



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 7th September 2023
7^ú Meán Fomhair 2023**

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

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – August 2023

A Chara,

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

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

- Continued measured expenditure with good income performance to date.
- We continue to operate Water Services under the original Service Level Agreement as I have not yet signed up to full transition to Uisce Eireann.
- Completion of the consultation process with regard to the new Development Contribution Scheme.
- The magnificent staffing response to the aftermath of Storm Betty.
- The receipt of Notice of Confirmation of C.P.O. on the N53 Phase 4 Hackballscross to Rassan on August 1st last.
- The obvious physical developments on our Fair Street works.
- The conclusion of the 'Louth in Bloom' competition, unfortunately at a time when the weather did not show us at our best.
- The continued high level of activity across the spectrum of housing functions including new functions such as 'Croi Conaithe Grants'.

We got some good news yesterday with the announcement of substantial increases in the Local Property Tax baseline, which has been at the same level for many years. I will give full details later but we have an increase of well over €1 million which will be of great assistance in our 2024 Budget process.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and highlight the continued assistance provided by the staff working on the Ukrainian Humanitarian Response.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

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

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas larbhír go dtí 31/08/2023	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/08/2023
Housing/Tithíocht	€29,745,557	€57,155,409	52%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€13,474,350	€27,351,782	49%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€5,199,305	€8,619,589	60%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€12,444,752	€23,666,110	53%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€12,414,231	€20,837,206	60%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€5,922,538	€10,361,634	57%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€934,412	€1,468,858	64%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€9,029,752	€9,018,942	100%
	€89,164,897	€158,479,531	56%

Income to 31st of August 2023 / Ioncam go 31 Lúnasa 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam larbhír go dtí 31/08/23	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/08/23
Housing/Tithíocht	€29,187,479	€58,718,513	50%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€3,699,615	€16,635,478	22%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€4,308,646	€8,303,355	52%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€6,347,630	€14,403,330	44%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€1,113,488	€2,295,719	49%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€664,427	€1,208,037	55%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€334,412	€543,472	62%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€9,157,466	€11,296,768	81%
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 larmhéid Dochair	€0	€500,000	0%
	€94,216,089	€158,479,531	60%

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

Debtors as of 31st of August 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31 Lúnasa 2023

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€7,546,239	€57,423,195	(€50,557,873)	€50	€14,411,611
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Local Áitiúla Eile	€56,584	€677,033	(€543,763)	(€6,577)	€183,277
Rates/Rataí	€7,561,465	€34,469,827	(€26,300,077)	(€1,385,091)	€14,346,124
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,621,885	€9,955,610	(€9,662,781)	(€13,810)	€2,900,904
Loans/Iasachtal	€295,384	€1,336,712	(€1,374,788)	(€0)	€257,308
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€6,095,901	(€2,204,185)	(€2,696,533)	€12,138,688
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€717,575	€325,932	(€261,440)	(€47,445)	€734,622
Miscellaneous/Ilgheithreach	€1,804,894	€7,871,057	(€7,149,461)	(€61,627)	€2,464,863
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€31,547,531	€118,155,267	(€98,054,368)	(€4,211,033)	€47,437,397

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

Budget 2024 - 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 was Friday 25th of August 2023.

The report will go 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, lunch will be provided.

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

CSL are appointed contractors for project. Pre-commencement meeting scheduled for 14th Sept 2023. Works to include new PS at both Bannons Cross and Allardstown, Disinfection kiosk at

Mullacrew Res, access road to Mullacrew reservoir, telemetry/scada at Cavanhill WTP.

Omeath WWTW / Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Ó Méith

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

Drogheda WWTP/Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha

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

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

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/ Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

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

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

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

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Clár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Clár Athshlánúcháin

Uisce Éireann undertook No rehabilitation works in August.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

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

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú.

Uisce Éireann contractors undertook 4 first fix type repairs in August.

Water Scouring Programme 2022 / Clar Sciúrtha Uisce 2022

Louth County Council Crew undertook uni-directional network flushing in Dundalk, Ardee, Tallanstown and Louth Village in August.

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

43 essential water tasks were carried out in August including 35 arising out of our Find and Fix program (9 in Dundalk, 2 in Clogherhead, 18 in Drogheda, 2 in Dunleer, 1 in Dromiskin, 1 in Tullyallen, 2 in Ardee).

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 14 new connections, 16 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 15 Planning Applications in August.

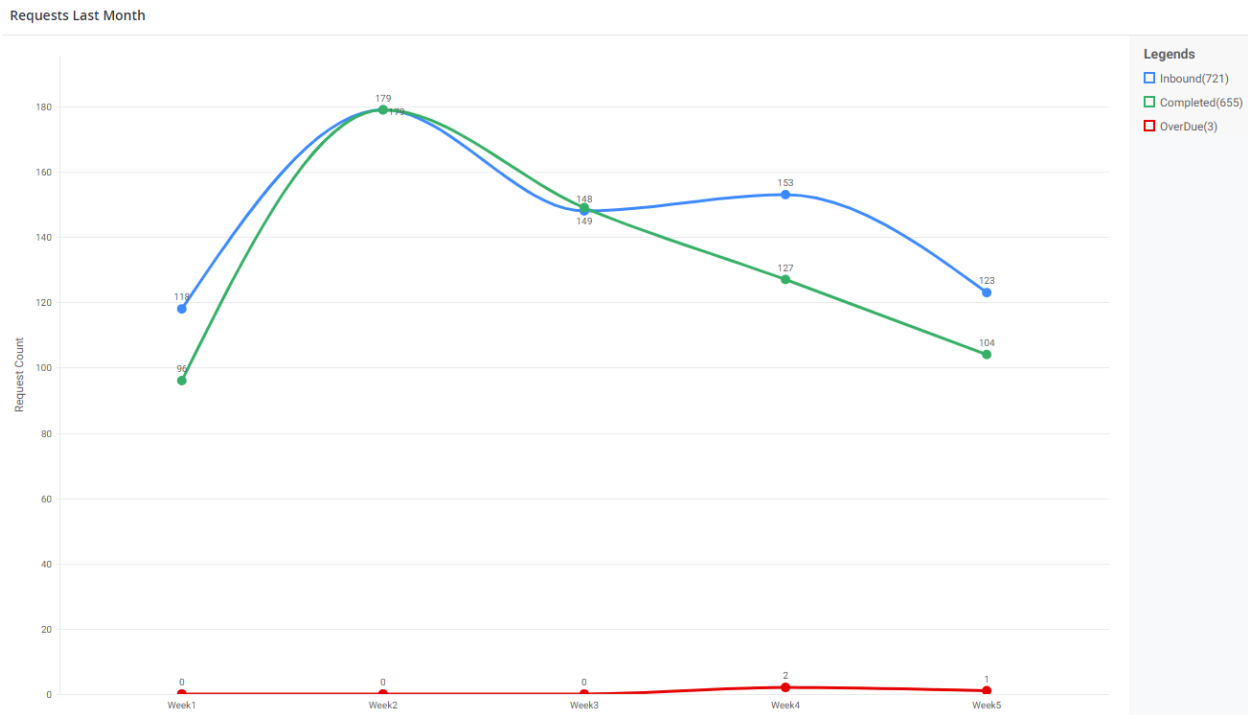
Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

The Networks Section prepared 5 Service Maps in August.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/08/2023 and the 31/08/2023 there were 721 support calls logged in the IT support system.



Security and Application Software were the highest category of support requests in August.

	2023		Count
	Aug	Count	
Accessories	9	9	9
Application Software	125	125	125
Councillor Support	1	1	1
Desktop/Laptop	2	2	2
General	16	16	16
Mobile Devices	12	12	12
Network	46	46	46
Not Assigned	68	68	68
Operating System	17	17	17
Printers	37	37	37
Security	261	261	261
Services	55	55	55
Telecoms	28	28	28
User Administration	44	44	44
Count	721	721	721

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 August 36% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

153,265



Blocked Sender

812



Blocked at gateway

23,339



Blocked by spam /virus

30,441



Blocked by content rules

542



Potentially harmful emails

35.98%

Louth County Council Website

There were 14,990 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in August.

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

Channel Types

CHANNEL TYPE		▼ VISITS
Direct Entry		4,075
Search Engines		1,492
Websites		218
Social Networks		95

ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provides an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 1,861 views in August, an average of 62 views a day.



This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

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

Thomas McEvoy
Director / Stiúrthóir



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

Louth Economic Forum

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 27th September 2023.

Economic input to Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2029 process is ongoing. The draft plan is being prepared and is with the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC for comment. Further meetings with the consultants (KPMG) will take place in September.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022 (Omeath)

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 with a final claim date of the 30th of August. However, 7 applicants were granted an extension to the claim date due to extenuating circumstances. All other claims have been received and are being assessed.

Business Improvement District Scheme

A plebiscite of the ratepayers was held to determine the level of support among ratepayers of rateable property in Dundalk for the proposal (received from the Business Improvement District Scheme Dundalk CLG) to extend the Business Improvement District Scheme, for a period of five years to 31st December 2028. The result of the said plebiscite is as follows:

Number of votes in favour of the proposal for a continuation of the Dundalk BID Scheme: 569

Number of votes against the proposal for a continuation of the Dundalk BID Scheme: 37

The proposed Business Improvement District Scheme will be considered by the members at the September Council meeting. If the scheme is approved by the members of Louth County Council, the extension of the Scheme will come into force on 1st January 2024.

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/>.

Tourism

Festival Funding 2023

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

sea louth

The Food Development Officer is working with some new prospective restaurants and producers to become part of the trail. They have also been speaking to the stamp collection points, Tourist offices and producers to get feedback on how the trail is working for their economic benefit. For more information on the scenic seafood trail please visit www.sealouth.ie.

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

Brigid 1500

Works are being finalised to plan a gala concert to close the Brigid 1500 commemorations together with a full program of events.

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

The base stones for the wayfinding signs and paving works at the Old Abbey are complete together with the installation of the bronze inlays. Installation of the wayfinding signs will commence the week of the 4th of September.



New paving works at the Old Abbey

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 Advisor for Drogheda

Louth County Council are one of nine Local Authorities taking part in the pilot scheme appointing a Night Time Economy Advisor. Following a competitive process, Mr. Mark Davies commenced in this role on the 21st of August. Louth County Council is the first Local Authority to have their Night Time Economy Advisor in place.

Shared Island Funding

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a Feasibility Study to develop the greater Carlingford Lough region incorporating the Cooley Peninsula and Mourne / Gullion Area. Work on same has commenced. The Department of the Taoiseach extended the deadline for this scheme to the 30th November, 2023.

Boyne Valley Flavours

The ‘Boyne Valley Bites’ dining initiative was announced on 28th August 2023. The objective is to encourage eateries in Drogheda, Trim / Athboy and Kells to offer a ‘Boyne Valley Bite’ on their menu during the weekend(s) of local festivals taking place in their town (Lú Festival of Light, Púca and Samhain). Participating chefs will be invited to attend a free workshop demonstrating 5 - 6 dishes made using Boyne Valley ingredients and will receive a pack with all the information they require to participate in this scheme. Workshops will take place in September, and we will go live with social media in October. This campaign is being supported by Fáilte Ireland.

Consultation took place with the contractor on the new Boyne Valley Tourism strategy.

Mark O’Connell has been appointed to conduct the new Boyne Valley Food 5-year strategy. He has commenced work on this project and is planning to reach out to relevant stakeholders over the coming months. It is estimated that the project will take 4 - 5 months to complete.

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.

Two Louth businesses were approved in August.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

Under this Programme LEO has procured three consultants who are engaging with our portfolio clients in 2023. The programme provides support to LEO portfolio clients to develop their export and growth potential, working with businesses to identify

and pursue export opportunities and to ensure maximum uptake of LEO supports.

