



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 3rd August 2023
3^ú Lúnasa 2023**

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

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st July 2023
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 31 Iúil 2023

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Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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

Other responsibilities include, Water Services and Information & Communication Technology

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

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

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 31st of July 2023 / Caiteachas go dtí 31 Iúil 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/07/2023	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/07/2023
Housing/Tithíocht	€25,312,257	€57,155,409	44%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€12,016,452	€27,351,782	44%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€4,576,934	€8,619,589	53%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€10,851,699	€23,666,110	46%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€10,509,838	€20,837,206	50%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€5,197,316	€10,361,634	50.0%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€849,099	€1,468,858	58%
Miscellaneous/Ighnéitheach	€8,560,241	€9,018,942	95%
	€77,873,836	€158,479,531	49%

Income to 31st of July 2023 / Ioncam go 31 Iúil 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/07/23	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/07/23
Housing/Tithíocht	€24,102,973	€58,718,513	41%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€3,463,386	€16,635,478	21%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€3,797,896	€8,303,355	46%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€6,009,467	€14,403,330	42%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€937,034	€2,295,719	41%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€582,714	€1,208,037	48%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€216,692	€543,472	40%
Miscellaneous/Ighnéitheach	€8,414,992	€11,296,768	74%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,469,827	€34,708,660	99%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€4,933,099	€9,866,198	50%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair	€0	€500,000	0%
	€86,928,080	€158,479,531	55%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of July 2023. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2023 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st of July 2023 are as follows:

Debtors as of 31st of July 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31 Iúil 2023

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€7,546,239	€50,505,012	(€42,194,989)	€50	€15,856,312
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Eile	€56,584	€532,776	(€480,887)	(€6,577)	€101,896
Rates/Rataí	€7,561,465	€34,469,827	(€24,096,785)	(€1,315,047)	€16,619,460
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,621,885	€8,506,395	(€8,391,563)	(€13,658)	€2,723,059
Loans/Iasachtal	€295,384	€1,163,445	(€1,163,729)	(€0)	€295,100
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€5,082,780	(€1,750,150)	(€2,549,261)	€11,726,874
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€717,575	€305,016	(€232,324)	(€37,508)	€752,759
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€1,804,894	€7,199,051	(€6,018,467)	(€27,391)	€2,958,087
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€31,547,531	€107,764,302	(€84,328,894)	(€3,949,392)	€51,033,547

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of July 2023. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recouplements, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Budget 2024 - Local Property Tax (LPT) Public Consultation

The budget process for 2024 has begun with the advertising of the Local Property Tax Public Consultation in July. The deadline for submissions from the public is Friday 25th of August 2023.

The report will be given to you, the members, at the September meeting where you can decide whether to vary the basic rate of LPT by up to 15%. If the rate is varied upwards 100% of the additional income will be available for the authority's own use. Similarly, if the rate is varied downwards the loss of income will be reflected in reduced LPT funding to the authority.

For every 1% of variation implemented it will result in +/- €92,763 for the authority.

Budget Workshop

It was agreed at the July meeting that we would hold a budget workshop for the members in September following the monthly council meeting.

Water Services

Uisce Éireann

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

Water Quality / Cáilíocht Uisce

Intensive monitoring of both Public and Private water supplies are continually undertaken by Louth County Council and an independent INAB accredited laboratory.

Water Conservation / Caomhnú Uisce

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

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

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

Capital Programmes/Cláir Chaipitiúla

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

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

Tallanstown Rationalisation / Cuíchóiriú Bhaile an Tallúnaigh

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

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

Omeath WWTW / Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Ó Méith

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

Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)

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

Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation / Athshlánú an Líonra Séaraigh Aitiúil

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

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

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

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

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

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

Operational modifications to the Pumping Station were undertaken by EPS. Options for cleaning of existing large diameter sewer are being progressed within UÉ.

Dundalk LNRP / Clár um Atreisiúchan Líonra Áitiúil Dhún Dealgan

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

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

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

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

Construction works are substantially completed along the Inner Relief Road and Quay Street. Permanent reinstatement has been completed along the route of the rising main.

Greenmount WTW Upgrade/Uasghrádú Ionad Cóireála Uisce Dhroim Chatha

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

Drogheda WWTP/Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann is continuing to carry out works at Drogheda Wastewater Treatment Plant and is committed to resolving any potential odour issues arising from the wastewater plant or the network. Uisce Éireann continues to work closely with EPS Ltd who operate the plant on behalf of Uisce

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

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

Uisce Éireann have appointed consultants to undertake the Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP). LCC staff are currently liaising with Uisce Éireann and the project consultants in various aspects of the project. Design works are currently being progressed.

Cockle Hill PS Upgrade / Uasghrádú Stáisiún Ceadalacháin Chnoic na Ruachan

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

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

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

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

The site investigation for the South Drogheda Wastewater Network has been completed and the draft design is being progressed by the Project Consultants.

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Clár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Clár Athshlánúcháin

Uisce Éireann undertook No rehabilitation works in July.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

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

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 3 first fix type repairs in July.

Water Scouring Programme 2023 / Clar Sciúrtha Uisce 2023

Louth County Council Crew undertook uni-directional network flushing in Blackrock, Drogheda and Dundalk in July.

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

42 essential water tasks were carried out in July including 35 arising out of our Find and Fix program (10 in Dundalk, 1 in Termonfeckin, 7 in Drogheda, 7 in Ardee, 1 in Castlebellingham, 4 in Dromiskin, 1 in Collon, 1 in Blackrock, 1 in Dunleer, 2 in Clogherhead).

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 16 new connections, 14 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 14 Planning Applications in July.

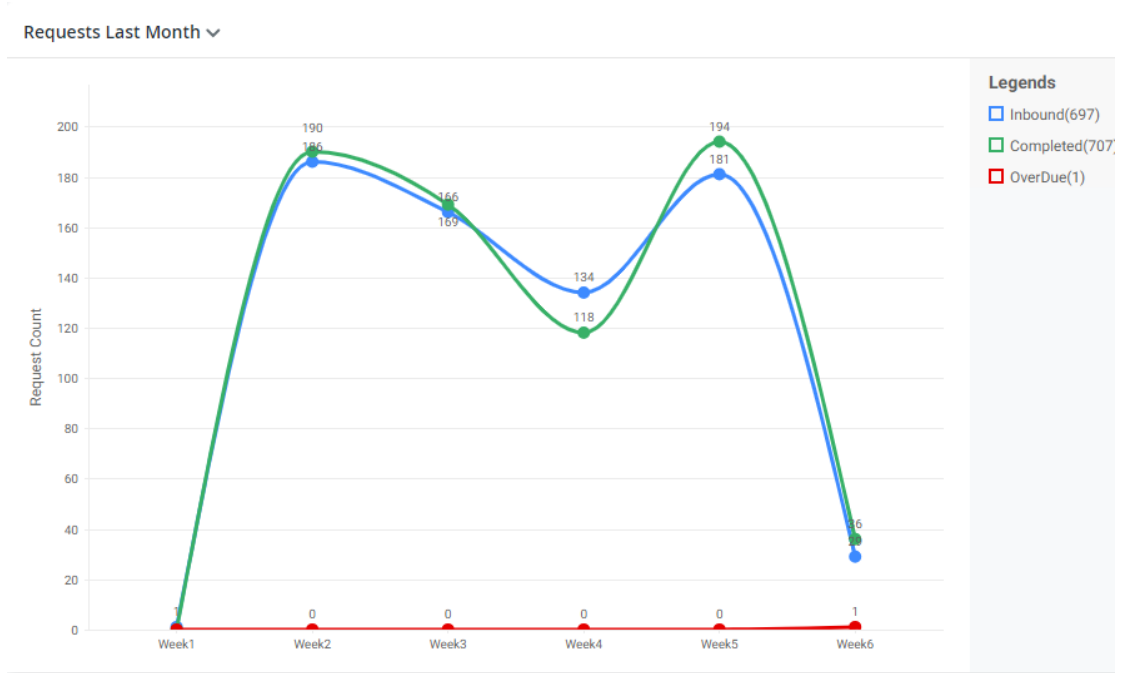
Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

The Networks Section prepared 10 Service Maps in July.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/07/2023 and 31/07/2023 there were 697 support calls logged in the IT support system.



Security, Application Software and Networks were the highest category of support requests in July.

	2023		Count
	Jul	Count	
Accessories	8	8	8
Application Software	161	161	161
Desktop/Laptop	8	8	8
General	13	13	13
Licensing	1	1	1
Mobile Devices	8	8	8
Network	95	95	95
Not Assigned	40	40	40
Operating System	2	2	2
Printers	26	26	26
Security	211	211	211
Services	48	48	48
Telecoms	38	38	38
User Administration	38	38	38
Count	697	697	697

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



Inbound Emails

139,241



Blocked Sender

727



Blocked at gateway

21,637



Blocked by spam /virus

24,232



Blocked by content rules

588



Potentially harmful emails

33.89%

Louth County Council Website

There were 14,212 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in July.

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

CHANNEL TYPE	VISITS
Direct Entry	3,785
Search Engines	1,451
Websites	214
Social Networks	75

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 1,792 views in July, an average of 60 views a day.



Cyber Security Awareness Training

LCC rolled out a third cyber security awareness training module, relating to Social Engineering, to all Elected Members in July.

Strategic Economic Development Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:

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

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

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

**Thomas McEvoy
Director / Stiúrtóir**



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

- A key 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 last meeting of the Louth Economic Forum took place on Wednesday 26th July. An update on the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was given by Finbar Gethins, SEO. Pre-draft goals, objectives and actions were discussed with agreement that members of the Board would forward their views and suggestions to Thomas McEvoy, DOS, for consideration in the draft document.

Economic input to Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2029 process is ongoing.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022

24 applications were received by Louth County Council under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. 22 Letters of Offer have been issued to date and works have commenced on the ground.

All approved works must be completed and all final claims for payment must be submitted to Louth County Council by 5.00pm on Wednesday, 30th August 2023.

Business Improvement District Scheme

Following a statutory period, notice was received from the BIDS Company on the 21st June to request Louth County Council hold a plebiscite of the Ratepayers of Dundalk. The ballot papers were posted on the 7th of July and the count will take place in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall on the 18th August.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2023

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

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

Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC)

A DBEC Directors' meeting was held on 6th July. A presentation on the DBEC work plan was given by the Programme Manager Amanda Smyth and an update given on the Feasibility Study for Innovation Hubs.

Tourism

Festival Funding 2023

Applications for Festival Funding for small and large festivals closed on 31st March, 2023. 22 applications were received under the small festivals and 8 under the large festivals' initiative. After assessment 19 letters of offer were issued under the small festival funding and 4 letters of offer issued under the large festival funding. Keep an eye on www.visitlouth.ie and our social media channels where we will be promoting these festivals.

sea louth

The Food Development Officer is working with some new prospective restaurants to become part of the trail. For more information on the scenic seafood trail please visit www.sealouth.ie.

Visit Louth

For details of upcoming Events and Festivals within the county please visit www.visitlouth.ie.

Brigid 1500

Creative Spark has been appointed as the 'Artist in the Community' for Brigid 1500. This followed a request for tender and assessment. It will see 4 artists work with several community groups and schools between now and the end of 2023 conducting a variety of workshops to develop a series of art works centered on the theme of St.

Brigid. It is anticipated that about 15 pieces of art ranging in various sizes will be produced and which will then be exhibited at a unique exhibition next February as part of the Brigid 1500 commemorations. Works are underway to plan a gala concert to close the Brigid 1500 commemorations.

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

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has 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 the base stones for the Wayfinding signs and paving works at the Old Abbey completed. The wayfinding signs have been manufactured and will be installed in the coming weeks followed by the bronze inlays.

Urban Animation - Lú Festival of Light, Drogheda

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

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

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 new Night-Time Economy Officer will commence with Louth County Council on the 21st August.

Shared Island Funding

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a Feasibility Study to develop Carlingford Lough and work on same has commenced.

Boyne Valley Flavours

Producers' markets continue to take place across the Boyne Valley region with many exciting summer events due to take place. Please keep an eye on <https://boynevalleyflavours.ie/> for further information.

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.

8 no. Louth business were approved YTD.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Energy Efficiency Grant



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

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

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 are engaging with our portfolio clients in 2023.

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

12 no. LEO client businesses are engaging on this programme.

Business Training



During July LEO held 2 training courses delivered to 15 attendees. They included Marketing for Business and Creating an Online Business.

We have 3 more training courses planned for August. 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.

29 Trading Online Voucher applications have been received YTD.

Business Advice Clinics

29 business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during July.

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.

19 businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of July.

Microfinance Ireland Business Loan



LEO Louth offers expert assistance to clients to assist in the completion of Microfinance Loan Applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections. 9 applications were received YTD.

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

LEAN for Micro Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally. The programme helps businesses to identify issues and potential improvement areas and provides support to implement these as well as achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced from €300 to €150 for businesses.

4 Louth business were approved YTD. LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

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



PEACEPLUS

Meetings between the PEACE team and our consultants Blu Zebra continue. The next PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting is scheduled for 4th September and a public consultation is planned to be held later in September.

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

Heritage

Work continued on eight projects funded by the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, four projects funded by the Community Monuments Fund and two projects funded by the Heritage Council (Irish Walled Towns Network and the Historic Towns Initiative). Inspections were carried out at Glaspistol tower house castle and at Clogherhead.

The heritage officer engaged with consultants employed by Fáilte Ireland to re-imagine the Táin Trail as a tourist attraction.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The Labour Court recommendation of a pay increase for retained fire service members was rejected nationally in a SIPTU ballot. The industrial action by retained fire service members recommended nationwide including Louth on 26th July.

The action includes attendance restricted to life threatening calls only, no attendance at training courses or drills and non-communication with the Regional Control Centre.

Since 28th July, half of retained stations have been closed daily, including retained crews in Dundalk and Drogheda.

The retained crews in Louth have responded to critical life safety incidents even when their stations have been closed.

Due to the strike the level of fire service training was limited.

Five full-time recruits are continuing with a 17-week recruit's course in Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre.

Some Critical Incident Stress Management training was done at station level.

Following an initial meeting between Louth County Council and the Design Team for the new fire station in Dunleer, several alternative design proposals were made. The new station layout is nearing final agreement.

The purchase of the site is progressing between the Vendors solicitor and Louth County Council's solicitor.

The Fire Prevention Section is continuing its assessment of new accommodation for Ukrainian refugees.

A Fire Safety Notice has been served on retail premises in Dundalk.

Major Emergency Management

There was a regional Major Emergency Working Group meeting held in County Hall on 4th July, chaired by Louth County Council.

This included planning for a major emergency exercise in Quarter 4 of 2023.

A review of major emergency rest centres is being undertaken in Louth with a view to having a small number of such centres at locations around the county for emergency use.

There was a regional Major Emergency Steering Group meeting in Virginia, Co. Cavan on 5th July, chaired by Louth County Council.

The following are the main work areas:

- Communications policy under review
- Rest centre work ongoing regionally.
- Mass fatality test for Our Lady of Lourdes facility
- Policy and Procedure for working with Voluntary Emergency Services

Civil Defence

Training during July comprised First Aid Responder Training.

