



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

6^ú Lúnasa 2024
Dated 6th August 2024

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 Áitiúil, 2001. /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,

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – July 2024

A Chara,

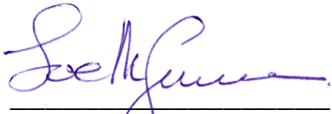
I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the September Monthly Agenda of Louth County Council for your consideration. This report has also been prepared under Section 136 & 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001, advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and planned works.

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

- The first meeting of the new Drogheda District in the almost completed refurbished Council Chamber.
- The commencement of the public consultation on the Dundalk Local Area Plan (LAP).
- The great progress being made by our Placemaking Directorate in completing the Omeath Public Realm project and signing of contract for the Bridge Street Public Realm works.
- The positive national recognition of our 3D Housing initiative in Glenmore Park, Dundalk

Finally, there is a nice little report at the end of the Veterinary Section which details a happy outcome for a dog and pups which was expertly managed by our Pound Staff and Wardens. Always think of our Pound, if on the lookout for a new pet!

Is mise le meas.



Joe McGuinness
Deputy Chief Executive

Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 31ú Iúil 2024
Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st July 2024

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Seirbhís Tacaíochta Support Services

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, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

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 the activities and programmes of the Council represent good value for money for all the citizens of Louth.

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

Bernie Woods
Stiúrthóir / Director



Tuairiscí Airgeadais / Financial Reports

Caiteachas go dtí 31ú Iúil 2024 / Expenditure to 31st July 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/07/2024	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/07/2024
Housing/Tithíocht	€33,362,999	€62,912,092	53%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€12,269,972	€27,583,468	44%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€4,045,091	€8,804,737	46%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€15,315,310	€27,259,532	56%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€11,815,021	€23,558,956	50%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€5,673,914	€11,234,063	51%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€580,018	€1,491,272	39%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€4,548,183	€8,839,470	51%
	€87,610,508	€171,683,590	51%

Ioncam go 31ú Iúil 2024 / Income to 31st July 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/07/2024	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/07/2024
Housing/Tithíocht	€27,575,741	€64,380,831	43%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€4,641,146	€16,558,010	28%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€3,150,316	€8,131,617	39%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€9,214,216	€17,277,072	53%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€1,404,610	€4,348,102	32%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€657,223	€1,683,163	39%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€298,992	€558,596	54%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€4,683,188	€11,372,937	41%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,751,220	€34,507,064	101%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€7,577,465	€11,366,198	67%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€93,954,117	€171,683,590	55%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of July 2024. 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 2024 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st of July 2024 are as follows:

Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31ú Iúil 2024 / Debtors as of 31st of July 2024

	Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance	Sonraisc / Invoices	Fáltais / Receipts	Díscríobhanna / Write Offs	Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance
Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors	€28,733,539	€92,184,149	(€92,040,519)	(€0)	€28,877,169
Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities	€93,780	€835,576	(€565,939)	(€8,220)	€355,197
Rataí / Rates	€5,352,580	€34,751,220	(€25,013,581)	(€1,060,349)	€14,029,870
Cíosanna / Rent	€2,913,161	€9,155,174	(€9,166,062)	(€0)	€2,902,273
Iasachtal / Loans	€297,248	€1,264,051	(€1,236,657)	(€0)	€324,642
Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies	€10,756,762	€11,381,550	(€5,014,409)	(€3,539,600)	€13,584,303
Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges	€756,633	€335,087	(€248,674)	(€13,296)	€829,750
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€2,345,328	€8,021,623	(€5,905,983)	(€20,140)	€4,440,828
Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors	€51,249,031	€157,928,430	(€139,191,824)	(€4,641,605)	€65,344,032

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of July 2024. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Uisce Eireann SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Budget 2025 - Local Property Tax (LPT) Public Consultation

The budget process for 2025 has begun with the advertising of the Local Property Tax Public Consultation in July. The deadline for submissions from the public is Friday 9th of August 2024.

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 +/- €106,847 for the authority.

Budget Workshop

We are going to hold a budget workshop for the members on 3rd September 2024 at 4pm in County Hall.

Technolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk


Between 01/07/2024 and the 31/07/2024 there were 714 support calls logged in the IT support system.

	Closed	Open	Resolved	Count
Accessories	16	1	0	17
Application Software	165	5	0	170
Councillor Support	2	0	0	2
Desktop/Laptop	7	0	0	7
General	32	0	1	33
Licensing	1	0	0	1
Mobile Devices	5	0	0	5
Network	22	0	0	22
Not Assigned	0	84	0	84
Printers	28	0	0	28
Security	208	3	0	211
Services	42	0	0	42
Telecoms	38	0	0	38
User Administration	52	2	0	54
Count	618	95	1	714


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

E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. In July 33.6% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.


 **Inbound Emails**
167,008

 **Blocked at gateway**
18,414

 **Blocked by content rules**
504

 **Blocked Sender**
6,778

 **Blocked by spam /virus**
30,410

 **Potentially harmful emails**
33.60%

Louth County Council Website

There were 19,539 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in July.

The below table indicates the pages on the website with the highest number of Page Views in July.

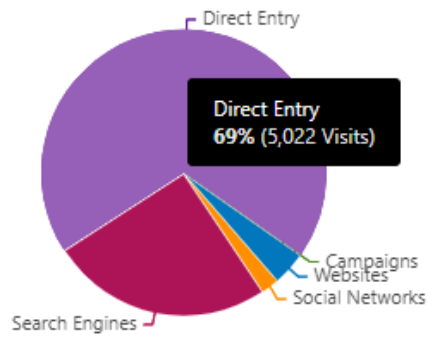
PAGE URL	UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS
/en/	3,202
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	1,123
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	937
/en/services/planning/	509
/en/services/library/	488
/en/services/dog-pound/	478
/en/services/	470
/en/home/	469
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/staff-officer-competition-2024.html	410
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	345
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/e-planning.html	311

The areas on the website which saw the greatest increase in views in July were -

Vacancies - Louth County Council	+269	+28.7%
Staff Officer Competition 2024 - Louth County ...	+220	+115.8%
Online Planning and Maps - Louth County Cou...	+201	+23.2%
Library - Louth County Council	+142	+36.9%

Channel Types

Most people accessing www.louthcoco.ie did so via direct entry. The next most used channel was via Search Engines.



Website Search Issues

The IT department continue to work through the issues where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the Louth County Council website. As there are individual link breakdowns they have to be identified and fixed individually.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach Strategic Economic Development

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

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.

Thomas McEvoy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service



Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

Economic Development

Louth Economic Forum

A meeting of the Louth Economic Forum took place on Wednesday 24th July 2024. There was a presentation from the Council’s Tourism Officer Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, on Louth’s current tourism proposition and the aims and goals for a new tourism strategy. This was followed by a discussion and question and answer session.

Drogheda Business Improvement District (BIDS) Drogheda 2025 - 2029

A proposal was received by the Council from Drogheda BIDS Company (Love Drogheda) to extend the term of the Business Improvement District Scheme for a further period of five years from January 2025. The proposal was on public display in County Hall, Dundalk and in the Civic Offices, Drogheda from the 1st of May to 30th May.

A Submissions Report was circulated to the Members and can be viewed under the Economic Development section of the website: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/drogheda-bid-proposal-2025-2029/drogheda-bid-proposal-submissions-report/>.

A letter from the proponent was received on the 30th July 2024 confirming their wish to proceed with the proposed BID Scheme and requested the Council to proceed with the ratepayer plebiscite.

Age Friendly Business

Following the Age Friendly Business workshops which took place in April, work is continuing to support the participating businesses towards gaining Age Friendly Business Accreditation.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2024

The scheme opened to applications on Monday 15th April, the closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27th September 2024. For full details of the scheme please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/business-incentive-schemes-retail-prospectus/>.

Tourism

Festival Grants

Twenty-four applications were received under the 2024 ‘Festival Grant Initiative’, twenty-three of which received offers of funding.

Ten applications were received under the 2024 Fáilte Ireland funded ‘Regional Festivals and Participative Events’ scheme, eight of which received offers of funding.

For information on all festivals and events happening across the county please visit: <https://www.visitlouth.ie/whats-on/>.

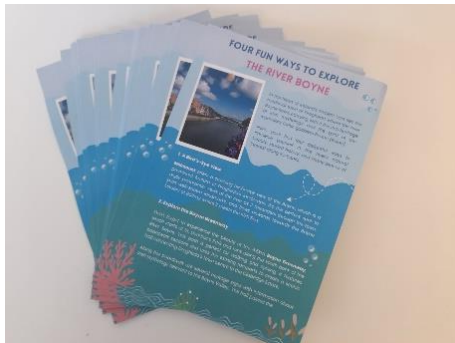
Visit Louth

As part of the ‘Reimagined Boyne Valley Destination’, Fáilte Ireland engaged a digital specialist to review the Council tourism websites in conjunction with the Tourism Section. This took place over an 18 month period. A meeting was held to review the findings and to discuss what options the future of digital platforms might hold for the destination. These will feed into the forthcoming Tourism Strategy being led by the Tourism Officer.

Filming for an all-Ireland TV series ‘Ireland from Above’ has commenced. The show will feature six counties in Ireland and Louth will have a full episode. The show will feature Louth’s history and scenery using drone footage and will be broadcast in the USA on PBS. It will be aired next Spring.

Itineraries

A Drogheda River Boyne itinerary for tourists has been prepared and printed for the Drogheda Tourism Office. This itinerary offers suggestions of activities on the River Boyne.



Drogheda River Boyne Itinerary

Tenders

The Council's Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 - 2030 has been published on the eTenders portal and it is anticipated to appoint a consultant to work with the Tourism Officer and key stakeholders in creating a vision for tourism in County Louth.

sea louth

A new momento, a sea louth beanie hat, is now available in all Tourist Offices in County Louth, when you present a completed sea louth passport. For details on how to complete your passport please visit: <https://www.sealouth.ie/how-it-works>.



sea louth Beanie Hat

Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light

Plans are underway for the 2024 Lú Festival of Light which will take place from 25th October to 3rd November.

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are collaborating with the Council's Tourism Section and the other local authorities along the Táin Trail route.

Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Boyne Valley Drive Cluster Orientation route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are collaborating with the local authorities in the region on same.

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

The new Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy Launch received coverage in The Drogheda Independent and Drogheda Life.

Boyne Valley Flavours have signed up five new members in the last month.

The Boyne Valley Flavours brand audit is underway.

Boyne Valley Flavours have developed a Business Supports Directory which will be a one stop shop for funding and business support for the members.

A working session with the Boyne Valley Flavours board took place to determine priority actions for the next 18 months based on the Boyne Valley Flavours action plan outlined in the strategy. These are:

- The Boyne Valley Bites local dining initiative (training will take place in Louth and Meath in September ahead of the Lú, Púca and Samhain festivals).
- Conducting a Training Needs Analysis survey with the members and developing a training calendar for 2025.
- Establish a Member Meet-Ups schedule of informal meetings for member networking and knowledge sharing. The first one will take place on Monday 16th September.
- Establish a Member Benefits programme.

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley

The recently developed website 'www.foodcultureireland.ie' was launched and allows for event and workshop bookings – upcoming events are advertised on the new website.

Staff from The Centre of Food Culture joined Bord lascaigh Mhara at an open day in Carlingford with their Aquaculture Remote Classroom (ARC), where Carlingford Oyster Company sampled oysters and participants could take a tour of the ARC and travel around Ireland's Aquaculture farms with virtual reality. The ARC travels all around Ireland, visiting primary schools and sharing all that aquaculture has to offer. The ARC is completely funded through the EU and so is free for primary schools.



Bord lascaigh Mhara ARC Open Day in Carlingford

An update on The Centre of Food Culture was presented to the Drogheda Implementation Subgroup: Employment, Business & Enterprise at their July meeting.



Drogheda Implementation Subgroup Meeting

Following the recent trip to The University of Gastronomic Sciences, Pollenzo, Italy in May, a student from the university has commenced a

placement at Muchgrange Farm, Greenore, working with them on their gelato production.

The first of the 'Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley Farm Walks Series' events was held on Saturday 20th July at Killua Castle Farm with twenty-four participants in attendance. The educational farm walk highlighted some of the projects and practices ongoing at Killua Castle including regenerative farming and a rewilding project and gave participants the opportunity to ask questions and learn more. Participants were made up of the farming community and those interested in learning more about these farming practices.

Drogheda Night-Time Economy

Culture Night Late

Drogheda has been awarded €15,000 by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media to host Culture Night Late on 20th September. The Night-time Economy Adviser for Drogheda will collaborate with Droichead Arts Centre to develop a range of innovative night-time experiences. This initiative will include partnering with local cafés to trial extended opening hours, activating unused spaces, and creating pop-up exhibition pods. Building on ideas from Droichead Arts Centre's Night Move programme earlier this year, Culture Night Late aims to attract new audiences and enhance Drogheda's cultural scene.

Drogheda Purple Flag

The Drogheda Purple Flag group reconvened on 17th July, resuming activities in its new role as the steering group for the Night-time Economy Adviser for Drogheda. Comprising diverse partners from both the private and public sectors, the group discussed learnings from the recent Busk at Dusk project, established a new Terms of Reference, and reviewed the Night-time Economy Adviser action plan. Following the successful attainment of its second Purple Flag, the partnership plans to implement various initiatives across the town for the remainder of the Night-time Economy Adviser project.

LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: Local Enterprise Office - Louth.

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 Business



The Green for Business 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 marketplace.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications

Business Advice Clinics

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

Business Training



During July, LEO held two training courses including Creating an Online Business and Marketing for Small Business.

All scheduled training courses are available to view and book online: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



LEO continues to offer the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to assist businesses get online or enhance their online presence, under which LEO can provide 50% support up to a maximum grant of €2,500.

Trading Online training workshops to assist applicants apply continue to be delivered on a regional basis with Cavan and Monaghan LEOs.

Seven Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in July.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme



The Mentor Programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with small business owner / managers who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

Eighteen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of July.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

LEAN for Business 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 to €150 for businesses.

Digital Start

Digital for Business provides support to obtain digital strategy, technical and / or advisory services for eligible businesses. Our expert digital consultants help the business to develop a unique digital strategy that transforms their businesses by identifying where they are on their digital business

journey, developing a digital adaptation plan based on identified needs and assisting to implement a digital plan.

Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit. The grant has been increased in July to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000.

The aim of the scheme is to support enterprises to implement sustainability projects which will reduce the business impact on the environment and should increase the agility and resilience of these businesses to operate in a sustainable manner.

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; replacement / upgrade with more energy efficient system e.g. Heat Pumps (including air, water, and ground source) for manufacturing heating process and heat recovery, upgrade lighting to LED (only as part of a package of eligible cost measures) and more. Further information on this grant can be found here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

European Relations



PEACEPLUS



The PEACEPLUS Action Plan was submitted for approval to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), on 28th March 2024. It is expected that a decision should be made by 26th August 2024.

Clarifications relating to the proposed Action Plan have been received from SEUPB and the PEACE office is in the process of responding to them.

Works continue in preparation for projects proposed under the Action Plan, including procurement planning and preparations for the Capital Projects.

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.

Peace IV Programme



Information on all PEACE IV projects undertaken has been added to [our website](#).

SEUPB continue to audit the PEACE IV programme for claims submitted, as per Programme rules.

Heritage

Heritage Week 2024

The national launch of Heritage Week 2024 took place at Beaulieu House, Drogheda, County Louth

on Thursday 18th July. The event was attended by the Minister for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan T.D., as well as the Chair and Chief Executive of the Heritage Council.

A steam train conveyed guests from Dublin's Connolly Station to Drogheda, from where busses ferried them to Beaulieu for an intriguing range of events demonstrating the breadth of Louth's and Ireland's heritage. Louth was represented by both author Anthony Murphy of Megalithic Ireland and by staff and volunteers from the Louth Nature Trust.

