



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 6th April 2023
6^ú Aibreáin 2023**

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st March 2023
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 31 March 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 March 2023 / Caiteachas go dtí 31 Márta 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas labhír go dtí 31/03/2023	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/03/2023
Housing/Tithíocht	€9,173,665	€57,155,409	16%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€5,437,931	€27,351,782	20%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€2,302,428	€8,619,589	27%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€4,366,142	€23,666,110	18%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€3,996,100	€20,837,206	19%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€1,987,892	€10,361,634	19%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€213,704	€1,468,858	15%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáirí	€1,477,941	€9,018,942	16%
	€28,955,803	€158,479,531	18%

Income to 31st March 2023 / Ioncam go 31 Márta 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam labhír go dtí 31/03/23	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/03/23
Housing/Tithíocht	€8,631,858	€58,718,513	15%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€609,536	€16,635,478	4%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€986,477	€8,303,355	12%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€1,378,363	€14,403,330	10%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€277,057	€2,295,719	12%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€181,738	€1,208,037	15%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€81,037	€543,472	15%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáirí	€552,810	€11,296,768	5%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,558,169	€34,708,660	100%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€1,644,366	€9,866,198	17%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi larmhéid Dochair	€0	€500,000	0%
	€48,901,411	€158,479,531	31%

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

Debtors as of 31st March 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31 Márta 2023

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€7,546,239	€9,701,950	(€5,175,818)	€15	€12,072,386
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Local Áitiúla Eile	€56,584	€183,628	(€126,510)	(€0)	€113,702
Rates/Rataí	€7,561,465	€34,558,169	(€7,533,333)	(€133,945)	€34,452,356
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,621,885	€3,551,437	(€3,387,288)	(€0)	€2,786,034
Loans/Iasachtal	€295,384	€483,450	(€494,800)	(€0)	€284,034
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€491,423	(€544,740)	(€56,143)	€10,834,044
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€717,575	€130,974	(€86,767)	(€0)	€761,782
Miscellaneous/Ilgheítheach	€1,804,894	€2,260,438	(€1,269,947)	(€17,763)	€2,777,622
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€31,547,531	€51,361,469	(€18,619,203)	(€207,836)	€64,081,960

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

Annual Financial Statement

The 2022 Annual Financial Statement is now complete and on the agenda for the April Council meeting.

Water Services

Uisce Éireann

Elected members/customers are reminded to contact Uisce Éireann directly 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 @UÉ Care 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 permission has been granted for Bannons Cross PS while the planning application for Allardstown PS was submitted to Louth County Council on 16th February 2023.

Omeath WWTW / Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Ó Méith

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

Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

existing large diameter sewer are being progressed within UÉ .

Dundalk LNRP / Clár um Atreisiúchan Líonra Áitiúil Dhún Dealgan

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

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

Atkins Consulting Engineers are progressing the detailed design of the North Drogheda Strategic Wastewater Network. The planning and procurement process continues to progress, including extensive engagement with developers and landowners' representatives. The Planning Submission for the proposed Pumping Station is being progressed with procurement to follow during early 2023.

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

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

Greenmount WTW Upgrade/Uasghrádú Ionad Cóireála Uisce Dhroim Chatha

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

Drogheda WWTP/Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann are continuing to carry out works at Drogheda Wastewater Treatment Plant and is committed to resolving any potential odour issues arising from the wastewater plant or the network. Uisce Éireann continues to work closely with EPS Ltd who operate the plant on behalf of Uisce Éireann. Works have been undertaken within the Wastewater Treatment Plant and at both the East Meath Pumping Station and the Bryanstown Pumping Station. The next phase of the Capital Programme involves works to the anaerobic digesters within the plant and works to manhole covers at various locations within the network.

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

Uisce Éireann have appointed consultants to undertake the Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP). LCC staff are currently liaising with Uisce Éireann and the project consultants in various aspects of the project. The Catchment Planning Meeting was completed in January 2023 with the Stage 1 Data Collection and Scoping Report due for completion in early March 2023.

Cockle Hill PS Upgrade / Uasghrádú Stáisiún Ceadéalacháin Chnoic na Ruachan

The Detailed Design Report and Workshop 4 were completed in January 2023. The date for commencement on site is to be confirmed but is programmed to be on site Q1 2023.

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/ Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

UÉ contractors GMC have commenced on site in February 2023. The project duration 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 is scheduled for 7th March 2023.

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Clár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Clár Athshlánúcháin

No rehabilitation works undertaken by Uisce Éireann in February.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

No replacement of back yard service undertaken by Uisce Éireann in February

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú.

2 first fix type repairs were undertaken by Uisce Éireann contractors in February.

Water Scouring Programme 2022 / Clar Sciúrtha Uisce 2022

Louth County Council crews undertook network flushing in the areas listed below in February.

-Toberona

-Blackrock

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

In February Louth County Council crews undertook 64 Find and Fix activities, of those 38 repairs were undertaken (2 in Castlebellingham, 4 in Carlingford, 12 in Drogheda, 3 in Termonfeckin, 13 in Dundalk, 3 in Blackrock, 1 in Hackballscross)

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 0 new connections, 0 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 13 Planning Applications in February.

Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

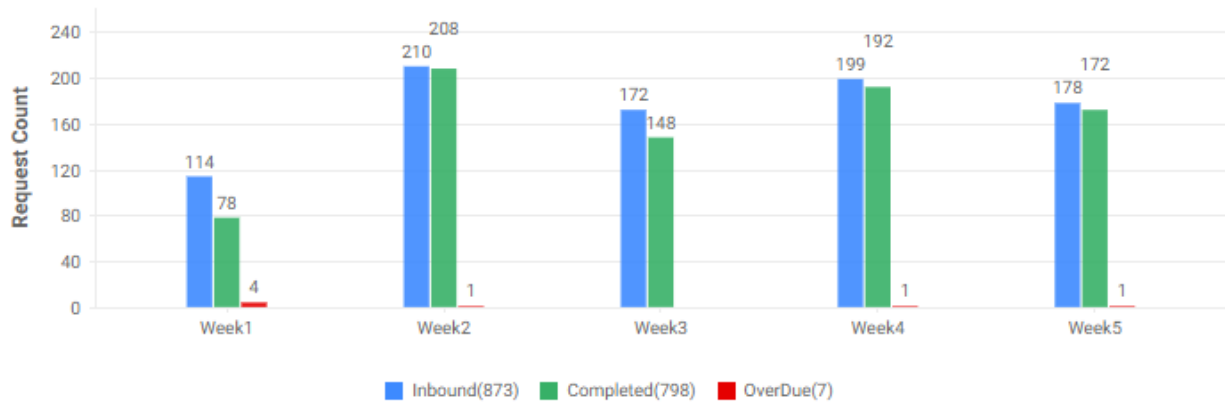
The Networks Section prepared 11 Service Maps in February.

Information & Communication Technology

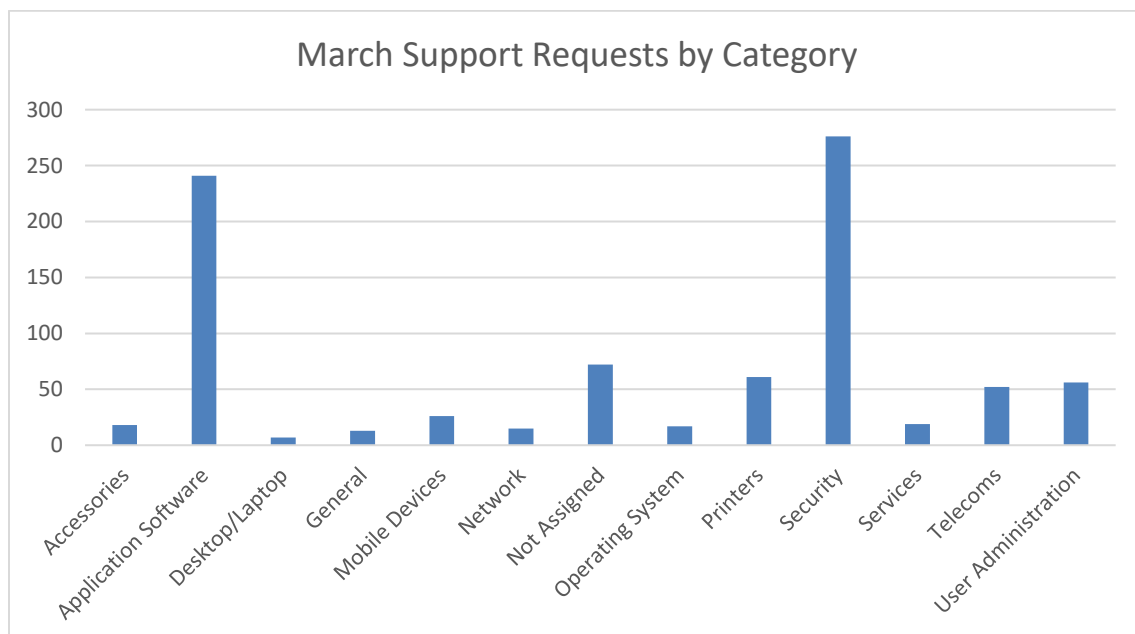
Helpdesk

Between 01/03/2023 and the 31/01/2023 there were 873 support calls logged in the IT support system.

Requests Last Month ▾



Security and application support were the two highest category of support requests in March.



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 March 35.82% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

167,582



Blocked Sender

1,167



Blocked at gateway

30,534



Blocked by spam /virus

28,739



Blocked by content rules

383



Potentially harmful emails

36.30%

Louth County Council Website

There were 17,819 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in March

The most visited sections of the website were for online planning and maps, vacancies, dog pound, services, and library services.

Page URL	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews
/en/	3,753	2,896
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	1,219	939
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	1,168	803
/en/services/dog-pound/	1,004	697
/en/home/	619	461
/en/services/	602	454
/en/services/planning/	568	443
/en/services/library/online-services/	489	378
/en/services/library/	464	351
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	368	332
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/staff-wellbeing-offi	314	285
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/e-planni	316	237

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC 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 3,478 views in March, an average of 116 views a day.

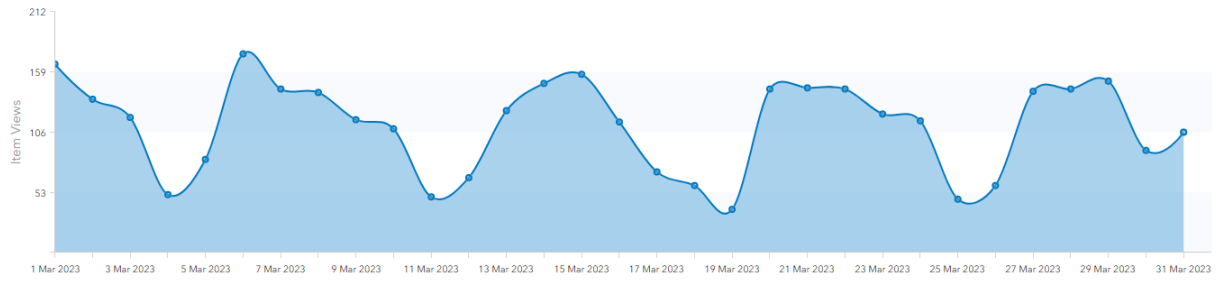
Item Views this Period

3,478

Avg Item Views Per Day

115.93

Usage Time Series



This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

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

**Thomas McEvoy
Director / Stiúrthóir**



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

Louth Economic Forum

The Louth Economic Forum met on Friday 24th March, 2023. KPMG made a presentation on the incoming Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 - 2029.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022

24 applications were received by Louth County Council under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. 21 Letters of Offer have been issued to date.

Business Improvement District Scheme (BIDS) – Dundalk 2024 - 2028

A proposal has been received by Louth County Council from Dundalk BIDS Company to extend the term of the Business Improvement District Scheme for a further period of five years from January 2024. The proposal went on public display in County Hall and Town Hall, Dundalk on the 23rd March. Submissions in relation to the Proposed BID will be accepted in writing up to 5.00pm on Friday 21st April, 2023.



Dundalk BIDS Proposal 2024 -2028

For full details please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/dundalk-bid-proposal/dundalk-bid-proposal-2024-2028/>.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2023

A budget has been allocated for the scheme. Applications can be made as and from Monday 3rd April, with a scheme closing date of Friday, 29th September, 2023.

The scheme will be extended to areas not covered by the existing scheme via an Expression of Interest form which will also be available from Monday 3rd April with a return date of Friday 5th May, 2023.

For full details of the scheme please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/business-incentive-schemes-retail-prospectus/>.

Tourism

Festival Funding 2023

Applications for Festival Funding for small and large festivals were open from the 1st to 31st March, 2023. Applications received will be assessed and letters of offer issued shortly.

St. Patrick's Day 2023

Louth County Council were delighted to be the main sponsor for Dundalk St. Patrick's Day Parade and the sponsor of the award for the Best Overall Entrant which was awarded to 'Dance Kids Blues Brothers'.



Susan Murphy, Louth County Council, Shane McBride, St. Patrick's Day Committee, Karen Cumiskey, Dance Kids Blues Brothers and Maria O'Toole, Paypal

Louth County Council also provided financial support to Ardee and Drogheda St. Patrick's Day Parades. A delegation from Louth County Council travelled to New York to meet representatives from Tourism Ireland and take part in the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. They also attended a series of events where County Louth was promoted, including meetings with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Irish Consulate and the Irish Ambassador to the UN.



Louth County Council Delegation meeting Tourism Ireland



Chris Thompson, Vice President of the New York Co. Louth Society welcoming Cathaoirleach Cllr. Conor Keelan



Louth County Council Delegation taking part in New York St. Patrick's Day Parade

Visit Louth and sea louth

The Annual Cross-Border Tourism Conference, hosted by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, took place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford on the 29th March. Louth County Council sponsored the event and Colette Moss from the Economic Development and Tourism office gave a presentation on all there is to see and do in County Louth for tourists. Visit Louth and sea louth had a promotional stand at the conference.



Colette Moss, Louth County Council, speaking at the Cross-Border Tourism Conference

Brigid 1500

The schedule of events planned to commemorate St. Brigid's 1,500 year anniversary in February 2024 will be published shortly. Following a competitive tender process Creative Spark have been awarded the 'Artist in the Community' which will culminate in a display of public art on the theme of St. Brigid.

Fáilte Ireland

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland have engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to compile a report on the potential reimagining of the Táin Trail. They are engaging with Louth County Council and other Local Authorities along the trail. The report is due to be published later this year.

**Destination Towns Capital Investment
Programme**

Ground works have commenced in Drogheda and to date 18 of the 22 base stones for the Wayfinding signs are now in place.

Funding Opportunities

Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda

Following a competitive process involving over 40 towns and cities in Ireland, Louth County Council's application to recruit a new Night-Time Economy Adviser was successful. The job specification has been agreed at a national level and approval has been sought from the Department to fill the position. Following receipt of this approval the recruitment process will continue.