There was medical ambulance cover at the following events:

- Two-Day Cyclocross event in Bellurgan Park.
- All Ireland Mountain Bike Championships in Bellurgan Park
- Barn Dance in Country Stores, Ardee

There was a search for a missing person in Dundalk following a request from An Garda Síochána.

Building Control

The Building Control and Fire Prevention Office has prioritised Fire Safety Certificate and Disabled Access Certificate applications for Schools and Education Facilities for the months of July and August.

The National Market Surveillance Office alerted the Building Control Office in Louth about construction products for sale in the county which were in breach of the Construction Products Regulations. Joint follow-up inspections were arranged.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of June 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 108 planning applications received during the month of June of which 84 were valid. In addition, there were 30 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 33 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	16	43	0	64
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	4	5	23	0	32
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	20.00% (1)	43.75% (7)	18.60% (8)	0.00% (0)	25.00% (16)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	2	3	6	0	11
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	33.33% (2)	0.00% (0)	5.50% (2)

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	
	June 2023 / Meitheamh 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	June 2022 / Meitheamh 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	17	162	13	145
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	1	0	1
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	7	163	25	156
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	19	134	20	115
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	8	3	8
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	3	0	3
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Lettings Enforcement

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings	
	July 2023 / Iúil 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	0	4
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	2	6
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	19	23
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	1
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	6
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

Forward Planning

Louth County Council Draft Development Contribution Scheme

The closing date for submissions / observations in relation to the Draft Development Contribution Scheme was Friday 14th July, 2023. The issues raised in the 17 submissions are currently being considered and a report setting out the response to the submissions is being prepared.

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

Willie Walsh

Acting Director / Stiúrthóir Gníomhach



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

Ecco Rd

Castletown Rd

Old Newry Rd

Riverside Crescent

Laurels

Ramparts

Armagh Rd

Mooreland /Lennon Melia Crescent

Inner Relief Rd at Bothar Na Feirme

Riverside Walk

Racecourse Rd

By Pass

Centenary Rd

Dublin Rd

Mourne View Walkway

Ardee Rd

Carrick Rd

Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk

Market Sq., borders and Planters

Mount Ave

Castleross hedgerow

Ashling Pk Estate

River Grids

Bottle Banks cleared every day and area litter blown

Cooley isolated locations including Templetown, Gyles Quay, Shilling hill

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí

Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht

Nightly By Contractor
200 Bins

Street bins all replaced in Town Centre after being repainted.

Stand-alone dog bins removed as dog waste being place in street bins

Maxwells Row

Philip St

Fatima Pk

Tom Bellew Ave

Ard Easmuinn

Fagan Corner Bellewsbridge

Solar Bins Power washed.

All Tubs in full flower looking bright and Inviting.

Bins emptied in the Cooley by outdoor staff, Carlingford , Omeath , Greenore , Templetown, Gyles Quay, bins empty over busy weekends , from May to last week in August

<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p> <p>Contract Sweeper as per contract</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <p>Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly</p> <p>Surface dressings of roads in Dundalk & Cooley</p>
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</p> <p>By Contractor nightly as part of the street bin collections</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> <p>200 Litter Bins throughout the town</p> <p>As per bin maintenance in Dundalk & Cooley.</p>
<p>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</p>	<p>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</p> <p>Ring Buoys checked. Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk. New rope attached to 4 buoys.</p> <p>Replaced new life buoy at Tain Bridge complete with new rope.</p> <p>Carried out by Water Safety Officer in Cooley.</p>
<p>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</p>	<p>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</p> <p>Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker.</p> <p>By Cooley Area Staff</p>

	Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> Preparation works for 2023 surface-dressing, as per roads works program, S.D , R.I, road repair Greenore , road repair Bush L,S 7070 Pro Works J.C,B. Ongoing patching of local roads maintenance. <u>Dundalk</u> Tar Patching using the bagged tar at Stapleton Place Roden Place Coes Rd Ardee Rd Dublin St Old Newry Rd Bridge	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<u>Cooley</u> Piedmont Lordship L.S 70780, Bush L.S 7071, Slievenaglogh L.S. 7078 <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<u>Cooley</u> None this month <u>Dundalk</u> None in July in Dundalk Grass cutting all areas	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<u>Cooley</u> None this month <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	<u>Cooley</u> None this month <u>Dundalk</u> On Going Repairs & Bulb Replacement	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> None this month <u>Dundalk</u> At various locations in Dundalk	

Signage / Comharthaíocht	<u>Cooley</u> None this month <u>Dundalk</u> Yield Signs replaced. Replaced Bollards on Newry Rd, Park & Drive signs Chevron Signs. New Signage in areas replaced and adjusted.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<u>Cooley</u> Tyres at flagstaff removed by area crew. <u>Dundalk</u> Ashling Pk Under the bridge at Ecco Rd Creative Spark Lands Mooreland Rd Inner Relief Rd Racecourse RD Ath Lethan estate By Pass at WUXI Roundabout St Old Coes Rd Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly.	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Cleaned Graffiti off Road Signs Graffiti cleaned from the Play Park on the Marshes again in this month of July.	

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí None this month

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

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p>Tar patching carried out in preparation for surface dressing on road number LS-7108 Balregan Kilcurry, R171 Knockbridge road, Lp3122 from Maghereagh Cross to Conty Boundary Monaghan, L-3168 Gibstown Ardee Road, L-7112 Castle Roche. All nine surface dressing roads were completed.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Road repairs and patching & cleaning up.</p> <p>Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming</p> <p>Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)</p>
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p>L-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, R171 Knockbridge Road, L-7164 Haynestown, LP-3122 from Maghereagh Cross to County Boundary, L-3168 Gibstown rdee Road. Rd215 Mullincross – Bollies and at Drumard</p>	<p>Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Clearing fallen trees & debris.</p>
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Footpath renewal</p>
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Major repair works completed</p>
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Renewal of junction markings</p>

		Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Louth Village and in Annagassan	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	L-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, LS-7098 Old Graveyard road Faughart Blackrock, Tallanstown	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	N/A



Road works in Louth Village



Road works at Knockabbey to Springhill

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		37 Daily
Dunleer Town		20 Tuesday and Thursday
Collon		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 at Ardee, LS-5235-0 Harristown LP1212-41 Gudderstown LS 5211-0 Irish town Church View – Beechwood Drive Dunleer R169 Collon Dunleer Road L-6269-0 Knockaleva Lane White river to Stifyans cross, LP 1212-0 Braganstown, LP 1212-36 Stabannon R170 Stickillin R132 Cappoge R166 Annagassan L 1212-0 Riverstown L 2295-0 White River Cross L-1264-12 Ballapousta L-6270-17 Castlelumley
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	L-6269-0 Knockaleva lane
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	L- 63272-0 Coast Road Baltray LP-1233-7 Stormanstown R-132 Dorians Cross The Glen Tullyallen
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	De La Salle Crescent Ardee L-5266-39 Oriel Road, Collon

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Surface Dressing Signage installation and removal for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R170 Stickillin • R132 Cappoge • R166 Annagassan • L 1212-0 Riverstown • L 2295-0 White River Cross 	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



**L-1264-12 Ballapousta Kilsaran
RWP 2023**



**Surface Dressing R170 Ardee
to Dromin**



**L6270-17 Castlolumley
Kilsaran RWP 2023**

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when recourses allow and green areas.• Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.• Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m.• Drogheda Rural bring banks are cleared daily during working week.
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
Port Oriel, Clogherhead	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	6 Daily
Termonfeckin	6 Daily
Baltray	3 Daily
Seapoint Carpark	3 Daily
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.• 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.• Dominic’s Park & Mell River Walk emptied daily.

- South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.
- Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing + street furniture.

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre

Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain

- Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow.
- Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.
- Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.
- Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).
- Jetter van one week in Peters St. and Old Hill
- Jetter van sewers
- Removed the seat Boyne Meadows estate.
- Pitcherhill power washed

Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) • 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

	Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	L-6284-18 Dardisrath L-2275-24 Kellystown R-168-30 Collon to Tullyallen L-2318-17 Ardagh L-6317-0 Sheepgrange R132 Dunleer to Monasterboice R170 Dunleer to Grangebellew LP-2275-24 Harestown L-63272-0 Baltray Drainage Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gullies checked at Hardman's Gardens 	Surface Dressing Surface Dressing Surface Dressing Surface Dressing Surface Dressing Prep & Surface Dressing Prep & Surface Dressing Kilsaran SLA 2023 RWP Kilsaran SLA 2023 RWP

	<p>LCC's crew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pot hole repairs Ashfield • Termonfeckin village. • Aston village <p>Road Works Program – Resurfacing works at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beechwood Avenue • Magraths lane • Ballsgrove work complete. 	
<p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p>	<p>L-6317-0 Sheepgrange R132 Dunleer to Monasterboice R170 Dunleer to Grangebellew</p> <p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully cleaning ongoing on approach roads, town centre streets and estates. 	
<p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p>	N/A	
<p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p>	Ballsgrove footpath repair ongoing	
<p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bullring north. 2. Westgate/Fair Street 3. Lourdes PED 4. Rathmullen Rd / Marley's Lane 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vehicle phase lamp fail green. 2. PBU Fault 3. Lights out. 4. Vehicle phase lamp fail Green.

Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<p>Surface Dressing Signage installation for : -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-6284-18 Dardisrath • L-2275-24 Kellystown • R-168-30 Collon to Tullyallen • L-2318-17 Ardagh • L-6317-0 Sheepgrange • R132 Dunleer to Monasterboice • R170 Dunleer to Grangebellew <p>Signs/poles repaired at Hardman's Gardens</p>	
Weed killing / Marú fialí	N/A	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Surface Dressing R132 Dunleer



**L-63272-0 Baltray Kilsaran
RWP 2023**



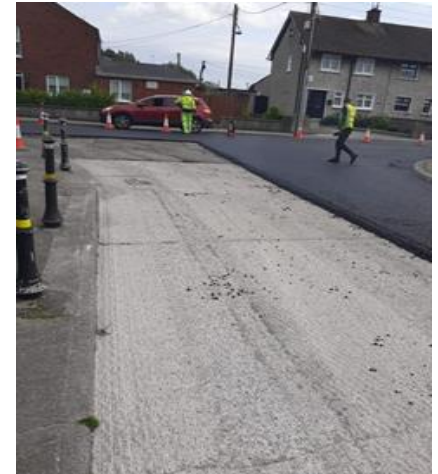
**L-2275-24 Ballymakenny
Kilsaran RWP 2023**



Magraths Lane RWP 2023



Beechwood RWP 2023



Ballsgrove RWP 2023

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been released to this restricted panel of Contractors with a return date of 6th Oct. 2023. Consultation meeting #2 to take place with the selected contractors from the 10th to the 11th of August.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services have been procured. A Category 3 Bridge checker has been appointed and a commencement meeting has taken place.

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

The Oral Hearing was held by An Bord Pleanála regarding the CPO process on the 10th of January. 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 received its initial approval for structures. Archaeological test trenching package is currently being prepared for field work and testing. A tender has been issued for geotechnical advice for some soft soils' areas. Louth County Council has written to An Bord Pleanála regarding a progression of the Board decision.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

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

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

N52 Ardee Bypass

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

on the 18th of July for mention and was adjourned to the next available Tuesday 24th October 2023. The Court ordered that the Applicant be given until 30th September 2023 to file any opposition papers. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

N2 Collon Safety Scheme

Works on the pedestrian crossing are now completed. Additional road markings are scheduled to commence as soon as the weather allows. TII has 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.

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

Stream works are now complete, and earthworks are now substantially complete with import of suitable material from adjacent housing schemes. Works are ongoing on the installation of a 450mm diameter watermain along the route for Uisce Eireann and ducting for ESB and telecom. Kerbing and footpath work have commenced on the mainline. Binder and base layers have been laid on the new route between Twenties Lane and Ballymakenny Road.

Realignment of the Twenties Lane is well advanced in partnership with CFS Homes. The first phase of realignment is open to traffic. The remainder of the road is being realigned by Clonmel Enterprises.



Ch.0 - 200m east of Rosehall roundabout installing/compacting selected material underneath capping layer



Ch.750 - 900m Concrete pour to footpath west of bus bay, southern side of road

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

The contractor commenced work on the Council owned lands section on 24th April 2023 with a proposed programme of 16 No. weeks to complete. Road formation completed, drainage and services completed. Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners, a valuation process has started. Other mechanisms for acquiring the lands have also been explored.



Road/Footpath Installation

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

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

Greenways

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

Tender for the works contract for Section 1 Carlingford to Carlingford Marina and Section 2 Omeath to the Border has closed. Tender assessment is complete, and a Letter of Intent issued to the preferred Contractor. Insurances are being checked and awaiting confirmation of the bond with a view to starting construction in August.

Landowner engagement ongoing on the acquisition of the land parcel. The Council have appointed a land valuer for the land acquisition in Section 2. Notice to treat has been issued by LCC to the Landowners in the CPO and the Notice to Enter will be issued on the 1st August 2023.

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

The Draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) has been approved by TII. The Tender for the appointment of the design and environmental consultant closed on 7th June 2023, Tender assessment is now complete and TII approval is now being sought to appoint the preferred consultant.

It's envisaged that a Public Consultation event on the overall study area will be held in Q3. The delivery of this scheme going forward will be under the TII Project Management Guidelines.

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

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Beach Accessibility Project relates to better accessibility to the beach areas at Templetown, Clogherhead and Port beaches. The Preliminary designs are now complete. The consultant has made the final amendments to the screening reports – all three schemes have screened out and contract documents have been prepared. Budget estimates have been provided and each of the 3 schemes are below the threshold for Part 8 Planning.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Projects

LIHAF Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Following discussion with the developer and the Department of Housing this scheme is being progressed by the developer assisted by offset of development levies under agreement with the Council. Works have commenced and earthworks and drainage works are currently taking place on the off line section.



Earthworks in progress



Pipework in progress Newtown

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are continuing on the scheme (though the builder holidays took place in July), earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Roadwork is commencing on the

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



Culvert installation at Lisnawilly Farm

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Letter of acceptance issued in July 2023. Pre-Commencement meeting held with the Contractors and design team. Mobilisation works (i.e. site compound etc) to take place week coming 14th of Aug. Works to commence on the bridge from the 21st of August. The Contractors specialists (ecologist, conservationist, etc.) to commence their site visits for baseline reporting and to inform method of working. Works will involve the encapsulation of the bridge in temporary works; removal of the old redundant inspection platform; stripping back all rust, etc from the steel members, replacement of steel member which have degraded beyond safe level of service & repair of all other members and rivets. Removal of existing concrete deck and reinstallation of a new deck, painting of all steel members; repair off and re-pointing of piers and stonework.

A Road Closure with traffic diversions has been advertised; the agreed contractor's final signed route will be notified to the public in advance of the closure.

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Internal Ground floor tassel walls, floor joists and plywood flooring fixed. Cupola delivered to site to allow continuation of roof works. All eaves conservation brickwork closed out and remedial purlin support blockwork installed. Roof works ongoing.



