to provide the appropriate supports.

The approach is to complement, not duplicate existing work in this arena.