Boyne Valley Flavours

For information on upcoming events please see <https://boynevalleyflavours.ie/blogs/food-series>.

LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

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

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.

2 no. Louth business were approved YTD.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

Under this Programme LEO has procured 3 no. consultants who will be 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

March had 6 no. training courses delivered to 57 no. attendees. They included a Start Your Own Business course, Food Starter, TikTok for Business, Social Media for Small Business, Introduction to VAT, Instagram for Beginners and Marketing for Small Business.



In April, some of the business workshops on offer include; Digital Marketing Strategy, Book Keeping for Small Business, Start Your Own Business, Data Protection and Canva for Small Business.

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. The next workshop is scheduled for 11th May, 2023.



2 no. Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in March, 2023.

Business Advice Clinics

49 no. business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during March.

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.

16 no. businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of March.

Microfinance Ireland Business Loan



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

4 no. applications were received YTD.

LEO mentors are continuing to assist 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. 1 no. Louth business was approved YTD.

Food Starter Programme

2 no. Louth companies are currently taking part in the Food Starter Programme being run virtually by Donegal LEO.

Food Academy

Applications for this year's Food Academy Programme run by SuperValu, Bord Bia and the LEO Network are now open.

Student Enterprise Programme



On 2nd March LEO Louth held the County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme 2023 in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. It was a busy day with 128 no. students exhibiting for the judges on the day with almost 50 no. businesses represented. After an exciting morning the awards were presented to the students by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Conor Keelan.

Awards were given to the following teams and schools:

County Senior Winner – Just Tap from St. Mary’s College Dundalk



Callum Moore, Eoin Carpenter & Sam Sweeney (Just Tap) from St. Mary’s College, Dundalk with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

County My Entrepreneurial Journey – Dearbhla McArdle from St. Vincent’s Secondary School Dundalk



Dearbhla McArdle from St. Vincent’s Secondary School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

County Intermediate Winner – Like Your Locker from Drogheda Grammar School



Alex Borza & Nora Gilligan (Like Your Locker) from Drogheda Grammar School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Other winners on the day:

County Senior Category Runner Up – Barn with It from Dundalk Grammar School



Laura McKeivitt (Barn with It) from Dundalk Grammar School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

County Intermediate Category Runner Up – Tegan’s Trinkets from Drogheda Grammar School



Jack Ivers & James Lavery (Strawsome) from Dundalk Grammar School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan



Tegan Semple (Tegan’s Trinkets) from Drogheda Grammar School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

County Junior Category Runner Up – Oisín's Turkeys from Scoil Uí Mhuirí



Oisín Hand (Oisín's Turkeys) from Scoil Uí Mhuirí with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Social Enterprise Award - Secondary Success from Ardee Community School



Shane Gorman, Anna Hickey, Laura Hennessy and Laidhan Geraghty (Secondary Success) from Ardee Community School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

An Additional 7 Awards in the Senior Category:

Innovation Award - Your Scores from St. Mary's Diocesan School Drogheda



Deoin Scaria, Aaron Carroll and Brendan Cristofides, (Your Score) from St. Mary's Diocesan School Drogheda with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Best Display Award - Crafts by Alex from Drogheda Grammar School



Alex Hope (Crafts by Alex) from Drogheda Grammar School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Social Media & Marketing – Quikscent from Bush Post Primary School



Adam Sharkey, James Shields, Albert Johnston, Tiernan Hynes & Cillian McCann (QuikScent) from Bush Post Primary School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Well Being Award - Mind Over Journal from St. Louis Secondary School



Caitlin Carroll & Ellie Litchfield (Mind Over Journal) from St. Louis Secondary School, Dundalk with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Sustainability Award - Wonderful Designs from St. Brigid's School



Patrick Marron, Amy Hoey & Benny Casey, (Wonderful Designs) from St. Brigid's Secondary School, Dundalk with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Best Creative Business - Simply Shore Designs from Bush Post Primary School



Tara White & Megan Halpenny (Simply Shore Designs) from Bush Post Primary School with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Eimear McCreesh of St. Vincent's Secondary School was awarded the Enterprise Educators Award



Eimear McCreesh from St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Over 1,170 no. students from 19 no. schools across the county participated in this year's Student Enterprise Programme.

Local Enterprise Week 2023



Local Enterprise Week ran from 6th – 10th March across all 31 Local Enterprise Offices and Louth had a packed programme with 7 no. local events with 461 no. attendees and a number of Regional events with Meath, Cavan and Monaghan as well as 5 no. national online seminars available to all.

The week was an opportunity for business owners to learn from experts about the latest trends and key issues facing enterprises and also to hear about how the Local Enterprise Office can provide supports to help. Highlights from the week included the opening event Roadmap to Funding & Supports For Your Business where a panel of LEO clients were guided through the various supports available, TikTok Training, a HR seminar in conjunction with Drogheda Chamber of Commerce, a Cyber Security Information session with Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and a seminar on Neurodiversity in the Workplace with Network Louth.

On Wednesday 8th March LEO Louth and Louth County Council were co-sponsors of the annual Cross-Border Trade Conference which this year moved away from the focus on Brexit and looked at Future Opportunities for the Cross-Border Economy. The event was addressed by Minister Simon Coveney and had almost 300 no. attendees.

The week concluded with the county final of the Louth Enterprise Awards.

County Louth Enterprise Awards 2023

On 10th March the business community gathered together to celebrate the winners of the County Louth Enterprise Awards. These awards recognise outstanding businesses in Louth across 4 no. categories with 1 no. chosen to go forward to the national finals to represent County Louth in June, 2023.

Awards were given to the following companies:

Best Start Up Business - PortAMod Ltd.



Sarah Mallon Programme Manager LEO Louth, Donal McLoughlin & Tom Condon (PortAMod) with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Innovation Award - Enso Initiatives Ltd.



Sarah Mallon Programme Manager LEO Louth, Donal Quinn (Enso Initiatives Ltd.) with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Sustainability Award - The Crafty Fox Ltd.



Sarah Mallon Programme Manager LEO Louth, Peter & Jackie Joliffe (The Crafty Fox) with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan

Best Established & Overall Winner - Seapark Consultancy

SeaPark Consultancy is a leading Business Intelligence consultancy offering innovative and unique solutions for all Digital Transformation needs. Founder Donal Geraghty has developed a number of transformation tools which significantly reduced the time and cost involved in data migrations for users of SAP software. Based in the Regional Development Centre in Dundalk Institute of Technology, Donal has expanded SeaPark Consultancy to provide their services to clients in Ireland, UK, Germany and Denmark including the HSE, Lego and Atlas CopCo.



Sarah Mallon Programme Manager LEO Louth, Donal Geraghty (Seapark Consultancy) with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council Cllr. Conor Keelan



Donal Geraghty (Seapark Consultancy) will represent County Louth in the National finals in June, 2023

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.

European Relations

Peace IV Programme



PEACE IV

St. Peter's Hill, Drogheda and the Extension to the Muirhevnamór Community Centre

Work is nearing completion at both sites and dates for opening events are being prepared. The artwork 'Inspired to Meet' was installed at St. Peter's Hill on 23rd March, 2023.



'Inspired to Meet' artwork installed at St. Peter's Hill



St. Peter's Hill Shared Space in use by the Loving Life Choir

PEACEPLUS



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie

The sixth PEACEPLUS partnership meeting has been rescheduled for 27th April, 2023.

Public Consultation

Arising from the public consultations on PEACEPLUS in late 2022 and early 2023 hundreds of concepts have been received from members of the public. These will be assessed for eligibility and feasibility in conjunction with consultants Blu Zebra as part of the stage two consultation process in 2023. Please keep an eye on our website, via <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peaceplus/> and on <https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS> or contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

Heritage

One application was submitted for funding to the Irish Walled Towns Network. This was for a study of a newly exposed section of Drogheda's town wall between Featherbed Lane and Bachelor's Lane.

Under the **Historic Towns Initiative**, €40,000 for a study of the western end of Fair Street, Drogheda was awarded. Two tenders to provide these services were received and are undergoing assessment.

The Heritage Officer met students from Queen's University Belfast in Drogheda and facilitated their meeting with members of Millmount Museum and the Drogheda Tourist Office scheme.

The Heritage Officer co-chaired the annual Cross-Border Tourism Conference, which was attended by nearly 200 people, including Cathaoirleach Cllr. Conor Keelan, Cllr. Kevin Meenan and Senator Erin McGreehan.

The Heritage Officer inputted to the 'Place-naming Committee, and a meeting of the Creative Ireland team for Louth.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

Louth Fire Service attended several serious incidents during March.

On 6th March there was a large house fire near Termonfeckin where a fatality occurred. Multiple brigades attended this incident.

There was a further domestic fire where a fatality occurred on Batchelor's Walk, Dundalk on 14th March, with multiple brigades also in attendance.

Previous to these incidents there was a large gorse fire in Ballymakellet and also other gorse fires during a long dry spell.

Fire Brigade members from Ardee, Dundalk and Drogheda turned out in St. Patrick's Day parades in a range of Fire Service vehicles, including the two vintage Merryweather fire tenders. These appliances date from the 1930s.

Louth County Council is in the process of finalising the purchase of a new site for Dunleer fire station and once this is completed, the design team will proceed with the design of the new station.

The delivery of Louth Fire Service's training plan continued during March. This included the following:

- Methods of Instruction Course
- Flood First Responder Course
- Emergency Driving ESDS conversion course
- Hydra Effective Decision-Making course (instructor and student), Clonmel
- Attendance at Module 1 Officers course, Sligo

The Fire Prevention Section has continued inspections of Ukrainian accommodation and is currently processing a Fire Safety Certificate application for a very large logistics hub building at the Business Park on the Armagh Road, Dundalk.

Major Emergency Management

There was a regional Major Emergency Management meeting on 7th March. This included planning for a major emergency exercise in Quarter 4 of 2023.

On Site Co-ordinator training also took place and was attended by Louth County Council personnel.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Work on the Climate Action Plan is continuing, and includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence activities during March included:

Training:

- Weekly training every Thursday night
- Food Safety & You instructor training – one new instructor trained by the Food Safety Authority.
- Emergency First Responder Faculty Training – 5 instructors trained to carry out Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council assessments
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Up-skilling – All EMTs updated to new clinical practice guidelines

Events:

- Participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Medical cover provided for the parade and subsequent family fun day
- Ambulance and crew provided to Monaghan Civil Defence for a ladies GAA match in Smithboro

Building Control

The number of Certificates of Compliance on Completion for building projects has increased in recent months.

The Building Control Section carried out several building control inspections on sites where a valid Commencement Notice was submitted, and a number of these projects had not started within the statutory 28-day period. In some instances, new Commencement Notices are required.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of February, 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 67 planning applications received during the month of February of which 57 were valid. In addition there were 21 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 20 Pre-Planning Applications received.

The service indicator figures in relation to **planning decisions and decisions on appeals made** during the month, broken down by category, and with a total figure for all categories (Column F), are given below:

(A) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae
(i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh	5	12	36	0	53
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	3	4	3	0	10
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	0.00% (0)	33.33% (4)	11.11% (4)	0.00% (0)	15.09% (8)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	0	0	0	0	0
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

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

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh	
	February 2023 / Feabhra 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	February 2022 / Feabhra 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	15	28	29	48
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	14	19	15	46
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	13	30	14	32
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	2	2	1	2
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	4	4	0	1
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures / Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Déanmhais Chontúirteacha

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

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

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

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Lettings Enforcement

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings	
	March 2023 / Márta 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	1	2
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	0	3
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	21	23
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	1
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	5
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

Forward Planning

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Draft Maps identifying land considered to be 'in scope' for the Residential Zoned Land Tax were placed on public display between 1st November, 2022 and 1st January, 2023. A total of 33 submissions were received, 3 of which were withdrawn.

The issues raised in the submissions have been considered and a report setting out the response to the submissions has been prepared. This Report will be available to view on the Council website at www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/residential-zoned-land-tax/.

A response to all submissions received has been issued. This response sets out the determination as to whether or not the lands will be included / excluded from the Final Residential Zoned Land Tax Map to be published on 1st December, 2023. This determination may be appealed to An Bord Pleanála within one month of the receipt of the determination.

Conservation Grant Schemes 2023

A total of 19 projects have received provisional grant funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2023, with a further 4 projects awarded provisional grant funding under Stream 1 of the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2023, totalling €291, 292 for the county. Full details available at: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/conservation/>.

Projects	Funding Allocated
BHIS Ring Fenced Funding	
(Thatch) Salterstown, Dunleer, Co. Louth	€7,500.00
(Thatch) Rampark, Jenkinstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€3,642.00
(Thatch) Whiterath Cottage, Dromiskin, Co. Louth	€3,250.00
BHIS - General	
Lisrenny House, Tallanstown	€11,000.00
Collon Parish Church, Collon, Co. Louth	€10,000.00
Smarmore Castle, Smarmore, Ardee, Co. Louth	€7,000.00
Kildemock House, Kildemock, Ardee, Co. Louth	€10,500.00
No. 6, St. Peter's Place, Drogheda, Co. Louth	€14,500.00
St. Patrick's, Scarlet Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth	€5,100.00
Dundalk Grammar School, The Boarder's House, The Crescent, Ardee Road, Dundalk	€11,000.00
St. Mary's Church, Market Street, Ardee	€12,500.00
Former Parochial House, Dunleer, Co. Louth	€12,500.00
2 The Sycamores, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth	€4,750.00
57 Castle Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€6,700.00
Canonstown Outbuilding, Buzzard View, Canonstown, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth	€10,795.00
11 Brook Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€2,363.50
15 Palace Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth	€1,750.00
5 Kelso Terrace, St. Mary's Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€2,690.50
'Clydebank', 58 Castle Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€3,251.00

Historic Structures Fund 2023		Grant Awarded
Stream 1 – Historic Shopfronts	Connell & Co., 5 Church Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€37,000
Stream 1 - Public	Oriel Centre Dundalk Gaol, The Crescent Dundalk, Co. Louth	€37,500
Stream 1	Rampark (Thatch), Jenkinstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth	€40,000
Stream 1	The Widow's Houses, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth	€36,000

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

Catherine Duff
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	
	Laurels	
	Ramparts	
	Armagh Rd	
	Mooreland /Lennon Melia Terrace	
	Inner Relief Rd	
	Newry Rd	
	Racecourse Rd	
	By Pass	
	Centenary Rd	
	Dublin Rd	
	Mourne View Walkway	
	Ardee Rd	
	Carrick Rd	
	Castletown Rd,	
	Ecco Rd	
	Market Sq ,borders and Planters	
	Mount Ave	
	Castleross Hedgerow	
	Carlingford/Omeath,	Gyles
	Templetown	Quay,

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht Nightly By Contractor 200 Bins Bins repaired at Friary and Mourne View Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown car park, Gyles Quay area
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain Contract Sweeper as per contract. If there is extra littering, extra sweeps are carried out, eg. St Patrick's Day. Extra concentration on the route and town cleaned up after parade
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra By Contractor, nightly as part of the street bin collections	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain 200 between dog bins and litter bins throughout the town As per bin management in Cooley region
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála Ring Buoys checked Weekly. Report sent to Water Safety Officer For Dundalk. Some new lifebuoy have been replaced.	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Checked weekly
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. Park Power washed in early March. Check lists carried out in Lordship, Cooley, Carlingford and Omeath

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing patching of local roads also isolated pot hole within the area- R173 bush. <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<u>Cooley</u> Rogan's Cross, Willville <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	None this month in Cooley & Dundalk	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<u>Cooley</u> None at this time <u>Dundalk</u> Dundalk footpath repairs at Riverside Crescent, Tactile Paving	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	Ongoing Repairs, Bulb Replacement. Traffic Lights at Oriel Terrace and Ice House Hill repaired.	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> None at this time <u>Dundalk</u> None at this time	

Signage / Comharthaíocht	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing Road Advanced signs been put up also replaced Omeath area. <u>Dundalk</u> Dundalk New Street signage and poles in the town centre for Pay Parking. Replaced damaged Yield Signs.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<u>Cooley</u> Mast Road , isolated dumping at Rockmarshall and Ballynamony <u>Dundalk</u> Dundalk usual areas Creative Spark Lands, Hoey's Lane, Mooreland Rd, Inner Relief Rd, Mount Ave, By Pass at WUXI Roundabout, Old Coes Rd, Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly, Clean-up of Ashling Park- collected 10 Tons to date.	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Cleaned Graffiti on Lifebuoy signs.	