Business Training



During August LEO held three training courses delivered to 50 attendees. They included Website Design using WordPress, Start Your Own Business and Trading Online Voucher Seminar.

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.

Eight Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in August.

Business Advice Clinics

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

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.

Fifteen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of August.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



LEO Louth offers expert assistance to clients to assist in the completion of Microfinance Loan Applications, Business Plans and Cashflow Projections. LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

LEAN for Micro Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally.

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

North East Regional Development Plan to 2024

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

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Micro Report, 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 information on this grant please visit: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications

European Relations



PEACEPLUS

The next meeting of the PEACEPLUS Partnership is scheduled to take place on the 4th September and will continue the assessment of the eligibility and feasibility

of PEACEPLUS concepts. A roundtable public consultation for PEACEPLUS is planned for late September.

Meetings between the PEACE team and our consultants, Blu Zebra, continue to take place in preparation for these events.

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

Contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

Heritage

Community Monuments Fund

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

Projects supported with Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) funding came to an end as both the swifts which nest in our towns and villages and the little terns which nest on the strand at Baltray have migrated to Africa for the winter months. We hope to see them back next year when we will be even better prepared to support them, thanks to this year's work by the Louth Nature Trust, BirdWatch Ireland and a large number of local volunteers.

Heritage Week

Many community groups, including Tidy Towns and historical societies, as well as Council staff, demonstrated their love for Louth's heritage by organising more than 50 events across the county during Heritage Week 2023. Several 'Big Houses' were also open during the week and there was an exhibition in the Greenore Co-op. The Heritage Officer led a guided walk around the circuit of Drogheda's town walls and spoke in Dromiskin and Greenore. All in all it was a great week and we hope that it will be even bigger and better in 2024.



Dromiskin Tidy Towns, Ogham Stone unveiled by Colm Markey MEP



Guided walk in Old Abbey Lane (credit Áine Moroney)



Archery at the Abbey



Enjoying Townley Hall

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The industrial action by retained fire service members which had recommenced nationwide on 26th July was suspended on 17th August. This followed WRC discussions between the LGMA, DHLGH and SIPTU on 16th August where several proposals were made and will be issued for ballot to SIPTU members. These include improvements to pay and conditions and a commitment to further review the retainer in the upcoming pay talks. Due to the strike the level of fire service training has been limited.

Five whole-time recruits are continuing with a 17-week recruit's course in Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre. This course includes several Louth Station Officer instructors.

Refresher training on the Drogheda hydraulic platform was completed for on-duty personnel.

A second meeting about the new fire station in Dunleer took place on 23rd August, attended by the Design Team and Louth County Council personnel. The layout of the fire station and the site layout were discussed and agreed. A meeting with Irish Rail will be arranged shortly to address any issues they may have. The site is adjacent to the main rail line. 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.

Inspections have commenced of large public assembly buildings including nightclubs and bars as part of the annual licensing process.

The Fire Service has purchased a replacement support vehicle to transport bulky equipment for major incidents.

Major Emergency Management

There was a regional Major Emergency Working Group meeting in Co. Meath on 1st August 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 Co. Louth with a view to having a small number of such centres at locations around the county for emergency use. These are expected to be at the main locations around the county.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. These are being discussed and options include a geothermal heat pump, photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting.

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

Civil Defence

First Aid Responder training was completed in July.

There was medical ambulance cover at the Cyclocross event for five days and for the St. Patrick's GFC sponsored walk.

There was medical and mountain rescue cover at the Poc Fada event.

Louth Civil Defence attended the Emergency Services Day Launch Event at Clogherhead RNLI Station, on 9th August.

There was also a planning meeting for the Emergency Services Day event which takes place on 2nd September and includes other emergency response agencies.

There were two emergency responses to the National Ambulance Service under the Cardiac Fire Response community responder scheme.

Building Control

Louth is hosting Q3 Regional Building Control & Market surveillance meeting on the 27th September.

The Building Control and Fire Prevention Office have prioritised Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) and Disability Access Certificate (DAC) applications for Schools and Education Facilities for the months of July and August.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of July, 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 99 planning applications received during the month of July of which 77 were valid. In addition there were 34 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 25 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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

(A) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae
(i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh	5	16	43	1	65
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	3	11	17	1	32
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	20.00% (1)	25.00% (4)	18.60% (8)	0.00% (0)	20.00% (13)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	1	0	3	0	4
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	33.33% (1)	0.00% (0)	25.00% (1)

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

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 údaráíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaráíodh	
	July 2023 / Iúil 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	July 2022 / Iúil 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	21	183	10	155
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	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	20	183	28	184
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	10	144	14	129
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	1	9	0	8
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	3	0	4
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – 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	
	August 2023 / Lúnasa 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	2	6
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	0	6
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	21	23
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	1
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	6
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

Forward Planning

Strategic Housing Development (SHD)

Stage 3

1 x Decision received from An Bord Pleanála (ABP) to grant SHD for 272 residential units (206 houses and 66 apartments), crèche and associated site works at Bridgegate, Rathgory and Mulladrillen, Drogheda Road, Ardee, Co. Louth (www.bridgegateshd.ie).

Louth County Council Draft Development Contribution Scheme

A Chief Executive's Report in response to the submissions received on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme has been prepared in accordance with requirements of Section 48 (6)(a) and (b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). 18 submissions were received during the consultation period. This Report was circulated to members on 11th August, and can be viewed at the following link: <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/louth-county-council-development-contribution-scheme>.

Placemaking and Physical Development

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
	Old Coes Rd
	Point Rd
	Ecco Rd
	Castletown Rd
	Old Newry Rd
	Riverside Crescent
	Laurels
	Ramparts
	Armagh Rd
	Moorland Road /Lennonmelia Crescent
	Inner Relief Rd at Bothar Na Feirme
	Riverside Walk
	Racecourse Rd
	By Pass
	Centenery 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 cleaned every day and area litter blown Cooley isolated locations including Templetown, Gyles Quay, Shelling Hill
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht Nightly By Contractor 200 Bins Street bins all repainted. Stand-alone dog bins removed as dog waste being placed in street bins. Maxwells Row Philip St Fatima Pk Tom Bellew Ave Ard Easmuinn Fagan's Corner, Bellewsbridge Solar Bins power washed. All tubs in full flower, looking bright and welcoming. All hanging baskets and barrier boxes in full flower despite the strong storm on the weekend of the 20th of August. Bins emptied in the Cooley by outdoor staff, Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown, Gyles Quay.
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain Contract Sweeper as per contract- Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly

Surface dressings of roads in Cooley	
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain
By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections	200 Litter Bins throughout the town As per bin maintenance in Cooley
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
	Ring Buoys checked. Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk. Replaced new rope attached to 5 in the last month with 2 fully replaced Carried out by Water Safety Officer in Cooley.
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
	Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker Checking done by Cooley Area Staff

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> Resurfacing of section of R173 Lordship village as per road works programme, also surface-dressing roads, R173 and LS 7070 Bush school road. Ongoing pot hole repairs within the Cooley area <u>Dundalk</u> Tar Patching using the bagged tar at Fairgreen Rd York St, Coes Rd Ashbrook Estate Dublin Rd College Rise St Malachy's Villas	Road repairs
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<u>Cooley</u> Drainage works on Slieve na Glogh <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<u>Cooley</u> Storm Betty, various locations where trees were blocking roads removed. <u>Dundalk</u> During Storm Betty one tree fell at Long Walk in Dundalk. Branches fell off isolated trees in estates and on the Ardee Rd, Riverside Crescent. At Fr Murray Park trees fell into other trees and had to be removed 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 Tráichta	<u>Cooley</u> Pedestrian lights in Carlingford were fixed. <u>Dundalk</u> On Going Repairs Bulb Replacement Dublin St /Vincent Avenue Xerox Junction due to ESB outage	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> None this month <u>Dundalk</u> None this month	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<u>Cooley</u> Ongoing advanced warning signs are being replaced at road junctions. <u>Dundalk</u> Replaced Bollards on Newry Road, Park Drive. New Signage in areas replaced and adjusted for Pay Parking	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<u>Cooley</u> None this month <u>Dundalk</u> Ashling Pk Muirhevnemor Play Areas Creative Spark Lands Moorland Rd Inner Relief Rd Racecourse RD Athleathan 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 Play area at New play park on the Marshes again this month of August.	
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Road resurfacing works at Ardee road, Dundalk

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

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

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

- Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly
- Blackrock – checked weekly

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Tar patching on RD183 at the 5 Crossroads. – Milltown and RD190 the 5 Crossroads – Watery Cross. RD185 Para Bees Cross – Newtowndarver Cross and on RD210 Pepperstown Cross – N52. RD174 Aclint, the Green Rd Louth Village and RD203 Flowery Cross – Meath Border.	Road repairs and patching & cleaning up
	Surface dressing was completed on road numbers LP-3122 from Maghereagh Cross to County Boundary Monaghan, LS-7112 Castle Roche to Killin, R171 from M1 Motorway Bridge to Fane Bridge, L-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown, L-7164 Mullaharlin Haggardstown, L-3168 Gibstown Ardee Road	
	N/A	Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming
	N/A	Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	RD177 Killcronee and on RD175 Glyde Farm junction – Bannons Cross. RD169 Rathneety. RD227 Charleville and RD215 Mullensccoss – Bollies.	Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	Numerous locations around North Louth due to the storm	Clearing fallen trees & debris.

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



Works at Green road, Louth Village



Roadworks on Clermont road

Municipal District of Ardee

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	LS-5268-0 Mullaghash road L-5265-13 Belpatrick road L-1212-23 Stabannon road L-5266-39 Mountain road Dunleer, L-2239-0 Dunleer, L-2214-31 Dromin	Kilsaran RWP 2023
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Outlets on the R132 Dunleer, Gullies and outlets on L-2290-0 priest hill Collon Drainage works on the N2 at marys football pitch L-12972-0 Everetts lane drainage works	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	L-2214-0 Bragganstown Stabannon R170 Dromin LP-1233-7 Churchtown Ardee	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	New footpath Dunleer at O- Dowd's Vets	

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Road Signage maintenance on the N2 Pedestrian railing replacements at BOI, Ardee	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Dromin school (before)



Dromin school (after)

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
	• Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when resources allow and green areas. • Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection. • Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m. • Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week. • Power washing paving at side streets on-going. • Power washing of Patrickswell Steps, Dublin Rd / Marsh Rd. • Power wash directional signage and street furniture. • Preparation for National Services Day – clean route and pedestrian barriers. • Remove debris from stream at Glen. • Repairs to hedge / fence at St Dominick's Pk after RTA.
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
	• 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/Portoriel/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. • Additional order placed for 12 no. Street bins, to up-grade existing at various locations.
Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	6 Daily
Termonfeckin	6 Daily
Baltray	3 Daily
Seapoint Carpark	3 Daily
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain	
Bóithre	• 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., Teromenfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure. • Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday). • Preparation for National Services Day – clean route and pedestrian barriers. • Hedge cutting at Crushrod Ave. • Particular attentions on road sweeping to Ballymackenny Rd, North Strand and Donore Rd. • Particular attentions on road sweeping to carparks at Kings St, Mell and Donore Rd.

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

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Drainage Works - Patrickswell Lane steps / footpath, off Clintons Lane – new drainage system installed, and footpath resurfaced. The Council's Outdoor Staff - Pot hole repairs Drogheda Town Centre. - Footpath reinstatements at Ballsgrove & St Laurence St. - Place sand bags in Drogheda Town in event of flooding from recent storm.	

