



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

**Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an  
Príomhfheidhmeannach maidir le feidhmeanna a  
rinneadh le linn an mhí roimhe sin / Chief Executive's  
Monthly Management Report in relation to functions  
performed in the preceding month**

**Dátaithe 6<sup>ú</sup> Nollaig 2024  
Dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Ullmhaithe faoi Alt 136 (2) den Acht Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001, agus Alt 51, an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil (Athchóiriú), 2014 agus i gcomhlíonadh le Alt 138 den Acht 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,

**Tuairisc Bhainistíochta Mhíosúil an Príomhfheidhmeannach – November 2024**  
**Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – Samhain 2024**

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the December 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 November performance: -

- The completion of the first phase of Bridge Street works in Dundalk, which hopefully will become a catalyst for development in that area.
- The significant work undertaken by this Council in their role as Registration Authority in the recent Dail Elections. I am satisfied that the above national trend turnout rate in Louth, was based on the accuracy of our Register of Electors.

I also wish to point out to the members that our contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland ceases on December 31<sup>st</sup> next and this will see the transfer of our County Vet, Garrett Shine to the Department of Agriculture.

As you all know Garrett has championed this area and his role in managing our Animal Pound and Dog & Horse Control has placed us, as the best performing authority in the country. I am sure you will join me in paying tribute to him and wishing him well in the Food Safety role under the stewardship of the Department of Agriculture.

Is mise le meas.



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Joe McGuinness  
Temporary Chief Executive

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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, **Technolaíocht 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 of 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 30<sup>ú</sup> Mi na Samhna 2024 / Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024

Rannóg / Section	Actual Expenditure to 30/11/2024 / Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 30/11/2024	Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Expenditure 2024	% Caite go 30/11/2024 / % Spent to 30/11/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€57,215,318	€62,912,092	91%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€27,835,730	€27,583,468	101%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€6,420,426	€8,804,737	73%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€29,423,248	€27,259,532	108%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€19,257,245	€23,558,956	82%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€9,265,416	€11,234,063	82%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€1,200,860	€1,491,272	81%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€7,689,081	€8,839,470	87%
	€158,307,324	€171,683,590	92%

### Ioncam go dtí 30<sup>ú</sup> Mi na Samhna 2024 / Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024

Rannóg / Section	Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 30/11/2024 / Actual Income to 30/11/2024	Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024 / Budget Income	% Sonrais Curtha do dtí 30/11/2024 / % Invoiced to 30/11/2024
Tithíocht / Housing	€54,400,177	€64,380,831	84%
Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht / Road Transportation & Safety	€12,846,496	€16,558,010	78%
Seirbhísí Uisce / Water Services	€5,131,562	€8,131,617	63%
Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management	€21,087,087	€17,277,072	122%
Seirbhísí Timpeallachta / Environmental Services	€2,821,383	€4,348,102	65%
Áineas agus Conláiste / Recreation and Amenity	€1,100,858	€1,683,163	65%
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas / Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	€508,684	€558,596	91%
Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous	€5,824,394	€11,372,937	51%
Rátaí / Rates	€34,770,315	€34,507,064	101%
Deontas Ilfheidhmeach / General Purpose Grant (LPT)	€11,366,197	€11,366,198	100%
Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair / Provision for Debit Balance	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€149,857,153	€171,683,590	88%

The above is the current position as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 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 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 are as follows:

**Féichiúnaithe mar atá 30<sup>ú</sup> Mi na Samhna 2024 / Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024**

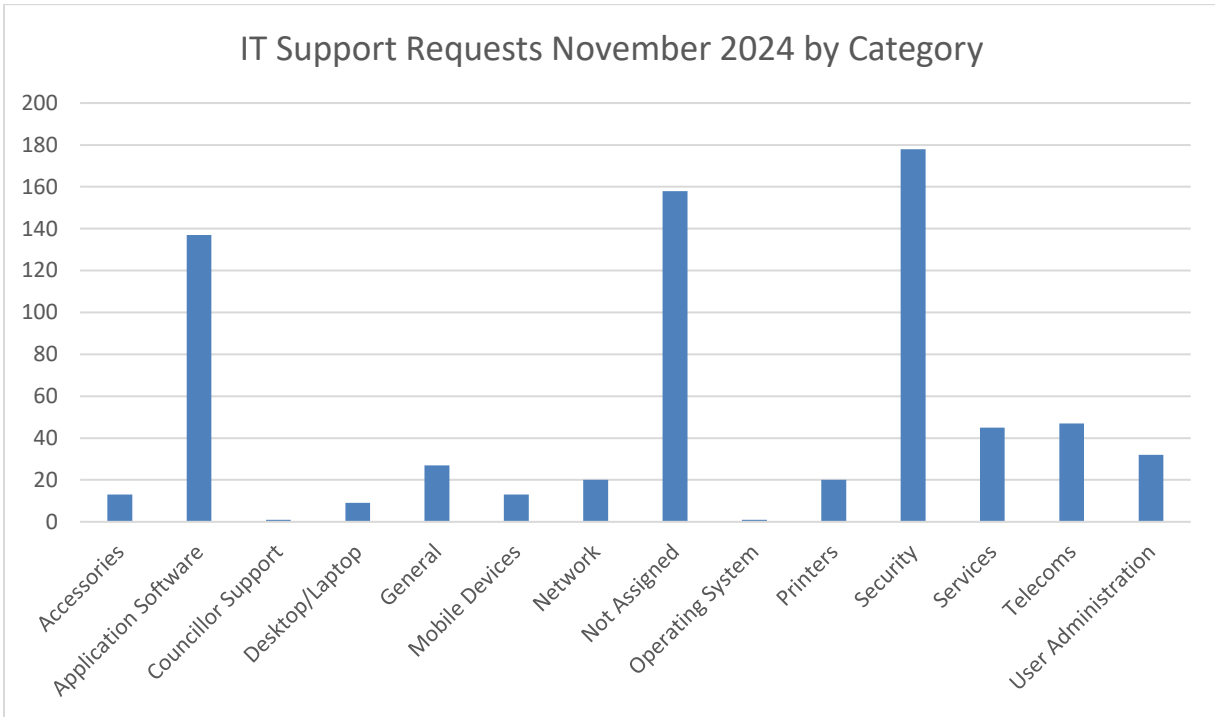
	<b>Iarmhéid Tosaigh / Opening Balance</b>	<b>Sonraisc / Invoices</b>	<b>Fáltais / Receipts</b>	<b>Díscríobhanna / Write Offs</b>	<b>Iarmhéid Deiridh / Closing Balance</b>
<b>Féichiúnaithe Rialtais / Government Debtors</b>	<b>€28,733,539</b>	€222,757,250	(€188,058,503)	(€0)	<b>€63,432,286</b>
<b>Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile / Other Local Authorities</b>	<b>€93,780</b>	€1,295,780	(€1,241,768)	(€8,220)	<b>€139,572</b>
<b>Rataí / Rates</b>	<b>€5,352,580</b>	€34,770,315	(€31,309,805)	(€2,303,910)	<b>€6,509,180</b>
<b>Cíosanna / Rent</b>	<b>€2,913,161</b>	€14,978,632	(€14,542,850)	(€79,028)	<b>€3,269,915</b>
<b>Iasachtal / Loans</b>	<b>€297,248</b>	€1,994,952	(€1,883,294)	(€101,475)	<b>€307,431</b>
<b>Tobhaigh Forbartha / Development Levies</b>	<b>€10,756,762</b>	€24,660,886	(€5,990,165)	(€11,101,299)	<b>€18,326,184</b>
<b>Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin / Fire Charges</b>	<b>€756,633</b>	€650,912	(€447,027)	(€30,851)	<b>€929,667</b>
<b>Ilghnéitheach / Miscellaneous</b>	<b>€2,345,328</b>	€11,494,577	(€10,112,476)	(€41,127)	<b>€3,686,302</b>
<b>Féichiúnaithe Iomlána / Total Debtors</b>	<b>€51,249,031</b>	<b>€312,603,304</b>	<b>(€209,210,728)</b>	<b>(€13,665,910)</b>	<b>€96,600,537</b>

Above are the debtor balances as of 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

# Technolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide / Information & Communication Technology

## Deasc Chabhrach / Helpdesk







Between 01/11/2024 and the 30/11/2024 there were 688 support calls logged in the IT support system. 73% of these calls have been completed.