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí N/A
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht • Blackrock – 6 days/week • Knockbridge – once a week • Dromiskin – once a week • Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain N/A
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain N/A
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain • Blackrock (7no.) checked weekly • Annagassan (11no.) checked weekly
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil • Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly • Blackrock – checked weekly

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	R178 between Ballykelly and Channonrock. R140 Louth Village – Channonrock and at Rd168 Allardstown. LS-7124 Killaconner Knockbridge, LS-7121 Killyclessy Anaghvacky, LS-7120 Shanmullagh Anaghvacky, LS-5137 Little Ash Knockbridge, LP-3095 Claret Rock Faughart, R172 Green Gates to Blackrock Village LS-7165 Haynestown Blackrock, LP-3161 Rock Road Blackrock, LT-31612 Chapel Pass Blackrock. R150 Tullyraine and at Dromiskin and Castlebellingham Villages. R197 Knockabbey Springhill Louth Village	Road repairs and patching & cleaning up
	N/A	Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming
	N/A	Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
	N/A	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	LS-7116 Ballybinaby Hackballscross, LS-7107 Falemore Kilcurry, LS-7112 Castle Roche Hackballscross LS-7114 Shortstone West, LS-7115 Tavanmore Hackballscross, LP-3117 Sheelagh Rd Hackballscross. R140 Louth Village – Channonrock and at R142 Stonetown Upper	Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	N/A	Clearing fallen trees & debris.

Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán	Sections of a footpath in Castlebellingham	Footpath renewal
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	N/A	Major repair works completed
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A N/A	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Signage / Comharthaíocht	N/A	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage installed
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	LS-7114 Killin Brid A Crin, LS-7132 Clermont Road Blackrock, LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry.	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Verge trimming in Castlebellingham

Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
	All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park - daily cleanup around bins
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	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 / Number of sites checked daily /
Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
Corpacmhainne**

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

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	R170 John Street Ardee, L-52291 Sean O'Carroll Street Ardee, LS-5268 Mullaghash Funshog, R166 at Annagassan, LS-5211-0 Lambstown off the N52, Ls-5259-0 Stoney Lane Ardee, R170 Hale street Ardee, LS-1233-7 Mullanstown Road Ardee, LS-6224-0 Dillionstown Replaced seat at Ferdia park,	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	R166 at Annagasson LP-1212-0 Stabannon Road LP- 2226-0 Drumcar LS-6224-0 Dillionstown	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	None this month	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Clearing snow from footpaths at Collon and Ardee	

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	None this month	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	None this month	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Replaced stop sign at Glack Cross, Replaced Stop sign at White Cross Replaced signage at Salterstown,	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	None this month	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	None this month	



Snow Clearance on Footpath in Collon

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair

Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí

- Steps and laneways weekly 22 steps when recourses allow and green areas.
- Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.
- Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m.
- Drogheda Rural Bring Banks are cleared daily during working week.
- Road sweep all roads on St Patrick's Day Parade route and place pedestrian barriers.
- Approach roads, road sweeping at Dublin Rd, North Rd, Collon Rd, Bothar Brugha, Kings St, Barrick Hill, Mount St Oliver, Windmill Rd and Twenties.
- Housing Estates, road sweeping @ Rathmullen Rd, St Finians Pk.
- Power wash and service of litter bins on town centre streets.
- St Dominick's Pk – Power washing of railings, street furniture and ring buoy boxes.
- Power washing of signage on R132, Link Rd and Collon Rd.

	- 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).
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain Empty about 35 once a week, washed and disinfected.
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Drainage Works - Gullies cleaned at Hand Street LCC's crew Pot hole repairs at - Rathmullen Pk - Nuns Walk - Town Centre	

	• Marsh Rd • Thomas St • Marley's Lane @ ESB Sub • Dublin Rd • Shamrock Villas • Magadeline St • Dolans Corner • Donore Rd – opposite bus-station • Marsh Rd • Dublin Rd • Bryanstown Entrance Preparation for high tides • Distribution of sand bags at Wellington Quay, North Quay, North Stand. • Erecting signage at Haymarket Bridge and St Marys Bridge. Preparation for St Patricks Day Parade • Street Cleaning • Road surface maintenance • Reinstate manhole cover and frame at West St • Removal of bollards at St Peters St and Palace St. • Placing of Pedestrian barriers at St Peters St. Road Works Program – Resurfacing works at • RWP 2023 – tenders submitted and currently under review. • CIS – Tender documents completed and	
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	procurement process to commence. LP-2290-15 Priest Hill, Collon LP-2290-42 Tinure to Castletown LS-6270-17 Tinure Village LS-6317-0 Sheepgrange	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Annual Drogheda Gully Cleaning Program ongoing. Tender documents to be advertised on supplygov.ie. Drainage and construction of new Drainage M.H at Sheepgrange LS-6317-0 30 Approx in Baltray village (All gullies were cleaned out and jetted and pipes going into the river are low down 8 Gullies done on the Baltray to Termonfeckin rd (all working) Gullies done at Termonfeckin Rd (Flooding Hotspot) There is still water lying on the new development side as gullies are required Further investigation needed. Gullies done at Seapoint Road (all Working) Hamlinstown Road (Gully done at the end of the Road working) There is still a problem with the pipes not installed properly on the private Dwellings.	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	None this month	

Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán	Footpath repairs on-going at Riverview Estate off Trinity St.	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	• DR50 Barn Road Dunleer Pedestrian Crossing (outside secondary school) – Lights out • DR07 – R132 @ Cement Rd / Crosslane (R132H) (Vehicle phase lamp fail H phase Red) • DR06 – R132 @ Westgate / Fair St Junction (Vehicle phase lamp fail H phase Red) • DR27 – Bolton St Pedestrian - lights out. • DR48 Greenhills Pedestrian Crossing – lights all out • DR24 Trinity St (Upper Mell NS) Loughbouy Ped –Vehicle phase lamp fail, Phase A • Termonfeckin Bridge – Vehicle presence fail, detection	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	Road marking survey in progress.	Road marking survey in progress.
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Repairs & maintenance of signage at • Dublin Rd • Car park new pay & display signs • Shop St • North Rd – bollards • Donore Rd – damaged street pole (speed limit) due to RTA • Byranstown • Cement Rd • Marys St – new directional sign bollards. Replace Stop Sign Coast Road Clogherhead	

Weed killing / Marú fialí	None this month	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	Dublin Road Bessexwell Lane Ballsgrove bottle banks Barrack Hill Boice court Mell Moneymore Rathmullen 34 Patrick Street Mount St. Oliver Cord Road bottom of Hand Street 23 Pearse Park Scholes Lane	Ongoing issues been discussed with property manager owners group. Illegal dumping Evidence gathering process fines issued. Illegal dumping no evidence. Illegal dumping no evidence. Illegal dumping no evidence. Materials dumped private lands. Case still open Illegal dumping evidence gather FPN issued. Illegal dumping no evidence. Illegal dumping no evidence. Illegal dumping no evidence. Illegal dumping no evidence. Ongoing Ongoing

Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Eir telecommunications company- various locations	Ongoing interaction with Eir regarding the removal of serious graffiti from EIR properties
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Louth CoCo ongoing works against flooding



***New drain constructed at
Sheepgrange***



***Debris washed onto the R167 from High
Spring Tides that flooded road***



Louth CoCo ongoing works against flooding

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

The Suitability Assessment documentation submissions, to prequalify a panel of Contractors capable of constructing the project, were received on the 23rd Nov. These submissions are currently being assessed for their suitability and then will form a restricted panel of Contractors.

A North South Ministerial Infrastructure Sub Group meeting was held on the 28th March.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Wind tunnel modelling is nearing completion, and design updated accordingly. Tender Packages are ongoing with a view to be released to the restricted panel early Q2. Tenders have been received for a Category 3 Bridge checker to be appointed pending completion of a tender assessment.

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

The Oral Hearing was held by An Bord Pleanála regarding the CPO process on the 10th of January 2023. LCC now awaits the outcome of this hearing. The Inspector's Report is completed and is currently awaiting the Board decision. The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents and other stakeholders. Technical acceptance report has been prepared for structures. GI tender and archaeological test trenching package is currently being prepared for field work and testing.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

An announcement on Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) 2023 funding allocations on the 16th February 2023. Monaghan County

Council is the lead Local Authority for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme, and €600,000 was allocated to Monaghan for the project for 2023. In their grant allocation document, TII stated this allocation is to 'meet current project commitments'.

Due to ongoing changes in Government policy and design standards, additional design works are required, and the Project Team has indicated that more funding will be required to close out and complete the current Phase 3 design process. Monaghan County Council has requested clarification from TII as to whether additional funding will be provided in this regard if required.

The latest update to the design has been completed and was published on the Project Website Monday 27th February. The updated design follows on from feedback provided from the public, safety issues identified as part of the Road Safety Audit and input provided by the environmental assessment team.

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

N52 Ardee Bypass

A local environmental group were granted leave in the High Court for a Judicial Review against An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Board's directions to Louth County Council concerning the preparations of an EIAR and NIS. The matter came before the High Court on the 28th March for mention and was adjourned to the next available date of 9th May to allow the applicant to reply to the opposition papers filed by An Board Pleanála. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

N2 Collon Safety Scheme

Works on the pedestrian crossing are now completed. Additional road markings are expected to be complete at a later stage

subject to weather, TII have now made funding available.

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. The consortium has appointed a contractor and works has commenced for the section of road R132 to the Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane.

Stream works are now complete, and earthworks are ongoing. Works are ongoing on the installation of a 450mm diameter watermain along the route for Irish Water and ducting for ESB and telecom.



Node 2, Welding of 500mmPE SDR17 (440mmID) pipeline ongoing on site

450mm Watermain Installation

Realignment of the Twenties Lane is well advanced in partnership with CFS Homes. The first phase of realignment is open to traffic.



Twenties Lane realignment Archaeology Excavation

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Contractor appointed for the works on LCC lands, pre-commencement meeting has taken place. Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners, a valuation process has started. Other mechanisms on acquiring the lands have also been explored. Letter of acceptance has been issued to construct the section of road located in LCC owned lands.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for DTTAs progress two of the schemes, namely D7 & D6 towards feasibility stage. Letter of acceptance has been issued and the Consultants have begun preparation of SAR report. Draft Report programmed to be submitted by early April.

Greenways

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

The Consultant is progressing with detailed design for the project for the southern section. Tender documents for the main contract are being finalised for issue to the market in April.

The CPO was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála, with modifications on the 8th December 2022, and published by LCC on the 18th of Jan. Landowner engagement has commenced on the acquisition of the land parcel. LCC are in the process of appointing a land valuer. Notice to Treat was issued by LCC to the landowners in the CPO.

A revised major planning application was submitted in Feb 2023 and granted in March. The minor planning application for the route change will be submitted in April 2023 and it is anticipated that planning permission in N.I. will

be decided upon in Q3 2023 and works commencing in Q4 2023.

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

TII Funded Greenways

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

This is an amalgamation of the Carlingford – Templetown Greenway with the Dundalk to Templetown Greenway project. Draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) approved by TII. Tender documents for the environmental consultants are being prepared.

The 2023 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads, Active Travel and Greenways has allocated €700,000 to the scheme. The allocation allows for the procurement of consultants for environmental studies on the scheme. Tender documents have been drafted for publication on etenders which will take place in the coming weeks.

All background information and public consultation data gathered to date under the Carlingford Templetown will be utilised. It's envisaged that a Public Consultation event on the overall study area will be held in Q2. The delivery of this scheme going forward will be under the TII Project Management Guidelines.

ORIS 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. Consultant have made the final amendments to the screening reports – all three schemes have screened out and are now proceeding with the detailed design. A draft preliminary design is now complete and is currently reviewed.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Following discussion with the developer and the Department of Housing this scheme will be progressed by the developer, assisted by offset of development levies under agreement with LCC. Works are due to commence early April.

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Gibson Bros Ireland has been appointed and has completed hedge clearance works and tree removal following ecological surveys and potential bat roost locations. Appointment of a consultant to supervise the works is progressing, Tender assessment is now complete, and a Letter of Intent has issued. Following public notification of the decision to close the road to through traffic to allow construction to take place from the 11th April for a period of one year, the closure has been deferred until Monday the 17th April.



Contract Signing



Site Clearance and Top Soil removal

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Tender documents have been issued to the market and are due back on the 14th April 2023.

A road closure with traffic diversion will be required to carry out the works. It's envisaged that this will be advertised in May.

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Existing Building Block B:

Block B former Chamber,
Raking of Brickwork.

Building up replacement exterior damaged brickwork panels at North West corner. Block off redundant internal openings.

Block N New Link Building:

Ground beams poured to eastside of New Link Building and ESB Substation Slab and feature planter and drainage pipe work and manholes. Structural steelwork delivered to site for portal frame.

Block C Community Services Building

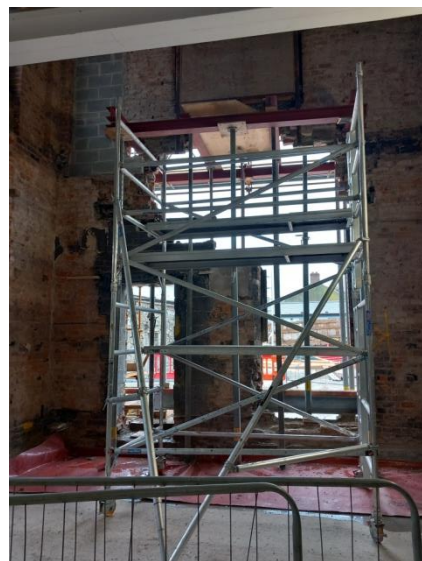
Lift Shaft excavation and blinding. Blocked up window openings reformed.