	- Preparation for National Services Day – pedestrian barriers, cones and check route. Road Works Program – Resurfacing works at - Scarlet street – resurfacing and reinstate road kerbs. - St Francis Street – resurfacing, footpath reinstatement and dropped kerbs / tactile paving. - St Dominicks Street – resurfacing and footpath reinstatements. - Trinity St – resurfacing and traffic calming. - Greenlanes – resurfacing. R-167-62 Baltray Road R-166-0 Clogherhead Main Street R-166-188 Togher LS-6281-0 Castlecoohill LS-6289-0 Monasterboice R-167-62 Termonfeckin village to School	Kilsaran SLA 2023 RWP
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing Gully cleaning on-going on approach roads, town centre streets and estates.	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	Trees cleared on - Marsh road - Wheaton Hall - Termonfeckin - Donore Rd R-166-188 Togher	

Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán	1. Patrickswell Lane 2. Ballsgrove 3. St Laurence St 4. West St	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	1. Greenhills Ped 2. Marsh road 3. West gate jnt 4. Walshstown	1. Lights out . 2. Green out 3. Red out 4. Speed sign not working.
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	1. Scarlet St 2. Francis St 3. St Dominick's St 4. Trinity St 5. Greenlanes.	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	1. General maintenance of signs/poles repaired at town area. 2. Bollards at St Dominick's Pk. 3. Directional signal at West St. 4. Stop Sign at Weirhope. Surface Dressing Signage removal for : - • 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 Stop Signs Tinure	
Weed killing / Marú fiailí	N/A	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	

Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	Castle Manor	Illegal dumping no evidence detected
	North Quay	Reports of dumping/Met with local business concerning issues
	Millmount Tower	Reports of dumping /Anti social. Warden services investigated and met with tenants of the complex
	St Dominicks Park Mell Car park, Moneymore/Twenties lane	Illegal dumping at various locations. Fixed Penalty Noticed issued.
	IDA Road	Stockpiling of bonfire materials. Local business contacted in order to make awareness
	Dublin Road	Illegal signs removed FPN issued
	Ramparts	EPA complaint ongoing
	Rathmullen	Dumping removed no evidence
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Eircom	Eircom have continued to remove graffiti from their locations following interaction with warden service.



Roadworks on Marsh Road, Drogheda,



Road resurfacing at Termonfeckin, Co. Louth

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been released to this restricted panel of Contractors with a return date of Oct. 2023. Consultation meeting #2 took place with the selected contractors on the 10th to the 11th of August. Consultation #3 to take place on Sept 18th – 20th.

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 commenced.

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

An Bord Pleanála has made a confirmation order on the 1st August, 2023 confirming with modifications the above-named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedules thereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Louth County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily and temporarily. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of the notice, which is Tuesday 29th August.

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

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Work on progressing 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 of 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 have been completed during a recent dry spell which concludes the work on site.

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 Irish Water 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 North Road R132.

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



Ballymakenny Road Roundabout

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

The contractor commenced work on the LCC owned lands section on 24th April 2023 with a proposed programme of 16 No. weeks to complete. Road formation completed, drainage and services completed. Awaiting ESB to carry out a shutout in order to progress the works.

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



Junction

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

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

Greenways

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

Section 1 Carlingford to Carlingford Marina and Section 2 Omeath to the Border Construction works contract has been awarded to GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd. Early works have commenced to set up site compounds and topsoil strip towards the border.



Mobilisation of plant



Commencement of topsoil strip

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 was issued on the 1st of 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

Draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) has been approved by TII. Tender for the appointment of the design and environmental consultant were received closed on 7th June 2023 and then assessed, TII have now approved the appointment of a consultant and letter of intent and regret have been issued to tenderers. Insurances etc are now being sought from the preferred tenderer.

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 40months (Phase 1 – 6mths, Phase 2 – 8mths, Phase 3 – 20mths, Phase 4 – 6 mths).

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

The Preliminary designs are now complete. 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.

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 earthworks and drainage works are currently taking place on the off line section.

LIHAF Project:

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are continuing 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. Road closure is in place from Monday the 17th of April.



Culvert installation at Lisnawully Farm

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

A Road Closure with traffic diversions has been implemented and continues to advertised on local radio;

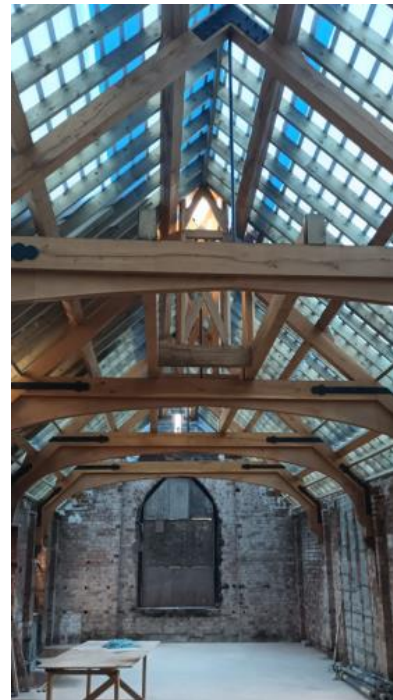


Mobilisation

Corporate Projects

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

Internal Ground floor tassel walls, floor joists and plywood flooring fixed. All eaves conservation brickwork closed out and remedial purlin support blockwork installed. Roof Felt installed and slating has commenced. First fix plumbing has commenced.



Block B MD. Chamber New trusses installed

Block N: New Link Building

Structural Steel Portal Frame erected and hollowcore slab screed and upstands poured. Metaldeck to high level roofed installation installed. Sedum roof installation is ongoing, with water proofing and installation commenced.



Block N Toilet Screed Sample Panel



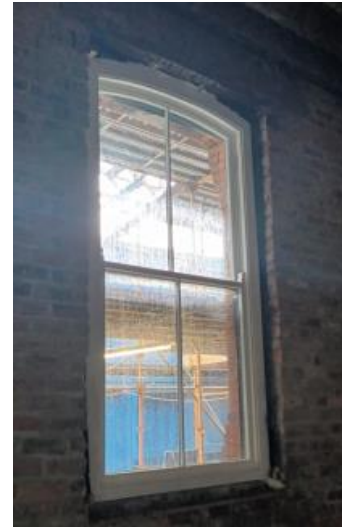
***Block N: Installation of M&E and Pumping,
Encasement of Steel Beams***

Block C: Community Services Building

The Central and Western Rooms floor screed poured. External conservation brickwork ongoing. Toilet block drainage pipework installed. Central roof battened and felted, refurbished windows delivered and have commenced installation. Roof truss paint peel ongoing. The final roof truss refurbishment has been removed for splicing. Eaves strengthening conservation works continuing prior to roof refurbishment works.



***Block C: Refurbished Windows Delivered and being
installation (Exterior)***



***Block C: Refurbished Windows Delivered and being
installation (interior)***



View From Evercam© 4



View From Evercam© 3



View From Evercam© 2

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 Hydraulic Report has been issued and reviewed by OPW/LCC, the JV are currently reviewing the comments provided on the draft Hydraulic 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 and consideration is being given to additional seasonal environmental surveying e.g. wintering birds surveys.

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 working on Stage 1 of the Project. Hydraulic analysis continues with the Core design runs, sensitivity and blockage assessment run now complete. RPS are currently analysing results and writing hydraulics report. Options

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

The Fieldwork elements of the preliminary Ground Investigation works are completed, and the Laboratory testing of samples is underway.



Ground Investigation works Drogheda Flood Relief Scheme

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

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

Marine Projects

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

The appointed ecologist continues to prepare the Appropriate Assessment and Natura

Impact Statements required for planning permission under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act. It is envisaged that this ecological work will be completed by October 2023.

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

Thereafter, and subject to planning permission, it is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1 2024, with construction works anticipated to commence in Q2 2024.

Schools Programme Projects

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

Site acquired. Department of Education have submitted a planning application.

Ardee E.T.N.S.

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



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

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

Progress has been made in relation to snagging. As constructed drawings of the

completed emergency lighting has been issued by the PSDP. Additional snagging items to be completed also.

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council and other associate partners have completed preliminary assessments of sites to generate an approved site list 25 EV Rapid Chargers across the border counties, which has now been released. The full list and maps across all regions can be view on the project website by clicking on the below link:

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

Tenders for the design, build and operate of the changers have now been received and a preferred Tenderer identified, and a letter of intent issued, subject to submission of required insurances etc, a letter of acceptance will be issued in early Sept.

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 of 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 are as outlined in the table below.

Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: St. Dominick's Bridge.	€111,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Works are 100% completed. The Bridge is open to pedestrian and cycle traffic. LCC will be organising an official opening in September 2023. The Project Team will be undertaking a maintenance inspection in September 2023 in advance of expiry of the contractor's liability period i.e. 12 months.	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 8th September 2023 to inspect and review a number of 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 mid-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. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19th of June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31st August 2023, and it is planned to hold a Public Consultation Day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14th September 2023 between 3pm -8pm. Invites will be issued to councillors to meet the Design Team 2pm – 3pm in advance of the event opening to the public.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS have commenced design and are currently developing options. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19 th of June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31 st August 2023, and it is planned to hold a Public Consultation Day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14 th September 2023 between 3pm -8pm. Invites will be issued to councillors to meet the Design Team 2pm – 3pm in advance of the event opening to the public.	This received Pathfinder status approval on the 14 th of 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. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19 th of June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. Meetings were held with key stakeholders on Thursday 31 st August 2023, and it is planned to hold a Public Consultation Day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 14 th September 2023 between 3pm -8pm. Invites will be issued to councillors to meet the Design Team 2pm – 3pm in advance of the event opening to the public.	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
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) 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. On Thursday 3 rd August 2023 we conducted meetings with a number of key stakeholders along the route and we intend to host a Public Consultation Day in late 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 several key stakeholders in June 2023.	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2023

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				Gateway 3 Report due to be submitted to the NTA by end of August 2023.	
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€400,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29 th of 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 Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synthesised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed "Proposed Active Travel Links" as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps. Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) After a procurement competition, consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27 th of July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with the consultants gathering baseline information. This ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.	2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	August 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.	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 landowners with regards to agreeing land take. Tenders to be issued in Mid Q3 2023.	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee	N/A
Termonfeckin Active Travel elements	€165,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Procurement	Project was issued to tender in March 2023. Tenders returned and successful contractor appointed.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€600,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above. Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed. Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced. Traffic Survey & Topographical Surveys to commence at the end of July 2023. Drone Surveys to be conducted in September in line with new school year.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

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

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

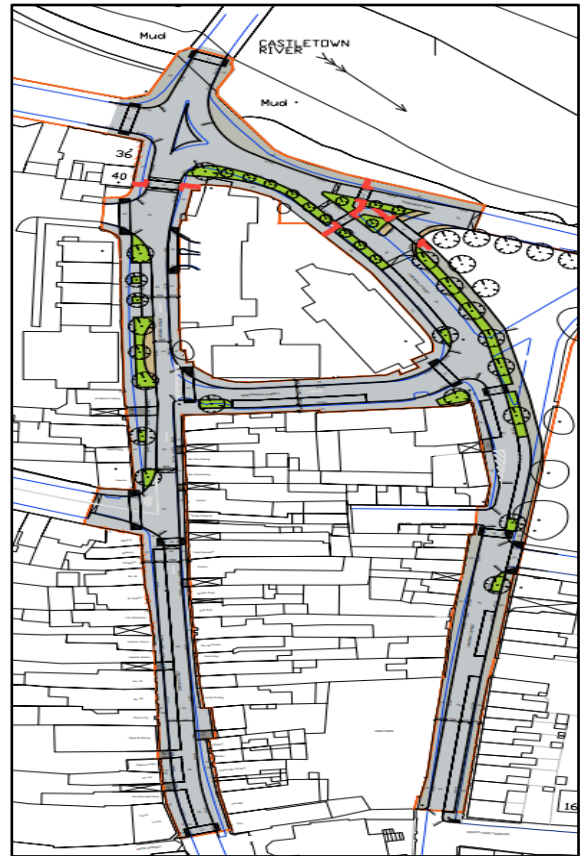
St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

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 been finalised and the successful tenderer is currently being appointed.



URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

In line with government guidance, a large number of on-site inspections have been conducted to identify the first tranche of vacant/derelict properties to enter the Call Three Activation programme. The formal process of acquiring these properties under compulsory acquisition will commence in Q4 2023.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

Further information was requested in relation to the ministerial consent application in July. This information was provided to the National Monuments Service at the start of August. The tender documentation for contractor is complete other than any required changes requested by national monuments.

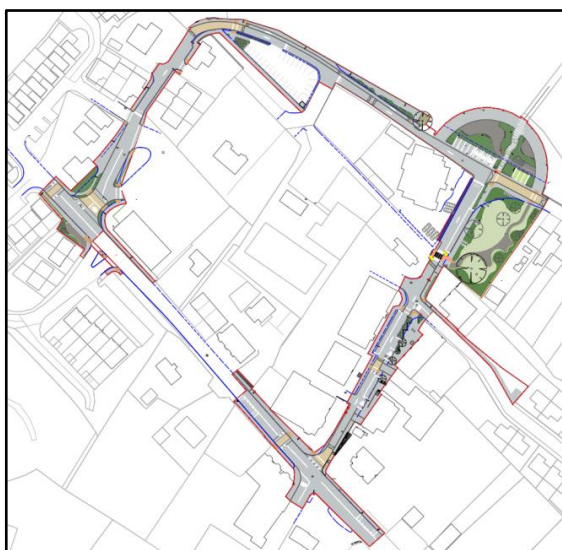
Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



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

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

Glas Civil Engineering have been appointed to deliver this contract. The pre-start meeting for the project has been held and the contractor has mobilised their site facilities. The proposed works are anticipated to commence in late September this year on a phased basis with completion due Q2 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths.



Ardee 2040

The Ardee 2040 Planning drawings and documents including (EIAR and AA Screening Report) have been reviewed in full by the Council. 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

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



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

The new outdoor dining facility 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 landscaping to complete the project.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

Part 8 for Collon playground is on public display in Fair Street offices, Drogheda and Ardee Library. It is also available to view on the 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 October Ardee Municipal meeting. Further to the tender assessment process, the finalising of appointment of contractors is ongoing.

Part 8 planning is being prepared for St. 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. Demolition of the water tower at Termonfeckin site is currently being reviewed. It is anticipated that Part 8's will be published for St. Dominic's Park & Termonfeckin in Q3.

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

Preparation of the draft Town Centre First Plan is now finalised. The draft plan will now be sent to the local councillors and town team for their review and comment. The public consultation period to obtain the views of the local community will commence in September.



Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

The process to appoint urban design consultants is progressing. The Tender assessment Report is complete, and a recommendation finalised. A Letter of Intent is to be issued to the Tenderer in September.

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

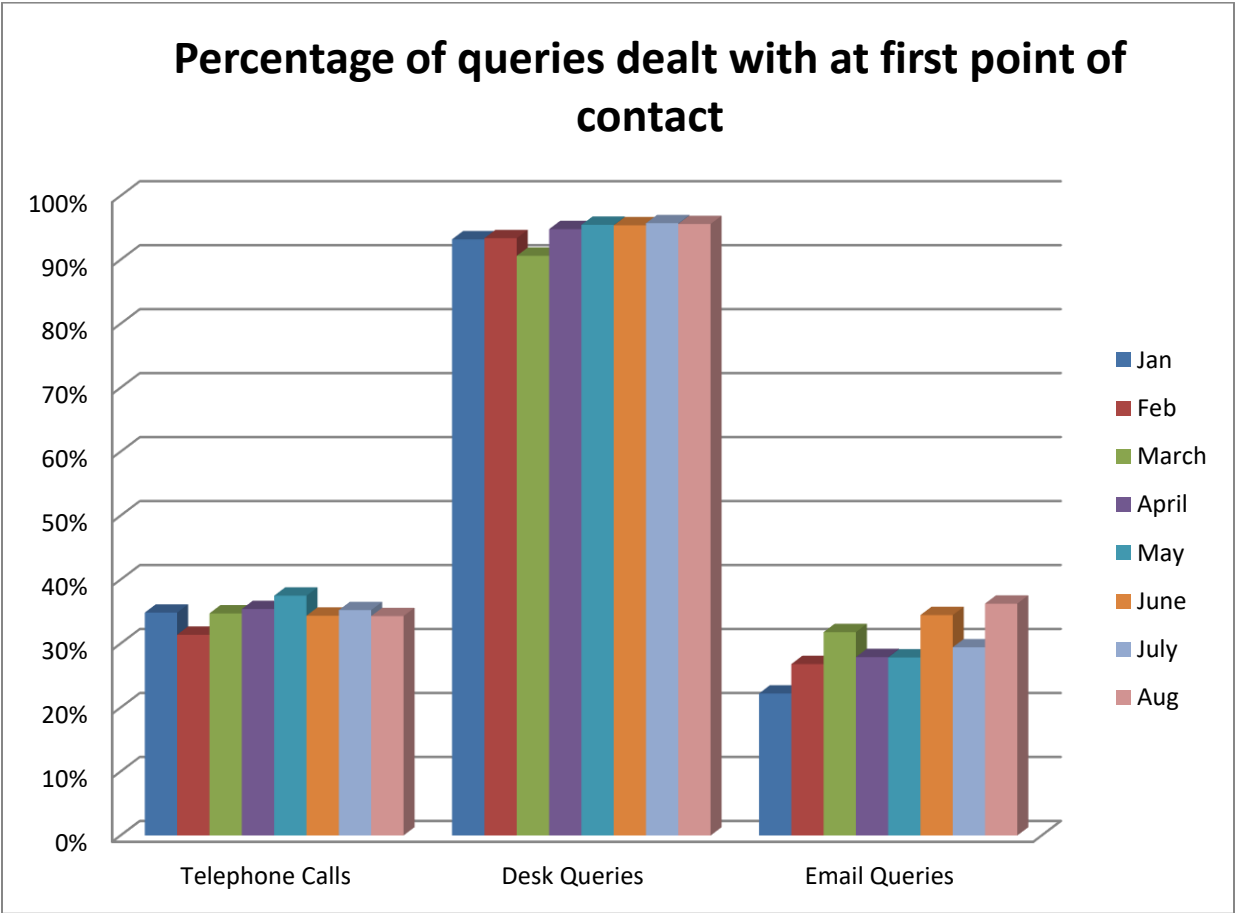


Joe McGuinness
Director / Stiúrthóir

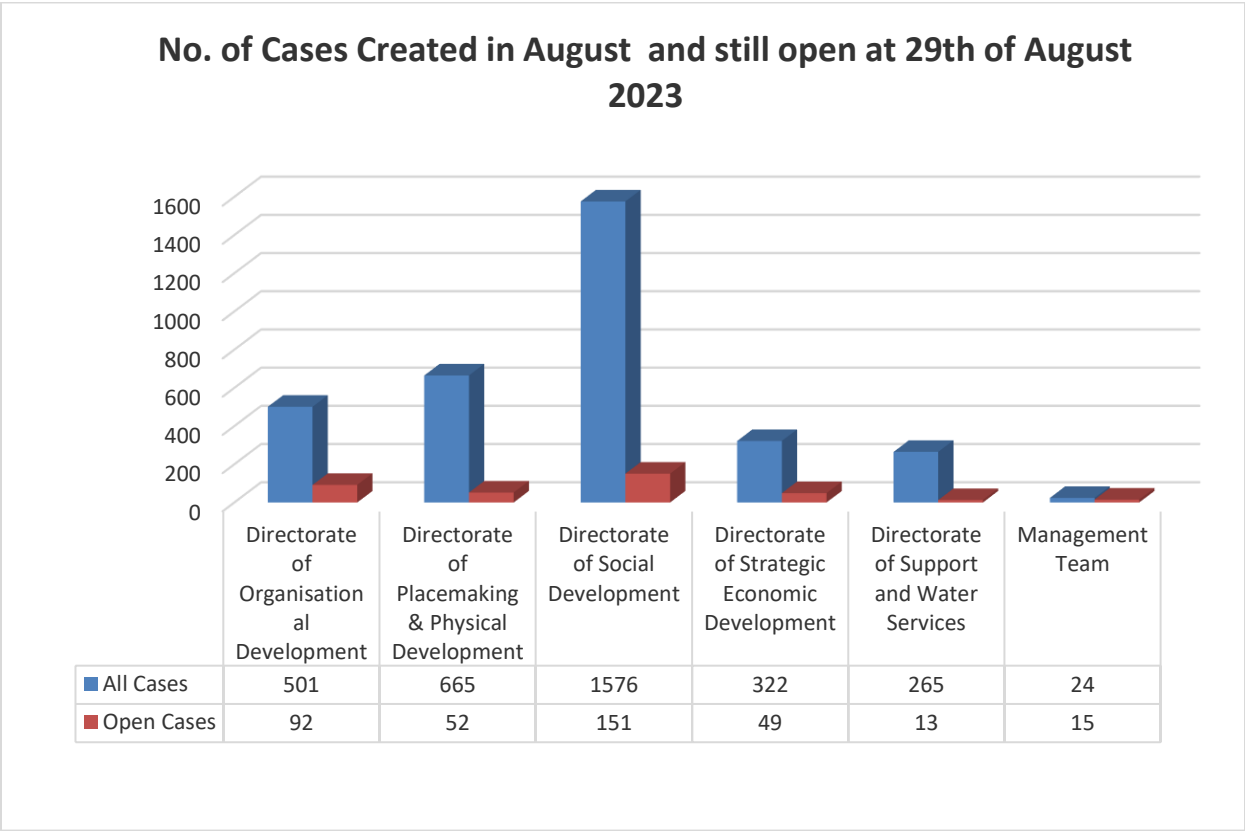
Corporate Services

Customer Services Report

During the month of August 2023 Customer Services dealt with 12784 queries 6423 calls, 1,214 e-mails and 4920 counter queries.

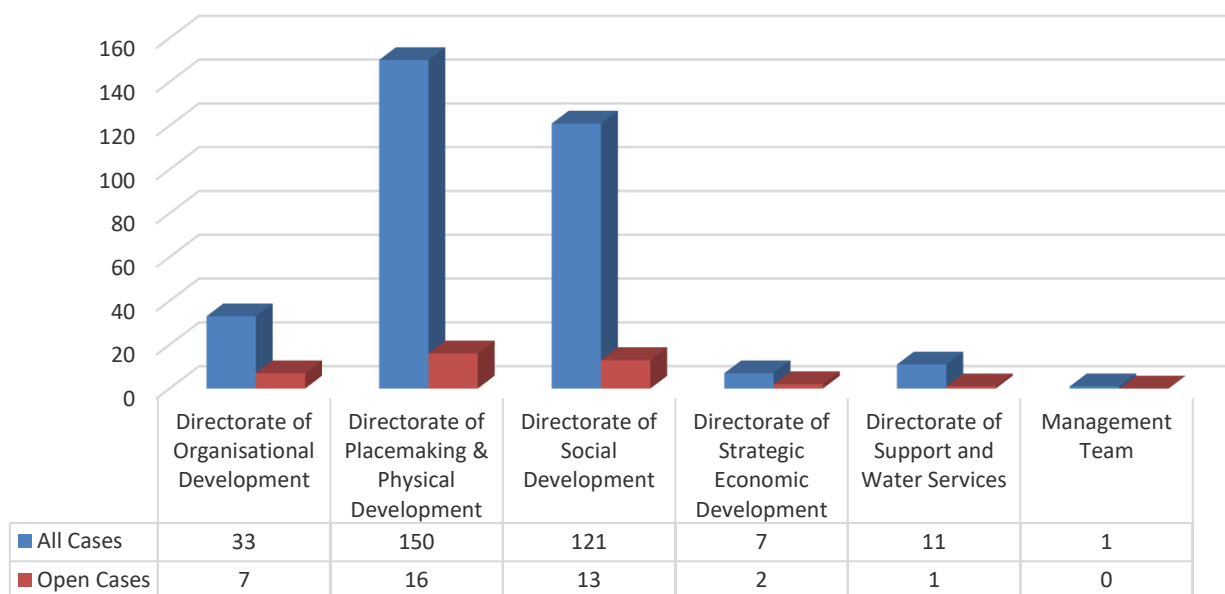


There were 3353 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during August of which 372 (11%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During August 2023, 323 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 39 (12%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:

No. of Elected Reps Cases Created in August and still open at 29th of August 2023



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Requests Received	Same period 2022 (JAN-AUG 2022)	2023 Total (JAN-AUG)	JULY 2023 (Month of AUG only)
Freedom of Information	83	90	8
Data Protection Request	2	5	1
Data Subject Access Request	5	10	1
Access to Information on Environment	9	13	0
Ombudsman Complaints	7	12	4
LCC Complaints Policy	22	24	1

Electoral Register

The Franchise Team is very busy updating the Rolling Register of Electors for Louth. A large volume of applications is 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 nearly 98% have a DOB on our iReg system, these very high statistics help with the accuracy of the register.