Heritage Week will run from Saturday 17th August until Sunday 25th August. Preparations continue for public events to take place during the week (most of which will be organised and led by volunteers). This year's theme is "Connections, Routes and Networks" and invites you to explore the ways we are connected to each other through physical or cultural connections. Ideas for other Heritage Week events are very welcome. Please contact the Heritage Officer directly with your proposals.

Walled Towns Day Events Planning

In addition to and related to Heritage Week, the Irish Walled Towns Network (the IWTN), a programme of the Heritage Council, has approved funding for public celebratory events, 'Walled Towns Festivals', to take place in early to mid-September, in both Carlingford and Drogheda. The Heritage Officer attended a meeting in Carlingford and held telephone discussions in relation to Drogheda in July to develop plans for those events. More information will be provided closer to the time of the events.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2024

The Heritage Officer has secured increased CMF grant support for proposed conservation works at Bellew's castle towerhouse in Castletown, near Dundalk (on the site of the Saint Louis Convent School in Dundalk). These works will be supported by the 2024 iteration of the Community Monuments Fund. An event will be held here during Heritage Week.

Preparations continued in relation to the Council's two successful applications to the CMF 2024. These are for conservation works to Cappocksgate in Ardee and for a complete, new survey of the surviving stretches of Drogheda's town defences. A Conservation Architect has been appointed as

PSDP and Designer for the Ardee project. Invitations to tender were sent out in relation to the Drogheda town wall survey and assessment.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2023

Works that had received grant aid from CMF 2023 were completed at Taaffe's castle, Carlingford and at Glaspistol towerhouse, near Clogherhead. A further extension for completion of these works, until the end of September 2024, was agreed with the Department by the Heritage Officer. Further Conservation works on these monuments are required and we will be applying for additional funding in 2025.

Guidance for property owners on dealing with invasive plant species on buildings

The Heritage Officer drafted an information leaflet for owners of properties affected by invasive plant species, for example *Buddleja davidii* (Butterfly bush) growing on buildings and old walls in Drogheda.

Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) Capital Funding

A tender for a detailed conservation and interpretation plan for a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall at Featherbed Lane was issued. This project has been offered funding of €30,000 by the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) capital works fund.

The Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust also received a grant offer of €65,000 from this fund for works on the Tholsel. The Heritage Officer has also provided advice in relation to this project.

Emergency Services and Building Control

Fire Service

Louth County Council Fire Service has secured Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage Capital funding for a fleet and equipment upgrade as follows:

- Purchase of two new Peugeot large vans which will be fitted with crew cabs for the transport of up to six fire service members.

- Purchase of twenty-three new cutters, spreaders, rams and combi tools for use at road traffic accidents and other incidents

These new vehicles and equipment will greatly enhance the response by Louth Fire Brigades to emergency incidents in the county.

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during July. Five new recruits completed station tests and literacy tests on 25th June and qualified at interview on 9th July. They are booked in for the next available three week Recruit's course. Two other new recruits completed a three-week Recruits course on 19th July and have started with Drogheda and Ardee Fire Brigades.

Fire Service Training courses in July were as follows:

- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Emergency First Responder Refreshers
- Patient Handling

There has been a continuation in requests to the Fire Prevention Section during July to inspect properties for the accommodation of International Protection applicants.

There has been a continuation of the large increase in fire safety certificate applications and commencement notices received in 2024, compared to 2023.

The Fire Prevention Section discussed and agreed the arrangements for events for the successful Armagh team and their supporters.

Senior Officers and the Heavy Vehicle Mechanic attended a build meeting in Scotland on 23rd July. Details of the new fire tender vehicles and locker layout were agreed. The provider has ordered the two Scania chassis and will shortly be commencing the fabrication of the bodywork.

Tenders were received on eTenders for the purchase of 325 sets of fire gear for Fire Service personnel, under a four-year framework. The assessment of these tenders took place on 18th July and the initial order of fire gear will shortly be made from the successful tenderer.

Major Emergency Management

Louth County Council continued to chair regional Major Emergency Management Steering and Working Group meetings during July with a meeting in Cavan.

Following the update of the Major Emergency Plan, the appendices of the Plan are now being updated. This includes emergency rest centres for the county. This is being done on a regional basis. There was more progress on the update of Louth's Major Emergency Plan during July.

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. The Climate Action Plan has been finalised and includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Civil Defence

Duties

Medical cover was provided at the following events during July:

- Cyclocross x 5 days, Jenkinstown
- Mountain Biking Championships, Bellurgan Park
- Heritage Week Launch, Beaulieu House, Drogheda

Civil Defence personnel attended the Emergency Services Day Open Day, Scotch Hall, Drogheda and the Emergency Services Day Press Launch, Clogherhead.

Training

Training during July was as follows:

- Critical Incident Stress Management
- CFR-Advanced

There were eight callouts by Civil Defence volunteers in July under the Cardiac First Responder Scheme.

Building Control

The Building Control Officer continued with the inspection programme and the processing of Disabled Access Certificate applications.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of June 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 72 planning applications received during the month of June of which 60 were valid. In addition, there were 35 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 27 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	11	9	50	0	70
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	4	2	19	0	25
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	27.27% (3)	33.33% (3)	14.00% (7)	0.00% (0)	18.57% (13)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	4	1	3	0	8
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

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

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh	
	June 2024 / Meitheamh 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	June 2023 / Meitheamh 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	22	137	19	105
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	20	131	2	51
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	17	131	19	89
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	2	7	3	8
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	1	3	0	5
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Forward Planning

Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan (LAP) 2024-2030

- Draft Dundalk LAP is now on public display from Wednesday 17th July until 4.30pm on Tuesday 10th September 2024 (both dates inclusive).
- Closing date for receipt of Submissions / observations - 4.30pm on Tuesday 10th September 2024.
- Two public information sessions in Dundalk Library from 4.30pm - 7.30pm on Wednesday 24th & Tuesday 30th July.
- Full details available to view / download at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-dundalk-local-area-plan-2024-2030>

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

Placemaking 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

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

David Jones
Stiúrthóir / Director



Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla / Roads and Local Services

Ceantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
Carlingford, Omeath, Gyle's Quay	Litter pick for these areas
Templetown	
Dublin Road	
Market Street	
Demense	
Pearse Park	
Ramparts	
Bothar Na Feirme	
Red Barn's Road	
Point Road	
Barrack Street	
Inner Relief Road	
Castletown Road	
Old Coes Road	
Centenary Road	
Fairgreen Road	
Northgate Street	
Ecco Road	
John Street	
Philip Street	
Riverside Crescent	
Riverside Walk	
Laurels	
Armagh Road	
Racecourse Road	
Ardee Road	

Carrick Road

Woodview Estate

Mooreland/Lennon Melia Crescent

Mourne View Walkway

Ardee Road

Carrick Road

Under the bridges at Fr. Murray Park

Ashling Park Estate cleaned up ahead of Green Flag judging with strimming, painting and scuffling carried out

River Grids checked weekly and any debris lifted

Bottle Banks at Long Walk and Harp Car Park

Meadow Grove

Strimming around verges and walls

Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day and area litter picked

Rubbish removed daily from the Bottle Banks

Grass Cutting in progress in all areas

Strimming of verges on the Bypass and around the poles

Strimming areas at the Graveyard ahead of pattern

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí **Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht**

Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore,

Templetown Car Park, Gyle's Quay area. Extra bin collection over the Summer months due to end in September

All tubs checked for rubbish

Nightly by contractor in Dundalk – 200 Bins

Cleaned borders around Town

Illegal dumping is ongoing at Williamson's Place

Weeds sprayed in areas around Town

<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <p>Sweeping of roads for surface dressing</p> <p>Dundalk –daily, nightly, weekly and monthly as per contract</p>
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</p> <p>As per bin management in Cooley and Dundalk</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p>
<p>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</p> <p>By the Water Safety Officer in Cooley</p> <p>Ring Buoys checked weekly in Dundalk and report sent to the Water Safety Officer</p> <p>Lifebuoy issues this month at Toberona, Ice House Hill, all have since been replaced and new ropes added</p>	<p>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</p> <p>27 checked weekly</p>
<p>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</p> <p>Lordship, Cooley, Carlingford, Omeath</p> <p>Checked weekly in Dundalk by the Parks caretaker</p> <p>Litter pick in Parks</p>	<p>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</p>

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Ongoing patching of local roads</p> <p>Preparation of roads for surface dressing as per the 2024 Road Works Programme</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Pot hole repair Bollards replaced Weed scraping at the Ardee Road New Stop signs erected Weed scraping at Old Newry Road New signage in estates</p>
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None at this time</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>None at this time</p>
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p>None at this time</p>
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	<p>Ongoing repairs and bulb replacement at various lights around Dundalk</p>
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<p>None at this time</p>
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Adjusted signs twisted Erected No Entry signs Replaced directional bollards at island junctions Replaced numerous new signage replaced faded one around the town New poles erected at Ard Easmuinn and the Avenue Road</p>
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time</p>

	<p><u>Dundalk</u> Ongoing at all the usual areas Dumping of sofas and mattresses in areas continues especially at Hoeys Lane and Williamson's Place, also along the shuck at the Bypass Entrance to Woodview Estate, black bags being dumped weekly Mooreland Road fly tipping Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly</p>	
<p>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</p>	<p>Cleaned graffiti at Chu Chulainn</p>	



New salt silo being constructed at Faughart

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

<p>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</p>	<p>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</p> <p>n/a</p>

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht Blackrock – 6 days a 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 As per bin schedule
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Blackrock – checked weekly Annagassan – checked weekly
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly Blackrock – checked weekly

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Tar patching on: RD185 Para Bwees Drumard RD182 Whiterath RD170 Redmonds to Allardstown RD154 Tully RD170 Bannons Cross RD168 Grange Road
Road repairs and patching & cleaning up Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Tallanstown RD175 Glyde Road
Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	
Clearing fallen trees & debris	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	
Footpath renewal scheme underway	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	Xerox junction Haynestown Kilcurry Faughart
Major repair works completed	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	Sextons Blackrock
Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Louth Village and in Dromiskin
Cleansing/repair/replacement/new signage	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry LS-7163 Chapel Road Haggardstown N52 Gibstown
Collection of dumped waste for disposal Collection and disposal of waste after community clean up	

Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí		n/a
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Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
All bins in Ardee daily	
Clogherhead car park daily clean up 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
Port Oriel Pier	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	6 Daily
Termonfeckin	6 Daily
Baltray	3 Daily
Seapoint Carpark	3 Daily
Erecting of bin at Riverside Walk	
Erecting of bin at Link Road	
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
As per bin cleaning schedule	
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
Ardee Town – River Dee	
Salterstown	
Port Beach	
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground and exercise equipment at both locations	

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	R170-9 Stickillin L-1209-0 Cookstown L-1297-0 Leabys Cross Kells Road Collon L-2290-0 Priest Hill Collon LS-6329 Dillonstown L-2239-0 Mountainstown Dunleer L-1212-23 & 36 Riverstown	Prep works and surface dressing
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Drainage works on: R170-9 Stickillin L-1209-0 Cookstown L-1297-0 Leaby's Cross Kells Road Collon LS-6329 Dillonstown L-2239-0 Mountainstown Dunleer L-1212-23 & 36 Riverstown	

Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha		
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán		
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá		
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre		
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Installing and removing Surface Dressing signage on the following roads: R170-9 Stickillin L-1209-0 Cookstown L-1297-0 Leabys Cross Kells Road Collon LS-2290-0 Priest Hill Collon LS-6329 Dillonstown L-2239-0 Mountainstown Dunleer L-1212-23 & 36 Riverstown	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach		
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí		



SURFACE DRESSING L-1297 KELLS ROAD COLLON



SURFACE DRESSING ON THE L-1220 RIVERSTOWN

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

<p>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</p>	<p>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</p> <p>Steps and lane ways weekly</p> <p>Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection</p> <p>Bring Banks in Drogheda Urban are and checked and cleared daily during working</p>
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	<p>week, also all Bring Banks in Drogheda Urban are checked and cleared every Saturday evening</p> <p>Drogheda Rural Bring Banks are cleared daily during working week</p> <p>Preparation for Drogheda Boyne Swim – placing of sand on river side</p>
<p>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</p>	<p>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</p> <p>Drogheda Town Centre – circa 60 litterbins emptied daily every morning</p> <p>234 litter bins (including 10 Solar Bins) are emptied weekly around the town</p> <p>Dominic’s Park and Mell River Walk emptied daily</p> <p>South Louth Drogheda Municipal District rural area’s litter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed, especially at the beaches – at least 40 bins per day</p> <p>Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week</p> <p>Power washing of pavements and street furniture in West Street on-going</p>
<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <p>Town centre daily, approach roads fortnightly</p> <p>Public Housing Estates – swept every two months</p> <p>Private Housing Estates – swept every three months, when resources allow</p> <p>Hotspots cleaned weekly on Monday after the weekend, decided daily by Supervisor after checking around the Drogheda Urban area</p> <p>Villages are swept once per month – i.e. Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen and Tinure</p> <p>Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday</p>

	Road sweepers are used in the town centre and approach roads with particular attention to Collon Road, Ramparks, Termonfeckin Road, Windmill Road and Crosslanes
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain About 35 emptied once a week, washed and disinfected
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Checked weekly by the Water Safety Office
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Between 4 and 5 checked daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, skate park, adult exercise equipment, 3 playgrounds in Drogheda Rural area) cleaned and disinfected.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	L-6276-0 Baggotstown R-170-152 Carrickbaggott to Walshestown L-6292-0 Tinure L-2299-17 Newtown Monasterboice L-6327-0 Beaulieu L-6286-0 Monasterboice to Harestown R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin R170 Harestown School L-2308-24 Carstown Cross Potholes L-6251-1 Gallagher Dunleer L-6252-1 Trean Road Dunleer L-6277-0 Kellystown L-2307-1 Newtownstalaban	Prep works for Surface Dressing works due to start on 6 th August 2024 Kilsaran RWP 2024

L-6291-0 Bog Road Tinure
L-2275-24 Tullyard

Pot hole repairs at Fr. Connolly Way, Mount St. Oliver, Bessesxwell Lane, Back Lanes, Marsh Road, Newtownmeadows, North Stran, Cement Road, King Street Carpark, Aston Villages, Bothar Brugha, Crosslanes, Greenhills, Termonfeckin Road, Twenties Lane, St. Laurence Park, Old Slane Road, Marleys Court, Congress Avenue, IDA Road & Marian Close

Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall & gate repairs – Structural Engineer appointed for Design & Project Supervisor Design Process – await quotation from contractor prior to proceed with works

Preparation for Drogheda Boyne Swim – placing of sand on river side

Road closure at Narrow West Street and pedestrian diversion, due to emergency works at 74 Narrow West Street – road reopened 5th July 2024 and diversion signs removed.

Footpath closure at Shop Street and pedestrian diversion, due to emergency works at Mr. I Phone Shop – Scaffold erected by property owner and remedial work to building has commenced.