Block N Eastside Ground Beams & Slabs



Block B – Raking out brickwork for repointing.



Block B Council Chamber Building -Block N New Link Building Door Ope Formation



Block N New Link Building Construction Works

Dunleer Fire Station

A re-tender document for design consultants were received on the 28th of Nov. with 3 tenders been received. These tender submissions have been assessed for SAQ. LCC have progressed with the assessment of the quality and cost criteria of the submissions. LCC have issued a letter of intent to Preferred Consultant.

Louth Flood defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer joint venture continue working on Stage 1 of the Project, i.e. Options assessment, Scheme Development and Environmental Assessment. Hydraulic modelling is nearing completion. Preliminary Option Assessment to consider and assess a range of possible Flood Relief Measures has commenced and will continue throughout the next few months. Tender documents for Dundalk Ground Investigation will commence this month with locations being selected and assessed.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being reviewed. In Ardee the WFD, Geomorphology & Soils/Geology analysis is underway. Tender Documents for the Projects Site Investigation works are complete and are currently under review.

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 works on Stage 1 of the Project, with Options Assessment and Scheme Development. Topographical survey post-processing works continues. Work continues the Hydrological Analysis Report. Calibration of the Hydraulic Model is progressing.

The Tendering process for the Project Site Investigation works is underway. The EIA Scoping consultation has begun. Appropriate Assessment and Archaeological Impact Assessment have commenced.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie. A brief note has also been circulated to the elected representatives.

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

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

Marine Projects

Coastal Protection Works

Applications for the 2021 OPW Minor Works funding were submitted for Coastal Protection Projects in 3 separate locations, Omeath, Bellurgan and Ballagan.

OPW have confirmed funding approval of €62k for Omeath and the ecologist works are currently being tendered for preparation of an AA Screening Report for this Project.

In February the OPW approved €135k funding for proposed works at Bellurgan. Works on procuring environmental studies is underway.

OPW have requested further comments in from LCC on the Ballagan applications, LCC has issued a response to these queries.

Schools Programme Projects

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

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

Ardee E.T.N.S.

A tender assessment has been completed and a recommendation to award has been issued to the Dept of Education. A Supplementary tender report on including the extension for the SEN units has been issued to the Dept. for their consideration.

Contractor insurances are currently been assessed. The project is currently on hold pending approval of DEPR to proceed.

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

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

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council and other associate partners have completed preliminary assessments of sites to generate an approved site list 25 EV Rapid Chargers across the border counties which has now been released. 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/>.

Louth County Council have advertised the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and Assessment invitation to Participate in Dialogue for the project Design Build Operate contract, which is live on ETenders and OJEU until 17th April 2023.

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

Louth County Council is currently assessing sites for installation of 20no. EV charging points, as funded through SEAI. The goal of this funding stream is to support people who cannot easily provide their own EV charger at home, such as terraced housing or apartments. <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/>

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 no) Active Travel Projects.

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

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

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

They also divide the involvement 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 is as outlined in the table below.

National Awareness Campaigns

National Bike Week 2023

Louth County Council have received notification that it was awarded ≈ €16,000 to promote Cycling Activities during National Bike Week which will take place between 13th May 2023 – 21st May 2023. The Active Travel section along with Louth Local Sports Partnership will be promoting several activities during this week, in particular with the four schools included in our Safer Routes to School Infrastructure Programme, namely, Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk, St Louis Secondary School, Dundalk, St Brigid's and St Patrick's School, Bothar Bruga, Drogheda and Scoil Aonghusa, Sundays Gate, Drogheda.

Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: St. Dominick's Bridge.	€111,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Works are 100% completed. The Bridge is open to pedestrian and cycle traffic. LCC have requested attendee / invite list for an official opening i.e. Minister of Transport and/or NTA personnel.	Substantially completed in November 2022
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€415,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Revised Gateway 2 Report submitted to the NTA in Feb 2023. Junction modelling currently on-going.	Proposed Part 8 display towards end of Q2 2023
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS has commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed.	Proposed Part 8 display early Q3 2023
Drogheda: R168 Collon rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS has commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed.	Proposed Part 8 display in Q3 2023
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS has commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed in Nov 2022. Further GPS surveys, Traffic surveys & junction modelling of Marley's Lane / Donore Road Junction undertaken in February 2023.	This received Pathfinder status approval on the 14 th Oct 2022. Proposed Part 8 display towards end of Q2 2023
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€200,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS has commenced design and are currently developing options. As above	Proposed Part 8 display in Q3 2023
Drogheda: Boyne Business Park Link Road.	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Please refer to relevant update in this report.	Part 8 Completed
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€550,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Revised Gateway 2 Report submitted to the NTA in Feb 2023. Junction modelling currently on-going.	Proposed Part 8 display early Q3 2023

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€464,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC have received comments on draft Phase 2 Report from the NTA. Final Gateway 2 report received from the design consultant on the 26 th March 2023, currently been reviewed and expected to be formally submitted on 3 rd April 2023.	Proposed Part 8 display late Q2 2023
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€400,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Received Phase 2 Gateway status approval from the NTA in early August 2022. Phase 3 Preliminary Design is now completed and Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA. On-Line Briefing session given to Dundalk MD Councillors on Tuesday 28 th March. Positive and good commentary received which will be incorporated into revised scheme drawings. Active Travel Team are scheduled to meet key stakeholders in person on week commencing Monday 3 rd April 2023.	Proposed Part 8 display Mid/late Q2 2023
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€250,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	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. Tender for Dundalk Transport Study currently on etenders with a closing date of 6 th April 2023. This mobility Plan will form part of the Dundalk LAP.	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 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	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	Consultants are preparing options and preliminary design proposals.	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 to be issued to tender in March 2023	
Safe Routes to Schools 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€600,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off.. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into LHCC/22/0003 above Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed. Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 rd April 2023.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate project planning pack (comprising design proposal and statutory EIAR and AA Stage 2 Reports) for the consent process to An Bord Pleanála is due from consultants Turley Planning. The internal review process by Louth County Council has commenced

<https://www.westgatevision.ie/>

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Tenders have been received for consultancy works for Phase 1 of the project, which involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street,

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

Detailed design is complete and the bill of quantities is being drafted which will form part of the tender package. 3D views of Ardee Castle are being procured. The 3D views will form part of the Ministerial Consent application. Work is ongoing on a detailed report by the G1 Conservation Architects, Archaeologists and LCC which will form the main part of the Ministerial Consent application.

Omeath Public Realm

The detailed design and tender documents for contractor appointment are being finalised and will be advertised on eTenders in April.

Ardee 2040

The Ardee 2040 proposals, as presented to the Ardee Municipal Meeting by the appointed design team consultants Turley Planning in December 2022, is under internal review prior to the planning pack going forward for the consent process to An Bord Pleanála. The report into the Public Engagement Process to date is uploaded on the website here: www.ardee2040.ie.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford

Louth County Council were awarded Category 2 funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) in June 2020 to provide for the development of a project 'Living in Carlingford – Visiting Carlingford'.

This Project is designed to address improved placemaking in Carlingford, a unique townscape dating back to a medieval walled town of the 12th century. The proposals have developed design solutions for enhancing the quality of the village for residents and promoting economic and employment opportunities commensurate with sustainable tourism.

The main objectives are:

- Improving the key area of arrival in Carlingford
- Public realm improvements to streets and spaces within the historic wall townscape
- The development of a traffic management plan
- Development of a cohesive signage and orientation plan
- Management of Casual Trading pitches

RPS were appointed as consultants in 2021 to lead a multi-disciplinary design team through stages 1 and 2. A Public Consultation Day was held in November 2021 to gather information to inform the project.

Initial findings

- Market Square acts as an important node or meeting point for social interaction
- The public tennis courts/ carpark /open space are opportunity sites with potential for redevelopment.
- The main road (R173) disconnects the town from the harbour and acts as a movement barrier
- The town would benefit from a gateway or landing space so that visitors can orientate themselves.
- The town is lacking a multi-use recreation space that could be used for events large and small
- The village core is very car dominated.
- There is limited car parking in the town and surrounding area

Three character areas were selected to look at in more detail:

- Gateway
- Town square
- Recreation zone



Car usage and car parking have been identified by both the public and consultants as a problem for Carlingford. A traffic management strategy has been drawn up which includes additional parking at an alternative site. A preferred site has been selected for a new car park and the relocation of the public tennis courts.

This project will now seek planning permission with the intention of being on public display and available for public consultation in April 2023.

Additional projects

Town Centre First - Dunleer Town Masterplan

The consultants are finalising the masterplan's framework and the key themes/interventions. A stage 2 report presenting these key themes/interventions will be presented by consultants in April.

Clogherhead Regeneration Masterplan

The process to appoint urban design consultants is due to commence in early April with the uploading of tender documents to the eTenders website.

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

Groundworks for the new outdoor dining facility are complete on site. The new tensile fabric canopy was installed in December 2022 with the new resin bound gravel finish completed in January 2023. Snags are ongoing and the facility will be open in April.



St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Draft reports for the Part 8 Planning process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza have been received by the Consulting Archaeologists and Conservation Architects Grade 1 ahead of Pre planning departmental consultation in the coming weeks. The AA Screening Assessment report has also been received for St Laurence's Gate plaza



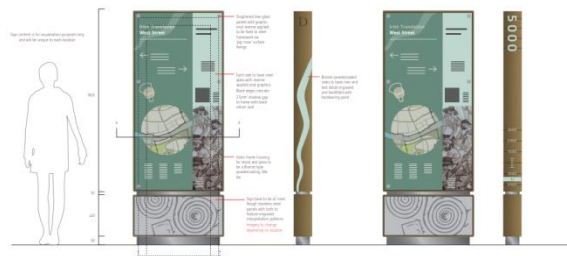
Cross Departmental Projects

St Peter's Hill PEACE IV

The Place Making team have been supporting the Economic Development Department with the delivery of Peace IV projects. A new meeting and assembly space has been designed for St Peters Hill. The project is nearing completion with the installation of seating and additional planting to be completed in the coming weeks.

Destination Town, Drogheda - LCC/ Failte Ireland

The Signage, Wayfinding and Public Realm works contract has commenced on site. The manufacture of the bespoke signage and wayfinding features also commenced with agreed historic and heritage information for individual signs and locations.



Play Spaces

Tender documents for three play space sites in the villages of Collon, Termonfeckin and upgrade of the playground in St Dominic's Park, Drogheda were published on eTenders/ OJEU in February 2023. Tender responses were returned for Collon and St. Dominic's Park in March 2023 and are now being assessed. Tender returns for Termonfeckin are due back in April 2023.

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

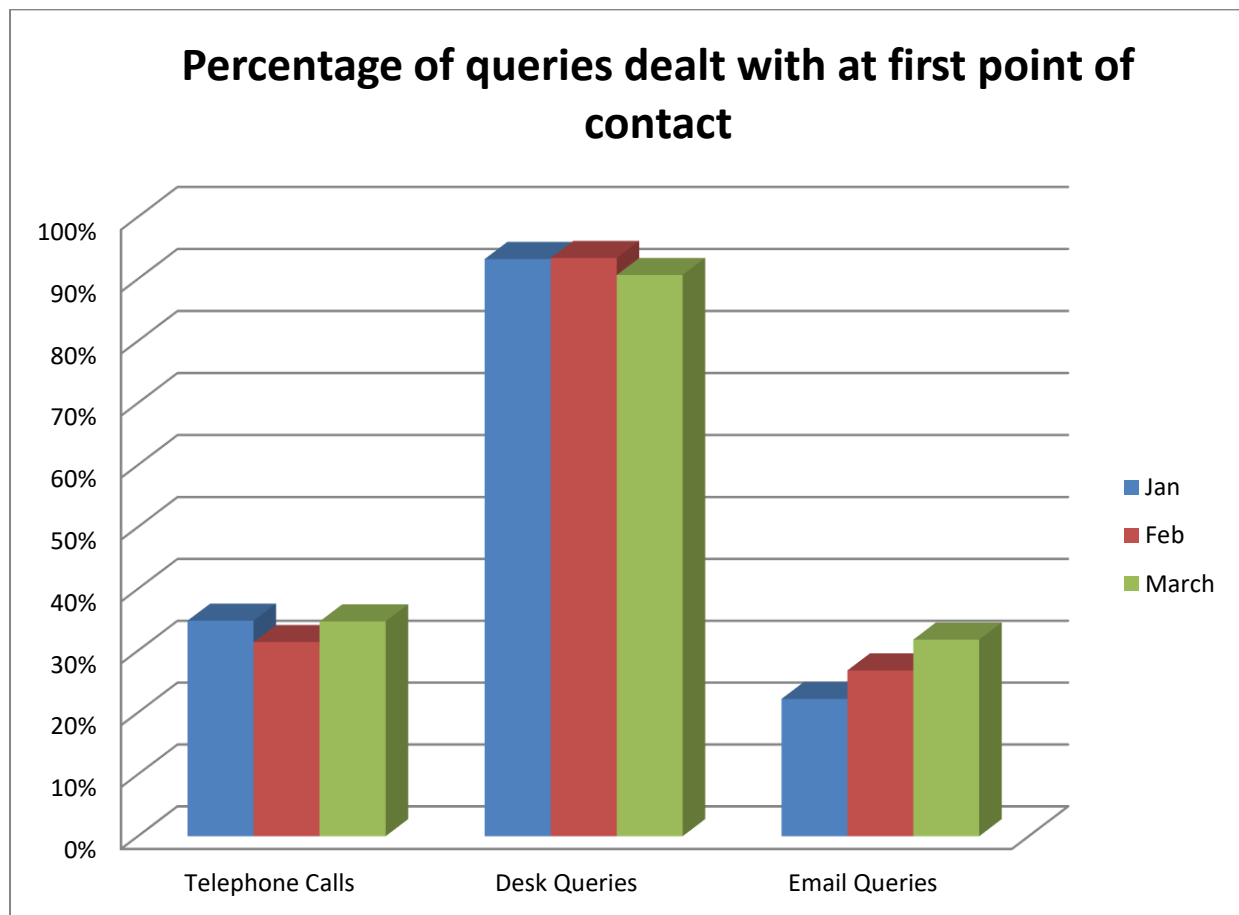
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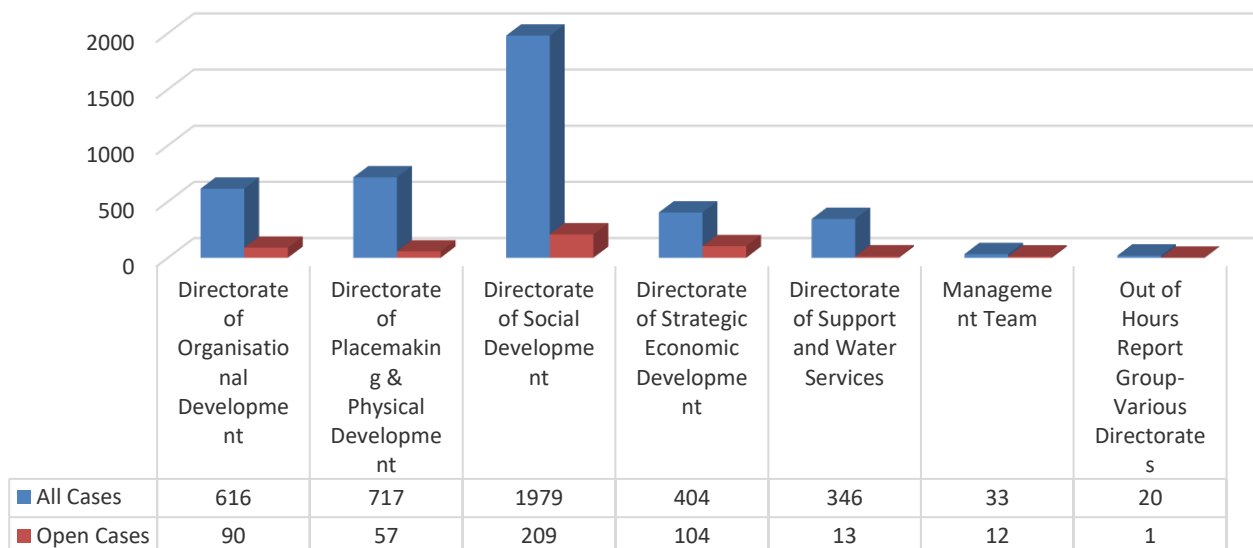
Customer Services Report

During the month of March 2023 Customer Services dealt with queries 8,729 calls, 1,381 e-mails and 5,194 counter queries.