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

Community Support

Louth Comhairle na nOg

Comhairle Gaeltacht

Louth Comhairle na nOg completed a unique project in early August. For the first time the group put together a Louth Comhairle na nOg Gaeltacht in the Ti Chulainn Centre in Mullaghbawn on the 1-3rd of August. The initial idea came from the Annual Conference in October 2022 where young people spoke about how they wanted to include more elements of culture, history and fun into the Irish Curriculum.

Following this the young people engaged with Louth County Council Community Section and a pilot project was developed to run a short Gaeltacht during the summer to provide an Irish Programme to include Culture, Heritage, Language and most importantly fun.

On the first day the young people took part in team building exercises with an Irish Language teacher from the Gaeltacht in Meath. In the afternoon they undertook a tour of North Louth and South Armagh to learn about all the Mythology and Legends of the area. On the first evening the group held a Céili with the help of the Armagh Ryhmers.

Day two was all about Arts and Music and commenced with a Bodhran making workshop with Michael Vignoles. Here the young people got to make their own Bodhran from scratch and learned

some simple tunes. They also made T-Shirts and Jewellery boxes with their favourite Irish saying and words.

The final day the young people headed outdoors and took part in water activities on Camlough Lake while learning about the different Myths of the area.

The event was a total success with the young people learning more Irish, and more about their culture and heritage, getting out in the open air and most of all having a fun and enjoyable experience.

It is hoped that the learning from this project will inform future projects and possibly Louth Comhairle na nOg Gaeltacht becoming an annual event. This project was funded by Louth County Council.



Armagh Ryhmers at Louth Comhairle na nOg Gaeltacht



Bodhran Workshop at Louth Comhairle na nOg Gaeltacht

Louth In Bloom 2023 competition

Adjudication has now been completed on Louth County Council annual environmental competition “Louth in Bloom 2023” carried out by three independent judges. Winners will be announced at the Louth In Bloom awards ceremony on October 23rd at Bellingham Castle.

This awards ceremony is an exciting opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication of volunteers who contribute to making Louth shine. Plans are already in motion to ensure the event is a memorable and festive occasion.

Acknowledging the efforts of volunteers who work throughout the year to beautify and improve the local community is a fantastic way to show appreciation and inspire continued involvement. The awards ceremony will undoubtedly be a special evening that honours these individuals and their contributions.

Blue Flag Beaches

During the month of August, our community support team was busy out and about ensuring all is well on our three Blue Flag beaches and Green Coast beach. We have been also actively engaging with An Taisce to ensure continued compliance.



Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023

The TVRS 2023 closed for expressions of interest on 25th August, 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.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023

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

- Measure 2 Friday, 29th September 2023
- Measure 3 Friday, 29th September 2023

The project development measure and Measure 1 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/>

PPN

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN will hold its next Secretariat Meeting Wednesday 5th September in Drogheda.

Municipal District Meetings

Louth PPN will host its Q3 MD meetings as follows:

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

Thematic Projects

Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

The aim of this project is to provide support to Louth PPN member community groups through sharing the vast wealth of knowledge and experience already within the community.

On Tuesday 20th June several individuals from PPN member groups completed a training course in Creative Spark in Dundalk. This training provided our community mentors with the essential skills and techniques required to work effectively as a mentor.

Louth PPN launched their mentoring service to all members of Louth PPN on 21st August. This service will be operational for the months of September, October, November, and December.

Intercultural Sports

This project aims to help integrate members of County Louth's new communities through the medium of sport. An intercultural sporting event took place in Dundalk Sports Centre, Dundalk on July 29th.

Members from all cultures and backgrounds were invited to participate. Louth PPN would like to thank Louth County Council's Sports Team and Louth Local Sports Partnership for their support in organising this event and in structuring the activities on the day.

Throughout the day, there was participation in activities as follows:

40 Soccer attendees (7-a-side)

24 Basketball attendees

20 Fun-Games attendees

58 Participants for tennis, yoga, badminton, cricket and dance (ballet, Zumba & Bollywood)

There was engagement with multiple nationalities on the day, including (but not limited to) Irish, Nigerian, Somalian, Dutch, British, Pakistani and Indian.



Badminton at the Intercultural Sports in Dundalk Sport Centre



Basketball at the Intercultural Sports in Dundalk Sport Centre



Intercultural Soccer Team Winners Yaqeen Community Group

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

Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards 2023

Louth PPN Community & Voluntary Awards will take place on November 9th, 2023, in Monasterboice. The launch of nominations took place in July and will remain open until September 8th.

Training for Q3 & Q4

Louth PPN will offer training to PPN members as follows:

- Social Media – October 2nd, 9th and 16th
- Canva – September 25th
- Property Marking Machine - TBC

Healthy Ireland Fund

'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth'

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

The launch of the campaign comes during National Breastfeeding Week (1st-7th October) and is supported by Healthy Ireland. The campaign aims to

help improve the health and wellbeing of breastfeeding mothers, babies and their families through the development and promotion of breastfeeding friendly businesses, organisations and communities in County Louth. Generally, mothers who breastfeed their babies out and about do so with ease. Research tells us the two things that make mothers feel comfortable when breastfeeding out and about are:

1. A welcoming, helpful attitude from staff; and
2. Other patrons knowing and accepting that babies may be breastfed there.

Participants in the campaign will receive a 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' booklet that describes the campaign, which staff are encouraged to read. An A5 window sticker or A3 poster will also be included and should be displayed clearly at the premises. A GIS map will be created highlighting to families the locations of our breastfeeding friendly environments in Louth.

Healthy Louth will adopt a 'test and learn' approach and will kick start the campaign with a pilot in Dunleer. Healthy Louth will invite the business, community and voluntary sector based in Dunleer to sign up and lead the way as the first 'Breastfeeding Friendly' town in Louth. The 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' campaign will be rolled out countywide across all Louth County Council premises including the libraries and sports facilities over the coming months.



Healthy Louth Monthly Newsletter

Have you seen the latest edition of the Healthy Louth Newsletter?

Healthy Louth have designed a monthly newsletter please find the link to the 5th edition below:

[Healthy Louth Newsletter Sept 2023](#)

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

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

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

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

Healthy Louth Brand on Social Media

Healthy Louth has been working hard to grow the Healthy Louth Brand. Please support us by following us on:



LEADER

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

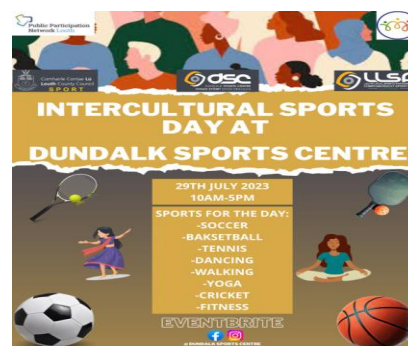
Promoter	Amount
Dromiskin Tidy Towns Heritage Park Enhancement Works	€5,796.21
Tullyallen Mens Shed Electrical Upgrade & Landscaping Equipment.	€4,968.03
Louth Local Development Innovating Communities – Design our Future –Training	€36,613.61
Tullyallen Mens Shed Workshop Upgrade	€2,056.25
Herbel Crest Ltd King of Kefir- Can Seaming Equipment	€39,150.00
Total	€88,584.10

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre

Intercultural Sports Days

On the 29th of July Louth Sports Facilities hosted an Intercultural Day in conjunction with Louth PPN. The day was a great success with several different communities in attendance. The Wageen Community Group from Somalia were winners of the 7 a side mini tournament held throughout the day. The day consisted of the communities playing a multitude of sports including Cricket, Basketball, Football, Tennis, Yoga, Zumba, Badminton, Ballet, Bollywood dance and multisport games.



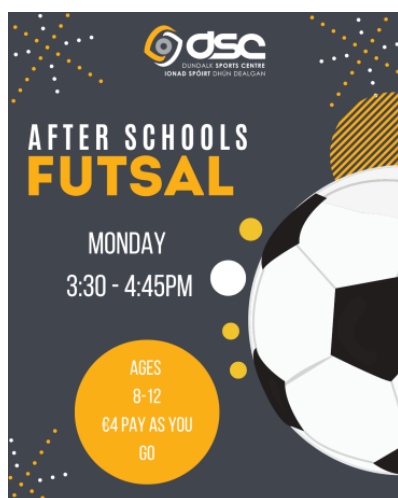
After Schools Basketball

The always popular 'After Schools Basketball' will be returning on Wednesday the 6th of September! The classes are held every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:45pm in the main hall of the Dundalk Sports Centre. Costing €4, pay as you go. The basketball sessions are suitable for all ability levels!



Futsal

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



Mindful Movement

Another very successful programme set to return after the summer is 'Mindful Movement'. This programme is designed to facilitate adults with intellectual disabilities to partake in physical activity in a safe and fun environment. Each week a variety of games and activities are offered, so there is something to suit everyone. The program is held every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30am, costing €2. The first class will be held on Tuesday the 5th of October 2023.

Mindful Dance

Mindful Dance will be returning to the Sports Centre in September. Like Mindful Movement, this class is designed for adults with intellectual disabilities, who want to be physically active. Mindful dance, as the name suggests is a fun and inclusive dance class in which participants can follow the instructor through a number of different dance routines



Pilates

After a break over the summer months, Pilates will be returning in September. Classes are held every Tuesday evening from 8:15 to 9:15pm, costing €5 per session. Pilates benefits include improved flexibility, increased muscle strength and tone.



Lourdes Stadium

Outdoor Bowls

Another outdoor bowls tournament took place on Wednesday 30th August and there will be one more planned before the end of 2023.



Bootcamp

The Lourdes Stadium Bootcamp is due to resume on Tuesday 5th September, it costs €50 for 6 weeks and is held every Tuesday from 5:15 – 6:15pm and every Thursday from 5:00 – 6:00pm.



Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programme 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	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
Safeguarding Level 1	Oct 19 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Nov 2 nd 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	Nov 16 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Disability Inclusion

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

First Aid

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

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 close on September 8th



The Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP) opened 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, an increase 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" focuses 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 until 5pm on 8th September 2023.

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

HER Outdoors 2023

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to deliver 23 events in Louth during HER Outdoors

week 2023 which took place from August 14th – 20th across Ireland.

525 women and girls participated in a wide range of outdoor activities in the county during the week, the activities included; Archery, Open Water Swimming, Equestrian, Orienteering, Kayaking, Stand up Paddle Boarding, Yoga, Pilates, Nordic Walking, and River Rowing

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



Participants in HER Outdoors week

Two new Children's Inclusive Learn to Cycle Programmes.