Block B Council Chamber Tassel Wall and floor joist construction

Block N: New Link Building:

Structural Steel Portal Frame erected and hollowcore slab screed and upstands poured. Metaldeck to high level roofed installation installed.



Block N New Link Building First floor hollow core screed pour

Block C: Community Services Building

The Central and Western Rooms floor screed poured. External conservation brickwork ongoing. Toilet block drainage pipework installed. Eaves strengthening conservation works continuing prior to roof refurbishment works.



Block N New Link Building- Hollow core screed and upstand steel



View From Evercam 4



View Evercam 3



**North Elevation inner leaf blockwork construction
Block N New Link building**

Block E Annex

Internal Plastering parge coat applied. Site Services ongoing with ESB Substation prepped for ESB signoff.



Block E Annex parge coat application

Dunleer Fire Station

Consultants appointed designer currently working on preliminary proposals and options on site layouts. Site surveys on-going. The final purchase of the lands process is on-going.

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer Joint Venture (JV) continue working on Stage 1 of the Project. The Draft Hydrological Report has been issued and reviewed by OPW/LCC, the JV are currently reviewing the comments provided on the draft Hydrology report and are amending the report accordingly. Preliminary Options Assessment for an extensive range of possible Flood Relief Measures has commenced and will continue throughout the next few months. The JV are currently considering proposed developments which may overlap with the options being considered. The proposed locations for ground investigation works are being finalised.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised.

Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing work on Stage 1 of the Project. The Draft Hydrological Report has been issued and reviewed by OPW/LCC, RPS are currently reviewing the comments provided on the draft Hydrology report and are amending the report accordingly. Options assessment has begun and will continue over the next few months.

The Fieldwork elements of the Ground Investigation works have now been completed and the Laboratory Works with the gathered samples is underway.



Ground Investigation works Drogheda Flood Relief Scheme

The EIA Scoping consultation has been completed with a report issued.

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

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

Marine Projects

Coastal Protection Works

Applications for the OPW Minor Works funding were submitted for Coastal Protection Projects in 3 separate locations, Omeath, Bellurgan and Ballagan. The OPW have confirmed Funding Approval of €62k for Omeath. In February the OPW approved €135k funding for proposed works at Bellurgan.

The OPW has confirmed Funding Approval for Ballagan Coastal Protection Works of €100,472, the works will involve replacement and repair of sections of the existing sea defences.

The Ecological works have been procured and are underway for all three projects.

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 contractor has been appointed and works commenced on the 10th July with mobilisation and site clearance.

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 of 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/> .

Tenders for the design, build and operate of the changers have now been received and a preferred Tenderer identified. Subject to SEUPB approvals a letter of intent will be issued in early August. Information is available at the following outlets:

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

Active Travel Investment Program

2023 Budget Allocation

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

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

The current status of the ongoing Active Travel projects is as outlined in the table below. For ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular

Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows.

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

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

Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	July 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 will be organising an official opening in September 2023.	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. LCC & NTA Officials are meeting in Drogheda on Friday 25 th August to inspect and review several Active Travel Projects in the town. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in September in advance of early public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 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. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in September in advance of public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS have commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in September in advance of public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's Lane (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS have commenced design and are currently developing options. On-line briefing held on Monday 19 th June 2023 on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors. The Design Team are Planning on meeting key stakeholders in August 2023 & have a Public Consultation Day in September (date TBC)	This received Pathfinder status approval on the 14 th Oct 2022. Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€200,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS has commenced design and are currently developing options. On-line briefing held on Monday 19 th June 2023 on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
Drogheda: Boyne Bus. Park Link Road.	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Please refer to relevant update in this report.	Part 8 Completed

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	July 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€550,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 Report approved by NTA in May 2023. Junction traffic modelling completed in July 2023. Gateway 3 Report (Preliminary Design Report) expected to be submitted to the NTA in early August 2023. An on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Dundalk Municipal District Councillors was held on 26 th July 2023. Comments / observations raised by Councillors will be considered in the preliminary design. In August we will be meeting a number of key stakeholders along the route and thereafter a Public Consultation Day will be arranged in September 2023 (date TBC).	Proposed Part 8 display early Q4 2023
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€464,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19 th June 2023. Meetings held with SMT, Councillors and Public Bodies on the relevant scheme in June 2023. LCC have met a number of key stakeholders in June 2023. Gateway 3 Report due to be submitted to the NTA by end of August 2023.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€400,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29 th June 2023. Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 "Statutory Process". DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package. In September 2023 we plan to hold a Public Information Day (date TBC).	Proposed Part 8 late Q4 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 synopsised. 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 closed on 6 th April 2023, with an appointment letter to be issued in August 2023. This mobility Plan will form part of the Dundalk LAP.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	July 2023- Project update	Anticipated Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways	Part 8
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 to appoint the Preferred tender. Design Consultants appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for each scheme.	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 to appoint the Preferred tender. Design Consultants appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for each scheme.	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 to appoint the Preferred tender. Design Consultants appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for each scheme.	2024	
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 to appoint the Preferred tender. Design Consultants appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for each scheme.	2024	
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	The Design Team have prepared preliminary design drawings. LCC are liaising with adjacent landowner with regards to agreeing land take. Tenders to be issued in Mid Q3 2023.	N/A	
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda	N/A	
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk	N/A	
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee	N/A	
Termonfeckin Active Travel elements	€165,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Procurement	Project was issued to tender in March 2023. Tenders returned and preferred contractor undergoing Pre-Appointment checks	N/A	

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	July 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
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	<p>All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above.</p> <p>Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed.</p> <p>Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced. Traffic Survey & Topographical Surveys to commence at the end of July 2023. Drone Surveys to be conducted in September in line with new school year.</p>	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate Planning drawings and documents including EIAR and AA Stage 2 reports have been reviewed in full by LCC. Turley Planning are completing the submission package for the consent process to An Bord Pleanála.

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

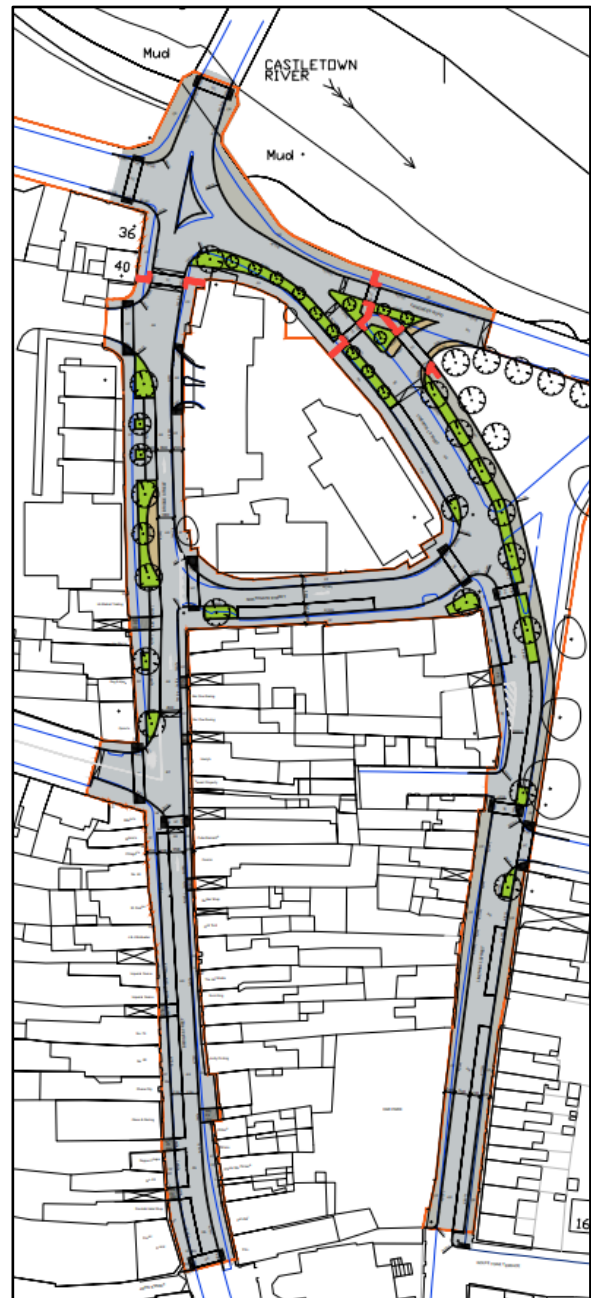
St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

BDP Ltd have been appointed as the Urban Design Team for the first phase of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. Phase 1 of the project, which received Part 8 approval in April 2018, involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Topographical, GPR and traffic surveys have all been completed to allow for the detailed design to progress. The final layout has been finalised with approval received to progress with the tender documents for the appointment of a contractor. It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in Q1 2024.

Phase 2

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project is the design of an acceptable concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. This concept will then be progressed for Part 8 planning with full public consultation. The consultancy services tender has now closed, and the tender assessment has commenced.



URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

Funding of €7 million has been allocated to Louth County Council to target vacancy and dereliction in the towns of Drogheda and Dundalk. The funding is provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the URDF Call 3 funding stream.

The funding will provide for the acquisition of vacant/derelict properties which are either not on the market for sale or to which the market has not responded. It is intended that properties could be acquired by agreement or under the CPO process and then offered for private sale to individuals, who in return will commit to bringing the property into use as a home.

The funding allocation is based on a list of properties provided by the Council that have been identified as long-term vacant and/or derelict and which may be suitable for activation using the revolving fund.

The Council are reviewing technical guidance issued by the Dept in relation to the implementation of the project. The project will commence in August.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

The Ministerial Consent application pack was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 5th May and is still currently being assessed. It is intended to proceed to tender following further assessment of the proposals by the department.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford

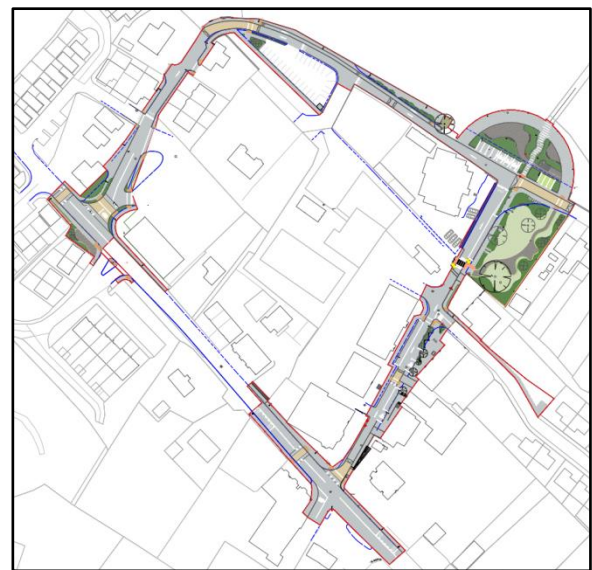


This project has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8 process at the recent July Dundalk Municipal

District meeting. Funding streams will now be reviewed, and funding sought for the delivery of this public realm scheme.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The successful tenderer for the project has been notified and the contract is being finalised. The proposed works are anticipated to commence in late August/early September this year on a phased basis with completion due May 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths.



Ardee 2040

The Ardee 2040 Planning drawings and documents including (EIAR and AA Screening Report) have been reviewed in full by LCC. Turley Planning are completing the submission package for the consent process to An Bord Pleanála www.ardee2040.ie.

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Conservation reports are in progress and Pre-planning consultation will commence in the

coming weeks for Part 8 for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



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

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



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

Part 8 for Collon playground is now on public display in Fair Street Offices, Drogheda, and

Ardee Library. It is also available to view on the Louth County Council Consultation Portal. Submissions or observations can be made in writing or via the online portal before 5pm on 6th September 2023. The Part 8 report is due to be presented at the Ardee Municipal meeting. Further to the tender assessment process, the finalising of the appointment of contractors is ongoing.

Part 8 planning applications are being prepared for Dominic's Park & Termonfeckin sites including AA Screening Stage 1 and relevant environmental reports. Site analysis in Termonfeckin is underway examining services and existing infrastructure. It is anticipated that Part 8's will be published for Dominic's Park & Termonfeckin in Q3.

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

Preparation of the Town Centre First Plan is progressing. It is intended that the draft plan will be going on public display in August to obtain the views of the local community regarding the proposals.

Clogherhead Regeneration Plan

The process to appoint urban design consultants is underway. The tender responses are currently being assessed.