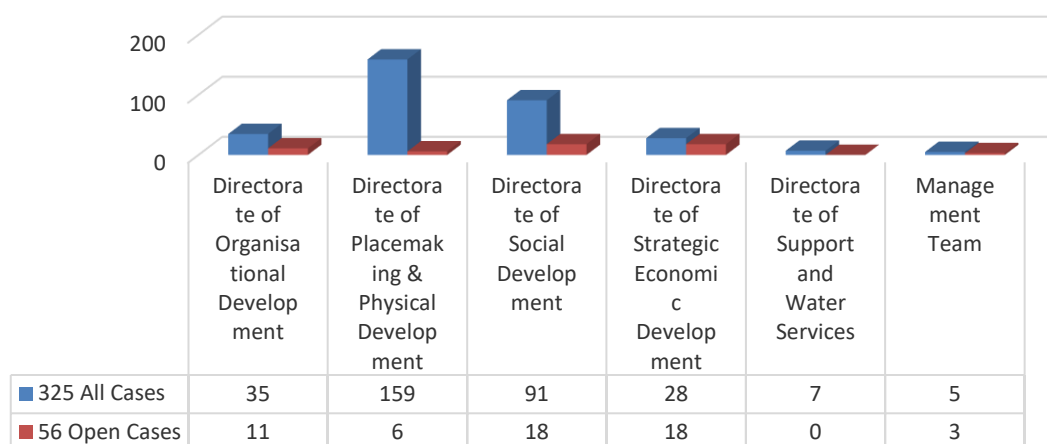
There were 4,115 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during March of which 486 (12%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in March and still open at 31st of March 2023



During March 2023, 325 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 56 (17%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:

Elected Rep Cases Created in March and still open at 31st March 2023



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Requests Received	Same period 2022 (JAN-MAR 2022)	2023 Total (JAN-MAR)	FEB 2023 (Month of MARCH only)
Freedom of Information	32	32	15
Data Protection Request	0	1	0
Data Subject Access Request	1	0	0
Access to Information on Environment	3	5	2
Ombudsman Complaints	3	5	2
LCC Complaints Policy	11	9	1

Electoral Register

The Franchise Section sent out approximately 850 letters on the 28th March to electors for details, including eircodes, dates of birth and PPSNs. On receipt of this information the Franchise Section will input all the details which will help us to increase the accuracy of the electoral register for County Louth. This will include ensuring that the elector is voting in the correct Polling District.

The Franchise Section continues to input all new electors and make amendments to elector's details, on receipt of application forms. There has been a notable increase in applications due to the recent announcement of a Referendum which will take place in late November.

We are encouraging all electors to log on to www.checktheregister.ie to ensure their details are correct. Electors can update and amend their details via the website.

Copies of the application forms can also be downloaded from www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/electoral-register/ and sent to: Franchise Section, Louth County Council, County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth. A91 KFW6 or emailed to register@louthcoco.ie

Waste

Summary of Complaints

A total of 35 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in March 2023, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 91 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in Mar 2023	Total Received in 2023
Air & Noise	12	32
Farm	2	4
Waste/C&D	16	37
Water Quality	5	18

Waste Management

A total of 16 complaints were received in March 2023 relating to Waste and Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste. All complaints relating to waste were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

Anti-dumping Initiative

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) announced that funding is available through the WERLA's to support Local Authorities in the 2023 Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI). The 2023 ADI aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping by identifying and delivering projects aimed

at tackling illegal dumping ‘black spots’ throughout the County and promote key measures of prevention, abatement, education and awareness and enforcement. The DECC continues to strongly encourage innovative projects, which recognise waste as a resource that can be repurposed for use in a Circular Economy.

Projects are in the process of being finalised and applications for funding are invited up to 14th April 2023.

Waste Facility Permits & Certificate of Registration

One transfer Waste Facility Permit application along with one technical amendment is being reviewed by the Waste Management Team in March 2023. Currently there are 25 Waste Facility Permits and there are 4 Certificates of Registration (COR) in operation in Co. Louth.

Litter Enforcement

A total of 25 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued in the month of March. Of these FPNs, 3 were issued in the Dundalk urban area, 10 in Drogheda urban area and 12 in the remaining County wide area.

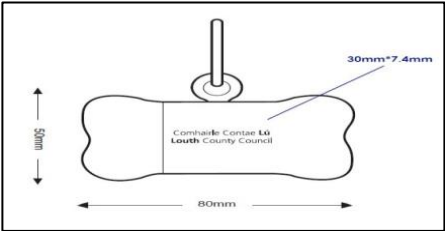
There have been 347 litter investigations completed to date in 2023 with 115 carried out in the month of March. There have been 95 litter FPNs issued in the year to date.

Dog Fouling

Louth County Council Litter Wardens are actively patrolling well known dog walking routes. The Litter Team has ordered dog fouling bag dispensers, and these will be handed out free of charge to members of the public during foot patrols from April through the summer months. The Litter Wardens are also increasing education / awareness in popular dog walking areas by erecting signs, placing stickers on bins and dog stencils on footpaths. Recent areas covered by wardens include Dublin Road Dundalk, Chapel Street & Broughton Street Dundalk and Gyles Quay.



Dog Bag Dispenser



Diesel Laundering Waste

5 IBC's (bulk containers) containing laundered diesel sludge were dumped at various locations in the county during the month of March 2023 with an associated removal cost of €7,488.92. So far in 2023 there have been 11 IBC's dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of approximately €17,500.00.



Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning

The Waste Management Act (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 allows farmers as a last resort, to dispose of green waste by burning i.e. untreated/uncontaminated wood, trees, tree trimmings, leaves and brush or other similar waste generated by agricultural practices. On 27th January 2023, regulations were signed to provide for an extension to the exemption which expired on 1 January 2023, until 28th February 2023.

The exemption will then be reopened for a final three-month period from 1st September 2023 to 30th November 2023 to allow the agricultural sector deal with untreated/uncontaminated waste accumulated in the interim.

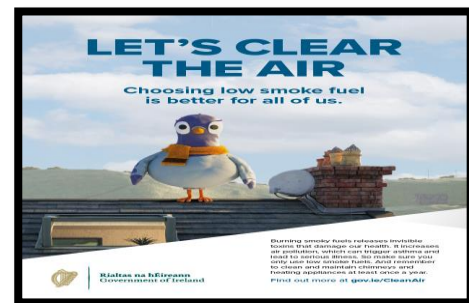
Air / Water / Noise Pollution

There were 7 water quality and farm complaints. Received in March which were investigated and Followed up with appropriate actions.

There were 3 Air Pollution complaints and 9 Noise Pollution complaints received and investigated during March 2023.

The [Solid Fuel Regulations for Ireland \(S.I. 529 of 2022\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e3da2-air-quality/), came into effect on 31st October and the primary focus of these regulations is on improving air quality and improving people's health chances and outcomes, by restricting the retail, online and commercial sale of smoky fuels, including smoky coal, turf and wet wood. These fuels are proven to be a major contributor to air pollution in Ireland. The FAQs about the new regulations for retailers/ Producers/haulage companies/households:-

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e3da2-air-quality/>



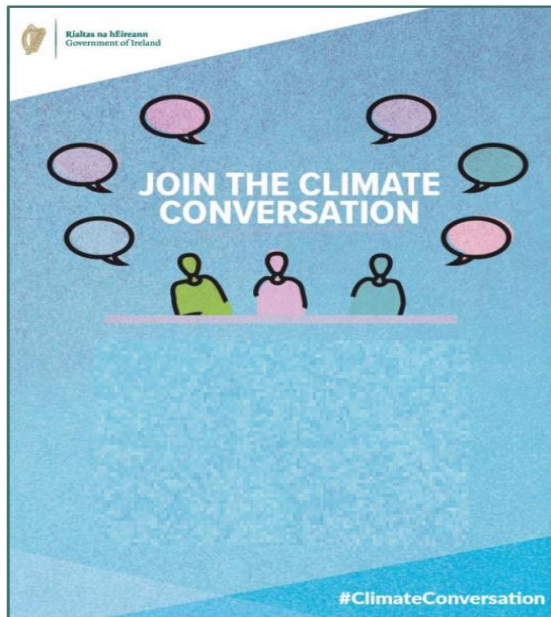
Bathing Water

Results for all the monitoring samples taken at the four designated beaches in 2022 are available on www.beaches.ie.

The sampling programme for 2023 at these designated beaches will be undertaken between the 1st June and 15th September. In line with the Bathing water Regulations all identified beaches and monitoring calendars for summer 2023 have been reported to the EPA in March 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.

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

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

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

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

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

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

Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

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

The Climate Action Team 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.

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



Figure: Climate Adapt 2022

The Community Climate Action fund was launched by Minister Ryan. Training around state and administering this fund was attended by the climate coordinator. A Community climate action officer, Fiona Lennon has been appointed to deliver this funding.

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.



Figure: Ukraine Appeal, V&W Centre Dundalk

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

Education and Awareness Initiatives

V & W helped sponsor the ‘St. Patrick’s Day Parade’ and spread the word about Recycling as there was a Green/Environmental theme to this year’s parade.

As National Spring Clean Month (April) approaches we are promoting and encourage members of the public to actively participate and take responsibility for their environment.

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’s Education Officers continue to work with Tidy Towns groups and Community groups promoting the benefits of recycling.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council’s energy efficiency at the end of 2021 was 47.84% against its baseline year of 2009, according to SEAI’s Annual Report for Public Sector Bodies for 2021. This was achieved by training our staff, upgrading our building stock and facilities to be more efficient, better monitoring and targeting of

energy waste and using renewable energy technologies. The energy reporting process for energy consumption for 2022 is now in progress. The final deadline for uploading data is Fri 28th April.

Gap-To-Target Plan to 2030

Council staff are progressing energy works as part of the Council's Energy Action Plan for 2022. In addition, Council staff are undertaking energy audits to identify suitable energy projects for the Council's 2023 Energy Action plan. Those works form part of the Gap to Target Plan to 2030. That plan involves the identification of multi-annual energy efficiency works to achieve 51% reduction in Carbon emissions by 2030. The improvements will focus on our highest energy users, and be determined by energy emission savings, and project return period for capital investment. The Council uses SEAI's Gap to Target online tool to assist in that work, supported by the SEAI-appointed Partnership Support Manager.



Varcities H2020 Funded Project

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'. Louth County Council manages the project for the 'Dundalk Pilot'.

Project partners met in Skellefteå, Sweden on Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March at the occasion of the 5th progress meeting. Representatives from the seven cities and 17 organisations that compose VARCITIES' consortium met face to face to review the progress made in the project over the past six months and discuss the implementation of the different visionary solutions developed in VARCITIES' seven Pilots. Currently, in its third year, the project is halfway through its co-implementation phase.



At present the project is approaching construction stage. The Council has engaged a Quantity Surveying firm to advise on estimated cost and likely project duration for the work proposed.

Optimising Power @ Work – Service Level Agreement

Louth County Council is a long-standing participant in the Optimising Power @ Work campaign having signed a Service Level Agreement in 2014. The energy conservation campaign is predominately a behavioural change programme and we have continued to make significant progress over the course of 2022.

Combined Energy Savings in 2022 for the Town Hall and County Hall Buildings since joining the Optimising Power @Work programme are illustrated in the graphics below.



SEAI - Better Energy Communities Grant 2022 and 2023

The Council partnered with Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community for their grant application for funding for energy projects in 2022. The Council through its Climate Change and Energy Strategic Policy committee agreed to develop a Policy to support Sustainable Energy Committees. It is hoped to expand on previous work done with SECs, such as the established partnership with Dunleer

Sustainable Energy Community to seek to develop a more coordinated approach to promotion and participation in SEAL's Community Energy Grant Programme.

SEAI has approved a grant offer of €66,030.20 for Council energy projects at the Council's Archives building and at Dundalk Fire Station. Those projects form part of the Council's Energy Action Plan for 2022 and must be completed and the grant claimed not later than November 2023 to meet the conditions of the grant offer.



Louth County Council Sports Facilities Dundalk Sports Centre

Development Basketball

DSC Development Basketball, a collaboration project between the centre and the Dundalk Ravens, has had continued success this month. Participation levels continue to grow, not to mention the development of the players! The programme is designed for teenagers who want to develop their basketball skills, either for their own enjoyment or to progress to competitive basketball. However, numbers have now been capped and new participants will be added to a waiting list.

Development basketball will also be hosting an Easter Camp. Details of which can be seen on the poster below



Strength & Balance:

It has been fantastic to see the strength & balance class continue to grow at such a rapid pace. The feedback from the participants has been extremely positive. Due to demand a new beginner's class has had to be added to the timetable. Although, this class is for referrals only.



Sister Sister Club

The social programme for teenage girls has changed things up slightly this month. The girls have been asking to try new sports, so the coaches have introduced some multisport games, American Football games and Futsal. The feedback so far has been amazing.



Mindful Dance

Our mindful dance programme started as a four week trial, but has proven to be very popular so is now running every Monday from 11.30am – 12.30pm for adults with intellectual disabilities.



Walk Ins

We have availability for walk in's throughout the week for Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, Basketball and Pickleball



Lourdes Stadium

Bootcamp

Lourdes Stadium second Outdoor Bootcamp for 2023, delivered by Lourdes Stadium staff, commenced on Tuesday 7th March 2023 and will run for 6 weeks every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-6pm until the 13th April. The bootcamp is at capacity and sure to be enjoyed by all. Sessions consist of both strength and cardio exercises which are tailored to suit all fitness levels to ensure everyone benefits over the 6 weeks.