Martello Villages – erection of pedestrian barriers – footpath & road subsidence – arrange for survey of underground services

Road Works Programme – Resurfacing Works 2024

Contractor has been appointed and Drogheda Roads are planned to commence 12th August:

Newfoundwell
Platin Road
Dual Carriageway

	<p>Bredin Street Boyne Road Bull Ring Duleek Street Patricks Street/Bolton Street Martello Village</p> <p>CIS Lanes</p> <p>Tender documents have now been prepared for 80mm overlay – plan to tender in August</p> <p>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024</p> <p>Consultant has now been appointed and preliminary meeting has been arranged for July to commence construction tender documents</p>	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing.</p> <p>Road gully cleaning at: Meadowview Rathmullen Road Poorhouse Lane Marsh Road Platin Road Cherrymount Ballsgrove Peters Street Brookville & Aston Villages</p>	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>Parks Departments are carrying out inspections at:</p> <p>Cherrymount – with intention to issue Section 70 to property owner.</p>	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p>Commenced planned footpath repairs at:</p> <p>Aston Villages Congress Avenue William Street Mell Walkway Trinity Street</p>	

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	General maintenance/replacement for lamps	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre		
Signage / Comharthaíocht	New Stop Pole/sign at Sienna Estate New bollards at William Street & Fair Street New pole and no left turn at Stockwell Lane New loading bay sign at Dyer Street New children at play sign at Loughboy Mell New directional signage at Poorhouse Lane New pole and stop sign at Forest Grange and Cherrybrook Drive New Chevron signs outside Newtown Cross graveyard New bollard at St. Laurence's gate New bollards on Marsh Road at ramps	
Weed killing / Marú fiaií	On-going by Parks Sections and road section at: Patrick's Street North Road Windmill Road Bothar Brugha Flaxmill Lane College Rise Marleys Court Donore Road Ballsgrove Hill Holy Family Church William Street Palace Street Laurence Street	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	On-going on weekly basis	

Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach		
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí		



Placemaking

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application is currently with An Bord Pleanala for determination. LCC has responded, as requested, to submissions made to ABP and are awaiting further information and/or planning report to be issued.

The planning application to An Bord Pleanala seeks approval for significant regeneration of the Westgate area of Drogheda. Preparation of the Westgate planning stage has been financially supported by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) as part of Project Ireland 2040 and match funded by Louth County Council.

The proposed improvements to the public realm in Westgate will encompass several streets including Georges Street to Dominick Street and from Fair Street to Father Connolly Way. Included among the proposed works are:

- A new gateway plaza at George's Square
- Flexible community and cultural space
- Public art installation marking the location of the medieval West Gate
- Revitalising the river front
- Repair and restoration of the Old Abbey and the Medieval Wall

Louth County Council's Place Making Team has been supported by lead planning and communications consultant, Turley. The planning application has been shaped by the feedback from the local community.

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and statutory planning information presented to An Bord Pleanala.

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/westgate-2040>



Artist impressions of Westgate project

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

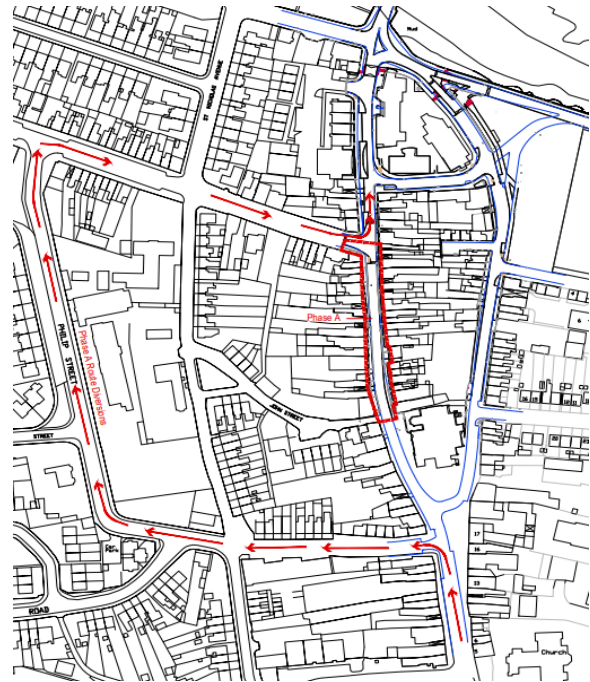
BDP Ltd are the appointed Urban Design Team for Phase 1 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. This project involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Part 8 approval of the project was received in April 2018.

Following Decision Gate 2 for funding approval by the URDF, as per the Public Spending Code, the tender for construction phase was advertised, and closed on the 27th March. The tender assessment has been completed and the process of appointment is nearing conclusion.

Louth County Council have signed contracts with Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. for the delivery of the St. Nicholas Quarter Regeneration Scheme. To minimise the impact on residents and businesses the works will be completed on a phase-by-phase basis. Phase A will commence on lower Bridge Street, from St. Nicholas Church to the Castletown Road.

To complete these works, this section of Bridge Street will be closed to traffic from mid-August for approximately four months. Diversion routes will be in place via Patrick Street, Philip Street, and the Castletown Road. Pedestrian access will be always maintained and deliveries to and from all businesses will be accommodated to minimise the impact as much as possible. Glas have appointed a dedicated Liaison Officer for any queries, John Caffrey jcaffrey@glascel.ie

Phase A Closure and diversions



Phase 2

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project involves initial feasibility, analysis and preparation of a design concept for the redevelopment of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. The accepted concept will then be developed to Part 8 planning with full public consultation. BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant team, following the tender process for design stage.

A town health check has been completed on the area and initial summary report completed by the design team. BDP delivered a public engagement afternoon on Wednesday 21st February in County Hall, Dundalk. The event was well-attended with positive feedback received on the project and local insights provided on the St Nicholas Quarter area.

BDP are currently engaged with LCC in the initial feasibility and analysis stages in preparation of a design concept for St Nicholas Quarter – Phase II. Engagement with project stakeholders is ongoing.

URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

On-site inspections and negotiations with property owners are ongoing regarding buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda. The process of acquiring the initial tranche of properties selected to be compulsorily acquired has commenced. Several properties have been identified as appropriate to move on to the valuation stage, a qualified person has been identified and this process has begun in earnest.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

Tender documentation for the procurement of a contractor is being finalised by the appointed design team led by Alastair Coey Architects.

Once this has been received this information will be provided to the sponsoring agency the Department of Rural and Community Development seeking approval to go to tender.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has planning permission in place since July 2023. An application for category 1 funding for the project was submitted to the RRDF Call 5 in February 2024 and unfortunately was not successful. Louth County Council are now looking at other possible funding streams for this important project.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is progressing on site. The main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering are continuing works, installing new pavements, kerb

alignments and green spaces. Most of the utility work has been completed and liaison with ESB is continuing. Areas for soft landscape and planting are being prepared with topsoil. The works at Omeath proceed on an agreed phased basis and public engagement continues through the project.

The project is progressing towards substantial completion and snagging with completion expected in Q3 2024. The Omeath Placemaking scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths. The project will also enhance linkages to the Omeath Greenway.



Ardee 2040

Turley Planning are in the process of completing the final design Audits, reports and planning documents for Ardee 2040. Louth County Council are currently engaged with TII in relation to pre-planning approval for the main street. The planning submission will then be lodged with An Bord Pleanala.

The project will enhance the streetscape and amenity areas in Ardee with a focus on the key areas of the Main Street, the Old Railway Lands and the new amenity lands to the east of the town centre.

The objective of Ardee 2040 is to develop projects that support regeneration, compact growth and sustainable development. The key themes are: creating quality gateways; public spaces; recreational areas; sporting

areas and public realm in Ardee, improving connectivity and legibility for all members of the community and for visitors/tourists to the town. The project aims to capitalise and respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by providing new and better quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports that are required for the Part 8 planning process are in progress and are being prepared for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The Part 8 planning process for the new play space at Termonfeckin was approved at the December meeting of Drogheda Municipal District. Work on the project is progressing. The site of the play space is being prepared and the former water tower and associated pipework has been removed and tree felling works have been completed.

Kompan Ireland Ltd has been appointed for the contract to Design & Build the new play space and are currently on-site with completion due in Q3 2024.

Reports for St. Dominic's Park playground refurbishment and The Glen are being undertaken including AA Screening Stage 1 report.

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The Town Centre First Plan for Dunleer was launched in conjunction with the Dunleer Town Team in the new Centre for Excellence at the Market House on 28 May.

An application has been made under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme: Project Development Measure requesting €50k for design stage work for one of the projects brought forward in the Town Centre First Plan.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

A public consultation event was held on 8th May in the Clogherhead Community Centre, the event drew substantial local interest with over 120 attendees including predominantly local residents.

In parallel to this a Consultation Questionnaire was made available both in person and online for a 2 week period to gain a comprehensive understanding of the village's needs and demands through engagement with the local community.

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

BAM Civil Ltd have now been awarded as the main contractor for the Project. Works are expected to take 36 - 42 months.

Southern Works: Earthworks for the formation of the main carriageway in the south are ongoing, temporary diversion works for the greenway is in place. Test Pile works to establish rock depths and bearing force are completed and results are being analysed. Earthworks for the formation the roundabout on the R173 are ongoing.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. Programme of works for Archaeology monitoring submitted.



Roadworks Southern Approach.



Installation of cofferdam southern embankment.



Static Load Test on Test Pile.



Culvert Works Northern Approach.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. will be ongoing throughout the contract. Land Valuation Services are ongoing, and they are liaising with the agents of landowners.

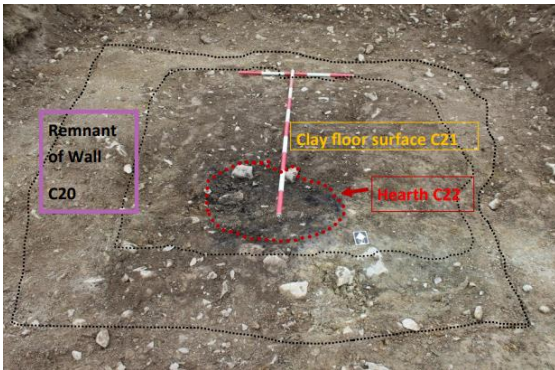
A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service and has commenced meeting fishers affected by the scheme.

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

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders. Archaeological Phase 1 test trenching commenced on site, works experienced temporary setback due to some landowners not allowing access to Lands for reasons varying from having planted crops on lands, Silage on lands, to compensation agreements. Approval has been given by TII to Land Valuers services to proceed to make offers on all the cases on the Scheme.



Archaeology Trenching Monitoring



Remnants of wall and hearth found during Archaeology trenching

The initial peer review of draft main works construction tender documents is completed and has been reviewed by the Claims Advisors, Chandler KBC. A T2 budget submission for the entire project has been submitted to the TII for their review and approval.

A works order has been made to ESB for relocation of 38kv overhead network and form NW1 for low voltage line has been submitted to ESB. We await a date from ESB on when these works will progress. Tender layout for the watermain diversion has been agreed with Uisce Eireann. Payment of invoice has been made. The Design Team have received a design from Eir Utilities for new and relocated services, these have now been incorporated into tender documentation.

Results from advanced sampling and testing of private wells along the N53 at Hackballscross have been received, with several wells having results more than the recommended parameters, while others were normal, the results of the sampling shall be issued to the relevant landowners.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Currently no allocation of funding from TII was provided to Monaghan Co. Council to progress the major project, and the design work continues to be suspended.

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

ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie

N52 Ardee Bypass

In relation to the High Court Case held on April, a judgement was made on the 14th of May, see below link to the Courts conclusion: [pdf \(courts.ie\)](https://pdf.courts.ie)

The Certificate for leave to appeal application was not heard on the 8th of July and stands adjourned to Autumn Term which commences on Monday 7th October and ends on Friday 20th December 2024. A specific date during this term for the hearing has not been fixed. The parties have been informed that the Court will write to them early in October 2024 giving a date for the hearing.

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Louth Co. Council Section of the road is now complete. Snagging ongoing and final account to be agreed.

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

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Department of Transport allocated monies in 2024 towards progressing feasibility and options design. Tenders for consultants were issued to the DoT in late March and received approval to proceed to tender at the end of May. Tender Documents are currently out to the Market with a return date of early 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

Main civil works in Carlingford complete. Outstanding works remaining are trailhead sign and streetlighting connection, (ESB depended).



Greenway access control point and signage

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Mainline route of greenway now complete. Works remaining include snagging and ESB connection. Substantial completion achieved.



Section of Greenway at Back Lane Carlingford.

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

Additional funding from Dept of Transport capital grant will be made available to Louth County Council for an amount up to €2,961,413, this grant will be available to claim in the period ending 31st December 2024 for expenditure to complete the project.

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

Works have commenced Nov. 2023 in NI to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk.



Works Complete in Victoria Lock in NI

Design works for the foundation design and manufacturing, off-site, for the boardwalk has commenced. The contractors is seeking approval for the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Planning permission for the scheme prohibits works below high-water mark to September.

The project partners are continuing to meet monthly to review and assess the various aspects of the project. Shared Island funding of €1.5m has been made available to the NI section to complete works in 2024.

TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

TII approval received to move the project into options phase.

Public Consultation No 2 was held on Wed 19th June 2024 in Ballymascanlon Hotel. Advertised in local papers, radio and online. 200 people signed the attendance sheet with many more in attendance. An interactive map of the route corridors options is available at <https://www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie/interactive-map>



Route Corridor Options



Public Consultation No. 2

Dundalk MD elected representatives' workshop was held to provide further information.

Public feedback will be used to assist the team in determining the preferred route corridor which will be presented at PC3. The date for making submissions in relation to Public Consultation No.2 has been **extended to 6th September 2024.**

Environmental assessments are ongoing including meetings with the project ecologist.

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

ORIS Scheme

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

The Preliminary designs are now complete and issued to the Members for information purposes.

Applications under the ORIS Fund Measure 2 have been successful for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown.

Tender Documents for construction are now currently with our procurement team to be issued to the market.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Main carriageway works are completion. Safety file is being prepared and snagging ongoing for the completed project to be handed over to the Council.

LiHAF Project:

Mount Avenue Road Upgrade

Works are ongoing on the scheme, service diversions and new service installation taking place. Works in relation to the new signalised junction on the Carrickmacross Rd are ongoing.

Works in relation to Uisce Éireann infrastructure at the Castleblaney Road/Mill Rd Junction will be complete, under a road closure, by 2nd August 2024.

Traffic has been diverted from the Rise/Paddocks through Lis Na Dara from 1st July 2024, this is to complete the cul-de-sac works at the Castletown Rd. section of Mount Avenue.

Temporary traffic calming measures will be in place in Lis na Dara for the duration of these works. Kerbing, drainage, ducting, public lighting and footpath works are progressing at the cul-de-sac area of Mount Ave.

Final surface course works will begin on Thursday 1st August, continuing over the weekend, from the Castletown Rd/Mill Rd junction to the Cul-de-sac at Mount Ave. Surfacing works will then follow at the Lis na Dara/Carrickmacross Rd junction.



Basecourse at Castletown Rd Section.



**Section of carriageway nearing completion.
Works south of Castletown Cross**



Block N Feature Facade Fair St

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Project is nearing Substantial completion with BC(A)R achieved on the 17th of July. Extensive snagging is currently being undertaken throughout all buildings, before occupation of the buildings.

Mechanical and Electrical Testing and Commissioning completed throughout site. Burglar, CCTV, Door Access and Fire Alarm, Air Tightness, Sound and Slip Testing all carried out to all buildings.



Block B View Front Elevation



Block Community Services Building



Customer Services Desk



Landscaping and attenuation tank



Feature Staires and fixed furniture



Meeting Pods.



Surfacing Works Nearing Completion



"Grasscrete" works ongoing

Dunleer Fire Station

Final purchase of the lands process is on-going but in latter stages of purchase process being completed.

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation was submitted in Dec 23. Approval to proceed to stage 2 will now be sought from the funding body when site fully acquired.

Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre

Tender documents for the appointment of a design team have been tendered in early June, with a return date in mid-July. However, no tenders were received. A meeting with the Fire Section and procurement team on how to progress will be held in August.

Omeath Public Realm Scheme

The Contractor continues to progress the project, works are nearing substantial completion.



Landscaping Works nearing completion

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The final Louth Co. Council / OPW comments on the Hydraulic modelling report are being addressed by the JV. The JV have submitted the Wave overtopping assessment, which is currently being assessed by Louth Co. Council /OPW. Preliminary Flood Relief options identification & hydraulic modelling continues to be developed and assessed with discussions ongoing between the Steering Group.

The proposed locations for accompanying ground investigation works are confirmed along with associated environmental and archaeological assessments and are due to be advertised. The main aim of the surveys is to obtain details on the soil strata for design purposes and to enable the engineers and planners to develop effective flood mitigation strategies based on comprehensive understanding of the subsurface conditions.