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

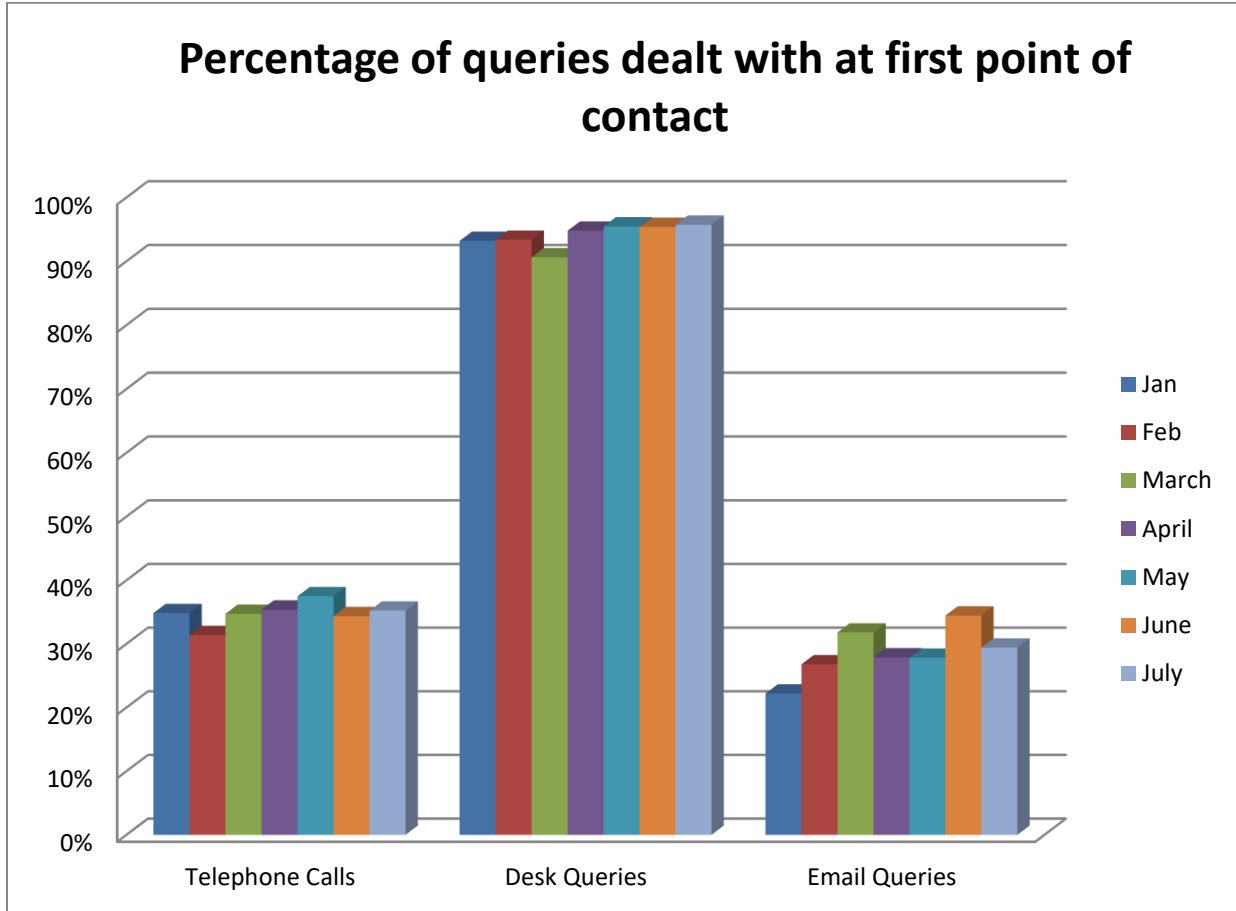


Joe McGuinness
Director / Stiúrthóir

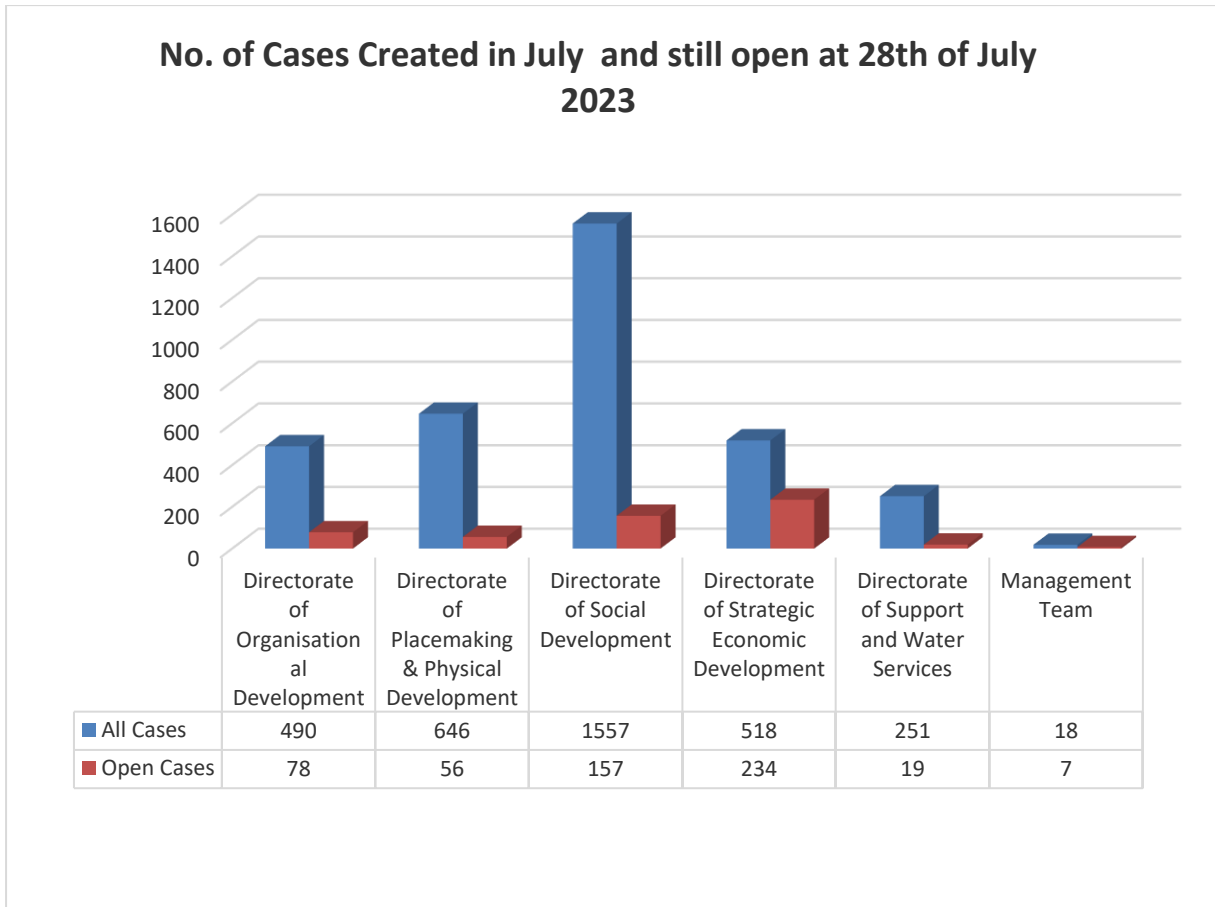
Corporate Services

Customer Services Report

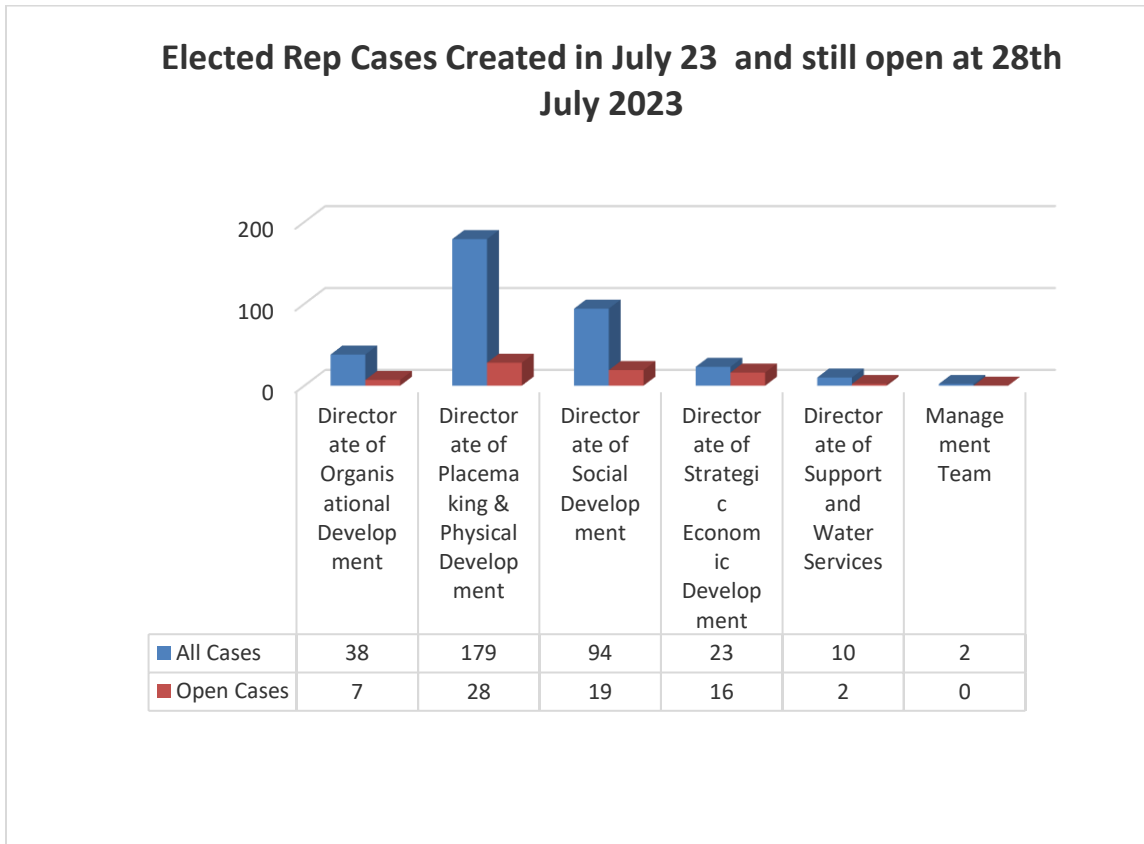
During the month of July 2023 Customer Services dealt with 14,337 queries 7,291 calls, 1,227 e-mails and 5,570 counter queries.



There were 3480 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during July of which 544 (16%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During July 2023, 346 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 72 (21%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Requests Received	Same period 2022 (JAN-JULY 2022)	2023 Total (JAN-JULY)	JULY 2023 (Month of JULY only)
Freedom of Information	73	75	12
Data Protection Request	2	4	0
Data Subject Access Request	2	4	0
Access to Information on Environment	7	13	4
Ombudsman Complaints	6	8	0
LCC Complaints Policy	20	23	4

Electoral Register

The Franchise Team is very busy updating the Rolling Register of Electors for Louth. A large volume of applications are received daily via the online portal on www.checktheregister.ie or from hard copy applications. Field Officers are continuing to call to various Polling Districts throughout the County, where they checking and collecting data from electors.

In Louth, 94% of electors have a valid Eircode and now nearly 98% have a Date of Birth on our iReg system, these very high statistics help with the accuracy of the register as it allows us to validate records in an accurate manner.

A national advertising campaign took place in June which contributed to the rise in applications. The Franchise Team intends to run our own local campaigns in September, some of which will be in collaboration with surrounding counties.

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

Community Support



Age Friendly Programme Older People's Council

The Louth Older People's Council held a meeting in the Ardee Civic Offices on Wednesday 19th July 2023. Prior to the meeting they attended the launch of the Eu Shafe Project Report on Ageing & Ageism.

The challenges faced by older people were highlighted in the EU_SHAFE Project Report on Ageism.

After the launch in Ardee, Grainne Cumiskey Eu Shafe Co Ordinator gave a presentation to the Louth Older People's Council (OPC) on the results and findings of the report.

She has recommended that an action is included in the new LECF to address ageism through a suite of ageism awareness initiatives.

It is anticipated that the Age Friendly Programme in Co Louth will help deliver on this action with assistance from members of the Louth Older People's Council (OPC) and Louth Age Friendly Alliance.

For more information on the Louth Age Friendly Programme contact agefriendly@louthcoco.ie

Louth OPC welcomed 4 new members to the OPC executive committee in July, some new members are from groups and services that represent older people and other are individuals who are interested in having the voice of older people heard on a variety of issues in Co Louth.

One issue discussed and progressed at the meeting was a Care & Repair Service for Ardee/Mid Louth. Members of the OPC have identified a need for a Care & Repair service in Ardee/Mid Louth like the services provided in Dundalk & Drogheda. Care & Repair is a service to help older people with small maintenance jobs in their homes and gardens. Andrea Connolly from Cuidigh Linn was invited to give the members a presentation on the Care & Repair Service provided by Cuidigh Linn in Dundalk and Andrea gave an overview of the service Cuidigh Linn provide and advice for those considering setting up a similar service in Mid Louth. Members from the OPC are meeting with community leaders in Ardee to progress this matter.

The next OPC meeting is scheduled for 13th September 2023 in Dundalk.



Attendees at the LECP public consultations in Carlingford

Louth Comhairle na nOg

Dail Eireann Visit

On the 4th of July members of Louth Comhairle na nOg visited Dail Eireann. The group met up with their cross-border partners in Newry and Mourne Youth Council as part of their cross-border cooperation project. The young people had a tour of the Dail and Seanad Chamber. They learned about the history of the building and the various functions of the different parts of Government. At 2pm the group got to view the live Leaders Questions from the gallery.

After this session the group got to visit the committee rooms and met many more elected representatives. The visit concluded with photos at the front of Dail Eireann with local politicians Ruairí Ó Murchú, Senator John McGahon and Senator Erin McGreehan. The young people learned a lot on the day and got to meet elected representatives face to face.



Louth Comhairle na nOg members with Ruairi O Murchu, TD, Senator John McGahon and Senator Erin McGreehan outside Dail Eireann

Launch of the Young Peoples Consultation Report

On 12th July Louth Comhairle na nOg launched their Consultation Report. This official launch was performed by Minister for Children, equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderic O Gorman in the Redeemer FRC in Coxes Demesne. Young people came from all over the county to hear the excellent work currently happening by youth services in Louth. The six key areas for future work were: Education, Cost of Living, Drugs and Alcohol, Lack of Facilities, Community Safety and Social Inclusion.

CE of Louth County Council Joan Martin congratulated the young people on their work and stressed how important it is for young people to be part of the solutions. The Youth Pride event for Dundalk was happening in the same venue at the same time and this added a great atmosphere on the day.



CE Joan Martin Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderic O Gorman, TD with Louth Comhairle na nOg members at the launch of the Young Peoples consultation report

The Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow in Ardee

Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly officially launched the Gum Litter Taskforce's gum litter education campaign on Friday 21st July 2023, in Ardee. She was joined by members of Ardee Tidy Towns and representatives from the Dee Hub.

The interactive Summer Roadshow works with the community support team in Louth County Council and communities across the country to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter. Now in its sixteenth year, the campaign is a collaboration between Food Drink Ireland, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the chewing gum industry, and local authorities.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly with Members of Ardee Tidy Towns Committee and reps from the Dee Hub



Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly with GLT roadshow Reps and Children from Ardee attending the event

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023

The TVRS 2023 was announced on 21st July, this year, the scheme is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland through a renewed focus on town centre economic and social recovery and regeneration. This will be achieved through projects focusing on town centre regeneration, enhancing our Streetscapes, and bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into use as community multi-purpose spaces through refurbishment and renovation.

The Community support Team of Louth County Council is now seeking Expressions of Interest for eligible projects, to be submitted by 4pm on 25th August 2023.

Expression of Interest application form and further information on the scheme is available on our

website or click on the link <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/funding/town-and-village-renewal-scheme-2023/town-and-village-renewal-scheme-2023/>

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) remains open for expressions of interest, under Measures 1, 2 & 3, closing dates for receipt as follows:

Measure 1 Tuesday, 8th August 2023
Measure 2 Friday, 29th September 2023
Measure 3 Friday, 29th September 2023

The project development measure is now closed.

Expressions of Interest application forms and for further information is available on our website or click on the link.

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/funding/outdoor-recreation-infrastructure-scheme/oris-2023/>

Louth In Bloom 2023 Competition

Louth County Council annual environmental competition "Louth in Bloom 2023" closed for entries/nominations on the 10th July. We were delighted with the response; the competition is growing from strength to strength each year.

Our three independent adjudicators are already out and about judging all the entries/nominations received. Winners will be announced at the Louth In Bloom awards ceremony which will take place in October in Bellingham Castle.

The Tidy Towns Project Scheme

The Tidy Towns Project scheme is closing soon for approved projects payments, on 31st July 2023. Groups should email community@louthcoco.ie with the required documentation by end of July to ensure claims are processed.

This year 18 projects were awarded funding under the scheme, this year.



Tallanstown Tidy Town project

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN held its seventh Secretariat Meeting of 2023 on July 17th in Dundalk.

Thematic Projects

Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

The aim of this project is to train several of our PPN members from across the County in the essential skills and techniques required to work effectively as a mentor for other community groups within Louth PPN's membership.

The training of our community mentors took place on Tuesday 20th June in Creative Spark in Dundalk. Louth PPN are currently collating a database of skills, expertise, and experiences of our mentors to enable a tailored approach to the mentoring process. Mentoring will be made available to all PPN members later this Summer.

Intercultural Sports

This project aims to help integrate members of County Louth's new communities through the medium of sport. Two dates have been provisionally booked for family sporting days:

St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda (August 12th)
Dundalk Sports Centre, Dundalk (July 29th).