Lourdes Stadium 6 Weeks Outdoor Bootcamp

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2023

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

Safeguarding

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	April 13 th at 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	April 27 th at 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	May 11 th at 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	May 25 th at 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	June 8 th at 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	June 22 nd at 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	July 6 th at 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	July 27 th at 6:30pm	Online

Disability Inclusion

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

First Aid

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
First Aid Online	May 16 th 2023 at 6:30pm	Online

Coaching Teenage Girls

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport	October 25 th 2023 at 6:30pm	Online

Volunteer Support Workshops

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Dealing with Difficult Behaviour	May 25 th 2023 at 6:30pm	Online

Involving & Managing volunteers with additional support needs	October 19 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Social Media for Community Groups	November 23 rd 2023 6:30pm	Online

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

Federation of Irish Sport – Volunteer in Sport Awards 2022.

The Federation of Irish Sport has announced the winners of the 2022 Volunteers in Sport Awards proudly supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships. The County Louth award for 2022 has been awarded to Olivia Wall of Roche Emmets GFC.

The Volunteers in Sport Awards celebrate the contributions of the band of volunteers across the country who give their time to Irish sport and physical activity every year.

Olivia Wall of Roche Emmets GFC, has been volunteering for more than 5 years. Olivia is a member of the Healthy Club Committee in the club and has a strong desire for all children to be part of the GAA family. Due to Covid, many resources for children with additional needs were cut back and this meant that families were finding it more difficult.

Olivia wanted to change this and developed the 'Roche All Stars Inclusion Group' which was the first of its kind in Louth.

The group was open to anyone across Louth and children came from all different clubs to be part of it. The 'All Star' group has given the children unbelievable enjoyment and has helped the parents to be able to meet and chat with one another. Olivia's initiative has made such a difference to the lives of many and has opened up the minds and hearts of the community.

Throughout December and January members of the public, sports clubs and governing bodies were invited by the Federation of Irish Sport in partnership with the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships to nominate an individual whose contribution to sport and physical activity in Ireland has made a real difference to their community, club or county. Following a shortlisting process by the Selection Committee, the judging panel consisting of 9 individuals drawn from sports administration, academia, the volunteer community and media, and included former Director General of the GAA, Paraic Duffy, RTÉ broadcaster, Marie Crowe and Declan Jordan, Senior Lecturer in Economics at UCC.



Olivia Wall Roche Emmets winner of Volunteer in Sports Award.



HER Moves Campaign launched

Staff from Louth LSP was delighted to attend the launch of Sport Ireland's HER Moves campaign in the Sport Ireland National Sports Campus.

Her Moves, a new national campaign, speaks to inactive teenage girls or those at risk of drop out, reframing what sport is, opening their eyes to more opportunities and encourages girls to embrace sport and physical activity – sharing their experiences with friends. The campaign is also aimed at those who influence teenage girls and who can support them in being more active – parents, teachers, coaches and service providers.

The campaign is an expression of the insights unearthed in the Sport Ireland, Adolescent Girls Get Active Research Report, released in 2021 which looks at a deep exploration of the lives, behaviours and attitudes to sport, of teenage girls aged 13-18 in rural and urban settings.

The Her Moves campaign will see the creation of the Her Moves Online Hub. This is a resource for girls, parents, teachers and providers. As the campaign evolves the site will come to life with videos, demos, success stories and content aimed at supporting each target audience. Tackling the topics that truly matter to teenage girls, helping to build confidence and empower them to give it a try.



Small Club Grant Scheme – Now Open!

Louth Sports Partnership are pleased to announce a Small Club Grant Scheme (€1,500 maximum per club) for New & Current local sports clubs in Louth to increase and support participation in sporting activities in County Louth.

Louth Sports Partnership aims to support volunteers and develop opportunities for people to participate in organised sport. This small scale grant aims to support initiatives to increase participation levels in Sport & Physical Activity. Proposed initiatives should attract new members and ideally enhance ongoing participation. This grant also supports the set up of new clubs and assists existing clubs with initiatives to increase participation. Maximum Grant Awarded – €1,500.

For more information email Louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or call 042-9324318.



Easter Camp for Children in Ardee Pop up Pool
Swim Ireland in partnership with Louth Local Sports Partnerships is delighted to offer opportunities for children to participate in Swimming this Easter in the Pop up Pool in Ardee.

The camps will run on the following dates and times;
Week 1 - 3rd to 7th April (Monday to Friday)
Week 2 - 11th to 15th April (Tuesday to Saturday)
Age Groups:
6-8 YRS - 11AM -12PM
8-10 YRS - 12PM - 1PM
10-12 YRS - 1PM - 2PM

To book places please visit the website below;
<https://www.swimireland.ie/get-swimming/pop-up-pool/ardee>
For more information please email popuppool@swimireland.ie



Fitness Bootcamp and Couch 2 5k programmes in Dundalk Sports Centre

Louth Local Sports Partnership is delighted to launch two Spring programmes in Dundalk Sports Centre to support the local community to get active and improve their Fitness. The Fitness Bootcamp and Couch 2 5k programmes are suitable for all

levels of ability and fitness and are a great way to socialise while doing some exercise.

For more information email

Louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or call 042-9324318



Level 1 Sport Leaders Award

Louth Local Sports Partnership will deliver its first Level 1 Sports leader Award of 2023 in April in Dundalk Sports Centre. This Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership provides an ideal starting point for learners aged 13 to 17 years who wish to develop their leadership skills, whilst under the direct supervision of a Sport Ireland qualified Tutor. The syllabus is designed to develop generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and physical activity setting as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner.

The Level 1 Award in Sports leadership is a practical award in which learners must demonstrate their ability to lead others in basic sports and physical activities. This is done through guided tutor fun practical activities over 4 days for 5.5 hours per day.

On completion of the guided hours, participants must also log a minimum of a one hour demonstration of leadership in order to receive their award.

Next Course:

Dundalk Sports Centre April 11th – 14th 2023 (9:30am – 4:30pm)

For more information email

Louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or call 042-9324318.



Community Development

LEADER Programme

LEADER Programme 2023-2027: Request for Tenders were sought from suitably qualified companies to undertake research, consultation and facilitation towards the drafting of the Co Louth Local Development Strategy (LDS). Closing date for receipt of tenders was 28th March, 2023.

Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER 2014-2022 Programme:-

Promoter	Amount
Louth Local Development CLG Innovating communities – Designing our future Training Ref: 110690	€42,394.74
Ardee & District Community Trust Our Tomorrow is Today Ref: 115831	€10,000

On completion of the guided hours, participants must also log a minimum of a one hour demonstration of leadership in order to receive their award.

Next Course:

Dundalk Sports Centre April 11th – 14th 2023 (9:30am – 4:30pm)

For more information email

Louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or call 042-9324318.



Community Development

LEADER Programme

LEADER Programme 2023-2027: Request for Tenders were sought from suitably qualified companies to undertake research, consultation and facilitation towards the drafting of the Co Louth Local Development Strategy (LDS). Closing date for receipt of tenders was 28th March, 2023.

Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER 2014-2022 Programme:

Promoter	Amount
Louth Local Development CLG Innovating communities – Designing our future Training Ref: 110690	€42,394.74
Ardee & District Community Trust Our Tomorrow is Today Ref: 115831	€10,000
St. Mary's GFC Community Astroturf Upgrade Ref: 117153	€27,488.31
Lannleire Pavilion CLG Main Hall Upgrade Ref: 117629	€40,859.99
Fit is an Attitude Ltd T/A The Juice Works Production and Storage Expansion Ref: 115464	€21,668.18
Dromiskin Tidy Towns Boosting Biodiversity in Dromiskin Ref: 117508	€13,270.98
St. Brides GFC Community Walkway Extension Ref: 117593	€7,107.93
Total	€162,790.13

Older People's Council

The Older Peoples Council provides a platform for older people to actively participate in their community. Louth Older People's Council held a meeting in the D Hotel Drogheda on 14th February 2023. OPC members were treated to a wonderful classical concert by The Ukrainian Chamber Salon Ensemble. This is a family of Ukrainian musicians who moved to Ireland last year after the start of the war. They performed a selection of musical pieces for the assembled members of the OPC.

Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Strategy/Forum

A meeting of the Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Strategy forum was scheduled for Ardee Civic Offices on 30th March 2023 but could not take place as no quorum was in place. A new date has been set for April.

Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2022 and preparation of New Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2029.

The review process of the 2016-2022 plan has commenced. The LECP Advisory Committee has been established and consultants have been engaged to assist with the delivery of the new plan. The LCDC have signed off on the community element of the high-level goals and the Economic Support SPC have done similar on the economic element of the high-level goals. That joint meeting was held on Monday 20th March 2023. This will be followed by a comprehensive public consultation process will commence on the high level goals for

the new LECP. Details of this consultation process will be circulated once agreed.



Healthy Louth Newsletter

Healthy Louth have designed a monthly newsletter with the first edition due to be released the first week in April.

The Healthy Louth Newsletter will be a resource that will signpost to various health and wellbeing information / programmes and events happening across Louth each month. The content of the newsletter will incorporate Healthy Ireland themes including:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sexual Health
- Spaces & Places for Health and Wellbeing
- Tobacco & Alcohol
- Older People
- Workplace Wellbeing

The monthly newsletter will be sent out via the PPN direct mailing list as well as via the Friday Communiqué. The Healthy Louth Coordinator will also utilise the Council's social media platforms including @louthcoco Twitter, PPN and Louth Local Sports Partnership (LLSP) Facebook pages in order to extend the reach. In addition, the Healthy Louth Newsletter will also issue monthly via a direct e-mail to all staff for both personal use and were relevant within the remit of their role to signpost customers.

If you have anything you would like included in the Healthy Louth newsletter please send it on to the Healthy Ireland Coordinator for Louth; Paula Keenan at healthylouth@louthcoco.ie

Healthy Louth at the Dundalk Parkrun.

Healthy Louth had a lovely morning at the Dundalk Parkrun on Saturday 25th March. There was a great

atmosphere and even the sun made an appearance. On the day there was 111 fabulous park runners and walkers, including 20 first timers.

Healthy Louth was delighted to have been able to attend and provided some well-deserved Healthy Louth goodies to all who took part. Healthy Louth would like to say a big thank you to the organisers for inviting Healthy Louth along and for all the hard work and determination that has gone into making the Dundalk Parkrun the success that it is.



Participants at Dundalk Parkrun

International Women's Day (IWD) 8th March 2023

The world came together on the 8th March to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). International Women's Day (IWD) provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women and reinforces a commitment to women's equality. IWD is also a time to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The Community Office within Louth County Council wanted to recognise the outstanding contribution made by many of the inspirational women of Louth and for that reason a number of well-known inspirational women living or working in Co Louth from different social, economic & cultural communities in Co Louth were invited to take part in the celebrations.

This included women in education, women in local government, young women, older women, women living with a disability, women from migrant

communities and women working in their respective community groups who are all contributing positively to their communities.

All the women taking part in the celebrations were issued with a set of questions asking them about International Women's Day, how they would celebrate International Women's Day? Who were the women who had inspired them in their life to date? And what advice would they give their younger self or young people in general?

Responses were then cumulated into a number of short videos and released over the course of the week on the council's social media platforms @louthcoco on Twitter and on the Louth County Council website (louthcoco.ie)

Louth County Council **Community Team** would like to say a big thank you to all the inspirational women who agreed to take part in the celebration. You are amazing.

- Eilin Casey, Manager Lifestyle Development Co.
- Andrea Connolly, Manager Cuidigh Linn
- Joan Martin, Chief Executive Louth County Council
- Nicola McDonnell, Irish Wheelchair Association
- Flora Okobi, Coordinator, Culture Connect
- Dr Niamh Shaw, Scientist, STEAM Artist, Engineer, Writer
- Ejiro Stratton, Manager Hands 4 Unity
- Bernadine Quinn, Outcomers



International Womens Day @louthcoco

PPN

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN held its third Secretariat Meeting of 2023 on March 15th in Ardee. The Secretariat (whose members are nominated from different community groups representing the 3 electoral pillars and the 3 Municipal Districts of Louth) is the administrative body of Louth PPN and carries out the decisions of the Plenary, over-seeing the day-to-day work of Louth PPN.

Municipal District Meetings

Louth PPN's Municipal District meetings took place across the County on the following dates:

- Drogheda (The Barbican Centre), February 22nd
- Dundalk (Creative Spark), March 1st
- Ardee (The DeeHub), March 8th



Members at the Qtr1 M.D. Meeting in Ardee

The Municipal District Meetings are an opportunity for community groups to network and connect with other groups working in their area while gaining an insight into the work of the PPN from the previous 12 months and into the next 12-24 months based on the current 2023 & 2024 Action-Plan.

Plenary Meeting

The Plenary Meeting took place in The Barbican Centre in Drogheda on March 15th.

The Plenary Meeting was an important event in the PPN calendar as the 2023 Budget and the 2023 & 2024 Work-plan were ratified. These documents will form the basis of the work of Louth PPN for the

following 12 - 24 months. Other highlights of the Plenary Meeting included the ratification of the roles of the following PPN Representatives sitting on the Secretariat:

- David Larkin, disABILITY Louth - Community, Quality of Life & Creativity SPC
- Lorna Costelloe, Outcomers -PEACE Plus committee
- Kevin Moran – Dundalk Youth Centre
- Bernadine Quinn – Outcomers
- Carol Murphy – SOSAD
- Pat McVeigh – Failte Abhaile
- Flora Okobi – Culture Connect
- Gerry McAlinden – Carlingford Lough Heritage
- Damien McKenna – Mid-Louth Youth Services
- Alan McArdle – Faughart Community Group



Members at Qtr1 Plenary Meeting – Drogheda

The draft Community Well-Being Statement was also ratified and is now in place.

Training

The following training courses have been organised through Louth PPN:

Writing Effective Funding Applications – March 14th:

Key topics:

- Writing funding applications
- Grant application process
- Avoiding failure
- Theory of change

- How to write a Needs Statement
- Project budgets
- Collating supporting documents
- Funder selection criteria
- Monitoring and reporting

Charities Governance Compliance Training – March 29th, April 12th, April 26th, May 10th, May 24th, June 7th:

Consists of 6 training sessions, 1 every 2 weeks focusing on each of the 6 principles of Charities Governance per session. Also included is a post-training one-to-one online session (30-60 minutes) with the course facilitator to run through any residual difficulties the participating group may have encountered with ensuring compliance.

Thematic Projects

The themes of the Louth PPN's 2023 projects will be as follows:

- Youth
- Intercultural Sports
- Community Peer Mentoring
- Environmental

These projects are progressing, and further details will follow in the coming weeks and months.