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

## Córas Idirscartha Ríomhphoist / 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 November 35% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

 Inbound Emails 217,297	 Blocked Sender 834
 Blocked at gateway 23,777	 Blocked by spam /virus 51,149
 Blocked by content rules 365	 Potentially harmful emails 35.03%

## Suíomh Gréasáin Comhairle Chontae Lú / Louth County Council Website

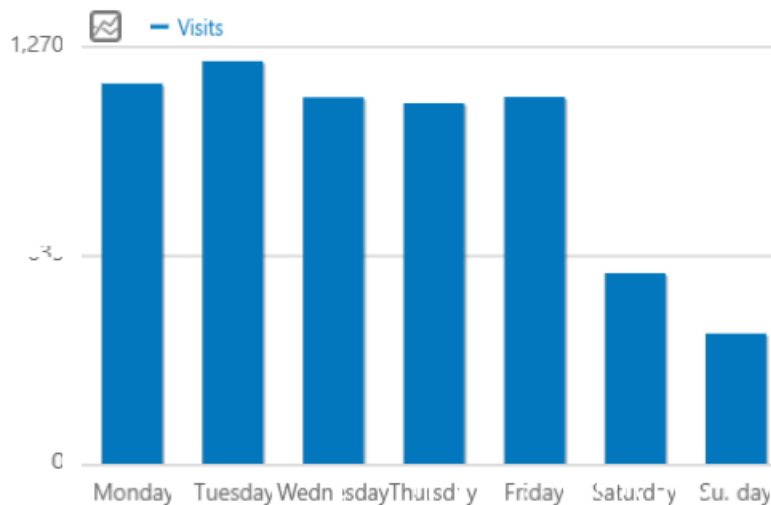
There were 22,801 unique page views of [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie) in November.

The below table indicates the pages on the website with the biggest fluctuations in page views compared to October.

Movers and Shakers		
PAGE TITLES	UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS	EVOLUTION
Electoral Register - Louth County C...	+81	+197.6%
Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029 - Louth...	+73	+456.3%
Your Council - Louth County Council	+67	+34.5%
Dog Pound - Louth County Council	-165	-22.8%
Library - Louth County Council	-106	-21%

The Louth County Council received most visits on mid-weekdays during November. Tuesday was the day of the week which received most visits.

## Visits by day of the week



## Fadhb Cuardaithe Gréasáin / Website Search Issue

The IT department continue to work on a resolution for the issue where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the Council website. Several links have been repaired to date, but work is still ongoing to identify and fix all invalid links. We have commenced a review of our website with a view to a major upgrade of the site in 2025.

## ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County Council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 5,915 views in November, an average of 203 views a day.



**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 Straitéiseach / Strategic 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 develop the green and sustainable agenda are the “Green for Micro” and the “Energy Efficiency Grant”. Further details at [www.localenterprise.ie/green](http://www.localenterprise.ie/green) and [www.localenterprise.ie/louth](http://www.localenterprise.ie/louth).

## **Forbairt Gheilleagrach / Economic Development**

### **Louth Economic Forum**

A meeting of the Louth Economic Forum took place on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 hosted by Creative Spark, Dundalk. A tour was given of their Fabrication Laboratory. The Enterprise FabLab at Creative Spark has the aim to stimulate enterprise, creativity, innovation and education in the North-East region.

### **Age Friendly Business**

Following the Age Friendly Business workshops which took place in April, further business received their accreditation on 5<sup>th</sup> November. There is still an open call for businesses who wish to take part in the Age Friendly Business Program workshops to contact [econdev@louthcoco.ie](mailto:econdev@louthcoco.ie) for further information.



**James Gutridge of Impact Physio with their Age Friendly Business Charter**

### **Event Sponsorship**

The Council provided support to the Oireachtas Rince Uladh/Ulster Dance Championships held in the Fairways Hotel from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November.



**Copy of Promotional Advertisement**

## **Turasóireacht / Tourism**

### **Festival Grants 2025**

Applications for funding for Festivals/Events to take place in 2025 are now open. There are two streams of funding open for applications:

#### **\*New Enhanced\* Louth County Council Festival Grant Initiative 2025**

Applications for funding, up to a maximum grant of €8,000, are now being sought under the Festival Grant Initiative 2025. This initiative is open to local and community festivals and/or events which will benefit the local economy and tourism in the County.