Members from all cultures and backgrounds shall be invited to participate. Louth PPN has received support from Louth County Council's Sports Team and Louth Local Sports Partnership in structuring the activities for both days and in recruiting coaches and trainers from local sporting clubs to assist on these days.

Youth

Louth PPN's Youth Project will involve the training up of young people to sit on various boards and committees confidently and comfortably – it is hoped that this training will help build capacity of community groups to have their voices heard at decision and policy making structures in the County both now and in the future. It is anticipated that this training will take place from early September.

Environment

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

- Re-introduction of the red squirrel at Rathescar lake, Dunleer
- A community-based planting of native trees such as the Hazel tree which will offer food and shelter to wildlife.
- Construction of bee-hotels
- Planting of wild-flower meadows to encourage pollinating insects.

The site has been surveyed and the planting areas for trees and wild flowering have been identified. The planting of native trees will take place in Sept / Oct and the planting of wild flowers before then. Native wild flowers are currently being sourced. The Introduction of the red squirrel is being progressed with an assessment being carried out on the environment to ensure no presence of the grey

squirrel which has been eliminated with the natural increase in pine martin numbers.

Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards 2023

Planning for the annual Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards event is on-going with a provisional date set for November 9th, 2023. The launch of nominations will take place in the coming week or two.

Training for Q3 & Q4

It is anticipated that Louth PPN will offer training to PPN members in the following areas:

- Social Media
 - Canva
 - Property Marking Machine
- Further details on the time / day for this training will follow in the coming weeks.

Healthy Ireland Fund

Healthy Louth Newsletter

The Healthy Louth Coordinator has received lots of positive feedback on the Healthy Louth Monthly Newsletter.

The Healthy Louth Newsletter is a resource that signposts to various health and wellbeing information / programmes and events happening across County Louth each month. The content of the newsletter incorporates Healthy Ireland themes including:

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

Check out the most recent edition by clicking the link below:

[Healthy Louth Newsletter 4th Edition July/Aug 2023](#)

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

LEADER

Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programmes-

Promoter	Amount
Express Mini Mix & Skip Hire Waste Separation Equipment Ref: 116992	€99,900
Geraldines GFC Extension & Lighting Community Walkway Track Ref: 117454	€84,095.54
Dundalk Chamber of Commerce CLG Cross Border Tourism Conference 2023 Ref: 117645	€3,426.75
Drogheda Tidy Towns The Glen Biodiversity Project Ref: 111099	€3,680.81

LEADER Programme 2023-2027

The Louth Local Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 was brought to a special meeting of the LCDC on 10th July. The Committee approved the submission of the Strategy as our proposal to operate the LEADER 2023 – 2027 programme. An independent panel will assess the Strategy on behalf of the DRCD, with results expected later in the year.

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

The call for tender for SICAP 2024 – 2028 is now live on eTenders. The closing date for tenders is 8th September. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded towards the end of the year.

EU_SHAFE

The EU_SHAFE project concluded after three and a half years on the 31st July 2023. The project aimed to improve policies and practices in 7 European regions (of which Louth was one), by developing a comprehensive approach to Smart Healthy Age Friendly Environments. Overall, the project has been a success with new policies and practices being implemented across the regions.

In Louth, our action plan focused on ageing and ageism. Through a comprehensive survey we have been able to establish base line data on the topic of ageing and ageism, not only in County Louth but nationally. Our Ageism report was officially launched by Joan Martin, CE on 19th July at a meeting of the Louth Older People’s Council held at the Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre in Ardee.



Joan Martin, CE with Sinead McVerry and Grainne Cumiskey of Community Section with Louth Older Peoples Council launching the EU_Shafe Ageism Report

The data from the survey and the report have been used to make a submission to the Louth Local Economic and Community Plan (2023-2029) review. The data has been provided to the research team at TU Dublin for more detailed analysis.

As the project closes, the Louth EU_SHAFE Co-ordinator would like to thank the CE for her unwavering support throughout the project, the EU_SHAFE Local Action Group for their input and expertise, TU Dublin for their continued support through the project and in particular with the ageism survey and finally the co-ordinators from the other

European regions who invested their time to make this a successful project.

The report can be viewed at https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/louth_county_council/la-test-news/ageism-report-launched.html

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre

Multi Sports Summer Camps

The first two multi-sport camps of 2023 have taken place in July. These camps have been a huge success with over 45 children in each camp enjoying a variety of games throughout the week. Multi-sport camps are fantastic, as they have games to suit all ability levels and are designed to be fun and creative. Camp 3 will be held from the 14th to the 18th of August, costing €60 per child.



Senior Development Basketball

Senior basketball camp was held from the 17th to the 21st of July for ages 13 to 17. With over 40 children participating in the 5-day camp, it was a great success. The basketball camp participants worked on their fitness and skills over the 5 days with some very challenging, but fun sessions.

Junior Basketball

Junior basketball camp was held from the 10th to the 14th of July for ages 6 to 12. Over 40 children participated in the 5-day camp, with many participants from the DSC basketball programme attending. The basketball camps are first and foremost focused on being fun and enjoyable.

However, the camps are a great opportunity for children to get involved in the sport for the first time or sharpen up their skills over the summer months.

Sam Alajiki visited the Junior Basketball Camp. Sam is on his summer break from college ball in the USA where he plays for Rice University in Texas and is also a member of the men's Irish international team.



Participants in the Junior Basketball Camp

We had the Irish U20s squad in getting some last-minute training before they headed off to the European Championships in North Macedonia in July 2023.



Members of the Irish U20 Basketball Camp

During their lunch break the campers watched the FIBA Basketball European Championships with Camp Leader and Basketball Coach Elijah Faapito Captaining the U20 Irish squad.



Junior Basketball Campers watching FIBA Basketball European Championships

Strength & Balance:

Dundalk Sports Centre's strength and balance programme has continued to grow with many new members trying out the class for the first-time last month. It is fantastic to find out that new members are being recommended to come along via their family and friends. The class offers two experience levels of beginner and advanced. The beginner class is held every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30am and the more advanced on Wednesdays from 11:30am to 12:30pm.



Active Adult Carlingford day out:

A number of our participants from our 'Active Ageing' and 'Strength & Balance' programmes went on a day out to Carlingford on the 25th July with 2 sports centre staff. The group went for a gentle walk to explore the village, followed by some refreshments in a local café.



Active Ageing' and 'Strength & Balance' programmes went on a day out to Carlingford on the 25th July

Lourdes Stadium

Bowls Tournament

Thirty bowls players attended the second outdoor bowls mixed open fun tournament of the year at the Lourdes Stadium outdoor bowling green on Wednesday 5th July.

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

Well done to the winners and runners up on the day. The next event is planned to take place towards the end of August.



Outdoor bowls mixed open fun tournament at the Lourdes Stadium

Friendly Bowls Competition vs Aer Lingus Bowls Club

Lourdes Stadium staff organised a friendly bowls event with Aer Lingus Bowls Club on Saturday 22nd July 2023. There were 31 participants on the day of which 15 represented Aer Lingus Bowls club and 16 represented the Lourdes Stadium casual users. The Lourdes Stadium Bowlers came away delighted winning on a score of 50-31 points and have even been asked by Aer Lingus to travel to Dublin for a rematch over the coming weeks.



Friendly bowls event between Lourdes Stadium Bowlers
Aer Lingus Bowls Club

Volunteer Support Workshops

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
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.

Sports Capital & Equipment Programme 2023 – Applications open from July 17th.

The Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP) will open for new applications from 17 July. The SCEP is the government’s primary vehicle for providing support to sports clubs and communities to develop sports infrastructure around the country.

Applicants for local projects can now apply for up to €200,000, increased from the previous maximum grant of €150,000. The maximum valid grant available for projects deemed to be of regional significance has been increased from €300,000 to €500,000.

In addition, this year’s SCEP “*Guide to Making an Application*” has a focus on climate action and sustainability for the first time, supporting local clubs to take steps to reduce their energy consumption and applying for more efficient lighting.

For the first time in the history of the SCEP, projects will only be considered for grant support if access is guaranteed to men and women on equal terms. As one of the stated objectives of the Programme is to increase female participation, all applications for funding of women-only facilities will be deemed valid for consideration.

Applications can be made online only from 9am on 17th July until 5pm on 8th September 2023.

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	July 27 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Aug 10 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Aug 24 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Sept 7 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Sept 21 st 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Oct 5 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Disability Inclusion

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

First Aid

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
First Aid Online	September 19 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Further information about the programme including details of all previous allocations can be found at gov.ie/sportscapital.

National Play Day – July 8th Drogheda

Louth LSP in partnership with St Nicolas GFC in Drogheda hosted a successful event on Saturday July 8th to celebrate National Play Day. The aim of National Play Day is to promote play opportunities for children and young people all across the country.

This year's theme was Wonder and Discovery. This theme was chosen to represent the wonder and discovery that unfolds when children play outside. Ensuring children have access to outdoor play means they will have many opportunities for developing their imagination and physical abilities. Playing in nature also presents opportunities for exploration and adventure.

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



National Play Day –8th July at St Nicholas GAA Drogheda

Children's Inclusive Learn to Cycle Programmes

6 week inclusive learn to cycle program starting September 12th for children aged 6-12 with intellectual disabilities.

This after schools' programme takes place on the MUGA pitch outside Dundalk Sports Centre. Two time blocks available: Tuesdays 3pm to 3:45pm & Tuesdays 4pm to 4:45pm

To book please use the Eventbrite links below:
<https://loom.ly/Et1C6Dw> 3pm block
<https://loom.ly/XK6LX2U> 4pm block
Numbers are limited, for more information contact:
Julie.duffy@louthcoco.ie



GAA All-Stars Summer Camp

Join in the fun with the All Stars this summer! Inclusive GAA Summer Camp for children with additional needs aged 4-13 years hosted by Roche Emmett's GAA Club and supported by Louth LSP.

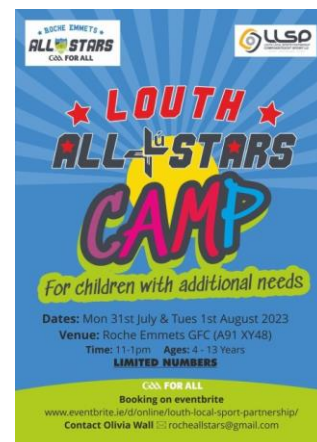
Date: Monday July 31st & Tuesday August 1st
Times: 11:00 - 13:00

Venue: Roche Emmett's GAA (A91 XY48)

To register for this opportunity please use the Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/671460545567>

Contact Olivia Wall for further information:
rocheallstars@gmail.com



Inclusive Summer Camps for Adults in Dundalk & Drogheda

Two Summer Camps for adults with a disability will take place in Dundalk Sports Centre in August. The camp in Dundalk Sports centre will take place on August 28th & 29th. The cost to attend is €10 per person.

Pre booking is essential for a place on this programme. Please contact Dundalk Sports Centre for more information on 042-9392987.

Another Inclusive Summer camp will also take place in Lourdes Stadium Drogheda on August 14th & 15th. The cost to attend is €10 per person.

Pre booking is essential for a place on this programme. Please contact Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318



HER Outdoors launched for 2023.

Sport Ireland and Louth Local Sports Partnership have launched HER Outdoors week for 2023! HER Outdoors week aims to celebrate and encourage more females to get out and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors while bringing visibility to the opportunities for females to get involved in outdoor physical activity.

This week is all about providing more opportunities for all females to escape to the outdoors and try something new. For such a tiny island, there are so many incredible outdoor activities on offer, and this should be celebrated to the fullest!

HER Outdoors Week will be back in 2023 from August 14th - 20th with several events happening in Louth on water and on the land.

Please see the link below for information on all of the events taking place in Louth during HER Outdoors Week.

<https://www.sportireland.ie/heroutdoors>
#FindYourOutdoors



Summer Level 1 Sport Leaders Awards

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to deliver a hugely successful Level 1 Sports Leaders Award to 38 young people from the Drogheda area in July.

The programme is designed to develop the leadership skills and confidence of teenagers aged 13-17 years within communities in Louth who will be future leaders and coaches within their sports clubs and groups within the county.

The teenagers upon completion of the programme will receive a Sport Ireland recognised Level 1 Qualification in Sports Leadership.

The final Level 1 Sports Leader course of the summer will take place in Dundalk Sports Centre from August 8th – 10th.

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



Level 1 Sports Leaders Award in Drogheda

Stabannon All Stars – Summer Camp

Louth LSP was delighted to support Stabannon All Stars to deliver a multi-sport inclusive summer camp for children with physical disabilities through funding from our 2023 small club grant programme. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities supported by a brilliant group of coaches and volunteers from the Stabannon Parnells GAA Club.

Well done everyone!



Participants in the Stabannon All Stars – Summer Camp

Physical Activity Equipment Pack provided for National Learning Network

Louth LSP was delighted to provide a physical activity equipment pack to The National Learning Network in Wilton House Dundalk to support them to provide regular physical activity opportunities to the service users.

The pack contained equipment and resources that both staff and service users can utilise to develop their own daily and weekly activity programmes.

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



Louth LSP with The National Learning Network in Wilton House Dundalk

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Summary of Complaints

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

A total number of 220 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in July 2023	Total Received in 2023
Air & Noise	8	63
Farm	1	6
Waste/C&D	18	106
Water Quality	4	45

Waste Management

A total of 18 complaints were received in July 2023 relating to Waste. Four complaints received regarding Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste. All complaints relating to waste were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

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

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

Projects are ongoing.

Dates in Sept 2023 are being reviewed for hosting Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Events, which will take place in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee.



Litter on Castletown River, Dundalk (Before)



Clean-up of Castletown River, Dundalk (After)

Commercial Food Waste

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, has signed new legislation to introduce incentivised charging for waste collection in the commercial sector which will require waste collection companies to provide a residual, mixed dry recyclable and bio-waste bin to all their commercial customers.

This change will bring the commercial sector in line with the residential sector, for whom incentivised pricing has been in place since 2017.

The Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 will come into effect on 1 July 2023.

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

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

In Drogheda we received information on the use of plastic bags for the presentation of waste for collection from an apartment complex. We are currently engaging with the management company (apartment block) and waste contractor in relation to using alternative arrangements to present waste for collection in this case.

Following a number of complaints regarding illegal dumping and bin presentation in the areas of Linenhall Street, Chapel Street and Williamsons Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth, a number of letters were issued to residents in these areas informing them of Louth County Councils Segregation, Storage and

Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2019. Engagement with residents in Williamson’s Place, Dundalk is on-going with evidence of waste arrangements been obtained from residents. Follow-up letters will be issued to properties where no response has been provided.

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



Bin presentation on Chapel Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth



Illegal dumping on Williamson’s Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Farm Plastics

The IFFPG (Irish Farm Film Producers Group Ltd) is Ireland’s only approved farm plastics recycling compliance scheme and will be running farm plastic collections at the following locations in late September.