Additional Topographic & Drone Surveys for the preliminary developing options areas are completed. These surveys will provide detailed information about the terrain and elevation of the area, helping to inform the design and implementation of flood mitigation measures. Threshold surveys commenced at the end of April 2024 and were successfully completed.

Additional seasonal environmental surveying e.g. wintering bird's surveys are now complete with the report being finalised.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by Louth County Council and OPW.

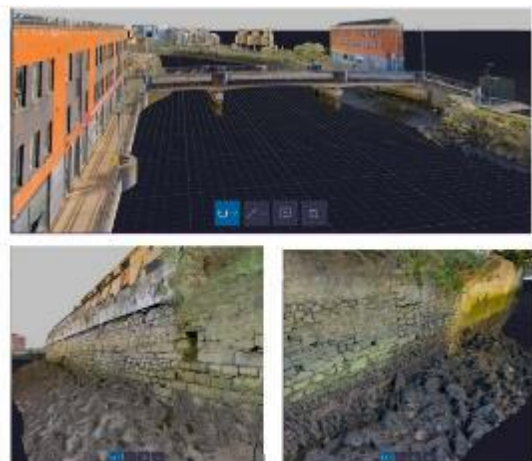
In the coming months the flood relief scheme steering group will continue the assessment of various potential options that can provide effective flood relief. These measures will be analysed to determine their feasibility and impact in mitigating flood risks and to ensure that they are tailored to the specific characteristics of the catchment.

Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at:

www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. A drone survey, capturing both photogrammetry and detailed topographical information of the various structures along the banks of the River Boyne, with final locations due to be captured in August 2024. This data is being used to create a photorealistic digital inspection model of the structures and can be used to complete various assessments; example extracts from the model shown below:



Output from Photogrammetry

The hydraulic modelling report has been completed. RPS are reviewing the accompanying flood extent maps to identify the flooding mechanisms within Drogheda and Baltray. The long list of Potential flood relief measures is being identified and assessed by RPS and Steering Group.

The specification for an underwater archaeology survey is finalised and procurement of a specialist contractor has commence.

RPS will shortly issue a report summarising the findings from the overwintering bird survey

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

Tendering of the CCTV and Topo surveys has been completed with the successful contractor being appointed, works are due to commence

The OPW are continuing to develop a brief for consultants to design the scheme.

The Local Authority are in the process of appointing an engineering staff member to progress the project.

Marine Projects

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

Louth County Council submitted 3 No. Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

- Drummullagh, Omeath, minor amendments to the proposed works design are required to align with Marine Area Consent requirements, with subsequent amended Section 177 AE being submitted to An Bord Pleanála in the coming weeks.
- Bellurgan Point (Section 177 AE ongoing),
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore (Section 177 AE ongoing).

The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on

<https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE approval, tender documentation is being prepared and it is now anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1/2 2025, with subsequent construction works

programmed in accordance with the individual sites ecological constraints.

Schools Programme Projects

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

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

Ardee E.T.N.S.

Works on site continue to progress, Progress to date since previous monthly reporting:

- Blockwork Wall ongoing
- Roof Trusses to corridor sections 60% complete
- Reinforced concrete beams are now in place
- Masonry support to Special Needs Unit area 80% complete.

Monthly Forecast Works

- Continue with Rising Blockwork
- Finish Trusses to corridor section
- Measure of windows to SNU Area.
- Pour RC beam to south wing.



Roof Trusses installation



Overall site Progress

Active Travel Investment Program

2024 Budget Allocation

On the 7th February 2024, The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €4.5 million to advance thirty-two (32) Active Travel Projects.

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

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

Band 1	€0 - €5M;
Band 2	€5 - €20M;
Band 3	> €20M;


They also divide the evolution of a Capital Investment project into a seven-phase process, i.e. (Phase 1 to Phase 7 inclusive) with seven Gateways Reports i.e. hold points, where local authorities are to prepare and submit Gateway Reports for sign-off before obtaining approval to advance to the next phase.



The seven different phases are as outlined below...


- PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose
- PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection
- PHASE 3: Preliminary Design
- PHASE 4: Statutory Processes
- PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement
- PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation
- PHASE 7: Close-out and Review

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

Active Travel Projects



Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	August 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€200,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023.</p> <p>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>A Gateway 3 Report and preliminary design Drawings amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route and completing a Road Safety Audit. A workshop between LCC & NTA held on the 7th June 2024. All scheme layouts approved, and the Design Team are to look at new junction layouts for Rathmullan Rd / Bridge of Peace and John Street Junctions.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team envisage to hold a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in August 2024.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display early Q4 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Consultants RPS Group have completed draft Gateway 3 Report. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in August 2024 in advance of public consultations.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display early Q4 2024



Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	August 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Gateway 2 Report completed and submitted to the NTA for approval. The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public. All relevant observations / comments are now incorporated into the preliminary design.</p>  <p><i><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></i></p>  <p><i><u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u></i></p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2024


<p>Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)</p>	<p>€150,000</p>	<p>Band 2 €5 - €20M</p>	<p>Phase 3 – Preliminary Design</p>	<p>A non-statutory consultation was held late 2023 and the Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>GW 3 report (drawings, costing, Road Safety Audit) was completed in July 2024, with a likely proposed Part 8 display in September 2024.</p>  <p><i>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</i></p>	<p>Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024</p>
<p>Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.</p>	<p>€100,000</p>	<p>Band 2 €5 - €20M</p>	<p>Phase 2 - Concept and Options</p>	<p>An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.</p>	<p>North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.</p>



View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South

				 <p><i>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</i></p>	
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€250,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	<p>The end date for submissions was Wednesday 3rd July on the projects Part 8. The planner is currently reviewing the project documentation and submissions. It is proposed that the project will go before Dundalk / Carlingford MD Council members in September for approval.</p> <p>See link to Part 8 Portal</p> <p>Inner Relief Road Active Travel Scheme Planning (localgov.ie)</p>  <p><i>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</i></p>	Proposed date for approval by Councillors September 3 rd 2024.
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 4 Statutory Process	<p>Gateway (GW) approval received 16th July 2024. Proposing to go on public display on 13th August as part of the Part 8 planning process.</p>	Proposed Part 8 13 th August 2024.

				 <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u></p>	
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€150,000		Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	<p>Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on 29th June 2023. DT developing drawings on rear access to train station to continue discussions with Irish Rail.</p>  <p><u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 Q4 2024
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€450,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synopsised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed “Proposed Active Travel Links” as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps. The NTA directly are going to task one of their Framework Consultants to develop the next steps of the ABTA.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is currently on public display alongside the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan. Both documents will be on public display from Wednesday 17th July 2024 until 4.30pm on Tuesday 10th September 2024 (inclusive).</p>	N/A

Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 approval received from the NTA on 13 th March 2024. The Design Team have commenced Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 28 th March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC Active Travel Team submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 22 nd May 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval. The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2024
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 approval received from the NTA on 29 th April 2024. The Design Team has commenced Phase 3 – Preliminary Design. Public Consultation Day held, and submissions received are being used to inform the preliminary design.	2024
					
				<u>Photomontage of Preferred Option</u>	
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 5 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have design completed for the proposals. We are liaising with relevant landowners on a preferred route.	N/A

Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda- All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 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	€930,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	In accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended, proposed works at schools 1, 3 & 4 were advertised in the local press and Consult Louth for a period of two weeks from Tuesday 9th July 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July, 2024 inclusive. Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€125,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	The Design Team was appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in 2024 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

Organisational Development

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 Dramháiola agus Sheirbhísí Tréidliachta.

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil, Uisce Tuaithe & Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine

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 Rural Water & Climate Action
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

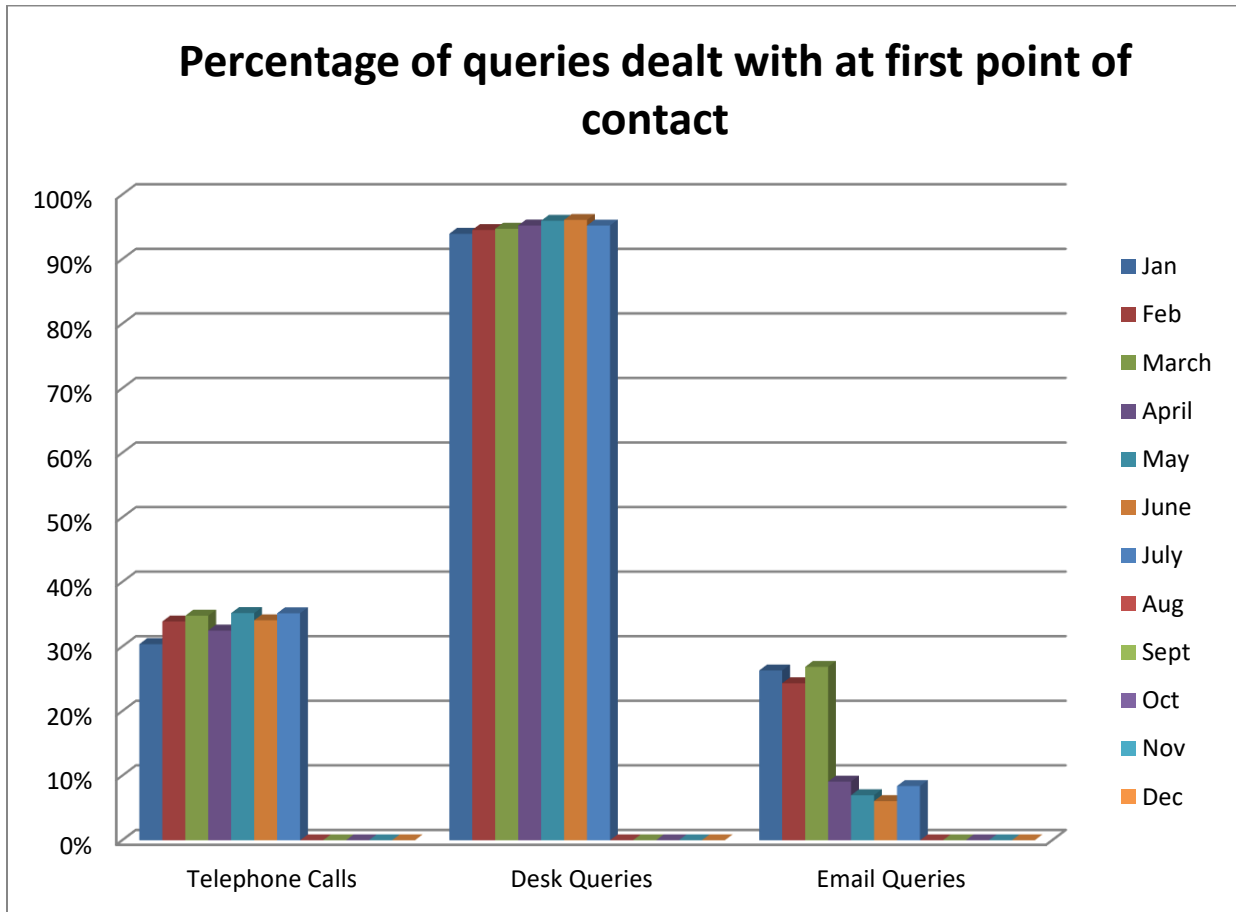


Joe McGuinness
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha / Corporate Services

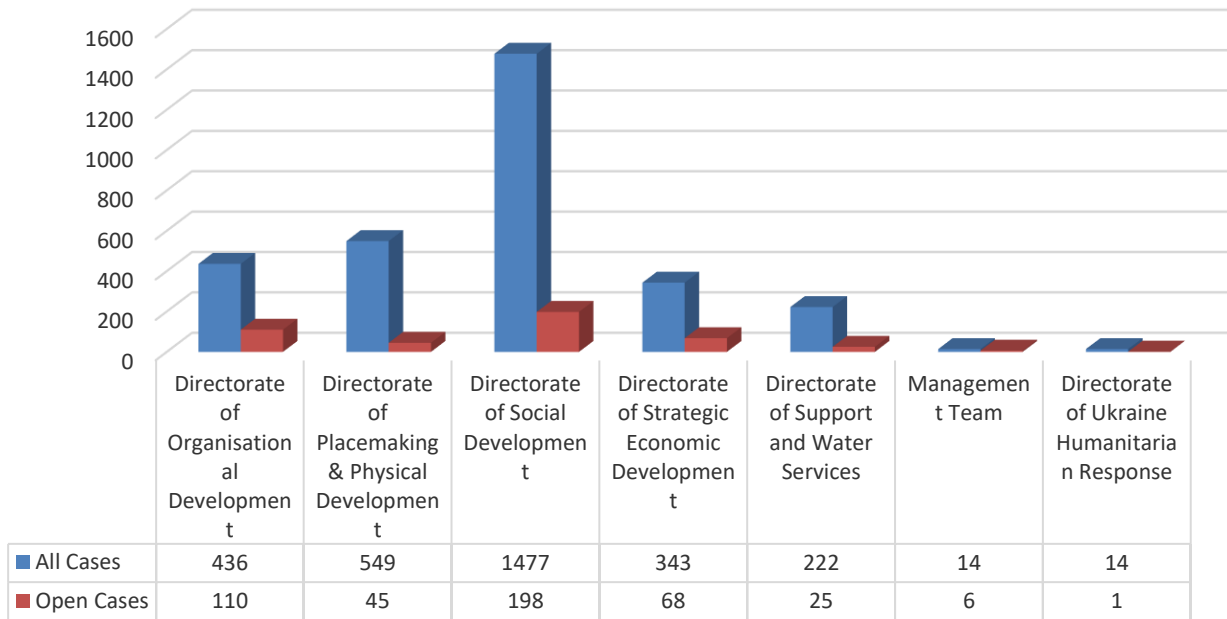
Customer Services Report

During the month of July 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries 6,849 calls, 1,071 e-mails and 5,577 counter queries.

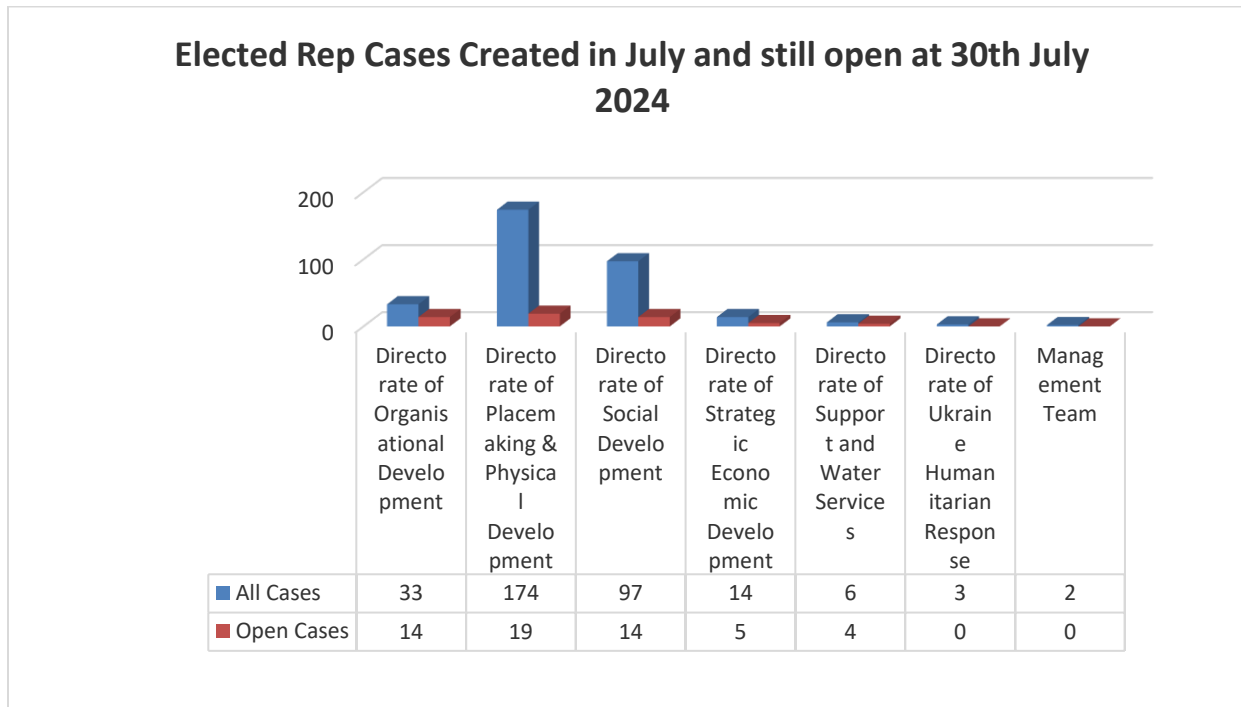


There were 3055 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during July of which 453 (15%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in Jul and still open at 30th of July 2024



During July 2024, 329 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 56 (17. %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan-July	2024 Total Jan - July	July Only 2024
FOI REQUEST	75	83	8
DSAR	9	10	1
DATA PROTECTION REQUEST	4	9	1
(AIE) INFORMATION	13	7	0
OMBUDSMAN REQUEST	8	10	1
COMPLAINTS	23	31	2

Electoral Register

Work is continuing on updating the Rolling Electoral Register we have over 1,200 additions/amendments to update, the majority of which are coming via the website www.checktheregister.ie however we have also hard copy forms from postal and change of citizenship applications as these cannot be processed online.