Two new 6-week inclusive learn to cycle programmes will take place in Louth in the autumn in Dundalk & Carlingford for children aged 6-12 with intellectual disabilities.

Please see information below on both programmes:

Dundalk Sports Centre – starting September 12th

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

Foy Centre Carlingford – starting September 13th

Two time blocks available:

- Wednesdays 3:15pm – 4:15pm
- Wednesdays 4:15pm – 5:00pm

To book please use the Eventbrite links below:

3:15pm block

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/703138525257>

4:15pm block

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/703145024697>

Numbers are limited on both programmes, for more information contact: Julie.duffy@louthcoco.ie

All-Stars summer camp for children with disabilities and additional needs in August. Thirty Children from across Louth enjoyed the activities during the camp supported by volunteers from several GAA clubs in the county.

Thank you to camp co-ordinator Olivia Wall of Roche Emmett's GAA Club who worked closely with Julie Duffy in Louth LSP to provide a very positive experience for all the children involved.

For more information for GAA All-stars programmes in Louth please contact: Julie Duffy Julie.duffy@louthcoco.ie



GAA All-Stars Summer Camp

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to support Roche Emmett's GAA Club to deliver a GAA



Roche Emmetts GAA All-Stars Summer Camp

Inclusive Summer Camp in Lourdes Stadium Drogheda

Louth LSP in partnership with Lourdes Stadium Drogheda was delighted to deliver an inclusive summer camp for adults with intellectual disabilities in August. The participants were provided with opportunities to try activities such as Athletics, Boccia, Bowls, Yoga and Walking.

Thank you to staff from Lourdes Stadium Drogheda for their support in delivering the camp.



Inclusive Summer Camp in Lourdes Stadium

Level 1 Sport Leaders Awards

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to deliver a hugely successful Level 1 Sports Leaders Award to 24 young people in August in Dundalk Sports Centre.

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 year will take place in Lann Léire Sports Pavilion, Dunleer during the Halloween School mid-term break.

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



Louth LSP delivered Level 1 Sports Leaders Award to 24 young people in Dundalk Sports Centre

Glenmuir FC Football For All Summer Camp

Louth LSP was delighted to support Glenmuir FC to deliver a Football for All summer camp for children with disabilities through funding from our 2023 small club grant programme. The children enjoyed a wide range of football activities supported by club coaches and Paul Smyth from the FAI.



Glenmuir FC to deliver a Football for All summer camp for children with disabilities

Women's Lap of Louth – A huge success!

The Women's Lap of Louth Cycling Sportive took place on Sunday August 20th as part of HER Outdoors week 2023, supported by Louth LSP and delivered by Cuchulainn Cycling Club.

275 female cyclists took part in the event which involved an option to cycle either a 50km or 90km route across the county starting in DKIT Sport Dundalk. For many of the participants it was their first time taking part in a cycling event.

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



The Women's Lap of Louth Cycling Sportive

Louth WATCH Club launch new accessible Tri-Shaw Electric Bike

Louth WATCH club recently launched their new accessible Tri-Shaw Electric bike which will be used by the club to enable participants with a physical disability to experience the thrill of cycling. Louth LSP supported the club to purchase the bike through our 2023 small club grant funding.

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



Louth WATCH club recently launched their new accessible Tri-Shaw Electric bike

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

A total of 33 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in August 2023, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 271 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in August 2023	Total Received in 2023
Air & Noise	9	75
Farm	2	8
Waste/C&D	15	136
Water Quality	7	52

Waste Management

A total of 15 complaints were received in August 2023 relating to Waste. There were no complaints received regarding Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste. All complaints relating to waste were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

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 Sofa Amnesty Collection Point – Ardee
- Castletown River Clean-up
- Muirhevnamor Alley-way Clean-up

The Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event is scheduled to take place on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 30th Aug 2023** at 9:30am-5:30pm at Dundalk & Drogheda V&W Civic Amenity Centres

- **Thursday 31st Aug 2023** at 9:30am – 3:30pm at Kieran & McGee, Ardee Livestock Sales Yard in Ardee, Co. Louth.

A successful clean-up was completed on the Castletown River, Dundalk.



Litter on Castletown River, Dundalk (Before)



Clean-up of Castletown River, Dundalk (After)

A clean up of alleyways in the area of Muirhevnamor, Dundalk is in progress.

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.

Following a number of complaints regarding illegal dumping and bin presentation in the areas of Linenhall Street, Chapel Street, Market 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 Byelaws 2019. Engagement with residents around Williamson's Place, Dundalk is on-going with evidence of waste arrangements being obtained from residents. Follow-up letters were issued to properties where no response has been provided and it is proposed that further engagement with residents will be undertaken if no additional responses are received. Failure to comply with the above byelaws can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of €75 being issued by Louth County Council to the householder.



Bin presentation on Chapel Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Farm Plastics

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

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

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.

In August 2023, a total of 3 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. There are two Waste Facility Transfer applications that have been received and are currently being assessed in August 2023.

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 daily on litter matters in the county.

A total of 8 litter Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in the month of August. Of these, 4 were issued in Dundalk town and 4 in the remaining County wide area.

There have been 796 litter investigations completed to date in 2023 with 85 carried out in the month of August. There have been 173 litter Fixed Penalty Notices issued in the year to date.

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





Our litter wardens in Dundalk carried out dog fouling public awareness by stenciling popular dog walking areas such as the Navy bank, St Helena's Park, Ice House Hill Park and Marian Park.



A five-hour foot patrol was conducted by all wardens in August at our blue flag beaches of Port, Clogherhead and Seapoint. Our beaches remain very busy during the summer months with sea swimming, dog walkers, kayaking and exercising being the main activities. The primary emphasis was raising public awareness around dog fouling and to ensure litter was being disposed of correctly. Free dog foul bags were handed out to members of the public on the day.





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 25 Integrated Bulk Containers's (IBCs) dumped in August 2023 at a cost of €31,202.50 approx. So far in 2023 there have been 94 IBC's dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of approximately €117,321.34.



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 to deal with untreated/uncontaminated waste accumulated in the interim.

Air / Water / Noise Pollution

There were 7 water quality complaints and a further 2 farm-related complaints received in August which were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

There were 3 Air Pollution complaints and 6 Noise Pollution complaints received during August 2023.

Bathing Water

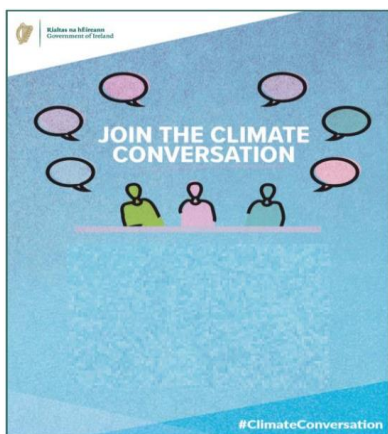
The four beaches identified as designated bathing waters in Co. Louth are Templetown, Port, Clogherhead and Seapoint. The readings for the samples taken on 22nd August 2023 show excellent results. Results for all the beaches are available on www.beaches.ie

The public participation for the identification of new bathing waters is well under way. 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 and submissions should be forwarded 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 has been collecting information on how much CO₂ is emitted by all business, buildings, houses, industry, transport / travel and agriculture in the county.

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

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

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

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

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

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

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

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

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

The climate action team also hosted several workshops with various sections within Louth County Council which looked at the overall targets associated with the Climate Action Plan and

delivered a presentation on Louth's Baseline Emissions Inventory.



Climate Action workshop, Cooley Room, County Hall.

Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

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

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

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

Additional preparation for this process continued during this period.

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



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



Climate Adapt 2022

Community Climate Action

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

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



Framework for the Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

November 2022

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

The Community Climate Action Officer has visited a number of community groups in Louth to speak about the upcoming fund and discuss any queries they may have in relation to the Community Climate Action Fund.

V&W Circular Economy Project

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

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



Ukraine Appeal, V&W Centre Dundalk

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

Education and Awareness Initiatives

V & W sites in Dundalk and Drogheda along with Kieran & McGee Livestock Sales Yard in Ardee will host the 'Mattress & Couch Amnesty Day' at the end of August as part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023. This will be a busy event where members of the public can dispose of their old mattresses and couches free of charge on the day.

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

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



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

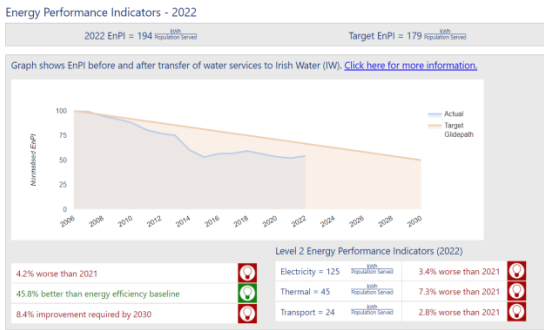
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Energy Efficiency Performance

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

Irish Public Bodies have a target of improving energy efficiency by 50%, and reducing energy-

related greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030.



Progress towards the Council's to 2030 energy efficiency target.

Gap-To-Target Plan to 2030

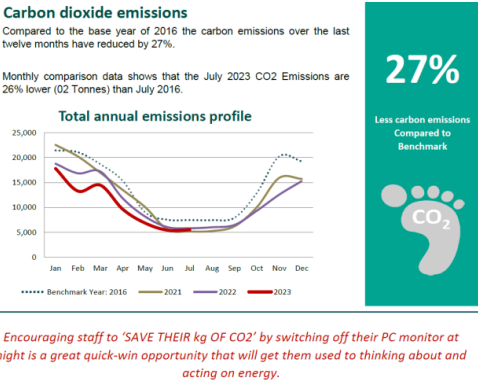
Louth County Council's Energy Emissions Baseline, (average energy emissions in the period 2016 - 2028) is 4,907t CO2.



Planning new energy saving opportunities at Drogheda Fire Station

To achieve the emissions target, we have developed a Gap to Target Plan to achieve those reductions. Louth County Council has a carbon emissions savings target of 1,000t.

Meanwhile, the Council's works to reduce its energy emissions are continuing – County Hall has reduced its emissions by 27% compared to 2016. Dundalk Town Hall has reduced its carbon-related emissions by 39% compared to 2014.



Graph: Carbon emissions at County Hall in 2023 are lower than emissions at the same times in previous years.

That is due in part to the implementation of a behavioral change programme with the staff at County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall, which is led by OPW. That is a result of participation in their 'Optimising Power at Work' Programme. It is also due to an ongoing programme of energy improvement works by the Council, some completed, some in progress, more planned.



Energy efficiency awareness day at County Hall August 2023

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

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

The Council has now procured sensors for installation on site. These will be used to measure a number of different parameters at the site including the number of people at the site at different locations and the number of people passing through a gate at the site. In addition, sensors will measure

microclimate parameters (temperature and humidity, VOCs, Barometric pressure, CO2, Oxygen, Particulate Matter), noise levels, people presence detection (at a new bench) and detection of bikes (at a proposed new bike parking location).



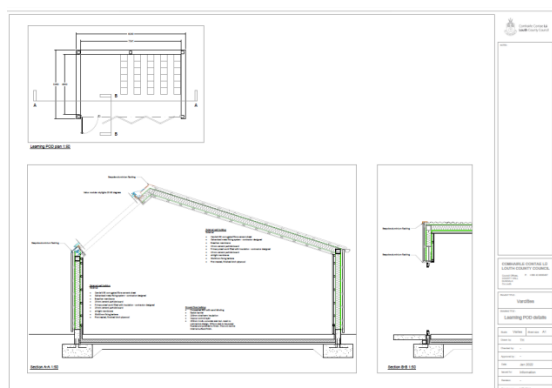
Testing sensor and wifi and LORAWAN equipment for 'Varcities'

It is proposed to commence the installation of Wi-Fi and Lorawan equipment at the site shortly to enable the sensors to be fixed and commence baseline monitoring. The results will be used for comparison as the work develops at the site, to demonstrate changes in the site use.