Annual Income & Expenditure Report for 2022

This document has been completed, signed by Louth PPN's Secretariat and Louth County Council and been issued to the DRCD.

Louth EU_SHAFE Report

The final event for the EU_SHAFE Project, Europe Enabling Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments, was held in Bilbao 20th – 22nd March. The event was attended by stakeholders and partners from across Europe.

Gráinne Cumiskey, Project Co-Ordinator (Louth) made a presentation at the final event – Addressing Ageism in County Louth.



Sinead McVerry – Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager

Louise Edmonds Age Friendly Ireland, Grainne Cumiskey Project Co-Ordinator, Damon Berry, John McGrory, Claudia Rivera TU Dublin

Community Support

Green Schools Assessments 2023

The community support team completed their assessment visits to green schools during March. 11 schools were assessed and, if successful, will be invited to attend an awards ceremony to receive their green flag. The ceremony is due to be held in the City North Hotel on 24th May.



Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Kilkenny, Green schools committee with "Melody and Bubbles", their Junk Art project made using recycled materials that they collected

National Tree Week 19th-26th March

The community support team were busy supporting National Tree week during March. 400 trees were distributed to groups throughout the county, from the

community/voluntary sector and to some green schools. Groups were also provided with a guide on the best way to plant a tree. Tree planting events are taking place throughout the week and groups have been asked to submit a photograph of their planting ceremony.

The Relove Fashion Competition

Louth County Council were represented by two schools in the final for this year's Relove fashion competition, which was held on 23rd March in the Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun. Congratulations to both schools for doing so well on reaching the finals in this all Leinster competition.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st March 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 thirty-three inspections in the year to date.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs impounded March 2023

Total dogs impounded	33
Seized under Section 16	1
Strays	18
Surrendered by owners	14
No dogs reclaimed by owners	8
No of dogs rehomed direct	12
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	14
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/03/2023	9

Dog Licences March 2023

No of Licences sold 443

Licence Checks:

House calls 210

Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days) 53

Fixed Penalty Notices 34

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments March 2023

Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/03/2023) 6

Hunt 2

Boarding Kennels 2

Training Kennels 1

Welfare 1

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses impounded March 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 31/03/2023 0

Louth County Council Dog Warden unit conducted a joint exercise with An Garda Síochána in north Louth over the Bank Holiday weekend, to remind owners and dog walkers of their responsibilities when walking in the Cooley Mountains, and rural areas in general, where sheep and other livestock may be present.

The exercise, which took place on Sunday 19th March, was part of an awareness raising campaign during lambing season, and all dogs entering the mountain area were scanned for microchips, which is a legal requirement.



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

Paddy Donnelly
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 February – 19th March 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20th February – 19th March 2023	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless	2	109	94	205
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	2	81	66	149
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	24	26	50
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	2	2	4
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	2	0	2

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	78
Female	48
Total	126

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	18
25-44	67
45-64	34
65+	7
Total	126

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	58
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	68
Total unique individuals	126

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	13	15	27
Total	13	15	27
Couples with dependent children in Louth	8	18	22
Total	8	18	22

Table 6 - Housing First

	County Louth
Number of tenancies established	34
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	27

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,102**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
303	1165	1637	3105

Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 -2027

Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 -2027 aims to facilitate disabled people to live independently and further enable equal access for disabled people to housing with integrated services. The Strategy includes targets for social housing provision to disabled people, measures for strengthening inter-agency collaboration to facilitate provision of housing and related supports in an aligned manner, actions to facilitate disabled people to continue living in their own homes and communities.

Up to 22nd March 2023, Louth County Council has made 19% of the overall allocations to disabled people. The housing allocations were made for the following types of disability; 9% physical disability, 0% sensory disability, 7% mental health disability and 3% intellectual disability of the overall allocations. 17 units of accommodation were provided to disabled people and consisted of 9 single storey dwellings (1 standard and 8 adapted) 2 apartments (2 adapted) and 6 standard two-storey dwellings. Collaboration with the HSE continues and meetings with the Louth Meath Mental Health Services and Louth Adult Physical and Sensory Disability Service were held to facilitate provision of housing and related supports to disabled people.

Housing Allocations up to 24th March, 2023

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	14	5	0	0
Drogheda	21	11	1	0
Dundalk	39	4	11	3
Total	74	20	12	3

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	2
Dundalk	6
Drogheda	1
Total	9

Housing List

February 2023	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	387	625	877	1889
HAP Transfer List	303	1165	1637	3105
Total Housing List	690	1790	2514	4994

There are **267** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **37** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **939**.

Current Rents Arrears as at 30 th March 2023	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	180	€68,920
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	150	€108,976
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	759	€2,689,002
TOTAL	1089	€2,866,898

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 29 th March 2023	Total
Ardee Municipal District	7
Dundalk Municipal District	14
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	23
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	44
Vacant Properties (CPO units not yet ready for occupation) (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	47

Currently **16** number social units are being used as temporary accommodation for homeless or emergency and are not included in the above figures.

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	1 st -29 th Mar 2023	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	685	1890
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	559	1517
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	96	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	30	102

Private Rental Inspections

	1 st - 29 th Mar 2023	Year to Date
Properties inspected monthly	14	117
Advisory Letters issued	12	78
Improvement Notices issued	0	3
Private Inspections	0	2
HAP Inspections	11	90
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	8
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	3	14
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	0	0
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	10	13

Tenancy Engagement

1 st March to 27 th March, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	20	1	30	51	96
Post-tenancy inspections	24	2	24	50	96
Tenancy Investigation Visits	19	6	20	45	150
Tenancy Investigations Remote	4	0	5	9	20

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st March to 27 th March, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases received	5	2	4	11	38
ASB cases Ongoing	3	2	6	11	34
ASB cases complete	11	2	6	19	31

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st March to 27 th March, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	2	0	2	4	10
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	0
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	1	1	4

Local Authority Home Loans

2023 Budget Allocation	€8,030,000
LAHL Approvals at 28/03/2023	€1,117,800

Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 28th March, 2023.	
Total number of Applications at 31/01/2023	25
LAHL carried over from 2022	5
Invalid/Returned	5
Approved	6
Declined	7
For review	10
Outstanding – waiting on further information	2

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

The following grants are available:

- Housing Adaptation Grants – to assist with carrying out works for the purpose of rendering a home more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability.
- Mobility Aids Grants – to assist with carrying out works for persons with mobility problems in the home.
- Housing for Older People – to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.

The Council is currently waiting for confirmation from the Department on Louth County Council's 2023 funding allocation for Private House Grants.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Monthly Total
Applications completed 2022	42	17	175	234
Applications Received 01/03/2023 to 28/03/2023	14	0	23	37
Applications on hand 28/03/2023	310	17	215	542

Climate Action

The newly revised **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme** is now in the third year of a ten year programme which is expected to grow to meet the Programme for Government retrofit commitment. The new programme sees a significant up scaling (from 'shallow' to 'deep retrofit') on what has been completed by local authorities to date.

The Council has not received notification on the 2023 allocation for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme.

Housing Acquisitions

Louth County Council has received sanction from the Department to purchase HAP tenancy properties. Housing Acquisitions are actively engaging with HAP landlords that are selling their properties. Louth County Council is also acquiring properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability.

In March Louth County Council has purchased 4 properties.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Affordable Housing

Louth County Council are in discussions with several developers looking to bring affordable properties to the market in the coming months.

Discussions are at an early stage, and we are hopeful of a positive update in the coming weeks.

Vacant Homes

A survey of vacant homes in the county began in February resulting in 166 properties been inspected. 63 property owners have contacted the council with their proposals for each property. This is a positive outcome with these properties been brought back into use in the coming months.

Capital Housing Delivery

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	Stage 4 Approved	01/08/2024	3no. * 2 bed & 8no. * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2 - 4)	1/1	72	Stage 4 Approved	15/11/2024	27no. * 3 bed, 4no. * 4 bed, 8no. * 1 bed Apt, 25no. * 2 bed Apt & 8no. * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	Stage 4 Approved	15/11/2024	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	02/09/2024	2no. * 2 bed Apt, 2no. * 2 bed, 2no. * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	80	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	31/03/2024	1no. * 3 bed
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	29/09/2023	1no. * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	29/09/2023	1no. * 3 bed
Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth - Infill	1/1	6	On-site	24/11/2023	6no. * 3 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/6	11	On-site	03/05/2023	11 no. * 2 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/6	6	On-site	10/05/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.

Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/6	6	On-site	24/05/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	5/6	6	On-site	31/05/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	6/6	6	On-site	21/06/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	2/5	1	Completed	31/03/2023	1no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	3/5	1	On-site	30/09/2023	1no. * 3 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	4/5	9	Funding Approved	30/06/2024	4no. * 3 bed, 5no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	8	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	6no. * 3 bed, 2no. * 1 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	72	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	105	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	43	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	20	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed

CALF Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	1/2	5	On site	30/06/2023	2no. *2 bed Bungalow, 1no. * 3 bed Bungalow, 2no. *3 bed semi detached
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	2/2	6	On site	31/12/2023	2no. *3 bed Bungalow, 1no. *3 bed semi detached & 3no. *2 bed terraced houses
Newfoundwell Road, Drogheda Cluid Housing	2/2	39	On site	30/04/2023	12no.*1 bed apt & 27no.*2 bed apt
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	1/3	40	On site	31/07/2023	1no.*3 bed detached, 10no.*2 bed terraced, 14no.*3 bed semi detached & 15no.*3 bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	46	On site	30/9/2023	13no.*2 bed terraced, 18no.*3 bed semi detached & 15no.*3 bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	47	On site	30/03/2024	2no.*4 bed detached, 11no.*2 bed terraced, 1no.*3 bed detached, 22no.*3 bed semi detached & 11 no.*3 bed terraced
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	85	On site	31/08/2023	8no.*2 bed apt, 7no.*2 bed duplex, 24no.*3 bed duplex, 22no.*3 bed terraced, 22no.*2 bed terraced & 2no*4 bed terraced
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12	Funding approved	01/03/2024	12no.*3 bed house
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	1/2	49	On site	30/09/2023	18no.*1 bed apt, 7no.*3 bed duplex, 5no.*3 bed terraced, 5no.*2 bed apt & 14.no*2 bed duplex
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	2/3	24	On site	30/06/2023	6no.*1 bed apt, 8no.*2 bed apt, 6no.*2 bed terraced & 4no.*3 bed terraced

Donore Road Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	66	On site	30/9/2023	4 no.*1 bed apt, 54no.*2 bed apt & 8 no.*3 bed apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	3/3	59	On site	01/08/2023	30no.*1 bed apt, 11no.*2 bed apt & 18no.*3 bed duplex
Drybridge, Drogheda North & East Housing	1/1	16	On site	30/04/2023	2no.*3 bed apt, 10no.*2 bed apt & 4 no.*1 bed apt
Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	On site	29/03/2024	20no*1 bed apt 10no*2 bed apt
Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40	On Site	17/05/2024	31no*1 bed apt 9 no*2 bed apt
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North &East	1/1	17	On site	15/12/2023	7no*1 bed apt 7 no*2 bed apt 3no*3 bed apt
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	2/2	16	On site	30/9/2023	9no.*1 bed apt, 2no.*3 bed apt, 1no.*2 bed duplex & 4no.1*bed semi

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	03/06/2024	5no.* 2 Bed house, 1no.* 2 Bed ambulant unit, 1no.* 4 Bed Communal unit
10-16 The Alleys, St Peters Place, Drogheda	P McVerry	14	Stage 2 Approved	30/07/2024	14no.*Studio apartments
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/01/2025	19no.*1 Bed apartments 3no. *accessible units 8no. *Studio apartments
St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/09/2024	4no. *1 Bed units
Kincora House, 1-2 Seatown	P McVerry	8	Stage 1 approved	30/07/2024	8no.* 1 Bed apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Womens Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	02/09/2024	5no.* 1 bed apartments 7no.* 2 bed apartments
3 Paradise Place	P McVerry	4	Stage 1 approved	01/09/2024	4no.*1 Bed apartments

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The Co Archivist is assisting with the draft revisions for Community, Library, and Legal Services which are currently in progress and is working with staff in relation to same.

The IT draft NRP is currently out for comment with local authorities. To date, 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.

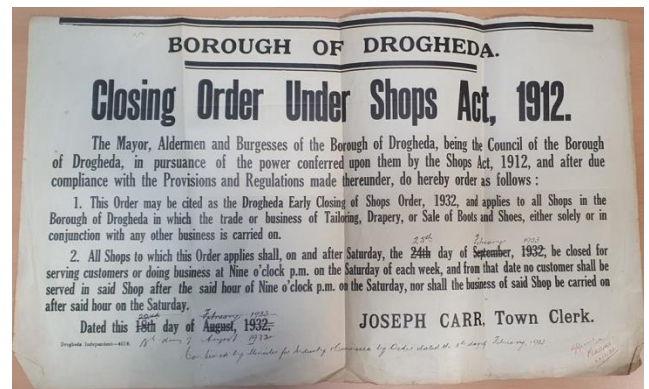
Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme

This Scheme is operated by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and is part of the Government's Action Plan for survivors and former residents. The scheme is due to open in June 2023 and central to it is a National

Centre for Research and Remembrance (NCRR) which will form part of the National Archives. It will be a centre with a space for survivors to research. The Co Archivist completed an audit for the National Archives' NCRR Archives sub-group in October and continues to receive updates from the sub-group and provide feedback as requested.

Local Studies and Archives Meeting

The Co Archivist along-with the Local Studies Librarian will attend the Local Studies and Archives meeting being held by Libraries Development in the LGMA at the end of March. The meeting will discuss issues in relation to a national programme under the new public library strategy for increasing digital access to cultural heritage.



Drogheda Corporation Closing Order under the Shops Act, 1912, dated 1933.

Research Enquiries

The service continues to receive a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics, professionals and state agencies. The Archivist also receives many internal enquiries from staff in various sections.

Donating Archives

The Service welcomes donations of archives and records from the public that relate to all aspects of the development of County Louth including material from community groups, clubs and societies, national schools, individuals, local organizations and local businesses. These collections make available

unique and valuable research sources for the study of Louth's heritage. If you have a collection that you would be willing to donate, or know of someone who would, please contact the County Archivist by email at archive@louthcoco.ie or by telephone at 042-9324358.

Climate Action

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

LIBRARIES

Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024

A Climate Action champion for each library branch has been appointed.



The My Open Library service has seen an incredible uptake since its reintroduction following the pandemic in Ardee and its launch in Drogheda late last year.

The My Open Library service is available from 8am – 10pm, 7 days per week, 365 days a year and provides access to the library outside of staffed hours for browsing, borrowing, studying, using IT equipment, or having a meeting.

For further details or to sign up for My Open Library, contact Ardee Library on 041 6859023 or Drogheda Library on 041 9876162



UCC Annual Library Seminar

Leona Burgess, Executive Librarian was invited to present at the UCC Annual Library Seminar on Monday the 6th of March. Leona spoke about our recent Louth Library Service Library of Sanctuary award. She shared our experience of the award application process, how we learned about the principles of sanctuary and how we embedded them within our organisation.