Field Officer work has been recommenced in various areas throughout the County, this involves gathering eircodes. Having an Eircode registered against the electors' details ensures that electors are voting in the correct polling district. The Franchise Section are proud to say that 98% of dwellings are eircoded which is one of the highest in the Country.

Field Officer work has also recently involved conducting a leaflet drop in all new estates in Drogheda.

Community Development



Age Friendly Louth

Challenging Ageism Drama Project supported by Age Friendly Louth & Creative Ireland

To date this project has provided a safe space for participants to explore the subject of ageing and ageism. It has also provided an opportunity for participants to get to know one another, to build up trust and friendships and to share stories and life experiences.

Paul Hayes from An Táin Arts Centre has facilitated the workshops and has engaged a writer, a videographer and a sound engineer to assist with developing and scripting the groups ideas and with filming the final pieces.

Filming took place in Mid July 2024 and post production of the project is currently being completed. The group have produced two short films, and a screening will be held in An Tain Arts Centre on 15th August for participants and their family and friends.

One of the short films will be launched at the Louth Age Friendly Expo on 2nd October during Positive Ageing Week and will be a great way to celebrate positive ageing in Co Louth.

This is the first initiative that the Louth Age Friendly Programme has delivered as part of an ongoing suite of ageism awareness initiatives. LECP 2024 Action 5.4.2



Participants in the Challenging Ageism Drama Project

Louth Age Friendly Alliance Meeting 10th July 2024

Members from the Louth Age Friendly Alliance agreed to review the current Age Friendly Strategy and prepare a new strategy in 2024.

In preparation for the new strategy, Alliance members met on 10th July 2024 to provide an update on strategy actions to date, examine progress to date and look at issues and challenges encountered. They also considered the ambitions of the Alliance members moving forward and what requirements they will need to sustain current projects/initiatives. Members also discussed how the Age Friendly Alliance can collaborate in achieving their ambitions.

All this information will help with the review of the current Age Friendly Strategy and inform the new Strategy.

Next Alliance meeting 4th September in Cooley Room, County Hall.

Ardee Garden Care & Repair

Ardee Tidy Towns, supported by Dee Hub, An Garda Síochána and Age Friendly Louth, continue to roll out this innovative pilot project.

The aim of the project is to provide free gardening services to older and vulnerable people in Ardee

Town. This community-driven initiative aims to assist those in need by offering essential garden care at no cost.

The initiative has been supported by the Ardee Municipal District Elected Members as part of their Discretionary Budget 2024.



Local Enhancement Programme 2024

All successful applicants have been contacted at this stage. Successful applicants are currently submitting requested documentation. The closing date for receipt of this information is 30th August 2024.

There are 68 successful projects in total with a value of €153,073.11

In relation to ring-fenced projects, (Womens Groups), there are 20 successful ring-fenced projects with a value of €32,568.74. These groups are also submitting requested documentation.

Louth Comhairle na nÓg

EU Children's Participation Platform Event

Andrew Rosbotham from Louth Comhairle na nÓg had the incredible opportunity to take part in the EU Children's Participation Platform Event in Brussels. From June 26th to 28th, Andrew, along with Siobhan and Kevin from the National Participation Office, represented Ireland and Comhairle na nÓg with distinction.

Andrew delivered an inspiring talk on Employment and Education as human rights for young people, and connected with key figures including Professor Laura Lundy, the mind behind the Lundy Model of Participation.

New EU connections were made for Comhairle na nÓg, furthering the mission to amplify the voices of young people.



Andrew Rosbotham attending the EU Children's Participation Platform Event in Brussels

Comhairle na nÓg Regional Networking Event

The Comhairle Regional Networking Event took place on 10th July in the Department building in Miesian Plaza on Baggott Street. Mathew Clarke, Erin Myers and Aaron Dunne represented Louth.

This is an annual event in the Comhairle calendar and takes place every Summer. Its primary purpose is to network and meet other Comhairle members, to discover what they are working on and discuss topics that are important to all young people attending the event. The day consisted of icebreakers, networking opportunities, shared learnings and peer support activities and of course lunch and some fun and games.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Strategic Works Plan 2025 – 2027

Louth PPN's Secretariat are in the process of developing the Strategic Work Plan for Louth PPN for the next 3 years (2025-2027). As part of the public consultation phase, a survey was issued to all PPN members on July 17th so that member groups may have their say on how Louth PPN should allocate its resources for the next 3 years (i.e. resources such as training, community projects and representation within the policy - and decision-making structures of local government). A series of focussed public consultations / workshops with Linkage groups and member groups have also been held throughout the month of July with this purpose in mind.

Updates on Thematic Projects 2024

Intercultural Sports

A community sporting / family activity day will be held in St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda on August 5th from 9.30am until 6.30pm. This event is a collaboration between two of our member groups, the Drogheda Filipino-Irish Community Group and Culture Connect. Activities offered to attendees include basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, football, rugby, handball, cricket and family games. All are welcome.

Youth E-zine

Youth members across the County have come together and created material for the first edition of their E-Zine due to be issued in August.

Environment

This year's environmental project will focus on improving the biodiversity at Rathescar Lake.

Governance Document Review

Louth PPN's Secretariat held a Governance Document Review Session on Monday July 29th to assess their current Governance Documents with

the intention of updating these in line with the national PPN Handbook and to reflect the future needs of Louth PPN. All updates made to these documents shall be ratified at the next plenary Meeting.

Community Support

The Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow in Drogheda

Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr John Reilly officially launched the Gum Litter Taskforce's gum litter education campaign on Friday 12th July 2024 in Drogheda. He was joined by members of the Community Support Team.

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



Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr John Reilly with members of the Community Support Team and members of the public

Louth In Bloom 2024 competition

Louth County Council annual environmental competition "Louth in Bloom 2024" closed for entries/nominations on 5th July. We were delighted with the response; the competition is growing from strength to strength each year.

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

The Tidy Towns Project Scheme

The Tidy Towns Project scheme is closing on 31st August 2024 for approved projects payments.

Groups should email community@louthcoco.ie with the required documentation by the end of August to ensure claims are processed.

This year 16 projects were awarded funding under the scheme.



Louth Sports Unit

Dundalk Sports Centre

Summer Camps

The camps began on 1st July with a total of 40 kids participating in our Junior Multi-Sports camp. We

have had our first ever senior multi-sports camp on 22nd July which has been a success with over 40 kids aged 8-15 years attending. For more information on any of the camps please check out Dundalk Sports Centre on Facebook or Instagram or alternatively email dscsupervisors@louthcoco.ie



Go for Life Games

Following the success of the Go for Life Games competition in June, the group continued the programme in July, meeting on Tuesday evenings from 4-5pm.

Dundalk Sports Centre has also arranged a permanent slot for this activity every Tuesday from 4-5pm, starting in September.



Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Capital Works Progression

The capital works at Lourdes Athletic Stadium have continued in July with a lot of renovations on the

existing building. The work consists of new accessible toilets, a new window in reception and a new Customer Service hatch.



Capital Works at Lourdes Stadium

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach education programmes during July 2024.

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	4 th July 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	11 th July 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	18 th July 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	25 th July 2024	Online

Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership

Activity	Date	Venue
Level 1 Sports Leadership	8 th -11 th July 2024	DIFE Drogheda

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

National Play Day 2024

Louth Local Partnership was delighted to deliver a hugely successful National Play Day on Saturday July 6th in Dunleer. The aim of National Play Day is

to promote play opportunities for children and young people across the country

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

Each year the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, funds Local Authorities to engage in Play Day. Each Local Authority across the country will shortly announce their plans for a diverse range of outdoor activities that are targeted at all children and young people in the respective Local Authority communities for Play Day 2024.

We were delighted to facilitate play opportunities during this event for over 250 children aged from 3-12 years and their families.



Children attending the National Play Day in Dunleer

Boccia Leader Award Training

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to facilitate Boccia Leaders Award training for

volunteers recently in Dundalk Sports Centre. The course was delivered by tutors from Boccia Ireland.

Boccia is an inclusive, tactical and exciting sport which can be adapted to suit any audience. The Boccia Leaders Award is a 3-hour workshop to introduce the fundamental skills and knowledge required to deliver boccia within the community.

Attendees learned the basic rules of the sport and how to apply them in a game setting. The coaching element of the workshop introduced attendees to the importance of being a good leader, how to design and adapt boccia activities.

The leaders will now deliver Boccia sessions in their local communities in Louth.



Participants at Boccia Leader Award Training

Dundalk FC Community Boot Room launched

Louth LSP was delighted to support Dundalk FC to launch their new community boot room project in Oriel Park.

The new initiative was set up to enable children and families without boots and equipment to take part in sporting activities by making use of donations made to the Community Boot Room.

The Community Boot Room will be open Monday to Friday from 9am-9pm by contacting one of the key holders that will be on the premises. If you would like

to donate football boots or any sports equipment that is in good condition, you can contact aoife.burns@dundalkfc.com. Alternatively, you can drop them off at Dundalk Credit Union on Market Street or at Louth Local Sports Partnership at Dundalk Sports Centre in Muirhevnamor.

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



Odhran Doherty & Graham Russell, Louth LSP with Cameron Elliott, Aoife Burns & Daryl Horgan, Dundalk FC

Sustainability

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Waste Enforcement Summary of Complaints

A total of 49 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in July 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in June 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	13	69
Farm	6	30
Waste/C&D	20	142
Water Quality	10	35

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.

Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section carry out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria.

Louth County Council were notified of 24 A27 notifications in 2024 so far.

In July 2024, a total of 8 notifications were received relating to Soil and Stone and Road Planning material. So far, all notifications inspected by Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section met the requirements of the notifications and are pending a decision by the EPA.



Anti-dumping Initiative

Louth County Council Environment Section have been approved funding of €76,800.00 from the Department for the completion of three Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) Projects in 2024. Louth County Council Environment Section are in the process of agreeing dates to run projects which includes a Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Event at the following locations:

- V&W Civic Amenity Centre, Newry Rd, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
- V&W Civic Amenity Centre, Mell Road, Mell, Drogheda, Co. Louth
- Kieran & McGee Ardee Livestock Sales Yard in Ardee, Co. Louth.

Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Byelaws 2019

The Waste Enforcement Section are continuing to send letters to householders and businesses in areas where bin presentation is a prevailing issue including the areas of Mary Street North, Williamsons Place, Chapel Street, Market Street and Broughton Street.

Louth County Council’s Waste Enforcement Officers and Litters Wardens are in the process of obtaining householders details which may result in Fixed Payment Notices of €75 being issued by Louth County Council to the householders where breaches of the Waste Presentation Byelaws persist.

Brown Bin Kerbside Collection

All kerbside waste collectors are obligated to provide all their customers with a food waste collection service. In 2024, all kerbside waste collection permit holders are required to have a roll out plan for the provision of a brown bin service with the aim of achieving this service in all areas of Co. Louth. The Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authorities (WERLA) are monitoring progress with these plans.

Annual Return Validations

All Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (CoR) holders were required to submit their Annual Returns (AR) to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) via the online Eden Portal which opened to all Local Authorities for Annual Return Validation from 1st April 2024. Validation is ongoing by Waste Enforcement Officers with validations to be completed by the deadline of the 30th of September 2024.

In July 2024, a total of 9 annual returns were validated including 2 Certificate of Registrations (COR's) and 7 Waste Facility Permit (WFP).

Louth County Council is required to complete validations on 63 Waste Collection Permit Holders and 30 Waste Facility Permit Holders.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

Our team of litter wardens continue to engage with members of the public, tidy towns groups and councillors daily on litter matters within the county.

In July, our wardens completed 109 investigations. Fixed Penalty Notices were issued accordingly where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 26 fixed penalty notices have been issued in July 2024.

A Litter Warden secured a successful court conviction in Ardee Court this month for non-payment of a fixed penalty notice for waste which was dumped in Collon village. Upon hearing the evidence, the court convicted and fined the Defendant the sum of €300.00, allowing four months to pay. She also awarded Louth County Council expenses of €580.00 and allowed legal costs of €500.00 plus VAT.

Another Warden secured a successful court conviction in Dundalk Court for waste dumped in the town and non-payment of the associated fixed penalty notice. Upon hearing the evidence, the Court convicted and fined the Defendant the sum of €1,000.00 and directed that he discharges Louth County Council expenses of €590.00 and legal costs

of €500.00 plus VAT. He allowed six months for payment.

Since the local and European elections have concluded, Litter Wardens have issued 26 fixed penalty notices for failure to remove election posters in the required timeframe post-election. There was a statutory exemption period for Election Posters under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 which expired 7 days from closing of the poll.

A 5-hour foot patrol was carried out at the beginning of July by all Litter Wardens in the coastal area around the Cooley Peninsula. The main emphasis was on the blue flag beach and an awareness on dog fouling. The areas covered were Templetown blue flag beach, Shilling Hill, Gyles Quay, Whitestown, Ballagan, Greenore, Carlingford, Omeath and the Greenway. The patrol vans were also parked in conspicuous positions with attached 'Anti Dog Fouling' signs on full view for public attention.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in July by Litter Wardens following complaints from the public. All waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found. All the waste has been subsequently removed.





Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 6 Integrated Bulk Container's (IBC's) dumped in July 2024 with an associated clean-up cost of €7,488.60. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is €36,194.90.

Water Quality and Complaints

In July 2024

- 3 queries received in relation to wastewater treatment system remediation which were logged on the CRM system and closed out.
- 10 Water quality complaints – 4 of the complaints related to general water pollution and 6 related to agriculture. 8 complaints are closed and the remaining two are in progress. One complaint relates to spreading of slurry too close to a stream and another relates to the storage of poultry manure in a field.
- 6 complaints in relation to farms. At one site it was alleged slurry had been discharged to a stream and another related to storage of poultry manure. Both complaints are open and currently being investigated.



Storage of poultry manure



Blocked sewer Drogheda which discharge to the Boyne



Sewage overflow discharging to Boyne

River Water Sampling and Water Framework Directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive has been completed for July 2024. Local catchment assessment (LCA) being carried out by Lawpro has been completed in the Big River catchment. For the Castletown River, Castletown _30 catchment has been completed and a small amount of work remains to be completed on the Castletown _10 and _020 catchments. The desktop study on the Glyde-Proules catchment has been completed with on-site work planned for Summer 2024.

Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 17 monitoring results received by Louth County Council in July. On-site inspections of 1 premises was also carried out in July 2024.