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

A tender process has been undertaken for the civil works at the site. The results of that process are being considered at present and it is hoped to award a contract for that work shortly.

The market envisaged for the Learning Pod is presently in high demand to provide alternative options for housing. That has delayed the procurement of the Learning Pod somewhat. However, we are considering how best to meet the Council's needs for the procurement of the Learning Pod and we are hopeful of bringing that matter to a conclusion soon.



Tholsel Building, Drogheda

Expert specialist investigation is being undertaken to fully determine the extent of works necessary to completely restore the roof of the Tholsel building. Meanwhile, the building is re-occupied and business as usual has resumed on the ground floor while the work on the roof is continued. The necessity to use material on a like for like basis is the reason that this repair will take longer than normal.



However, the roof restoration works may not be completed for some time. Therefore, the temporary works to enable access to the roof will remain in place but every effort is being made to minimise disruption at street level and for entry to the building.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st of August 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-five inspections in the year to date.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs impounded. August 2023	
Total dogs impounded	16
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	9
Surrendered by owners	7
No dogs reclaimed by owners	4
No of dogs rehomed direct	5
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	4
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/08/2023	5

Dog Licences August 2023	
No of Licences sold	538
Licence Checks:	
House calls	345
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	175
Fixed Penalty Notices	14

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Byelaws 2003

Horses impounded. August 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 31/08/2023	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments August 2023	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/08/2023)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2



Dogs impounded during August 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

Ger Murphy
Director / Stiúrthóir



Housing

Addressing Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Strategy 2021-2024. The following work done within County Louth in the period 20th July – 19th August 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 July – 19 August 2023	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	15	84	49	148
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	3	46	7	56
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	2	5	7
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	3	1	4
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	18	135	62	215

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	92
Female	78
Total	170

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	33
25-44	90
45-64	40
65+	7
Total	170

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	78
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	92
Total unique individuals	170

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	18	22	29
Total	18	22	29
Couples with dependent children in Louth	16	35	47
Total	16	35	47

Table 6 - Housing First

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

2023 HOUSNG ALLOCATIONS Up to 29th August, 2023

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	25	6	1	3
Drogheda	53	14	42	9
Dundalk	73	6	40	9
Total	151	26	83	21

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	4
Dundalk	12
Drogheda	3
Total	19

Housing List

August 2023	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	425	644	1030	2099
HAP Transfer List	303	1164	1646	3113
Total Housing List	728	1808	2676	5212

There are **292** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **46** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is 3,113

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
303	1164	1646	3113

Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 -2027

The Implementation Plan for the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 has been published. It contains 6 Themes with 27 outcomes, each of which has a set of key actions that are required to deliver it. Each action has been assigned a lead organisation with other partners identified, and the local authority is the lead agency for 31 actions. The HDSG will commence review of the local Housing Strategy for Disabled People to align it with the National Implementation Plan.

Housing Allocations to Disabled People

The 2023 annual target for social housing allocations to disabled people is 81 units of

accommodation. So far 45 units of accommodation has been provided, which is equivalent to 55% of the target. The details of the social housing allocations can be found below.

- Physical disability 25 units provided which is 63% of the target (40)
- Sensory disability 1 unit provided which is 17% of the target (6)
- Mental Health disability 12 units provided which is 80% of the target (15)
- Intellectual disability 7 units provided which is 35% of the target (20)

The provided accommodation consisted of 15 single storey dwellings (1 standard and 14 adapted) 15 apartments (5 standard, 9 adapted and 1 wheelchair accessible) and 15 two-storey dwellings (12 standard and 3 adapted).

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **956**.

Current Rents Arrears as at 28 th August 2023	No of Acco units	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	228	€90,850.00
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	163	€124,734.00
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	864	€2,903,191.00
TOTAL	1,255	€3,118,775.00

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 August 2023:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	August 2023	40
2 nd Reminder	August 2023	12
Final Reminder	August 2023	30
Total issued		82

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 48 new payment plans commenced in August 2023.

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 28 th August 2023	Total
Ardee Municipal District	17
Dundalk Municipal District	11
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	37
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	65
Vacant Properties (CPO units not yet ready for occupation) (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	68

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

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	1 st -25 th August 2023	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	448	4326
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	365	3368
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	65	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	18	237

Private Rental Inspections

	1 st - 25 th August 2023	Year to Date
Properties inspected monthly	23	196
Advisory Letters issued	6	112
Improvement Notices issued	7	44
Private Inspections	0	5
HAP Inspections	8	124
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	0	8
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	14	50
RAS Re-Inspections	1	1
AHB Re-Inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	0	7
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	17	61

Tenancy Engagement

1 st August 2023 to 29 th August 2023	Drogheda ^a	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	2	1	8	11	144
Post-tenancy inspections	4	0	0	4	191
Tenancy Investigation Visits	22	0	0	22	303
Tenancy Investigations Remote	6	2	0	8	51

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st August, 2023 to 29 th August, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases received	8	4	7	19	128
ASB cases Ongoing	4	1	11	16	127
ASB cases complete	11	4	7	22	108

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st August to 29 th August, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	1	0	0	1	50
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	19
Tenancy Notifications	2	0	0	2	10
Tenancy Warnings under Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	4



Affordable Housing

Louth County Council are making an application to the Department of Housing for an Affordable Housing Scheme in Blackrock, Co. Louth. A decision is expected in September.

Vacant Homes

An online application to survey vacant homes was developed by the Department of Housing. At the start of May, staff in the Housing section began the survey and logged the results on the app. 1446 properties have been surveyed throughout the county and 759 have been deemed vacant or derelict. We have started to engage with property owners to bring the property back into use with the aid of the Croi Conaithe grant.



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Drogheda

Acquisitions

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. Louth County Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. Louth County Council purchased three houses during the month of August.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR) August Report

Active MTR Applications Total	38
AHB MTR Applications Active	04
AHB MTR completed 2023	01
Private MTR Applications Active	31
Private MTR completed 2023	02
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	03

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

Repair and Lease Delivery

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

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

Croí Conaithe, Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant - August 2023

Applications Submitted:	83
Approved:	30
Rejected:	3
Withdrawn	5
Funding Issued to Applicant	1
Rental Applications	13
Principal Private Residence	70

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

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

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

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

Local Authority Home Loans (LAHL)

2023 Budget Allocation	€8,030,000
LAHL Approvals at 30/08/2023	€3,985,328

Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 30th of August, 2023	
Total number of Applications at 30/08/2023	56
LAHL carried over from 2022	5
Invalid/Returned	11
Approved	22
Declined	24
For review	4
Outstanding – waiting on further information	0

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 Budget Allocation for 2023 is €3,048,590. €609,718 will be funded by Louth County Council.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	August Monthly Total	YTD Total
Applications completed 2022	42	17	175	-	234
Applications on hand 29/08/2023	219	24	278	-	521
No. Grants Approved 01/08/2023 to 29/08/2023	18	2	4	24	194

Capital Housing Delivery

Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth.

Works are complete on the 6 unit development at Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth. The completed 6 units comprise 2 * 3 bed bungalows and 4 * 3 bed 2 storey units in a terraced block. All units are energy efficient homes. The contractor for the works was CJ Callan Construction Ltd.



Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth – completed 3 bed terraced units



Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth – completed 3 bed bungalow units

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	Contracts Awarded	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	Contracts Awarded	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,	31/12/2026	To be confirmed

			MMC Proposal		
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/6	10	On-site	31/10/2023	10no. * 2 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/6	6	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/6	6	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	5/6	6	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt.
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	6/6	7	On-site	31/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt., 1no. * 2bed
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	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	Completed	01/08/2023	6no. * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	100	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
San Giovanni, Clogherhead	1/1	12	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	12no. * 3 bed
Clos Emer, Saltown, Dundalk	1/1	8	On-site	31/10/2023	16no. * 2 bed
Medebawn Close, Avenue Road, Dundalk	1/1	4	On-site	31/10/2023	2no. * 2 bed Apt, 2no. * 1 bed Apt.

Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2023	12no. * 2 bed Apt.
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	2/5	1	Completed	31/03/2023	1no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	3/5	1	On-site	30/09/2023	1no. * 3 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	4/5	9	Funding Approved	30/06/2024	4no. * 3 bed, 5no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	8	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	6no. * 3 bed, 2no. * 1 bed
Cardee, Dublin Road, Dundalk	1/1	1	Completed	23/05/2023	1no. * 4 bed

CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk,	Tuath	10	Stage 3 Approved	03/09/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
10-16 The Alleys, St Peters Place, Drogheda	P McVerry	14	Stage 2 Approved	30/03/2025	Fourteen * Studio apartments
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/01/2025	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/03/2025	Four * 1 Bed units
Kincora House, 1-2 Seatown	P McVerry	8	Stage 1 approved	30/12/2024	Eight * 1 Bed apartments

Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	02/03/2025	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments
3 Paradise Place	P McVerry	4	Stage 1 approved	01/09/2025	Four *1 Bed apartments

CALF Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non Part VI / 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 semi detached & 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 semi detached & 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 semi detached & 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 semi detached & 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
Connollys 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 records retention schedule revisions for Community, Library, and Legal Services which are currently in progress and is working with staff in relation to same.

The IT revised retention schedule was recently approved. To date, revised records retention schedules for Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment and Enterprise & Economic Development have been completed, approved and issued out to local authorities.

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

Decade of Centenaries

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

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

Research Enquiries

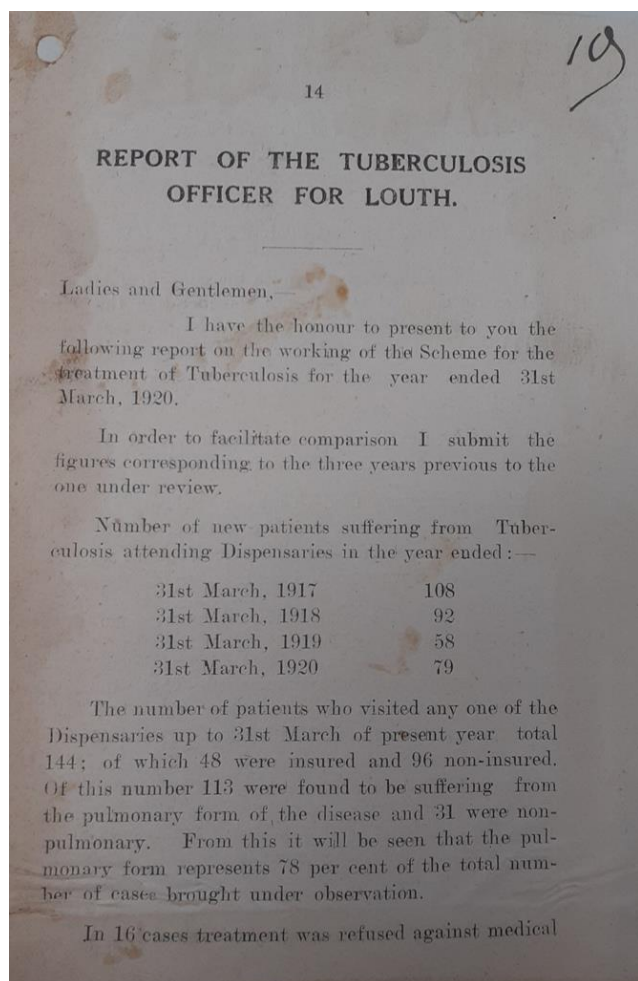
The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service continues to receive a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics (historians, archaeologists, social scientists, etc), professionals (solicitors, engineers,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

Catalogue Upgrade

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

Donating Archives

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



First page of the report of the Tuberculosis Medical Officer for Louth for year ended 31 March 1920.