Leona Burgess, Katy Lumsden, Marilyn Clarke and Elaine Chapman.

Library of Sanctuary Award

Dundalk Library hosted a celebration on the 7th of March to celebrate Louth Library Service Library of Sanctuary award. Louth Library Service is the first in the country to gain this award for a library service, with the five branches and Schools Service gaining recognition. Louth County Council CE Joan Martin accepted the award from Tiffy Allen, National Co-

Ordinator Places of Sanctuary Ireland with Cathaoirleach Conor Keelan, Dundalk Sanctuary Ambassador Zakaria Osman Mohamed and library staff. This award recognises the good practice taking place in Louth Library Service and the contribution libraries make to building a community of welcome and sanctuary across County Louth, welcoming people seeking sanctuary and all new arrivals in the community.



Acting Co. Librarian Amanda Branigan, Senior Executive Librarian Linda Larrigan, Executive Librarian Leona Burgess, Dundalk Sanctuary Ambassador Zakaria Osman Mohamed, CE Joan Martin, Tiffy Allen, National Co-Ordinator Places of Sanctuary Ireland, Cathaoirleach Conor Keelan,

Creative Ireland



Fighting Words

Fighting Words project, funded by Creative Ireland's Legacy Grants, continues in Drogheda Library. As part of the final workshop and to coincide with the DkIT Spring Open Evening, all participants with the Fighting Words project will be given a guided tour and specific talks from the Head of Department of Creative Arts, Media and Music in DkIT.

This project is in partnership with Garda Anita O'Shea (Juvenile Liaison Officer, Drogheda), youth leaders and facilitators from Fighting Words.

eServices



The wide range of services include:

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

eServices information sessions are held every month in:

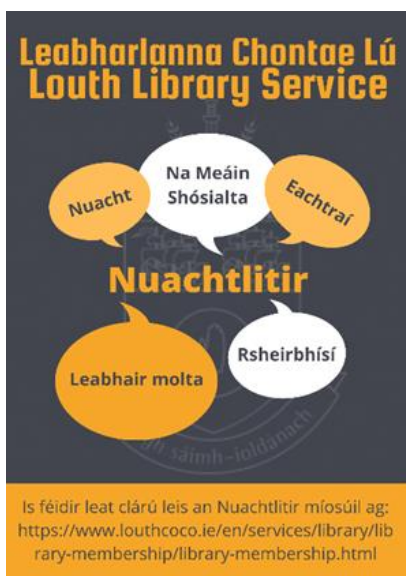
- Dundalk library on the last Friday of every month from 11am - 12pm,
- Drogheda Library on the last Thursday of every month from 2.30pm-3.30pm
- Ardee Library on the last Friday of every month 10.30am-11.30am

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



For all events and bookings please follow us on Facebook & Instagram by searching Louth Library Service. You will also find our events on Twitter under Louth County Council. Follow us on Tik Tok for all content regarding our collection and tutorials on how to access Borrow Box or the online catalogue.

Library Newsletter



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

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

Louth Library Primary Schools Service

The schools mobile is continuing to visit schools. Class sets/novels are available to borrow throughout the school year. Teachers can book a visit to the HQ Store in Dundalk from 3:30pm – 5pm Tuesday – Friday to view our full schools collection. For more information contact Orla on orla.muckian@louthcoco.ie

Sensory Library Service

Magic Table

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



Quiet time in Drogheda and Dundalk Libraries
 Monday 6pm – 7pm, Ardee Library Saturday 10am – 11am



Sensory area with dimmed lights



As well as a range of events for invited schools and ELC's all our library branches will be hosting public events such as Storytime sessions and Arts & Crafts.

For more on storytelling and children's literacy, see
Libraries Ireland website;
<https://www.librariesireland.ie/services/right-to-read/spring-into-storytime>

Spring Into Storytime



Spring into Storytime is part of the national Right to Read programme and runs throughout the month of April. The annual national storytelling initiative celebrates the importance of families reading together and sharing stories.

Louth Library Service has a host of events planned to help children and their families enjoy all the fun and excitement of reading.

Adult Events

Dundalk Library

Poetry Reading Group

Do you have an interest in reading, listening to, or discussing poetry? Come along to our new poetry reading group and meet some fellow poetry enthusiasts. The next meeting will be on April 14th at 11am. Everyone welcome.

Drogheda Library

Members of the public are invited to Drogheda Library on Wednesday 19th April 6pm-7.30pm for a cuppa, a chat and some LGBTQ+ book recommendations for all ages. All are welcome, no booking required.

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 at 2.30pm-4pm. Everyone is welcome.

Children's Events

Dundalk Library

- Friday 14th of April at 3pm
- Saturday 22nd of April at 3pm.

Drogheda Library

- Tuesday 11th April at 11.30am

- Storytime & Songs with Annemarie
- Saturday 15th April at 11.30am
Spring Crafts with Eileen & Eilish
- Saturday 22nd April at 11.30am
Storytime & Songs with Annemarie

Carlingford Library

- Storytime Friday 14th of April at 11am.

Dunleer Library

- Storytime Saturday 22nd of April at 11am.

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, first Wednesday of each month in Dundalk Library and the first Tuesday of each month in Drogheda Library.



Baby Book Club in Drogheda Library

Ciorcal Cómhrá / Irish Conversation first Tuesday of every month at 4pm in Dundalk and every Wednesday @1pm in Drogheda Library

Ar mhaith leat do chuid Gaeilge a úsáid nó a chleachtadh? Tá an Ciorcal Cómhrá i leabharlann Dhún Dealgan ar ais! Beidh sé ar siúl ar an gcéad Máirt chuile mhí ag 4 sa leabharlann. Tá sé dírithe ar dhaoine fásta ar mhaith leo an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim nó a úsáid.

Would you like to use or practice your Irish skills? The group is aimed at adults who would like to learn or practice Irish. For more information, contact Dundalk Library on 042 9353190. For more information, contact Drogheda Library on 041 987 6163



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

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin T.D., on behalf of the Government published the 2023 Decade of Centenaries Programme on March 23rd.

2023 will bring the Decade of Centenaries Programme (2012-2023) to a close, with the centenary of the admission of the Irish Free State to the League of Nations in September. The centenaries of some of the greatest atrocities of the Civil War will also occur, as well as the ending of the conflict. Key cultural and societal milestones will be marked, including the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Literature to Yeats in 1923.

Louth County Council have been successful in their funding to run a final year of programming. Highlights will include:

- Songs for the Nation, with County Museum Dundalk
- The Walls of History, by Louth Arts Service

- A seminar commemorating the Irish Civil War, with Louth Library Service
- A continuation of the work by the Louth Historian in Residence including publication of a research guide on Louth during the period and a series of talk and workshops.
- History Roadshow, a series of interactive talks and workshops for children and adults with Louth Library Service
- Future Historians of Louth, a collaborative programme between DkIT Humanities faculty and Louth Library Service
- Lasting Legacies, an online exhibition of archives relating to 1921-1923 period with Louth Archives Service.

Other Events



Let's Get Louth: The Louth Library Service Podcast will interview Climate Officer, Rory Sheehan and Louth County Council Heritage Officer Brendan McSherry for Earth Day 2023. To listen to this episode and more click here <https://anchor.fm/louth-libraries-podcast>

Creative Spark Project



Creative Spark project display in Dundalk Library

Louth Library Service is delighted to host the Creative Spark project which brings together fifteen local artists who have each created a unique handmade artist book in response to the collection at the Louth Archives under the theme of the "Decade of Centenaries". The project has been displayed in Dundalk Library on a large bookshelf shaped like a book. For the next part of the project the display will move to Drogheda Library where the community of Drogheda will have the opportunity to browse through each artist's book.

Cuchulainn Camera Club Exhibition

The Cuchulainn Camera Club is exhibiting their photography work in Dundalk Library from 15th to 29th of April. The club is a vital, energetic source from which the combined skills of many highly proficient photographers have developed since the club began in 2021. Experienced members are more than happy to share their knowledge with novices and new members are always welcome. For further information on membership contact Freddie McArdle Tel: 087 0577868.

There is a lively programme of education included in club activities. They include slideshows, demonstrations and monthly competitions suited to all levels of photographic competence.

Age Action Computer Classes

A new five week course will continue throughout the month of April in Drogheda Library.

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

Drogheda Women's Refuge Information Stand

Drogheda Women's Refuge Outreach Service will have an information stand in Drogheda Library on Wednesday 26TH April from 10.30am-1pm. The service offers practical and emotional support and options to those experiencing domestic violence.

Cultúr Drop In Clinic

Deirdre from Cultúr will have a monthly drop-in clinic in Ardee Library on the first Thursday of every month with advice for those seeking to improve their job seeking confidence and skills, advising on CV and interview preparation. Cultúr is a community working with ethnic minorities including immigrants, migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees.

Audiobook Club

Ardee library audiobook will meet every third Thursday of the month at 6pm going forward. All are welcome to join.

'Vere Foster' Writers Group

Every Friday from 10.30am-12.30pm. All writing abilities welcome.

English Language Learning

Conversational English classes for migrants and refugees continues every Tuesday between 6pm

and 8pm. Classes are organised by Cultúr Migrants Centre. Please contact Angel at angel@cultur.ie or 0873315169 for further information.

Migrant Women's Group Meetings

A women's group for migrant and refugee women meets every Tuesday morning from 11am to 1pm in Ardee Library. This is facilitated by Cultúr Migrants Centre. If you are interested, please contact Viktoriia or Angel at angel@cultur.ie or 0873315169. All welcome.

Knitting & Crochet Group

Every Thursday at 2:30pm
No booking required, just pop along.

World Book Day

Leona Burgess, Executive Librarian was invited by school librarian Angela McGinn to celebrate World Book Day in the De La Salle secondary school in Dundalk. Ten students from the De La Salle and ten from the St Louis secondary school took part in a Dragons' Den book competition. Students presented their books to a panel of judges with winners in both the junior and senior cycle with all receiving a certificate of participation.



Ms Boylan, St. Louis Secondary School, Leona Burgess, Louth Library Service, Mr Halpin, De La Salle Secondary School & Angela McGinn, School Librarian, De La Salle.

ARTS

Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Community Grants closed for applications on 2nd March and were assessed by a panel including members of the Louth Culture team and an external panelist from another county. As always, we had a huge response and were oversubscribed. Eleven projects have been selected for funding and will be published on the Creative Ireland website under the Louth page in due course once all the details have been approved by the department. The Louth page can be viewed [here](#)

April will also see 2 projects come to fruition which the Creative Ireland Louth team have committed funding to in Drogheda. A new Youth Arts Festival will take place on Sunday 30th April.



The festival has been programmed and curated by young people selected by local youth representatives and they are being mentored by local artists. There will also be a fantastic photography exhibition in the gallery space of Droichead Arts Centre launched at the end of April. The exhibition is an intergenerational project between young and old in Moneymore and we are very excited to see the end result.

The new Louth Creativity and Cultural Strategy 2023-2027 is now available to view on our website [here](#). There will also be English and Irish printed versions available to view on our libraries in the coming weeks. Creative Ireland Louth Co-Ordinator Moya Rodgers presented an overview of the Creative Ireland programme and the new strategy to the Strategic Policy Committee for Community on Wednesday 22nd March at their meeting in Ardee library.

Brigid1500

The Artist in the Community tender has been completed and the successful tender was notified before the end of March. A formal announcement will happen in April and we are really excited to get the project started and the planning phase initiated for this extensive programme which will run until 2024. Full details on this will be on the Brigid1500 page on the Visit Louth site [here](#)

Create Louth Arts Grants

The arts service of Louth County Council has opened their annual arts grants for application. The schemes opened on 13th March and closing date for all applications is 12th April. The grant awards this year include a range of bursaries for emerging and established artists, as well as the usual arts grants for creative projects, Tyrone Guthrie bursary, School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme and Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary. Details of all grants available are available [here](#)

Museum

Currently

The recently opened St. Brigid exhibition continues its run at the Museum.

Display on St. Brigid of Ireland



View of St Brigid display at the County Museum, Dundalk

This display features several of the Museum's collection of Brigid's Crosses, as well as a number

of sketches of her shrine at Faughart, as well as promotional material for the early pilgrimages there. A Louth Ladies' Gaelic Football jersey is displayed highlighting the many ways in which her cross had been used by institutions and State bodies.



View of St Brigid Cross at the County Museum Dundalk

Workshops



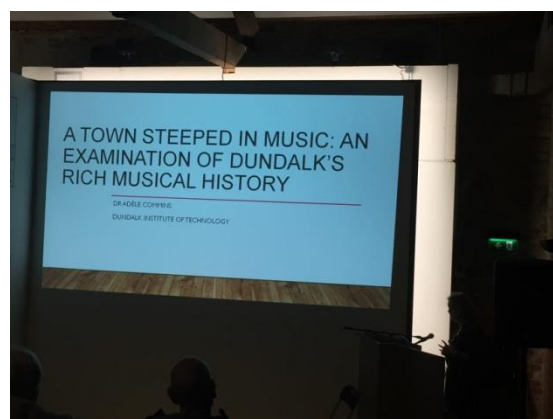
The Armagh Rhymers

To mark both Seachtain na Gaeilge and Local History Week a variety of activities were organised to interest the Museum's diversity of audiences. The Armagh Rhymers returned with Fionn MacCool and the Scottish Giant (also known as Fionn & Una). This is one of the Rhymers' most popular and loved folk tales this is the story about how the Giant's Causeway was created. This combination of music, song and folklore was very popular with visiting school groups.



Arctic exploration with Nicola Pierce

Similarly, Drogheda-based children's author Nicola Pierce's workshop on Ireland's proud tradition of Arctic and Antarctic exploration was well-received. Talking to spellbound classes from Dundalk and Ardee, Nicola highlighted the life and career of explorers such as Francis Leopold McClintock, Ernest Shackleton, William Crozier. As well as reading from her most recent novel *Chasing Ghosts* an adventure set in the 19th Century Arctic.



An overview of Dundalk's great music tradition

The Museum also hosted a lecture by the DkIT's Dr. Adele Commins who spoke Dundalk's musical tradition in 'A town steeped in music: An examination of Dundalk's rich musical history'. The lecture covered the town's long history of musical activity spanning classical, Irish traditional, folk, popular and rock music.

Visit

The Museum also hosted a visit by His Excellency, Mr Akhilesh Mishra Ambassador of India and his wife Reeti. In a hugely enjoyable visit The Ambassador was very impressed with the Museum, its collection and interpretation, describing it as “one of the best Museums he’d ever visited.”



His Excellency Mr Akhilesh Mishra and his wife Reeti during their visit to the County Museum.



A recent addition a fossilized dinosaur vertebra



New to the Collection an office weighing scales

Recent Acquisitions

The Museum continues to add to its collection with two of the most noteworthy being a Victorian 'Grand Tour' specimen of a fossilised permo-trias Sandstone, possible dinosaur vertebra and an office weighing scales which would have been used for letters.