Licensed Landfills

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate carried out in July, as required by EPA licences. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at all three sites. Annual servicing of air compressors at three sites was also completed.

New side slope riser pump fitted at Phase 5 cell 2 Whiteriver landfill.

Bathing Water

The bathing water season commenced on the 1st of June 2024 and will run until 15th September 2024. There was a temporary prohibition notice placed at Seapoint beach following an elevated result from a sample taken on 23rd July 2024. An investigation which included a resample was conducted on 25th July 2024 and the results from this resample showed that all parameters were within an excellent range. The temporary prohibition notice was subsequently removed from the beach. The results from all bathing water sampling are available at the following website: www.beaches.ie.

Note overflow and discharge has now been rectified.

Currently submissions are invited from the public for the identification of new bathing water sites in County Louth. Further details are available at the following link:

https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/environment/water/bathing_waters/. Closing date for submissions to Louth County Council is 26/9/2024.

Draft Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 Public Consultation:

The Public Consultation for the Draft Noise Action Plan and the SEA and AA Screening concluded on 22nd July 2024. There were five submissions/observations in relation to the Draft Plan which are currently being considered.

The Noise Action Plan is required under the Environmental Noise Directive (“END”) (2002/49/EC) which was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 549/2018) and the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 663/2021). The Regulations require Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans to be made or revised every five years.

Rural Water Programme

Capital Funding for Group Schemes

Louth County Council in consultation with the Group Water Schemes, applied to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under its call for bids from Local Authorities for funding under a planned three-year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 – 2026.

The overall purpose of the MARWP and other grants is to provide the necessary funding to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of the water services relied upon by rural dwellers, where no public water services are available.

Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

49 grants were issued in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells) in the total amount of €106,729.99 in the 2nd Quarter 2024.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

There were no Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (more commonly called septic tanks) grants issued in the year to date.

Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

There were no Domestic Lead Remediation grants issued in the 2nd Quarter 2024.

Climate Action

Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

The Climate Action Team continue to implement the LCC Climate Action Plan, 2024 – 2029. This ambitious five-year plan contains 95 climate actions, specific to County Louth. Over the next five years, the climate action team will be working with all sections within LCC to help implement these actions.

The Climate and Biodiversity team at Louth County Council along with several other partners from across the Island of Ireland, have applied for PeacePlus funding. The proposed project is to deliver Coastal Habitat Conservation works along the Louth Coastline. The decision on whether this funding will be awarded will be announced in December.

EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

Members of the LCC Climate Action Team are taking part in a series of training organised by the EU Climate Adaptation Mission. This is designed to build capacity for stakeholder engagement specifically around climate adaptation.



Climate Adaptation

find out more about the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary project.



Farmer Tony McGuinness during the farm tour.

The Climate Action Team continues to draw down a set of technical assistance from the EU Mission. This was applied for in Q4 2023 and is now being delivered. Louth County Council are one of only 3 local authorities in Ireland to be awarded this assistance. It is aimed at building internal climate adaptation capacity.

This assistance has now moved on to reviewing climate adaptation actions within the Louth Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The aim of this exercise is to fully identify delivery pathways for this work.

Climate Outreach

The Climate Action Team at LCC have continued to support the Creative Ireland funded Louth Urban Food sanctuary project. A series of Climate Action workshops will be delivered to participating community gardens and allotments during the growing season.

The Community Climate Action Officer recently attended the LUFS Farm Event, which was held on Tony McGuinness' farm in Richardstown, Ardee which invited members of the public to attend and



Members of the public at the LUFS Farm Tour

The tour included a Hedge Walk and Talk hosted by Mark McDowell from Hedgerows Ireland. The talk focused on the importance of the retention, planting and appropriate management of native mixed species hedgerows as important biodiversity corridors, sources of food and how they can help with carbon sequestration and mitigate the effects of climate change. To find out more about the work of Hedgerows Ireland click [here](#). To find out more

about the benefits of hedgerows for biodiversity click [here](#).



Hedgerow Through the Seasons Poster (NBDC) click [here](#).

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 (Strand 1) and Shared Island Fund (Strand 1a) have now closed as of 5pm on the 6th of March 2024. In total Louth received 48 applications under the Community Climate Action Fund, which totalled €1,596,625.

Louth County Council have been allocated €604,000 under Strand 1 of the Community Climate Action Fund with an additional 3 million euro available nationwide under the Shared Island Fund.

Louth have been over double subscribed with applications, notably energy was the most common theme among applicants, with 61% of applications containing energy as one or more of the themes within the application. Local Climate and Environmental Action was the second most popular theme among applications received, food and waste, shopping and recycling and travel were also popular themes among applications.

Twenty two community groups have been successful in receiving funding under the Community Climate Action Fund in Louth, a full list of all approved projects are available to view on Louth County Council's website [here](#).

There has also been a number of projects that have been placed on a reserve list on possibility of funding becoming available at a later date. It is expected that a second round of funding under the Community Climate Action Fund will become available at a later date. The Community Climate Action Officer will contact all community groups in advance of this.

Biodiversity Action

The Biodiversity Officer attended a ½ day workshop on Bat Identification hosted by [Bat Conservation Ireland](#) and a ½ day event on [Bumblebee Identification](#) hosted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Athlone. To find out more about the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme click [here](#).



White-Tailed Bumblebee on Kidney Vetch

This year's National launch of [Heritage Week](#) was held in Beaulieu House, Drogheda by the Heritage Council. The Biodiversity Officer and Heritage Officer attended the launch, representing Louth County Council. The event was attended by Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, TD, members of the Heritage Council and representatives of Local Authorities and the media. Stands promoting local work, including that by the Louth Nature Trust and Louth Swift Group helped to promote the rich cultural and

natural heritage in Louth and the valuable work carried out by local volunteers under programmes part-funded by Louth County Council.



This year's theme is Connections, Routes and Networks and will explore the many ways we are linked through our cultural and natural heritage, from physical pathways like roads, canals and trails to cultural ties through family, pastimes, history and traditions. Heritage Week runs from 17-25 August. A series of events promoting biodiversity and cultural heritage in Louth is in development and will be promoted in the media. The national programme of events can be found on the National Heritage Week website [here](#).

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

On June 24th, Louth County Council celebrated the grand opening of their Pilot site 'The Still'. Officially opened by Cathaoirleach Kevin Callan and Chief Executive Joan Martin, the event highlighted the regeneration of an industrial site into a tranquil, inclusive urban space thanks to the support of VARCITIES with three Visionary Solutions:

- VS1: Outdoor Learning Pod
- VS2: Urban Green Learning Space & Sensory Garden
- VS3: Sensor-equipped Bike Stations

The Still, formerly a whiskey distillery, now offers a peaceful sanctuary for all. The site also showcases VARCITIES Health & Well-being Platform, providing real-time environmental data through interactive

touchscreens. A Cubbie sensory hub is now available in Louth Library Service, offering a multi-sensory space to reduce anxiety and boost participation.



#greencitiesarehealthiercities

Discover more: <https://varcities.eu/dundalk-officially-unveils-its.../>

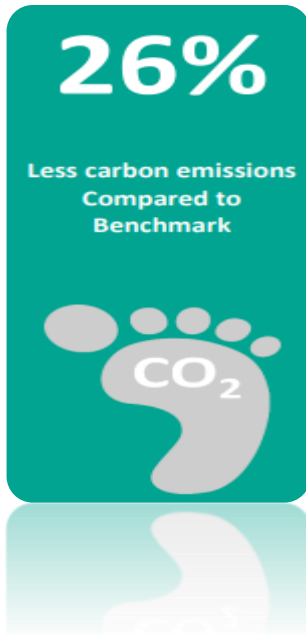
Louth County Council's Energy Emissions and Gap to Target 2030

Optimising Power@ Work Campaign Energy Awareness Day

Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in Council buildings. The Council's two largest energy user buildings (County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall) participate in the Office of Public Work's (OPW's) Optimising Power @Work Programme.

County Hall

Since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2016, this building has reduced its energy consumption by 29%, cutting annual usage from 695,894 kWh to 493,945 kWh. Of particular significance, carbon emissions over the past twelve months have decreased by 26% compared to 2016, highlighting substantial carbon savings achieved.



The remarkable achievements in energy reduction can largely be attributed to significant changes in staff behaviour, driven by a strong emphasis placed on energy awareness in the workplace. Tailored staff energy events have heightened awareness about energy consumption among employees. Personalised guidance provided through individual Energy Advice clinics has further empowered staff members to make informed and efficient energy-related decisions. Additionally, the regular dissemination of energy information through weekly messages, newsletters, and podcasts has played a pivotal role in maintaining high levels of engagement and awareness.

Staff Energy Awareness Event

Louth County Councils staff and families celebrated Sustainable Energy Day, with an energy awareness day held in collaboration with the OP@W team. The day had advice stands on energy renewables and grants available.

Dundalk Town Hall

Compared to the base year of 2014, carbon dioxide emissions at Dundalk Town Hall have decreased by 38% over the past twelve months. Monthly comparison data shows that May 2024 CO₂ emissions are 57% lower (8 tonnes) than those in May 2014. Additionally, energy savings have resulted in a remarkable 39% reduction in energy consumption. This significant decrease highlights the successful implementation of energy-efficient measures and practices within the building, enhancing both sustainability and cost-effectiveness.



Families participated in a children's colouring in competition during the weeks running up to the event was run in parallel with this event and a phenomenal with over 130 entries ranging in ages from 2 to 12. A beautiful bunting of the children's efforts adorned the staff canteen. Thank you to all Who participated and to our winners.



Energy Efficiency Performance and Gap to Target

SEAI Annual Report 2023

The SEAI Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Performance is now available: [Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2023.pdf](#). This report highlights the progress and achievements in energy efficiency across the public sector. Since the baseline year of 2006, Louth County Council has achieved 46% improvement in energy efficiency, underscoring its commitment to sustainable practices and energy conservation.

Energy Management System ISO5001 and Deliverables 2024

SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

Louth County Council have completed stage 1 of the new SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) for Public Bodies. Stage 1 consisted of providing data for wide array of sections, such as the following:

- Organisation
- Energy Types
- MPRNs & GPRNs
- Energy Use
- Activity Metric Values
- Energy Management

Following the completion of stage 1, the next objective is the commencement of stage 2, which will consist of data entry for buildings, projects,

Staff Notice Board – County Hall

The energy section continues its efforts to promote energy conservation and carbon reduction by sending regular energy-saving messages to all staff. These messages are communicated weekly through email updates, ensuring that everyone remains informed and engaged. Additionally, posters with energy-saving tips and updates are prominently displayed on the staff notice board, providing constant visual reminders. This ongoing communication strategy aims to cultivate a culture of sustainability and encourages proactive participation from all staff in our energy-saving initiatives. Themes promoted this month included the benefits of electric vehicles, along with advice for potential buyers

vehicles and travel. This will start on 26th August 2024.

Energy Action Plan 2024 Update

Energy Team are continuing to try phase out use of all fossil fuelled space heating and hot water means at their owned and leased sites.

Louth County Council's Energy Action Plan for 2024 has now evolved to include retrofit projects at Ardee and Carlingford Fire Stations further to consultation with the Senior Management Team.

Air tightness and draught-proofing along with integration of solar thermal/PV are being investigated at both sites.

Drogheda AURA Leisure Centre has recently been upgraded to remove the 20-year-old gas fired inefficient boilers with new A + Rated condensing gas boilers along with new ancillary plant and BMS System upgrades. This is a well needed improvement at site that also included Phase 2 future proofing works that will act as to trend usage data trend over a short term and determine the feasibility and future sizing of renewable means at AURA sites.

LCC Energy have also taken this opportunity to include a 'bulk heat meter' which is a new obligation from the SEAI under their M&R Policy, to disclose the heat energy used in the significant energy using premise throughout the year.

LCC Energy are working to achieve net-zero electricity imports on site in Whiterath Animal Compound. This will be achieved by integration of modular battery storage and hybrid inverter system to bolt on to the already established solar PV Array. The Solar PV array in all of June 2024, generated a total of 2,162kWh, enough to cater for 95% of the electricity demand at site.

Facilities Projects

Several projects are ongoing which are being managed by the Facilities Section. These include:

- Tholsel Drogheda Roof Repairs, which should be completed by early August.
- Upgrade to works to original Fair Street Offices which is at detailed design stage.
- Renovation of former Bank of Ireland in Dunleer to a new Library, which should be completed by in early September.
- Revised entrance arrangements at Dundalk Swimming Pool, Dundalk and exterior paint which commenced this month.

SLA with the Mid East Energy Unit

Louth County Council (LCC) staff continue to progress new Energy Projects with Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU) to achieve their public sector obligations of achieving 51% reduction in Green-House Gas (GHG) emissions and a 50% improvement in Energy Efficiency by 2030.

A meeting with MEEU, including CODEMA Energy Consultants and representatives from Aura Leisure Centre was held in mid-June at County Hall to discuss the Leisure Centre EPC for Aura sites in County Louth.

The meeting consisted of discussing the following:

- General EPC information (benefits, importance, etc)
- Pathway (structure for planned, phased decarbonisation of buildings, measures (new LED Lighting, BMS, etc)
- Procurement measures (Pre-qualifications, invite to Tender, Project Development Agreement (PDA))
- Programmes for implementing EPCs (frameworks).

It was noted in the meeting that it will not be possible to hit our Carbon Reduction Target of 1000 tCO₂ without the upgrade of the two Aura Leisure Centres. This highlights the importance of the Energy Projects with MEEU, and how they will help LCC on road to 2030 obligations.

Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community

Staff from the Energy Office were invited to visit the Market House in Dunleer to by the Sustainable

Energy Community/Energy Team to view the newly opened multi-purpose building.

Over the last 10 years the Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community/Energy Team in Dunleer have developed a reputation of bringing information about Energy and Renewable energy to communities across the North East and Inspiring people to undertake actions on Climate Change. Building on this experience in 2021 the Energy Team partnered with Dunleer Community Development Board in applying to Louth County Council under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for funding to construct a centre at the Market House that would have a focus on informing and Inspiring people about Climate Change but would also be a multipurpose facility for all the community of Mid Louth. The support and collaboration the group received from Louth Local Authority was critical to delivering on the project and displays the Local Authority's commitment to supporting people in their homes and communities to take actions in addressing climate change.

The centre provides information on actions people can undertake in their day to day lives to address climate change such as actions and supports on Energy Upgrades for people in their Homes and Community facilities, Active Travel, Carbon Sequestration, Clean Water and Biodiversity. These programmes are available on site for groups visiting, but also the Energy Team brings a highly interactive exhibition to communities across the North East and beyond. For further information and for bookings please contact elizabeth@energyteam.ie



Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of 31st July 2024, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and twelve meat processing plants under its supervision in the County.

Louth County Council has carried out sixty inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir. There were eighty-five valid Sugar CRM cases assigned to Veterinary Services during July 2024, with nine still in progress.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound July 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	29
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	15
Surrendered by owners	14
No dogs reclaimed by owners	6
No of dogs rehomed direct	13
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	12
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/07/2024	2

Dog Licences July 2024

No of Licences sold	644
Licence Checks:	
House calls	304
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	146
Fixed Penalty Notices	10

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996
Control of Horses Byelaws 2003

Horses through the pound July 2024

Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	2 ponies
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/07/2024	2

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs) July 2024

Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/07/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

And Finally!

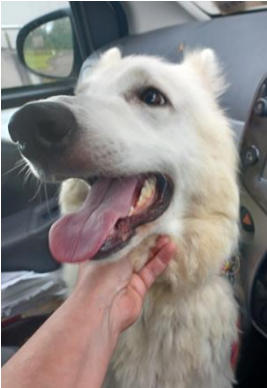
On the 22nd of April, we received a report of a large white dog who had been straying for 2 weeks. The area was patrolled multiple times to no avail.