Climate Action

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

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

Libraries

eServices



The wide range of services include:

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

eServices information sessions are held every month in:

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

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

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

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

Irish Newspaper Archives



Louth researchers can now access historical Irish newspapers from 1738 to the present day on public PCs in library branches through the Irish-based Irish Newspaper Archives gateway. The archives consist

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

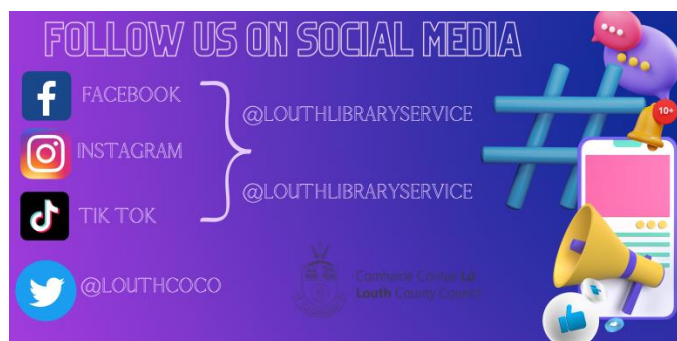
LOTE4Kids



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.

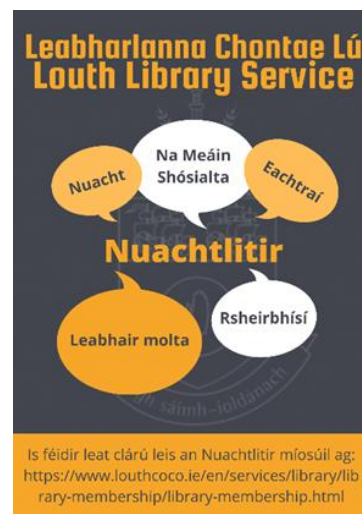
LOTE4Kids is now available for mobile and tablets and is available for download on the [Apple store](#) and on [Google Play](#)

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/>

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

Mindful Colouring Group for Adults

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



Summer Stars



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

enjoyment during their summer holidays. Throughout the summer months, Louth Library Service welcomed over 850 children who participated in Summer Stars by visiting their local library branch to pick up a reading card and Summer Stars bag. All branches hosted closing ceremonies whereby all the children who took part in the Summer Stars reading adventure collected a certificate of achievement.



Children collecting their certificates in Drogheda Library



Children collecting their certificates in Dundalk Library



Summer stars closing ceremony in Ardee Library

- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder

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

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

Little Library book bags Storytime and Craft events will be held in library branches during the month of September for invited school groups.

Little Library Book Bag

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER?

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



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

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023



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

"Republicanism, Crime and Paramilitary
Policing, 1916-1945" with Dr. Brian Hanley
Dundalk Library Friday 1st September at 3pm.

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL DECADE OF CENTENARIES PROGRAMME 2023

Republicanism, Crime and Paramilitary Policing, 1916-1945

Dundalk Library

Friday 1st September - 3pm

with Dr. Brian Hanley

Brian is Assistant Professor in Twentieth Century Irish History at Trinity College, Dublin and is one of the foremost commentators on the Decade of Centenaries.

This talk will also be livestreamed, to watch, scan the QR code:

No Booking Required

Contact Dundalk Library on 042-9353190 for more information.

Dundalk Library, Roden Place, Dundalk, A91 RC41

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

All are welcome to attend with no booking required. This talk is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as part of Louth County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023

This talk will also be live streamed via <https://www.crowdcast.io/c/zet52ao8uey9>

Louth Library Service Podcast



To celebrate National Walking Day 2023 Librarian Siobhán McGuinness interviews Community Sport Development Officer Barry Casey. Get Ireland Walking is a national initiative that aims to maximise the number of people participating in walking - for health, wellbeing and fitness - throughout Ireland.

The podcast episode will feature topics such as how to help you start or improve your health, and fitness, what walking means for your mental health and initiatives such as Healthy Ireland at your library.

Siobhán will speak about how the library can help you find all the information you need regarding mindfulness and wellbeing and Barry will focus on his role as Community Sport Development Officer and how Louth Local Sports Partnership can help to provide support regarding sport and active recreation at a local level in the Louth area.

Culture Night Friday 22nd September



Dundalk Library: To celebrate Culture Night, Artist in Residence Shauna Swords will be creating a collage from 4pm-8pm. Members of the public are invited to drop in to meet Shauna and add their contribution to help make a colourful collage of our National Heritage. From 6pm there will be a seisiún with library staff and the young traditional musicians from Scoraíocht Lann Léir. All welcome, no booking required.

Ardee Library: An afternoon of music from local Ardee Town Youth Band musicians from 4pm-6pm. All welcome, no booking required.

Children's Events

Dundalk Library

- Moo Music workshops Wednesday 20th September.

Session 1 Mixed Moo at 9:45am, suitable for 0 to 5 year olds.

Session 2 Baby Moo at 10:45am, suitable for newborns to first steps.

Places are limited, booking is essential. To book contact Dundalk Library on 042 9353190 or

Email libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie

Drogheda Library

- Children's Storytime Saturday 02nd September at 11.30am. All welcome.

Ardee Library

- Storytime and Colouring Club

Ardee Library Picture Book Storytime and Colouring Club will continue to meet on Friday 15th and Friday 29th September from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. All welcome to attend, places limited, booking is essential. Contact Ardee Library on 041 6859023.

- Junior Film Screenings

Ardee Library will screen two children's films during the month of September:

16th September at 10.30am Life With Dog (2021)

30th September at 10.30am Paddington 2 (2017)

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

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 Cómhra / 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 Cómhra 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

Age Action Computer Classes

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

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

Poetry Reading Group

Do you have an interest in reading, listening to, or discussing poetry? Come along to our new poetry reading group and meet some fellow poetry enthusiasts. The next meeting will be on Friday 01st September at 11am. Everyone welcome.

Dementia Cafe Morning

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland in conjunction with Louth Library Service will host a Dementia Cafe in Dundalk library on the third Tuesday of every month from 11am-12.30pm. The first one will take place on Tuesday 19th September. Everyone is welcome so come and join us for a cuppa, a chat, and information. Dementia Cafes provide a warm and welcoming space for people with dementia, their family and friends, social and health care professionals to meet, exchange ideas and learnings.

Drogheda Library 041 9876162

ADHD Information and Awareness Workshop

Representatives from the Changing Lives Initiative will facilitate a free information and awareness workshop for parents/caregivers concerned about their children's behaviors' on Wednesday 06th September from 10am-12noon. For more information contact changinglives@archways.ie or you can book your place by clicking the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/the-changing-lives-initiative-15536803614>

Louth County Childcare Information Session

Louth County Childcare Committee will hold a drop-in clinic on Tuesday 19th September from 10.30am-12noon. The Drop-In Clinic will provide advice on Childcare, the National Childcare Scheme and Aim supports for parents or guardians.

Rainbow Reads

The monthly Rainbow Reads event will take place on Wednesday 27th September at 6pm. Every month, our team of friendly library staff put together a display of LGBTQ+ titles and offer recommendations over a cup of tea or coffee. This event is open to all and no booking is required.

Creative Writing Group

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

Ardee Library 041 6859023

Ardee Library Conversational Irish

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

Ardee Library Language Conversation Exchange

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

Ardee Library Board Games Club

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

Louth Volunteer Centre

Ardee Library Audiobook Club

The Ardee Library Audiobook Club continues to meet on the third Thursday of every month. Drop in if you would like to join this group – new members are very welcome!

Arts

Carlingford Summer Series

The Summer Series took place in Carlingford Heritage on Sunday 13th, 20th & 27th August. Featuring Zoë Conway and John McIntyre the concerts were sold out for the 3 day run with renowned artists Donal Lunney, Liam O'Maonlaí & Eleanor McEvoy performing.

Highlanes Gallery Exhibition

Exhibition – Carapace – 26th August – 7th October 2023



This first major solo exhibition by artist Niamh McGuinne launched on August 26th at Highlanes in Drogheda. The exhibition brings together sculpture, print and film, which all look at the need for self-preservation, to listen to yourself and to learn and read the signs your body is trying to show you.

An Táin Arts Centre

Artist in Residence Riley Waite launched his exhibition on 30th August in the basement gallery. 'A Certain Romance' is a solo exhibition by Waite, a Portland based figurative oil painter which reflects his return to Ireland. The collection showcases portraits, landscapes and evokes a deep understanding and appreciation of his heritage. The artist in residence programme is supported by the Arts Office of the Council.

Droichead Arts Centre

The 2nd Boyne Valley Film Festival took place from the 12th – 14th August. With film submissions from both national and international sources, it saw a huge audience attendance to the extensive range of workshops and Q & A sessions.

Other National Funding Streams:

Arts Council

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

- Writers in School Scheme (ongoing)
- An Invitation to Collaboration (Opened 15th August)

- Visual Artist Workspace Scheme (Opened 15th August)

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

Culture Night

Reminder that Culture Night 2023 will take place on Sept 22nd. We have a large range of events happening across the county on the night from traditional music sessions to artist gallery space tours and workshops galore.



For details of all events check out our listing [here](#)

Creative Ireland Louth

Creativity in Older Age Funding

Our Creativity in Older Age project, in partnership with Music & Health Ireland, got underway with workshops across all 3 settings in August. The project sees staff in 3 nursing homes in Louth being mentored and trained on how to use music to enhance the daily wellbeing of residents, particularly those with dementia, or who are confined to bed.



Grainne Hope of Music & Health Ireland with a healthcare resident on the Teas, Tunes and Chats programme

The 3 nursing homes taking part in the project are Curam Care Homes in Dundalk, Moorehall Lodge in Ardee and Moorehall Lodge in Drogheda. The workshops are almost complete and there will be a team building day in early September for carers from all 3 facilities to gather to avail of more skills training and to carry out an evaluation of the project. For further details see [here](#)

SEEK Festival

Congratulations to the team in the SEEK festival who featured on RTE News during Heritage Week, highlighting the success of the murals and their importance to the local cultural settings. The report featured Liam Gaynor and the walking tours, along with SEEK partner Sarah Daly from Creative Spark.



The Joe Biden mural on Bachelors Walk.

For more information on the SEEK festival see [here](#)
For details on future walking tours see the Visit Louth page [here](#)
To see the news report click [here](#)

Museum

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

Overview

As the summer season enters its final weeks the Museum continues to attract audiences both local and visiting alike. Notably the Museum has attracted many visiting groups based in local summer camps. These groups have enjoyed not only guided tours of the museum but also more specialised tours which highlight the nature of the work that goes on behind the scenes.

Aiken Barracks - 50th anniversary



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

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Aiken Barracks the Museum is hosting display of items associated with the garrison.

Among those artefacts on display include:

- a number of uniforms
- a collection of weapons associated with Frank Aiken
- an armed cycle dating from the early 20th century.

The exhibition will run until Saturday September 2nd. Admission is free.



Display of weapons from early 20th century



Flint knife – recently handed in to the Museum



Case featuring uniforms of Lt. Gen L Hogan and Rev. Harry McGowan

As a Designated Museum the museum is one of a select number of locations where a possible archaeological find may be reported. A recent example of this principle in action was the discovery of this beautiful flint knife. In keeping with the legislation the find has been reported to the National Museum of Ireland.

Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

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

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

Yvonne O'Brien
Acting Director / Stiúrthóir Gníomhach



Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Figures as at 31/08/2023

Property offers recorded to date	42
Owners successfully contacted	42
Properties allocated to date	25
Beneficiaries assigned to date	74
Assessments	36
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	25
Properties with minor works required	2
Properties withdrawn	8
Properties not viable	7

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

Under the Offer a Home programme assistance has been provided to both owners and BOTPs with any issues that have arisen.

Refurbishment Programme

Currently 16 properties are being assessed for their suitability to provide accommodation for Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.