#### **Louth County Council Regional Festivals & Participative Events Programme 2025**

Applications for funding are now being sought by the Council, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, under the Regional Festivals & Participative Events Programme 2025. This is open to festivals/events which aim to draw tourists from outside the locality and will showcase Louth's culture, heritage, and landscape.

Application Forms for both grants are available to download [here](#).

Please note this will be the only funding scheme available for tourism events and festivals occurring in 2025. Only applications received on the appropriate Application Form by the Closing Date of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 will be considered. If you have any queries or need assistance in completing the Application Form(s), please contact [tourism@louthcoco.ie](mailto:tourism@louthcoco.ie).

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

## **Visit Louth**

Work is progressing on the new Visit Louth website. The new website will be a fresh design with an accessible and more user-friendly experience. The Visit Louth website aims to attract visitors with an engaging 'What's On' section. The new website will be launched in early 2025. The new site will also make it easier to see our various brands, Drogheda.ie and sealouth.ie.

Curio PR have been appointed to assist us with our promotion of the county through all media channels.

Following a request for quotes, we are now in the process of redeveloping our Visit Louth logo. A survey was carried out with various stakeholders in October and the results are helping to inform development of our new logo.

## **Táin Trail**

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to recommend opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the Táin Trail region on same.

## **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 working with the local authorities in the region on same.

## **Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light**

The Lú Festival of Light took place from 25<sup>th</sup> October until 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The Spooks Parade launched the festival. This year's festival incorporated several new initiatives including the shop window decoration grant, an Oíche Lán Gaeilge where all the shows were delivered through the Irish Language and a new interactive installation at Scotch Hall during the

day that allowed participants become part of the Milky Way.

Lú Festival of Lights key source of funding was the Fáilte Ireland Urban Animation Scheme 2022 - 2024 and this funding scheme has now come to an end. The Council have been in discussion with Love Drogheda BIDS with a view to them taking over as project lead. In this event the Council will make a financial contribution to support the festival.

The content of the Lú Festival installation in the Drogheda Tourist Office (The Tholsel) has been updated with this year's shows. This legacy installation shows highlights of the festival to date and is available to view during the Tourist Office opening hours.

## **County Louth Tourism Strategy**

Runda Hospitality and Tourism Solutions have been appointed to work with the Tourism Officer on the new Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2025 – 2030 for County Louth.

## **Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)**

The Samhain Festival of Food & Culture took place in Kells from 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November. There was a dedicated Boyne Valley Flavours tent at the festival with twenty-one producers exhibiting from across Co. Louth and Co. Meath. There was also a Boyne Valley Flavours stand. Feedback from the producers was very positive. There were over 5,000 visitors to the festival over the weekend. 60% of attendees visited for the first time. Media coverage included The Hotel and Restaurant Times, Irish Examiner, LMFM, Farmers Journal, The Meath Chronicle, Drogheda Independent and Sunday Business Post Magazine, providing great publicity for the region.

## **The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley**

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley held its first masterclass focused on hospitality, where chefs, restaurant managers and front of house joined the event to learn about Irish farmhouse cheeses and how to use them as part of a cheese course offering.

## Samhain Festival

Samhain Festival of Food and Culture, the flagship annual festival for The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley, took place from 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November, welcoming over 5,000 visitors over the course of the weekend. As well as partnering with Sheridan's Irish Food Fair for the first time, delivering a market of over 80 artisan and craft food and drink producers from across Ireland. The festival delivered a programme of 39 events ranging from the Samhain Symposium, where Ireland's food networks were gathered for the first time by The Centre of Food Culture, to cultural performances, food and drink tastings, cookery demonstrations, educational events, discussions, presentations, tours to local farms and heritage sites, a long table supper and plenty of family friendly events.



*Attendees at the Long Table Supper*

## Geilleagar Oíche Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Night-Time Economy

### Crafty Traders at the Lú Festival

This year's Lú Festival, held from 25<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, trialed the inclusion of the local craft trader group, Crafty Traders, in a dedicated food and craft market located in the Abbey Car Park (adjacent to Dominic's Street). Four traders participated, representing grassroots cottage industries, with all reporting better-than-expected outcomes, including excellent sales and an increased public profile. Some traders created bespoke items inspired by the festival's themes and Drogheda, such as artwork and candles, which were particularly well received. With previous footfall figures for the festival estimated at 70,000, this pilot initiative highlights the potential for integrating local talent into future events. It demonstrates a successful step forward in supporting the grassroots economy and showcasing local craft skills.