On the 27th of May, we got a call from a kind local farmer to say that a white GSD had had a litter of pups in a shed. The wardens set off to get the entire family to safety, and "Gladys" arrived, along with her 3 not-so-little, week-old "Pips".

Gladys was terrified... completely traumatised not only by her experience of surviving on her wits for at least 8 weeks, but of giving birth and caring for her newborns in an unsafe, unfamiliar environment. Despite all of this, she never once showed any aggression. She would simply stand over her little family to protect them and tuck them underneath her to keep them safe. Little by little, day by day, treat by treat, we won not only her trust, but her affection, and if ever a dog was worth the effort, it is her. Her heart had been battered, but never broken.

She may never have been loved in the past, but she certainly was here at Louth County Council Dog Pound. Gladys and her little Pips have very bright

futures ahead now, thanks to our collaboration with Dundalk Dog Rescue, who pledged to help the little family as soon as they became aware of their plight.



Forbairt Shóisialta Social Development

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

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.

**Ger Murphy
Stiúrthóir / Director of Service**



Titíocht / Housing

Addressing Homelessness

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

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 th June 2024 – 19 th July 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	14	123	118	255
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	2	27	17	46
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	1	0	0	1
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	17	150	135	302

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 19th July 2024. Also included at Table 5 is the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	100
Female	111
Total	211

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	37
25-44	106
45-64	62
65+	6
Total	211

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	133
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	78
Total unique individuals	211

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	41	46	72
Couples with dependent children	17	36	41
Total	58	82	113

Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	45
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	33

Housing Allocations up to 22nd July, 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	24	5	3	0
Drogheda	92	17	175	13
Dundalk	61	5	81	3
Total	177	27	259	16

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	3
Dundalk	5
Drogheda	13
Total	21

Housing List

July 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	392	704	1190	2286
HAP Transfer List	300	1022	1646	2968
Total Housing List	692	1726	2836	5254

There are **325** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 64 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **2,840**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
298	923	1619	2840

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **920**.

Current Rents Arrears at 22 nd July 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	239	€91,344
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	178	€133,706

Rents greater than 12 weeks old	935	€3,175,899
TOTAL	1352	€3,400,949

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary, a third and final reminder. Failure to respond at that point will result in the escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in July 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 st Reminder	July 2024	164
2 nd Reminder	July 2024	55
Final Reminder	July 2024	66
Total issued		285

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **83** new payment plans commenced in July 2024 (up to and including 22nd July).

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 22 nd July 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	11
Dundalk Municipal District	14
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	26
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	51
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	53

Note: Social units being used as short-term accommodation for homeless or emergency are not included in the above figures.

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	23rd June 2024 - 22nd July 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	680	3,697
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	405	2,914
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	93	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	23	152

Advisory Letters issued	105	689
Improvement Notices issued	4	9
Private Inspections	0	3
HAP Inspections	74	450
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	122	442
Private Re-Inspections	1	3
HAP Re-Inspections	23	70
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	1
Inspections from Complaints	1	16
Properties made Compliant	10	41

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

The 2024 EERP allocation for Louth, as confirmed by the DHLGH, is 140 units. The number of commenced or completed units is as follows

Municipal District	Number of Commenced/ Completed Units
Ardee MD: Cherrywood Park, Tallanstown Smarmore, Ardee Ferdia Park, Ardee	48
Dundalk MD: Hillview Dundalk, Barton Park, Dundalk Market Street, Dundalk Defenders Row, Dundalk	29
Drogheda BD: Ascal a Haon/ Do/ Tri, Drogheda Sunnyside Cottages, Drogheda Rathmullan Park, Drogheda Bredin Street, Drogheda John Kirk Park, Clogherhead	61

Tenancy Engagement

21 st June 2024 to 23 rd July 2024	Drogheda ^a	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	6	0	7	13	175
Post-tenancy inspections	12	3	8	23	127
Tenancy Investigation Visits	10	0	24	34	238

Private Rental Inspections

	22nd June 2024 – 19 th July 2024	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	221	984

Anti-Social Behaviour

21 st June 2024 to 23 rd July 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	3	0	3	6	123
ASB cases Ongoing	3	3	11	17	-
ASB cases complete	2	3	9	14	106

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

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

21 st June 2024 to 23 rd July 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	0	0	2	2	28
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	2
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	1	1	8
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	2	2	4

Repair and Lease

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

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected. Awaiting final sign-off on Legal Agreement.
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected. Awaiting final sign-off on Legal Agreement.

Affordable Housing

Discussions are ongoing with developers regarding two schemes in Drogheda and a further two schemes in the Dundalk area which are expected to come on stream in Q4 2024 and Q1 & Q2 2025.

An online survey is currently live until 12th August 2024. This is actively being circulated through social media, staff, councillors & advertising agencies so as to gain an updated understanding of interest and demand to assist in planning for future Affordable Housing Schemes.

Mortgage to Rent

Active MTR Applications Total	25
AHB MTR Applications Active	18
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	6
Private MTR completed 2024	4
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	1

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 has passed, the borrower may be given

the option to buy the home back if they are able to do so.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	196
Approved:	115
Rejected:	13
Withdrawn	9
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	59
Funding Issued to Applicant	9
Principal Private Residence	144
Rental Applications	52



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk

Local Authority Home Loans (LAHL)

2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 23/07/2024	€1,761,360
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 23rd July, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 23/07/2024	27
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	6
Approved	14
Declined	9
For Review	0
Outstanding – waiting on further information	4

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 of termination, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. In July, the Council purchased **10** properties.

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Grants are available to households where adaptations are required to render a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. Persons aged 66 and above who are living in poor housing conditions can also apply for a grant towards necessary repairs or improvements. All grant assessments include household income and limits apply. Priority is given where adaptations are needed to help the person leave hospital/residential care. Applicants over the age of 65 who require help with their application forms can contact the Louth Health Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator, Adrienne McCann at amccann@meathcoco.ie or go to the website at <http://agefriendlyhomes.ie/topics/social-health-care/healthy-homes/>.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on Hand 23/07/2024	168	28	399	-	595
Grants Approved 21/06/2024 to 23/07/2024	18	2	20	40	136



Before and after photos of a Bathroom Adaptation in South Louth part-funded by Housing Adaptation Grant



Before and after photos of a Bathroom Adaptation in South Louth part-funded by Housing Adaptation Grant

Capital Housing Delivery

3D Construction Printed (3DCP) Social Housing units at Grange Close, Muirhevnamor, Dundalk, Co. Louth

The 3D Construction Printed (3DCP) Pilot Project at Grange Close, Dundalk generated significant interest from other Local Authorities, local, national and social media. The 3D construction printing process was completed in July and the other house construction operations continue.



3D Concrete Printing Pilot Project at Grange Close, Dundalk



3D Concrete Printing Pilot Project at Grange Close, Dundalk



3D Concrete Printing Pilot Project at Grange Close, Dundalk



3D Concrete Printing Pilot Project at Grange Close, Dundalk

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, (Infill) Dundalk	1/1	11	On Site	31/03/2025	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	06/06/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/05/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 2 Approved	27/05/2026	2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed, 2 * 2 bed Apt
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	44	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	70	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	97	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	58	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed

Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	46	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved	31/12/2026	42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed
Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	Completed	04/06/2024	1 * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	Completed	31/05/2024	1 * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	31/10/2027	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/1	12	On-site	31/12/2024	12 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	30/09/2024	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	On-site	31/08/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed

Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	31/12/2024	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeys Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	01/03/2025	2 * 4 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	31/12/24	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/25	1 * 2 bed
Ballymakenny Park, (Phase 1) Drogheda, Co. Louth	1/1	10	Completed	31/05/24	2 * 4 bed, 8 * 3 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	1/3	3	Completed	30/06/24	3 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	2/3	12	On-site	30/09/24	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/25	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Bothar Glas / Ard Patrick, Green Road, Louth Village	1/1	5	On-site	30/09/24	5 * 3 bed
Medebawn Court, Dundalk	1/1	2	On-site	30/09/24	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex

CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk, Co Louth	Tuath	10	On Site	30/10/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/03/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/03/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non-Part V / Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	37	33/4	On site	01/08/2024	* 26 Three Bed Houses * 11 Two Bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	On Site	30/09/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	3/3	39	23/16	Completed	25/06/2024	* 15 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond	3/3	40	36/4	On Site	30/09/2024	* 9 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/09/2024	* 7 One Bed Apts * 7 Two Bed Apts * 3 Three Bed Apts
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	30/09/2024	* 27 One Bed Apts * 22 Two Bed Apts

Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	01/04/2025	* 20 One Bed Apts * 10 Two Bed Apts
Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	01/04/2025	* 31 One Bed Apts * 9 Two Bed Apts
Harbour View, Coulter Place, Dundalk Cluid	1/1	18		On-Site	14/03/2025	* 12 One Bed Apts * 6 Two Bed Apts
Gullion Park, Finnabair, Dundalk Co-Operative	1/1	142	128/14	Funding Approved	05/11/2025	* 48 One Bed Apts * 70 Two Bed Apts * 24 Three Bed Apts
Avourwen Meadows, Drogheda, Co. Louth Oaklee	1/1	50	45/5	Funding Approved	10/11/2025	* 18 One Bed Apts * 32 Two Bed Apts

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The County Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions: Fire Services is at the early draft stage, while Community, and Legal Services are being finalised.

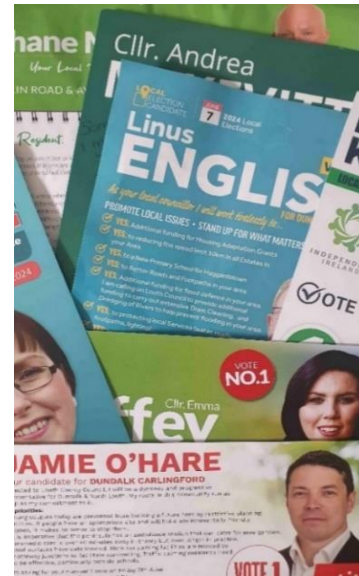
To date, revised records retention schedules for Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment, Enterprise & Economic Development, IT, and Libraries have been completed, approved and issued out to local authorities.

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 the Waste section's records being done recently.

Local Election Promotional Leaflets Wanted

The County Archives actively collects leaflets, flyers and posters of election candidates and their parties for its archive collection. Donations of this material

are welcome from election candidates and members of the public. Three copies of leaflets are ideal if available. Leaflets can be placed in an envelope or bag and left into the County Archives at the Old Gaol, Ardee Road, Dundalk, A91PY17 during office hours or any Council office or library marked for the attention of the County Archives. This material contributes to a valuable research source. If you have any other archive 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.

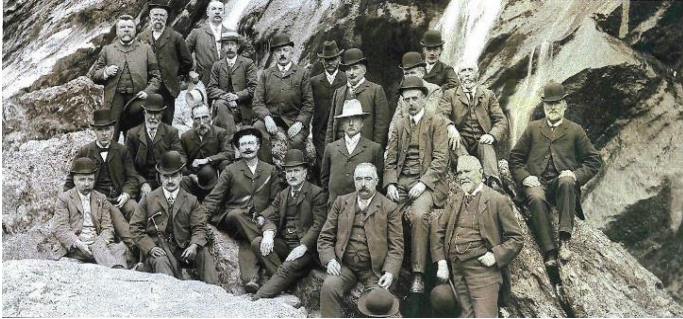


Selection of election leaflets received to date

125th Anniversary of Irish Local Government

2024 is the 125th anniversary of Irish Local Government. The Local Government Act of 1898 abolished the Grand Jury system and established County Councils, Rural District Councils and Urban Councils and granted many Irish people the right to vote for the first time. The first local elections were held in January 1899 for urban districts and in April 1899 for county areas. On 22nd April 1899 many of the new Councils met for the first time, including Louth County Council. An online exhibition to mark this anniversary of Louth County Council has been produced by Louth County Archives and will be available on www.louthcoco.ie. It features copies of archives including the minutes of the first Louth

County Council meeting. A small publication to mark the anniversary is currently being produced by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Early photograph of Louth County Council: with guests at Powerscourt, 17 July 1906

Decade of Centenaries

As part of the Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2024, a quantity of County Council archives that support the 1924 period are currently receiving conservation treatment before being digitised. Once the work is completed, a public access copy to the volumes will be placed on the County Archives website. This will improve the democratisation of access to records through the provision of free online public access to original archival sources. The Decade of Centenaries Programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded 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. Testing work for the new upgrade has taken place.



The Chapel (retired printers) from the National Print Museum, Beggars Bush, Dublin on a visit to the Co Archives

Research Enquiries

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service receives 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.

Climate Action

As a member of the Cultural Services team the County Archives continues to support corporate Climate Action Goals. Environmental conditions in the County Archives building are being monitored and adjustments to the new BMS settings made by the Archivist with support from Facilities staff.

A glazed partition in the lobby area of the building was recently installed. Supported by the SEAI, this will assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building.

Libraries

Right to Read



Summer Stars

Summer Stars continued throughout July with all library branches in Louth Library Service inviting children to sign up to the national reading programme which encourages children during the summer months to read for enjoyment. Children who sign up to the programme receive a free Summer Stars bag and an activity pack. Louth Library Service are running a Summer Stars competition to win an arts and craft hamper in each branch for participants who return their reading card to their local branch.

Grow Music held a 'Science in Music' workshop in each library branch to celebrate Summer Stars during July and Dundalk Library were delighted to hold the event in the new learning pod "The Still" in the Varcities cultural quarter.

Friendship bracelet making workshops were very well attended by Taylor Swift fans in Dundalk and Drogheda Library. Children made friendship bracelets and had the opportunity to sign up for the Summer Stars programme while visiting the library.



Taylor Swift friendship bracelet workshop in Dundalk Library

My Little Library Book Bag

"My Little Library Book Bag" is back for 2024 and available free to collect in each branch of Louth Library Service for children aged 4-5 who are due to make the transition from pre-school to primary school this year. There is a choice of an Irish Book "Beag Bideach" or an English title "Chu's First Day at School". Children are welcome to visit their local library branch to pick up their bag and library membership card wallet while they can use the opportunity to begin their lifetime library membership journey.

Handwashing with Rufus



Safefood Ireland have provided a free handwashing guide for children, and they are available in each branch in English, Irish, Polish and Ukrainian.

Pride in Dundalk Library

Pride in Dundalk Library was celebrated with storytime and an art and craft session where children created colourful kindness clouds and took home an activity pack.



Pride at Dundalk Library

Book Wizards



Book wizards with their recommended reads in Drogheda Library

The Book Wizard was celebrating Summer Stars in Drogheda Library on 18th July by providing guidance and recommendations for avid readers to select their next read.

Harry Potter

Drogheda Library celebrated Harry Potter with a special storytime and Harry Potter quiz on 31st July.

Climate Action Book Club

Friends of the Earth held their first book club meeting in Dundalk Library on 27th July. They read the Mary Robinson title "Climate Justice" and aim to meet each month in Dundalk Library.

Rannta agus Scéalta Le Chéile Dún Dealgan

Bhí rannata agus scéalta do pháistí ag Glór na nGael i Leabharlann Dun Dealgan Dé Sathairn Iúil 6.

Library Outreach

Friends of Mosney

Louth Library Service attended a Friends of Mosney meeting on 2nd July and shared information on events taking place during Summer Stars and details of My Little Library Book Bag.

National Play Day

Louth Library Service had an information stand promoting all the wonderful programmes and events taking place during the summer at the National Play Day in Lann Leire GAA Pavilion in Dunleer on Saturday 6th July.



Dundalk Library staff at Lann Leire National Play Day

Schools Service

The Louth Library Primary Schools Service has completed its schedule of visits to schools for the summer. Helping to spread the joy of reading to children from an early age, there were several visits to the Early Learning Centres and crèches for storytelling sessions in summer months.

It's a busy time for staff as they sort through the returned items and prepare the schools' van for next year's school term. The van will also go in for service, be restocked and made ready for the 2024/2025 school term.