Ardee, Drummonds Ltd	Late Sept
Knockbridge, Drummonds Ltd	Late Sept
Townrath, Drummonds Ltd	Late Sept

Article 27 By-Products

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

By-product notifications are made to the EPA through an online portal. Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section have a role to carry out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria of notification.

In July 2023, a total of 2 notifications were received by Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section for investigation.

Waste Facility Permits & Certificate of Registration

Currently there are 26 Waste Facility Permits and there are 4 Certificates of Registration (COR) in operation in Co. Louth.

Annual Return Validations

All Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (CoR) holders are required to submit Annual Returns (AR) where they collected / processed waste in any given year. Waste Enforcement Officers have commenced validations for 2023 for permitted waste facilities operating within Co. Louth. This is a significant body of work

that takes several months to complete. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies a list of waste facilities which must be prioritised for validation by Local Authorities. Validation plays an important role in tracking different waste streams and volumes within the sector and helps to improve traceability for all key waste materials which are reported through the EPA to the EU on an annual basis.

Checkpoints

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

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

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

A total of 34 litter fixed penalty notices were issued in the month of July. Of these, 8 were issued in Drogheda, 18 were issued in Dundalk Town and 8 in the remaining County wide area.

There have been 711 litter investigations completed to date in 2023 with 105 carried out in the month of July. There have been 163 litter fixed penalty notices issued in the year to date.

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



Abandoned Vehicles

The Waste Management & Environment team are committed to actively investigating reports of abandoned vehicles within the County. A new procedure is being put into place to facilitate this. Our litter wardens check the vehicle for its condition / tax / insurance and NCT. If the opinion is formed

that the vehicle may be abandoned the owner is contacted advising them to contact the Waste Management & Environment Department. If no reply is received a final reminder is issued before the vehicle is removed by Louth County Council. If the owner then makes contact within 4 weeks of the vehicle having been removed and proves ownership, the vehicle is released on payment of all associated removal and storage costs. Louth County Council actively works with all vehicle owners. Louth County Council will only investigate abandoned vehicles in public areas and estates which are taken in charge. Abandoned vehicles on privately owned land will not be investigated. To date this year, the Waste Management & Environment Section has received 44 complaints regarding abandoned vehicles which have all been investigated.



Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 3 Integrated Bulk Container's (IBCs) dumped in July 2023 at a cost of €3,744.30 approx. So far in 2023 there have been 69 IBCs dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of approximately €86,118.84.



IBC's located by Louth County Council

Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning

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 5 water quality complaints received in July which were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

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

Bathing Water

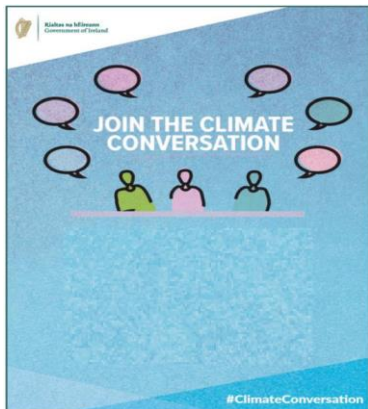
The out of season annual monitoring of the four designated beaches in Co Louth has commenced in May 2023. The four beaches identified as designated bathing waters in Co. Louth are Templetown, Port, Clogherhead and Seapoint. The readings for the samples taken on 24th July 2023 show excellent results. Results for all the beaches are available on www.beaches.ie.

The public participation for the identification of new bathing waters has also begun. Local authorities must identify official bathing areas in their area every year so that they can be monitored for safety, water quality and their level of use. To help with this process, Louth County Council are asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to inform them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment. The closing date for submissions of proposed new bathing waters is **28th September 2023** to environmentalcompliance@louthcoco.ie

Further information on beaches and water quality can be found on the EPA hosted website – www.beaches.ie



Climate Action



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

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

The climate action team recently attended the Local Authority Climate Action Staff – National networking event and the Mary Robinson Climate Conference in Ballina County Mayo.

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

The Climate Action Team has supported the recent application on 'Louth Urban Food Sanctuary' made by Louth Creative Ireland towards the Creative Climate Action Fund II.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

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

The Climate Action Coordinator also attended a workshop in Tullamore hosted by CARO which focused on actions within the Climate Action Plan.

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.

The Climate Action Coordinator also recently attended a two-day Decarbonisation Zone workshop.

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

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



**Climate Action workshop,
Cooley Room, County Hall**

Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

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

The Climate Action Team 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 the 29th September at the R&I Research Days online webinar.

The Climate Action Team also remotely attended the annual forum of, the EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change in Sweden.



Climate Adapt 2022

Community Climate Action

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

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



Framework for the Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

November 2022

The Community Climate Action Officer also hosted a week-long series of online webinars for community members in Louth. Each workshop focused on a theme within the Community Climate Action Fund.

The Community Climate Action Officer also recently delivered a Climate Action information session on Clogherhead Beach with the Communities Section in LCC as part of the Blue Flag Beach initiative.



Pupils from Callystown N.S and the Community Climate Action Officer for Louth County Council

V&W Circular Economy Project

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

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

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



Ukraine Appeal, V&W Centre Dundalk

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

Education and Awareness Initiatives

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

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



V & W’s Education Officers continue to work with Tidy Towns groups and Community groups

promoting both Recycling Centres and the benefits of recycling.

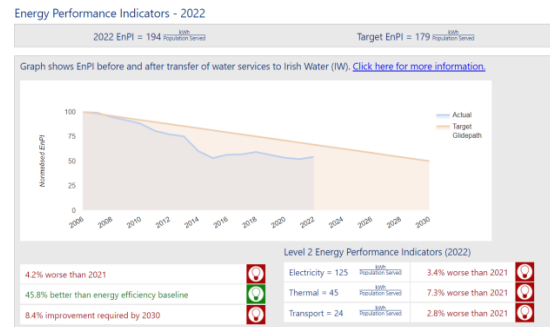
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Energy Efficiency Performance

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

That is down slightly on previous years. The slight decrease is largely attributable to the depletion of renewable landfill gas at Whiteriver Landfill Site (gas to electricity project whereby electricity was exported to the national grid). However, the Council’s work to improve its energy efficiency has almost entirely offset that and the Council remains firmly on target to achieve the 2030 efficiency target.

Irish Public Bodies have a target of improving energy efficiency by 50% and reducing energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030.



Gap-To-Target Plan to 2030

Louth County Council’s Energy Emissions Baseline, (average energy emissions in the period 2016 - 2028) is 4,907t CO₂. As mentioned, Irish Public Bodies have a target to reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 51% (compared to the baseline) by 2030.

At the end of 2022 – Louth County Council was responsible for emitting 4,542t CO₂ according to SEAI’s Annual Report. **That equates to a reduction in CO₂ of 365t.**

Louth County Council Energy Emissions decreased from the baseline to 2022.

To achieve the emissions target, we have developed a **Gap to Target Plan to achieve those reductions.**

SEAI has advised that, to comply with the 2030 emissions target, Louth County Council must achieve carbon emissions savings of 1,000t.

Improving our energy efficiency causes a consequent (action) reduction of energy emissions.

We do this by undertaking behavior change (e.g. our participation in OPW's Optimising Power at Work Programme and by improving work vehicle fuel efficiency) combined with more efficient maintenance works (e.g. replacing high energy public light bulbs with low energy bulbs as they fail) and by undertaking new works.



Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

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

The Council is in the process of procuring sensors for installation at the project suite. These will be used to measure microclimate parameters (temperature and humidity, VOCs, Barometric pressure, CO2, Oxygen, Particulate Matter) in the vicinity, as well as noise levels, 'number of people' counters. The sensors will be deployed as part of the Council's Visionary Solutions, which will see the greening and regeneration at the pilot site and will be used to populate data in the upcoming Health and Well-Being Platform, currently under development.

Tender documents have been put on the E-Tenders website for procurement of a contractor to undertake the works, except for the Learning Pod. It is planned to procure that separately and procurement documents are at an advanced stage also.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st July 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 seventy inspections in the year to date.



Pictured, a delegation from the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, who along with the FSAI, visited Martin Commins' abattoir in Ardee as part of a study tour, supported by the Louth County Council Veterinary team

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs impounded. July 2023	
Total dogs impounded	30
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	15
Surrendered by owners	15
No dogs reclaimed by owners	6
No of dogs rehomed direct	13
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	11
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/07/2023	4

Dog Licences July 2023	
No of Licences sold	556
Licence Checks:	
House calls	320
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	195
Fixed Penalty Notices	17

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses impounded July 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 31/07/2023	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments July 2023	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/07/2023)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



Dogs impounded during July 2023

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

John Lawrence
Acting Director / Stiúrthóir Gníomhach



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 June – 19th July 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 June – 19 July 2023	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	3	104	56	163
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	5	27	12	44
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	5	2	7
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	1	0	1
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	8	137	70	215

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	96
Female	72
Total	168

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	28
25-44	93
45-64	40
65+	7
Total	168

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	77
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	91
Total unique individuals	168

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	14	21	30
Total	14	21	30
Couples with dependent children in Louth	16	33	43
Total	16	33	43

Table 6 - Housing First

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

Housing Allocations up to 25th July, 2023

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	22	6	1	0
Drogheda	48	13	36	9
Dundalk	63	6	37	8
Total	133	25	74	17

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	3
Dundalk	11
Drogheda	2
Total	16

Housing List

July 2023	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	419	654	1002	2075
HAP Transfer List	299	1167	1645	3111
Total Housing List	718	1821	2647	5186

There are **286** applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including **44** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is 3,111

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
299	1167	1645	3111

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is 948.

Current Rents Arrears as of 25 th July 2023	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	195	€79,552.00
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	155	€116,996.00
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	837	€2,832,185.00
TOTAL	1,187	€3,028,733.00

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

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	July 2023	107
2 nd Reminder	July 2023	62
Final Reminder	July 2023	30
Total issued		199

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 103 new payment plans commenced in July 2023.

The rent review of the Drogheda area was concluded in May 2023. A total of 1,302 rent forms were issued with a total of 1,224 being completed and returned. The review resulted in a net increase in the weekly rental charge for the Drogheda area of 19%.

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 25 th July 2023	Total
Ardee Municipal District	10
Dundalk Municipal District	13
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	34
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	57
Vacant Properties (CPO units not yet ready for occupation) (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	60

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

2023 Voids Program & Relets – Mid-year Update. 25th July 2023

Under the Voids Program 2023, DHLGH provided an allocation of 80 No. units to Louth County Council. This allocation was notified to us in May, via Circular 20/2023 'Voids Funding Programme & Planned Maintenance Programme 2023'.



Work in Progress in a house in Ardee

At a maximum recoupable cost of €11,000 per unit, this allocation of 80 units amounts to €880,000 in recoupable funding. In addition to this, LCC allocated €60,000 to assist in the delivery of the Voids program. Therefore, the total budget allocation for our Voids Program 2023 is €940,000.

An initial submission to DHLGH under the Voids Program resulted in 44 units being approved for the Program. Of these 44 units, 13 are completed & tenanted, with funding recouped from DHLGH, 3 are completed & tenanted but not yet recouped, and a further 12 are completed but not yet tenanted. The remaining 16 units are currently undergoing work.

A second submission to DHLGH, in respect of an additional 21 properties, was made during July, and is awaiting approval by the Department. Approval is expected by the end of July, following which works on these properties will be tendered out.

A further submission will be made in early September, when it is expected that a sufficient additional number of relets/voids will have come on stream.



Condition of property in Drogheda before a clean out.



Condition of property in Drogheda before a clean out.

While a maximum of €11,000 is available per eligible unit under the Voids Program, the cost of re-letting works per unit generally exceeds this amount.

Costs, in excess of the allowable €11,000 per unit, is funded via the Area Relet budgets. In 2022, the average cost of re-letting works to all vacant/void units was €14,152.

In addition to those units qualifying for Voids Program funding, so far this year 15 No. relets have been deemed ineligible for Voids Program funding. The cost of re-letting work on these units is funded solely from LCC own resources, through the Area Relet budget allocations. To date, 5 of these units have been completed & reallocated. Works on the remaining 10 are ongoing and/or to be scheduled.

On the 30th June 2023, there were 124 properties listed as vacant. When Mortgage to Rents (MTRs), Long Term Leases (LTL) (privately-owned), new acquisitions (awaiting 1st letting), Part V properties (awaiting 1st letting), traveler-specific accommodation, units in use by homeless Section and succession applicants are removed from this figure, the net number of Council owned vacant properties at 30th June was 63.

Of these, 9 are CPOs awaiting funding to complete (3 with Housing Maintenance, 6 with Housing Capital). This means that the actual number of vacant units in general available stock, on 30th June, was 54.

As of 25th July, this figure stands at 57. The Challenges in relation to turnaround of Voids/Relets include unpredictability in relation to quantity & timing, condition of the units, procurement timelines, budgetary constraints, and allocation timelines.

Drogheda has a higher turnover of relets/voids and has a higher volume of relets/voids in poorer condition, which leads to pressure on available budgets and can result in turnaround of relets/voids being delayed due to these constraints.

In addition to the Voids Program, and Relet units funded directly from Area Relet budgets, there are several 'long-term voids' that, due to their extremely poor condition and/or requirement for structural works, fall outside the scope of both the Voids Program and Area Relet budgets. Earlier this year,

the Council allocated funding of €500,000 to refurbish 6 long-term void units for re-tenanting.

Tenders are being prepared in relation to the works required on these units, and it is expected that these will go out to tender during August. More recently again, the Minister for Housing indicated that his department would consider refunding the Council for the cost of refurbishing these units. To this end, a capital appraisal is being prepared for submission to the Department in relation to these units, so that they may be considered for inclusion on one of their Capital funding programs.



Finished Kitchen in Drogheda

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	1 st -25 th July 2023	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	398	3,878
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	307	3,003
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	64	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	27	219

Private Rental Inspections

	1 st - 25 th July 2023	Year to Date
Properties inspected monthly	24	173
Advisory Letters issued	9	106
Improvement Notices issued	5	37
Private Inspections	1	5
HAP Inspections	14	116
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	8
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	6	36
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	3	7
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	9	44

Tenancy Engagement

1 st July 2023 to 24 th July, 2023	Drogheda ^a	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	3	0	8	11	129
Post-tenancy inspections	2	0	30	32	187
Tenancy Investigation Visits	2	0	17	19	281
Tenancy Investigations Remote	1	0	6	7	43



Hanging Baskets in Beechwood Grove, Dunleer provided by Estate Management to the Residents Committee

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st July 2023 to 24 th July, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases received.	6	6	7	19	104
ASB cases Ongoing	7	4	11	22	111
ASB cases complete	7	6	10	23	86

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st July 2023 to 24 th July, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	8	4	15	27	49
Written Warnings	15	1	1	17	19
Tenancy Notifications	2	0	0	2	8
Tenancy Warnings under Housing Act, 2014	0	0	4	4	4

Home Loans

2023 Budget Allocation	€8,030,000
LAHL Approvals at 24/07/2023	€2,930,628

Breakdown of Housing Loan applications processed at the 24th July, 2023.

Total number of Applications at 24/07/2023	54
LAHL carried over from 2022	5
Invalid/Returned	10
Approved	16
Declined	20
For review	11
Outstanding – waiting on further information	2

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	July Monthly Total	YTD Total
Applications completed 2022	42	17	175	-	234
Applications on hand 24/07/2023	248	30	284	-	562
No. Grants Approved July 2023	20	2	12	34	170

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

It is noted that whilst grant applicants cannot be accepted at present due to the high volume of applications on hand, where there are exceptional cases when a hospital discharge cannot be facilitated, the Council will accept an application form for assessment.

The Council received confirmation in July 2023 of an allocation of €3,048,590 for Private House Grants. €609,718 of this will be funded by the local authority's own resources.



Stair Lift installed in Dundalk in July, funded under the Mobility Aid Grant



An extension for a ground floor bedroom and bathroom completed in July in Dundalk, which received funding under the Housing Adaptations Grants for Disabled.

Affordable Housing

Louth County Council has received approval from the Department for an Affordable Housing scheme in Drogheda. Louth County Council in partnership with Lagan Homes will bring several properties to the market at Newtown Wood, Drogheda. Details of the scheme will be circulated in local media in the coming weeks.

Vacant Homes

The survey of vacant homes continues in Co. Louth. At the start of May, staff in the Housing section began the survey and logged the results on the app. To date 1,236 properties have been surveyed throughout the county. This information will be used to engage with property owners where the property is vacant or derelict to bring the property back into use.

Acquisitions

Louth County Council is purchasing properties for both homeless and disability need. The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. In July, Louth County Council acquired 5 properties in Dundalk.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

1st July to 24th July 2023	
Active MTR Applications	31
AHB MTR Purchaser	2
AHB MTR completed	1
Active MTR Applications	31
AHB MTR Purchaser	02

Repair and Lease Delivery (RLS)

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

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Under construction
1	Dundalk	2	Under construction
1	Dundalk	2	Under negotiation for works
6	Castlebellingham	2	Pre planning

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant – Croi Conaithe

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, funded by the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund was launched on 14 July 2022 with a view to increase the number of vacant and derelict properties being brought back

into use, the Grant is being further expanded from 1 May 2023.

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

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

Applications Submitted	72
Principal Private Residence Applications	63
Rental Property	9
Approved	26
Approved in Principle	4
Rejected	2
Applications withdrawn	6
Funding issued	1

Capital Housing Delivery

'Fulacht Fia', Mount Avenue, Dundalk.

In July 2023 Louth County Council signed contracts for the delivery of the new housing Scheme, 'Fulacht Fia', located off Mount Avenue, Dundalk. On

completion there will be 93 housing units in 'Fulacht Fia' that comprise a mix of houses, apartments and duplex units. All units will be A-Rated energy efficient homes. The Contractor, OHMG Ltd, is due to commence works on the site in early August 2023 and is due to be substantially complete in the first half of 2025.



Mount Avenue, Dundalk, 93-unit Housing Scheme – Signing of Contracts.



Mount Avenue, Dundalk, 93-unit Housing Scheme – Signing of Contracts.

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamor, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	Stage 4 Approved	01/09/2024	3no. * 2 bed & 8no. * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	19/02/2025	27no. * 3 bed, 4no. * 4 bed, 8no. * 1 bed Apt, 25no. * 2 bed Apt & 8no. * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	Stage 4 Approved	31/03/2025	29no. * 2 bed, 23no. * 3 bed, 9no. * 4 bed, 10no. * 1 bed Apt, 6no. * 2 bed Apt, 16no. * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 1 Approved	05/12/2025	2no. * 2 bed Apt, 2no. * 2 bed, 2no. * 3 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC 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
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/6	10	On-site	30/09/2023	10no. * 2 bed

Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/6	6	On-site	30/09/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/6	6	On-site	30/09/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	5/6	6	On-site	30/09/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	6/6	7	On-site	30/09/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt., 1no. * 2bed
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
Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	19/06/2024	1no. * 3 bed
Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth - Infill	1/1	6	On-site	24/11/2023	6no. * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	80	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
San Giovanni, Clogherhead	1/1	12	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	12no. * 3 bed
Clos Emer, Saltown, Dundalk	1/1	16	On-site	31/10/2023	16no. * 2 bed
Medebawn Close, Avenue Road, Dundalk	1/1	4	On-site	31/10/2023	2no. * 2 bed Apt, 2no. * 1 bed Apt.
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	2/5	1	Completed	31/03/2023	1no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	3/5	1	On-site	30/09/2023	1no. * 3 bed

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

CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk,	Tuath	10	Stage 3 Approved	03/09/2024	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	30/12/2024	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	30/03/2025	4no. *1 Bed units
Kincora House, 1-2 Seatown	P McVerry	8	Stage 1 approved	30/12/2024	8no.* 1 Bed apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	02/03/2025	5no.* 1 bed apartments 7no.* 2 bed apartments
3 Paradise Place	P McVerry	4	Stage 1 approved	01/03/2025	4no.*1 Bed apartments

CALF DELIVERY

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non Part V/ Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	1/2	5		On site	01/09/2023	2no. *2 bed Bungalow, 1no. * 3 bed Bungalow, 2no. *3 bed semi detached
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	2/2	6		On site	01/09/2023	2no. *3 bed Bungalow, 1no. *3 bed semidetached & 3no. *2 bed terraced houses
Newfoundwell Road, Drogheda Cluid Housing	2/2	39		On site	30/06/2023 DELIVERED 15/06/2023	12no.*1 bed apt & 27no.*2 bed apt
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	1/3	40	36/4	On site	30/09/2023	1no.*3 bed detached, 10no.*2 bed terraced, 14no.*3 bed semidetached & 15no.*3 bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	46	43/3	On site	30/9/2023	13no.*2 bed terraced, 18no.*3 bed semidetached & 15no.*3 bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	47	41/6	On site	30/03/2024	2no.*4 bed detached, 11no.*2 bed terraced, 1no.*3 bed detached, 22no.*3 bed semidetached & 11 no.*3 bed terraced
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	85	69/16	On site	01/10/2023	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		On Site	01/03/2024	12no.*3 bed house

Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	1/2	49	43/6	On site	30/10/2023	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	14		Delivered	21/04/2023 DELIVERED 15/06/2023	6no.*1 bed apt, 8no.*2 bed apt, 6no.*2 bed terraced & 4no.*3 bed terraced.
Donore Road Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	66	59/7	On site	30/09/2023	4 no.*1 bed apt, 54no.*2 bed apt & 8 no.*3 bed apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	3/3	69		On site	01/10/2023	30no.*1 bed apt, 11no.*2 bed apt & 18no.*3 bed duplex 6no.*2 bed terraced & 4no.*3 bed terraced
Drybridge, Drogheda North & East Housing	1/1	16		On site	30/08/2023	2no.*3 bed apt, 10no.*2 bed apt & 4 no.*1 bed apt
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	2/2	16		On site	31/03/2024	9no.*1 bed apt, 2no.*3 bed apt, 1no.*2 bed duplex & 4no.1*bed semi
Connolly's Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	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	14/3	On site	01/03/2024	7no*1 bed apt 7 no*2 bed apt 3no*3 bed apt

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 nearing completion. 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 to local authorities.

The Co Archivist assists staff on an ongoing basis with queries on the management of records and advises on the preparation of records both for destruction and for transfer to the Records Centre and the Co Archives. Work is continuing to take place in reviewing and appraising records for retention as archives or for destruction with work on the Waste section being done this past month.

Decade of Centenaries

As part of the Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023, Louth County Archives is creating an online exhibition relating to the period which will feature noteworthy archives and explanatory text. It will be produced in collaboration with the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society. The Decade of Centenaries

Programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Research Enquiries

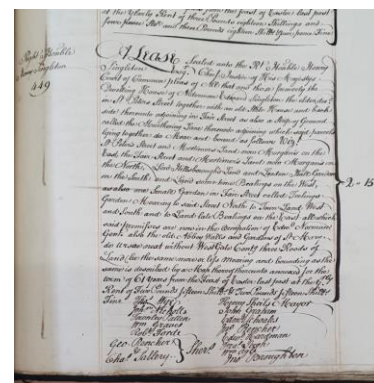
The service continues to receive a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics, professionals, and state agencies. The Archivist also receives many internal enquiries from staff in various sections.

Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded at the end of this year as the current system is now at the end of life. It will be upgraded to a modern system with enhanced features and improved speed. It will be hosted on the Cloud. Preparation work for the upgrade is ongoing.

Donating Archives

The Service welcomes donations of archives and records from the public that relate to all aspects of the development of County Louth including material from community groups, clubs and societies, national schools, individuals, local organizations and local businesses. These collections make available unique and valuable research sources for the study of Louth's heritage. If you have a collection that you would be willing to donate, or know of someone who would, please contact the County Archivist by email at archive@louthcoco.ie or by telephone at 042-9324358.



Extract of page from a Drogheda Corporation lease register, consulted by a recent researcher. It shows details of a 1744 lease with reference to St Mary D'Urso Abbey

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.

Installation of a new BMS (Building Management System) for the heating plant is nearing completion at the end of July. This will greatly assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building. It is receiving funding support from the SEAI scheme.

Libraries



Launch of 'The Library is the Place', the new 5-year national public library strategy.

On the 17th of July the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, launched "The Library is the Place" in Port Laoise. This is an ambitious new strategy designed to support and strengthen the public library network over the next 5 years. The "Library is the Place" contains 66 separate actions which will ensure public libraries become multi-purpose social and educational spaces for all members of the community to enjoy. Among the highlights of the Action Plan are:

- To develop every library in the country into a multi-purpose education and social space for all members of the community
- Treble the number of 'My Open Library' facilities to over 90. These provide library

access between 8am-10pm, 365 days per year.

- The expansion of the Right to Read Programme and the Right to Read Local Networks
- To increase visitor numbers and the amount spent on books in every library year-on-year.
- To ensure the further roll-out of Outreach Library Services and mobile libraries with a particular focus on rural communities
- Rollout of the national "Skills for Life" umbrella programme with a focus on digital skills, financial literacy, sustainable lifestyles, and environmental awareness
- Increase the availability of services and materials in the Irish language in every library facility.
- All new library buildings to support Local Authority Climate Action targets.



Dormant Accounts Fund for Library Supports

On the 17th July, Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien, announced €550,000 in funding for library support for marginalized and disadvantaged communities under the 2023 Dormant Accounts Action Plan. Louth Library Service submitted a successful funding proposal to purchase C-Pen Readers, noise cancelling headphones and weighted blankets to further enhance our commitment to improving our sensory spaces and to supporting adults and children with reading difficulties, visual impairments, and sensory needs. The continued development of our sensory spaces and services has contributed to and strengthened our commitment to ensuring that Louth libraries continue to be welcoming and inclusive spaces for all members of our communities. Funding of

€4,916.06 has been allocated to Louth Library Service, with a further 10% match funding from Louth County Council.

eServices



The wide range of services include:

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

eServices information sessions are held every month in:

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

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

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

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

Irish Newspaper Archives



Louth researchers can now access historical Irish newspapers from 1738 to the present day on public PCs in library branches through the Irish-based Irish

Newspaper Archives gateway. The archives consist of over 6 million pages of newspaper content from titles across the island of Ireland including local papers such as The Dundalk Democrat, The Drogheda Independent as well as other national and provincial papers. Through the newspaper obituaries Irish genealogists can search, retrieve, and view births, deaths and marriage records from 285 years' worth of Irish newspaper.

LOTE4Kids



LOTE4Kids is a free online service that allows children to enjoy stories in other languages. Choose from books in more than 60 languages with a huge selection of over 2,500 digital books. LOTE4Kids also features children's activities such as colouring pages, wordsearches and spot the difference. Irish language stories are now available. LOTE4Kids is now available for mobile and tablets and is available for download on the [Apple store](#) and on [Google Play](#)

Louth Library Service social media



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.

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 School Library Service has finished visits for the summer. It's a busy time for staff now as we sort through the returned items and start preparing the van for next year's school term. Through the summer months we continue our Housebound Service and will have scheduled visits to ELCs and crèches. The van will also go in for service and be evaluated, cleaned, and restocked, ready for the 2023/2024 school term.

DEIS Camps

DEIS Schools Summer Camps will take place in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries during August. Attendees will take part in activities and tours of the library.

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



Healthy Ireland
at your Library



BREAKING BAD

FOOD HABITS FOR BETTER FAMILY HEALTH

9TH AUGUST - 11:30AM - 11TH AUGUST - 11:30AM -
• DROGHEDA LIBRARY • • DUNDALK LIBRARY •

60 minute workshop & food demo with Ciara Beaugé from Glenville Nutrition, an experienced Nutritional Therapist. Ciara will help you to identify some of your family's more and less helpful eating habits & share ideas on how to build or adapt these to support the health of all family members.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL, CALL DROGHEDA LIBRARY ON 041-9876162 OR DUNDALK LIBRARY ON 042-9353190 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.



Louth Library Service is delighted to welcome nutritional therapist Ciara Beaugé from Glenville Nutrition for a workshop and food demonstration. Ciara will help you to identify some of your family's more and less helpful eating habits and share ideas on how to build or adapt these to support the health of all family members. Places are limited and booking is essential. Contact Drogheda Library on 041 9876162 Dundalk Library on 042 9353190

Healthy Hearts- The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit will be making a trip to Dundalk Library on 1st August from 11am - 3pm. Staff and the public will be able to get on board and get themselves checked out should they wish. The Irish Heart Foundation's Mobile Health Unit travels around the country offering free heart health checks to members of the public. During a heart health check, expert nurses will check your blood pressure and your pulse and provide heart health information and lifestyle advice.



Irish heart foundation mobile health unit

Mindful Colouring Group for Adults

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



Summer Stars



Summer Stars is in full swing in Louth Library Service and will run throughout the summer until the end of August, with over 700 children signed up to date.

Summer Stars is a free national reading programme for children taking place in all public libraries, which encourages children to read for enjoyment during their summer holidays.

Louth Library Service is providing Summer Stars bags and activity packs highlighting the summer national reading programme and tying it in with the Right to Read Programme.

We are encouraging parents to bring along their children to join the library, if not already members, and sign up for Summer Stars.



Participants in Ardee Library for Summer Stars craft workshop

Louth Library Service is delighted to welcome local author Emer Conlon to Dundalk, Drogheda, and Ardee Libraries during the month of August as part of Summer Stars. Emer will host a Vroom-Town Storytime, Maze and Jigsaw Fun session for children aged 3-7yrs. Contact Dundalk, Drogheda, or Ardee Library to book your place.

A programme of events, including Art & Crafts and Children's Storytime, will run throughout August in all our library branches. Keep an eye on social media at Louth Library Service on Facebook and Instagram. All children joining must have parental consent and membership is free.

Louth Library Service will also run a Summer Stars competition to win a day entry family pass for Dublin

Zoo, just be sure to return your Summer Stars reading card to your local library branch to be in with a chance of winning this great prize.

Summer Stars closing ceremonies will take place on Friday 25th August. Closing ceremony times are Dundalk library at 3:30pm Drogheda Library at 3pm and Ardee Library at 10:30am where all participants will receive a certificate of achievement.