Throughout the summer months we continue our Housebound Service and make scheduled visits to ELCs and crèches.

Creative Ireland

Family Art Workshop with Susan Farrelly

With support from Creative Ireland, Louth Library Service worked with artist Susan Farrelly, Abbey Art Studios, on an installation for the junior section in Drogheda Library.

Susan facilitated several workshops over the last few months, which saw local children create a colourful piece of 3D wall art for the Children's Section in the library.

Susan returned to the library in July to facilitate a final workshop with the participants to celebrate the installation.



Susan Farrelly from Abbey Art Studios



Spin Art Creations from the workshop

An Chúirt Chruitireachta Harp Festival 2024.

Drogheda Library was delighted to welcome harpist Alannah Thornburgh for the Goltraí and Geantraí event in July as part of An Chúirt Chruitireachta Harp Festival 2024. Alannah facilitated two workshops for babies and toddlers. A wonderful morning of harp music and songs was enjoyed by all.



Enjoying the music at the event with harpist Alannah Thornburgh in Drogheda library

Cities are Healthier Cities EU funded Horizon 2020 project, and launched with the Varcities initiative on June 24, it is an immersive, multi-sensory space that helps regulate sensory stress, reduce anxiety, and encourage participation through professionally designed programs in less than 15 minutes.

The Cubbie is not just another sensory room, it is a self-contained booth, designed to fit into schools, hospitals, libraries and other environments where individuals may experience sensory overload. The booth comes with a suite of images, sounds and lighting and can be programmed to suit the sensory profile of each individual, transforming how people manage their sensory needs. You don't need a tailor-made programme to use the Cubbie, it can be used in blank canvas mode where a user can design their own experience on the spot.



Immersive interior of multi-sensory Cubbie booth

Dundalk Library welcomes the Cubbie



Cubbie multi-sensory booth, with suspended swing

It can be used by a wide cross-section of ages and is suitable for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues, ensuring access for everyone. The Cubbie further enhances the Sensory space and facilities in Dundalk library, particularly complementing the Magic Table.

For more details contact Dundalk Library at 042-9353190 or email libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie

Dundalk Library is delighted to announce the addition of a brand-new sensory feature, the 'Cubbie'. Purchased as part of the Varcities - Green

Adult Events

Activator Pole Walking Programme

A five-week Activator Pole Walking Programme commenced in Drogheda library on Wednesday June 5. Run in collaboration with Louth Sports Partnership, attendees met in the library to get information about the health benefits of using Activator Poles while walking, before taking them for a test run on some local walking routes. The sessions were well attended, and the feedback was extremely positive. The poles are now available for borrowing in Drogheda and Dundalk library for a 3-week period.



Library staff promoting the Activator Poles

Drogheda Alzheimer's Memory Café

Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café was held in Drogheda library on 11th June. The guest speaker was solicitor Ivan Feran. Ivan spoke about knowing your rights and making a will. The café provides a welcoming space for people living with dementia and all are welcome to attend. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th September.



Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery, Ivan Feran solicitor and Ann Shortt from Tredagh Lodge Drogheda Day Care Centre

Age Action Computer Classes

New computer classes have commenced in Drogheda Library. The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience. To book email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie

Creative Writing

Whether you're a budding or experienced writer, Creative Writing groups are a great way to gain inspiration for and confidence in your work. Our Creative Writing groups meet at the following dates and times:

The Vere Foster Writers Group in Ardee Library meets every second Friday at 10:30am.

Just Write in Drogheda Library meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2:30pm – 4pm.

Regular Events

Throughout July, we enjoyed our weekly Toddler Group meetings, our monthly Baby Book Clubs and some very special story-times for all ages! Our regular events will continue throughout 2024 at the following times:

Baby Book Club

Drogheda: The first Tuesday of each month at 10:30am

Dundalk: The first Wednesday of each month at 10:30am

Parent and Toddler Group

Ardee Library: Every Wednesday from 10:30am – 12:30pm

Drogheda Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Dundalk Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Library Groups

Various groups meet monthly including Irish Conversation Exchange, Book Club and Knitting and Crochet groups. Details available from participating libraries.

Film Screenings

Ardee Library's Film Screenings will continue throughout the month of August, taking place every Tuesday at 2:15pm. Booking is not required, and all are welcome.

eServices

e-Reading all in one place on BorrowBox!



BorrowBox is free to access as a library member

As well as audiobooks and eBooks Borrowbox now offers access to online newspapers, ebooks and magazines in one handy app available through your

library. The new 'ePress' section in the app is where you can locate your favourite magazines and newspapers.

If you're not already using BorrowBox, don't worry! Simply download the app, and then use your library card and PIN to register, browse and read.

To help you get set up, speak with a member of staff or visit our regular eService information sessions:

Ardee Library: The last Friday of the month from 10.30am-11.30am

Drogheda Library: The last Thursday of the month from 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Dundalk Library: The last Friday of the month from 11am – 12pm

Arts

Age & Opportunity TG Bursary – A bursary for the renowned Tyrone Guthrie facility has been partnered once again between Louth Arts Office and the Arts Office of Meath County Council and Age & Opportunity. The bursary, for professional artists over the age of 50 has facilitated them to spend a week in the TG centre to develop a piece of work they are working on or develop their practice.

One artist from each county was selected after submissions and assessments by the panel. Louth writer Dara Higgins from Drogheda was selected at the Louth recipient and Ronan Leahy was selected as the Meath recipient. Each artist will get a week in the TG centre and a stipend to support travel costs.

Culture Night Call Out – following a call out in June we received 12 applications for events to take place across the county on Culture Night. Along with our own internal programme with libraries we are set to have a fantastic range of events on Friday September 20. Applicants who were successful were notified at the end of July and a full list of events will be posted on the Culture Night website in September on www.culturenight.ie

Boyne Music Festival

The Boyne Music Festival took place from Thursday until Sunday, July 25 - 28. The opening night event featured Palestinian oud player Reem Anbar and musician Louis Brehony and the festival featured its usual variety of Children's workshops, family concerts and an exhibition of portraits from around the world by celebrated photographer Andrej Grile. The festival closed with an afternoon programme of chamber music at Townley Hall including the World Premiere of a new work by Ian Wilson.

Oriel Centre Summer Series

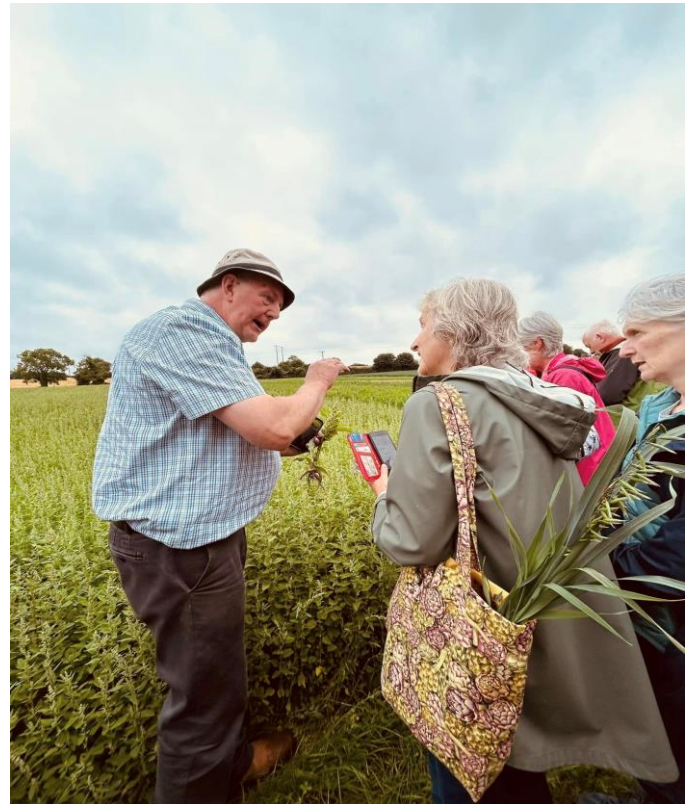
The annual Oriel Centre Summer Show Series 'Seisiún' returned each Thursday through July and will run through August. Each evening features high quality traditional musicians, singers and dancers many of whom are All Ireland title holders in music, song and dance. Artists include Rachael Dooley, Fionnuala Donlon, Jack Ridley, Iarla McMahon, Bríd Dooley, Nora Malone and Pearse McMahon. For more details on the remaining concert please see the Oriel Centre website [here](#)

Creative Ireland

Creative Climate – The Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary continued its work in July as we held our event at the Richardstown Farm with the farmer on our project, Tony McGuinness. Some of our community growers and members of the public gathered on the farm on July 18 to get a guided tour of the work Tony and his team are doing as part of the LUFS project.

We also had Hedgerows Ireland expert Mark McDowell there to give a walk and talk event around the benefit of hedgerows and best practice for nature-friendly management.

The Louth Urban Food Sanctuary continues with further events planned in for Heritage Week in August and we will be making a special appearance at the Earth Rising event in the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin in September.



Farmer Tony McGuinness speaking to attendees on his farm at the LUFS open event.

For all details on the project and upcoming events please see the LUFS website <https://louthurbanfoodsantuary.com/>

It also contains some videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting Garlic. You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie if you wish to find out more about the project.

Highlane's Gallery

Exhibition – Aleana Egan & Isabel Nolans exhibition 'Material Flux' leans into the special character of Highlanes Gallery. Both artists share an interest in using a broad array of media to create atmospheric, restless exhibitions often with roots in literary writing. This exhibition will nudge, play with and exploit the ways in which religious architecture mediates encounters with matter and meaning.

The exhibition opened on June 29 and will remain open until August 10. For full details see [here](#)

Droichead Arts Centre

Exhibition – From Life – Richard Moore

Droichead are delighted to host this survey exhibition of the work of Drogheda native, Richard Moore. Spanning four decades, From Life demonstrates Richard's superb landscapes, drawings, still lives and portraits.

The exhibition highlights his dedicated exploration of his immediate environments, his fluid and skilful painting and draughtsmanship create an intimate and personal portrait of living a life to a connected place.

The exhibition runs until August 17 and is open from 10:00 – 16:00pm Mon to Sat. For full details see [here](#)



From Life - self-portrait of Richard Moore



Preparations are underway for the annual **Boyne Valley Film Festival** which takes place in August. This film festival, now in its 3rd year, has really taken off with entries from across Ireland and the world.

The festival is due to open on August 9 and will run until August 11. For information on the festival and all other events and projects in Droichead Arts Centre see <https://www.droichead.com/>

An Táin Arts Centre

Exhibition – John O'Connor Retrospective – launched on July 31 in the Basement Gallery this exhibition celebrates the practice of Dundalk-based artist John O'Connor (1957 – 2022). Steeped in emotion John's paintings skilfully blend memory, family, place and observation, with striking use of abstract texture and colour.

This exhibition seeks to trace the roots of his practice, bring new works to light, and celebrate the powerful breadth of his lifelong practice. The exhibition is open daily from Tues to Sat from 10am to 4pm until the end of August. For more details see [here](#)



Artwork by John O'Connor

Children's Pottery Workshops with Etaoin O'Reilly – took place in July in the local Bó Studios. This Summer workshop series allowed participants to try out the pottery wheel, make pinch pots, and explore techniques such as hand-building.

Museum

Museum News

The Museum continues to provide a wide range of services to its visitors, including guided tours of the Museum, guided tours of the town as well as themed workshops for children.

Over the past month it has welcomed groups as diverse as teachers on continuous professional development courses, Men's Sheds, and children participating in various summer camps. In addition, a new display at reception celebrates some of the county's greatest Championship days from the twentieth century, most notably Louth's All-Ireland wins in 1912 and 1957.



A replica jersey of the 1957 Louth All-Ireland GFC winning team on display with a signed jersey from last year's championship team.



An All-Ireland Winner's medal from 1912

National Coverage

The Museum featured prominently in the Irish Examiner's *Irishwoman's Diary*. In an article entitled 'An Olympic String to the Librarian's Bow' writer Clodagh Finn made several references to the Olympic Bronze medal won for archery by Ardeewoman Beatrice Hill-Lowe at the 1908 Olympics.



Article from the Irish Examiner highlighting the achievement of Beatrice Hill-Lowe

Hill-Lowe thus became the first Irish woman to win an Olympic medal. This medal is on display at the Museum.



In flower - Romneya coulteri, the Coulter's Matilija Poppy or California tree poppy, at the County Museum, Dundalk

Recent Acquisitions

Among the Museum's most recent acquisitions are a dress from the late 20th Century and an 'away' Dundalk FC jersey from 2021.



Late twentieth century dress recently added to the collection.



Dundalk FC 2021 away jersey

Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine Ukraine Humanitarian Response

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

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

Yvonne O'Brien
Stiúirthóir Gníomhach/ Acting Director



Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin / Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 30/07/2024

Property offers recorded to date	75
Owners successfully contacted	74
Properties allocated to date	38
Beneficiaries assigned to date	128
Assessments	54
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	39
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn	15
Properties not viable	20

One property was offered and assessed as suitable in July. A family is due to move into the property shortly. Three properties were deemed unsuitable as they were previously rented. 24 new expressions of interest in being accommodated under the Offer A Home programme were received from Ukrainian families and processed during July.

Refurbishment Programme

The Ukraine Response team facilitate the delivery of temporary accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection under the Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP, for The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

The team facilitates accommodation proposals to the point where DCEDIY issue a Letter of Intent to the provider to enter a contract to manage and operate the facility.

The Department's objective is to relocate beneficiaries from hotel, or other unsuitable accommodation to more long term accommodation delivered through the ERUP initiative.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP to date

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	38
Unsuitable / withdrawn	26
Under evaluation in June 2024	1
DCEDIY Letter of Intent issued	10
No. of beds combined for delivery	608
DCEDIY contracts issued	3
No of beds delivered	315 incl LCC refurbis*

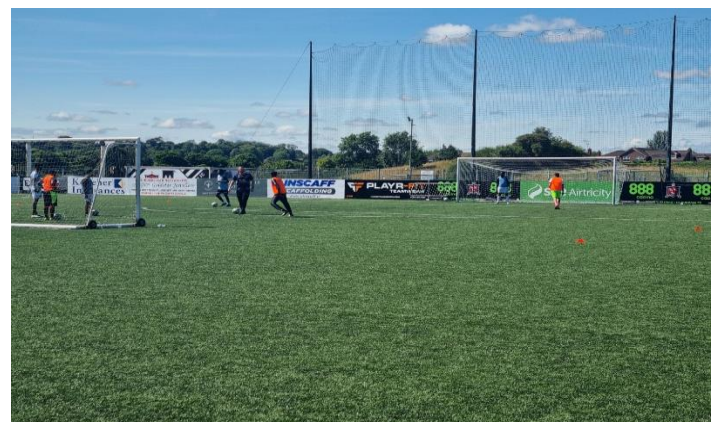
*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

The executive engineer continues oversight of properties in the ERUP programme which are in receipt of LOIs.

Local Authority Integration Team

The team continues to hold clinics each week throughout the county. International Protection applicants are attending with different issues which are being handled by the Integration Support Workers. There were ten clinics held in May with 62 residents assessed.

The LAIT team in partnership with Dundalk FC organised a 4-week coaching session for International Protection applicants. Residents from the Carnbeg hotel are attending the course. Liam Burns, First Team Coach with Dundalk FC is coaching the residents. The feedback from residents has been hugely positive.



EU INTERREG INVOLVIM Meeting

The first in person meeting was held with stakeholders involved in the EU Interreg INVOLVIM project on July 5th. The project aims to support work based immigrants and their families in Louth. The LAIT team gave a detailed presentation outlining the purpose of the project, who we are targeting and how we can collaborate. A robust discussion was had with all stakeholders highlighting concerns and issues currently impacting migrants, which will inform how the project may evolve.



Stakeholders who participated in the INVOLVIM meeting in County Hall.