Local Branches can be contacted at the following:

- Dundalk: 042-9353190
- Drogheda: 041-9876162
- Ardee: 041-6859023
- Dunleer: 041-6859016
- Carlingford: 042-932411

Social Media: Facebook & Instagram
@LouthLibraryService & Twitter @Louthcoco

World Cup Activity Book

Get a free World Cup Activity Book at Louth Library Service. With the FIFA Women's World Cup this summer it's the perfect way to get kids reading and learning all about sport!



Bellurgan Utd girls under 10 team were delighted to receive their activity books.

Free 'My Little Library Book Bag' for all children starting primary school in 2023.



To help children navigate starting primary school, Libraries Ireland has put together a free bag of books just for them that can be collected at any library branch in County Louth.

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. Louth Library Service is looking forward to welcoming all the 4 and 5 year-old children in to collect their book bags and begin their library membership journey.

Book bags are available in both Irish and English and contain:

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

We hope that once you visit the library to pick up the book bag, our new library members will come back regularly to keep their bag filled up with borrowed books and to take part in storytimes and fun activities which are all **free**. The book bags can be collected at your local library branch.

Email: Libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie



This little reader was delighted to collect her book bag in Drogheda Library recently.

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023



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

Historian in Residence Dr Tommy Tormey held a talk on Friday the 7th of July in Dundalk Library entitled "Louth in 1923: from executions to elections".

The talk is available to watch back on Louth Library Service crowdcast channel, with previous Decade of Centenary talks available to access:

<https://www.crowdcast.io/@louth-library-service>



Dr. Tommy Tormey in Dundalk Library



Library assistant Eilish Boyd near the viaduct in Drogheda

Heritage Week



Drogheda Library

Exploring the Landmarks & Heritage of Drogheda

Library staff in Drogheda Library have compiled a video recording entitled “Exploring the Landmarks & Heritage of Drogheda” which will be streamed on the library Facebook page during Heritage Week.

This short video will bring viewers on a historical journey exploring some of Drogheda’s most famous landmarks. The videos compiled for Heritage Week 2021 and 2022 will also be streamed on the library Facebook page.

Dundalk Library

Join Ciara Stewart and Ciara Brodigan as they go on a historical walking tour of Dundalk’s most prominent buildings. This video will be posted on the Louth Library Service's Facebook page and will be available to view during Heritage Week 12-20 August 2023.

Children’s Events

Dundalk Library

- Storytime 11th of August at 3pm
No booking required.
- Storytime 18th of August at 3pm
No booking required.
- Vroom-Town Storytime, Maze and Jigsaw Fun with Emer Conlon

Wednesday 23rd of August at 10am Places limited, booking essential. Contact Dundalk library on (042) 935 3190 to book your place.

Drogheda Library

- Happy Birthday Harry Potter
Join us for a special Harry Potter Day on Tuesday 1st August as we celebrate JK Rowling's series of wonderful novels. Dress up in your favourite Harry Potter costume. Select a book from our Harry Potter display. Book a session with your family on our magic table (limited availability). Join the library staff for a special Harry Potter chapter reading at 2.30pm

and there will also be a children's Harry Potter Quiz at 3pm where you could win a prize. For more information contact Drogheda Library on 041 9876162.

- Vroom-Town Storytime, Maze and Jigsaw Fun with Emer Conlon
Wednesday 16th August at 11.30am. Places limited, booking essential. Contact Drogheda library on 041 9876162 to book your place.

Ardee Library

- Vroom-Town Storytime, Maze and Jigsaw Fun with Emer Conlon
Wednesday 16th August at 2pm. Places limited, booking essential. Contact Ardee library on (041) 685 9023 to book your place.
- Ardee Library Picture Book Storytime and Colouring Club 4th and 11th August.
All welcome to attend, places limited, booking is essential.
- Ardee Library will screen one children's film in the month of August: Paddington (2017) 2.30pm 18th August.

Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian for the full duration of the screening. Booking not necessary.

Dunleer Library

- Children's Storytime Saturday 19th August
Booking essential. Please call Dunleer Library on 041 6859016 to secure your spot.

Carlingford Library

- Children's Storytime Saturday August 12th at 11am
Booking essential. Please call Carlingford Library on 042-9324113 to secure your spot.

Parent & Toddler Mornings

- Every Thursday 10am-12pm in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries

- Every Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm in Ardee Library
-

Baby Book Club

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

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

Adult Events

Ciorcal Cómhrá / Irish Conversation first Tuesday of every month at 4pm in Dundalk and every Wednesday at 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 and Drogheda Library on 041 9876162

Dundalk Library (042) 935 3190

Poetry Reading Group

To celebrate National Heritage week Dundalk library's resident Poetry Reading group will stage a concert of heritage songs, poems, and music on Friday 18th August at 11am in Dundalk library. The event is free and everyone is welcome.

Drogheda Library 041 9876162

Age Action Computer Classes

A new computer course will continue in Drogheda library throughout the month of August. 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 02nd August from 10.30am-1pm. The service offers practical and emotional support and options to those experiencing domestic violence.

Heroes of the Gaelic World in the Digital Age: The Fionn Folklore Database Wednesday 16th of August at 6pm

The Fionn Folklore database brings together some 3,500 tales and songs about the Gaelic world's greatest heroes, and offers a wealth of resources, including character lists, glossaries, an interactive digital map, and much more! In this talk, project researcher Dr Pádraig Fhia Ó Mathúna will provide insight into the site's background and resources, conveying how everyone from researchers to teachers, artists, writers, and the general public can benefit from this innovative digital humanities initiative.

All welcome, no booking required.

Wednesday 23rd August at 6pm Rainbow Reads

Join us in Drogheda Library for a cuppa, a chat, and some LGBTQ+ book recommendations for all ages from our friendly library staff. All welcome, no booking required.

Ardee Library 041 6859023

Ardee Library Conversational Irish

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

Ardee Library Language Conversation Exchange

Meeting every Tuesday evening at 6pm. Always wanted to learn a new language or practice what spoken languages you already know?

Ardee Library Conversation Exchange is the perfect place to do this. Peer led language learning through conversation - all languages welcome!

Film Screenings at Ardee Library

Ardee Library continues to screen films every Tuesday afternoon at 2.15pm. The line-up for the month of August is as follows:

- Where the Crawdads Sing 1st August
- Educating Rita 8th August
- It Happened One Night 15th August.
- The Commitments 22nd August
- Play Misty for Me 29th August.

Ardee Library Board Games Club

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

Ardee Library Audiobook Club

The Ardee Library Audiobook Club continues to meet on the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting will take place on August 17th at 6pm. New members welcome.

Outreach

Summer Stars at Mosney

Louth Library Service visited Mosney on the 4th of July. Louth Library Service & Meath Library Service provided Summer Stars packs for the community library in Mosney. Summer Stars is a National Right to Read programme, which encourages children to read for enjoyment during their Summer Holidays.

Louth Library Service also provided FAI activity books and Little Library Book Bags for children who are due to start primary school in September.



Leona Burgess, Suzie O'Connell & Geraldine Monaghan

Family Fun Sports & Play Day

Drogheda Library was delighted to attend Family Fun Sports & Play Day hosted by Louth Local Sports Partnership and St. Nicholas G.F.C to celebrate National Play Day on July 8th in St Nicholas GFC, Jimmy Pentony Park.



Library Assistant, Amy Branigan

Arts

Creative Ireland Louth

Creative Climate Action Funding

Louth County Council has received €48,000 in funding for a new creative climate action project, Louth Urban Food Sanctuary. The project aims to empower people with skills to develop local food resilience. Working with local creative's, the project will promote and demonstrate the importance of micro geographic food security by embracing the changing diet of Louth through the arts. Partners on the project will include farmer Tony McGuinness, DKIT Agriculture & Food School, the School of Hospitality and their School of Creative Arts and Media. Pamela Whittaker of Groundswell arts and Creative Spark complete the project team. The project is set to launch in the autumn and will run until the end of 2024.

Creativity in Older Age Funding

Louth County Council was also successful recently in receiving €15,000 under the Creativity in Older Age fund. The project is in partnership with Music & Health Ireland and will see Grainne Hope and her team mentor staff in 3 nursing homes in Louth to help them facilitate workshops with residents. The programme will educate the care workers on how to use basic musical instruments to enhance the daily well-being of residents, particularly those with dementia, or who are confined to bed.



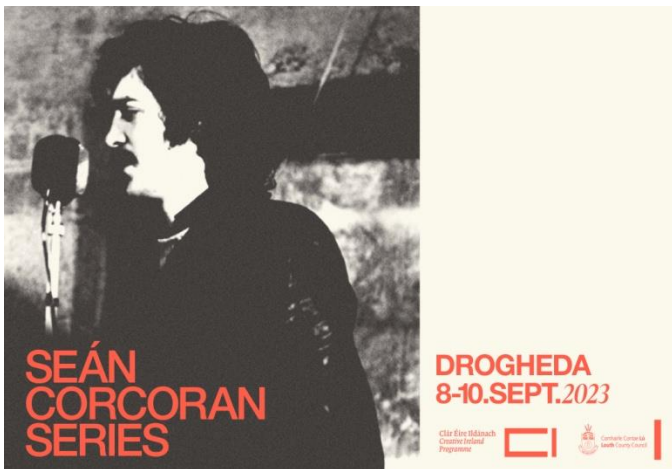
The 3 nursing homes who will take part in the project are Curam Care Homes in Dundalk, Moorehall Lodge in Ardee and Moorehall Lodge in Drogheda. The project started in July and will run until the end of September. For further details see [here](#)

New staff member

The Creative Ireland Louth team are delighted to welcome Melissa Hayes to the role of Creative Community Engagement Officer. Melissa started her role with us in July and as a musician and project manager is no stranger to working in the creative sector on both a small and large scale. We look forward to working with her on the 2023-2027 Creative Ireland programme.

Sean Corcoran Series

The inaugural Sean Corcoran Series takes place in Drogheda from 8th to 10th September. The programme features an incredible line-up of artists including John Banville, Stephen Rea, Donal Lunny, Radie Peat, Andy Irvine, Gerry O'Connor and Colm Naughton. With workshops, live music events, literary readings and much more, there is something for everyone.



This inaugural series is supported by Creative Ireland and the Arts Office of Louth County Council. For full details of the line up and events and for ticket details please see [here](#)

SEEK Festival

The 2023 Seek Festival once again did not disappoint. With incredible murals by artists such as Aero, Mack Signs, Studio Giftig and Roberto Ciredz. As always, the walking tours were a huge draw, and the murals themselves got the town talking once again.



The Cuchulainn mural on Church St.

For details on future walking tours see the Visit Louth page [here](#)

Culture Night

Culture Night 2023 will take place on Sept 22nd. We recently held a call out and were overwhelmed with the number of applications received.



Those who have received funding were notified at the end of July and a full programme of events will be listed on our website [here](#) by the end of August.

Tyrone Guthrie Bursary – Age & Opportunity

As part of our Bealtaine programme back in May the arts offices of Louth County Council and Meath County Council partnered with Age & Opportunity to

run a bursary award for an artist in Louth and an artist in Meath to receive a week long fully funded residency for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. The residency offers each artist the opportunity to work on an existing piece of work, to develop a new idea or to explore new skills. Age and Opportunity offer opportunities for anyone aged 50 and over to enjoy and take part in the arts and supporting artists of this age group is a vital part of that. The successful recipient of Louth's bursary was poet Susan Connolly who said "I am delighted to have been awarded this residency in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. I will use the week to concentrate on the manuscript of my next collection and specially to work on finding the right sequence for the poems in the collection."

Boyne Music Festival

Supported by the arts office, this year marked the 10th anniversary of the Boyne Music Festival, and those attending were not disappointed. Taking place between 27th & 30th July, the festival featured a range of performers including Vourneen Ryan, Aisling Manning, Carmel Flores, Deirdre Brenner and Robert Cohen. To mark the special 10th anniversary the festival held events in Slane Castle, St. Peters Church of Ireland as well as the festivals usual home, Townley Hall.

Carlingford Summer Series

The Summer Series takes place in Carlingford Heritage on Sunday 13th, 20th & 27th August. Featuring Zoë Conway and John McIntyre they will be joined by Donal Lunney, Liam O'Maonlaí & Eleanor McEvoy. For full details on the concerts and tickets see [here](#)

Other National Funding Streams:

Arts Council - The following funding streams are now open for application with the Arts Council of Ireland –

- Late Night events (closing 24th August)
- Creative Production Supports (closes 31st August)
- Writers in School Scheme (ongoing)

- An Invitation to Collaboration (Opens 15th August)
- Visual Artist Workspace Scheme (Opens 15th August)

For details on all funding streams with the Arts Council please see [here](#)

Museum



The Handover - presentation of items from the SS Dundalk to the County Museum, Dundalk

The Museum is currently hosting a display of the Classroom Based Assessment projects compiled by students in Coláiste Rís. The projects cover a variety of historical topics including:

- The Wildgoose Lodge
- The Significance of Michael Collins
- Stephenstown House

The SS Dundalk presentation



Presentation Day

On July 1st last the Museum was presented with several artefacts rescued from the wreck (which is not classified as a war grave) of the SS Dundalk. The ship was struck by two torpedoes on the night of October 14th, 1918, sinking with the loss of 20 lives.



The bell from the SS Dundalk

Presented by Discover Diving's Dr. Michelle Haywood MHK the items were:

- The ship's bell and the hanger from whence it hung.
- A ceramic wash-hand basin
- A porthole.

The artefacts were deposited with the Museum in accordance with Manx Law.



Ceramic wash-hand basin and porthole from the SS Dundalk

Pride in Dundalk



Pride flags at the County Museum, Dundalk

To officially launch a week of celebrations in the county the opening ceremony was held in the Museum with a reception and two panel discussions entitled "Queer through the years".



Panel discussion at the launch of Dundalk Pride (Image: https://twitter.com/Drogheda__Pride)

Recent acquisitions



1920s wedding dress

Over the past month the Museum has added several fascinating items to its collection. This includes two wedding dresses, one from the 1920s, the other from the 1980s.



Wedding dress from the 1980s

The Museum also acquired a couple of priest's pre-Vatican II vestments.



Pre Vatican II vestments



Pre Vatican II vestments



Detail from vestment

Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

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

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

Yvonne O'Brien
Director / Stiúirthóir



Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Figures as at 31/07/2023

Property offers recorded	40
Owners successfully contacted	40
Properties allocated	24
Beneficiaries assigned	70
Assessments	34
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	24
Properties with minor works required	3
Properties withdrawn	6
Properties not viable	7

The Ukraine Humanitarian Response team responded to numerous requests for support from beneficiaries of temporary protection currently residing in Ireland. The requests are mainly focused on accommodation via Offer A Home, Reunification, and Relocation issues.

Louth County Council's Ukrainian speaking liaison officer is an invaluable resource in this function and has assisted many displaced Ukrainians with information and guidance.

Integration Support

An excursion to Emerald Park was organised by the Ukrainian team with funding awarded from Healthy Ireland for Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Health and Wellbeing Support. 66 people enjoyed the trip, and the sun even made an appearance!