*Crafty Traders at the Lú Festival*

### Businesses Trialing Late Opening for the Lú Festival

This year saw key businesses trial late openings during the Lú Festival, working around staff availability and predicted visitor numbers. While this is early days, with offerings inconsistent, these efforts reflect the promise of increasing evening trade during the festival. Businesses have been encouraged over several years to extend hours, and this year's participants included Bare Food Café with cakes and hot drinks and Stafford's' introducing crepes, and Bigmoon Records hosting dance music outside their store, drawing visitors of all ages.

To further support high street trade, organisers responded to past feedback by restricting food vendors to the dedicated food and craft market on Dominic's Street. These steps highlight progress in fostering a vibrant evening economy and pave the way for future growth.



*Bigmoon Dance Music*

### After Dark Alliance

Supported by Drogheda's Night-Time Economy Adviser, the After Dark Alliance is a new Ireland and UK forum for advocates to share best practices and foster collaboration in supporting cultural and community-driven nightlife. Co-ordinated by Free the Night, Northern Ireland's Night-Time Economy advocates, the forum connects advocates,

researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders committed to grassroots, community-led initiatives between 6.00pm and 6.00am.

With a focus on culture and community over economic outcomes, the forum promotes open dialogue, innovation, and citizen-centered approaches to nightlife. Quarterly online meetings provide a platform to discuss shared goals, explore collaboration, and advance best practices. The inaugural session, held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, marks a significant step in enhancing cross-border co-operation and enriching night-time culture across Ireland and the UK.

### **Data-Driven Safety Initiative for Drogheda's Night-Time Economy**

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, a significant step was taken to enhance safety within Drogheda's night-time economy through a pioneering data-sharing initiative led by the Night-Time Economy Adviser. In partnership with the National Ambulance Service, the North East Regional Drug & Alcohol Taskforce, and An Garda Síochána. This trial will use ambulance callout data to create geotagged heatmaps, identifying high-demand public areas and venues. Excluding domestic incidents, the focus is on mapping trends in the public realm to inform situational crime reduction strategies, such as training for venues or environmental changes like improved lighting or CCTV. This marks the first initiative of its kind in Ireland, with Cork participating as a secondary pilot area.

Collecting and analysing data is a key SLA of the Night-Time Economy Adviser trial, reflecting Drogheda's leadership in innovative safety measures. Additional datasets are being explored with Gardaí and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital to provide further insights. This collaboration paves the way for evidence-based actions, supporting safer, more vibrant night-time environments while reducing pressure on emergency services.

### **Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil / Local Enterprise Office**

#### **LEO Business Supports**

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

Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: [info@leo.louthcoco.ie](mailto: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](http://www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal). New businesses can be included on the Louth online directory by emailing: [lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie](mailto: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 Training**



During November LEO held four training courses – Start Your Own Business, Trading Online Voucher Workshop, Instagram Advanced and TikTok for 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



**Important Announcement** - The Trading Online Voucher Scheme will close at 5.00pm on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. Applications received after this deadline will not be eligible. All applicants must complete the required online training within six months before applying.

The LEO continues to offer the Trading Online Voucher scheme until this date 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.

Twelve Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in November.

### Business Advice Clinics

Thirty-five business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the County during November together with nine Financial Business Advice Clinics.

### 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.



Thirty-three businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of November.

### Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

Microfinance Ireland have now been mandated by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment to double its lending limit to €50,000. This measure is part of the government's recently announced package of measures to support small businesses.

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 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.

## Look for Local Campaign 2024



LEO Louth are launching their Look for Local campaign for 2024 to encourage people to support local shops and businesses in the busy shopping period coming up to Christmas. An advertising campaign will run across printed media, online media, and social channels as well as advertising on LMFM. A competition will run on LMFM. There is a directory of Louth businesses online at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Enterprise-Development/look-for-local-look-for-louth/>.

Businesses based in Louth with a website are invited to register their business in the directory for a free listing by emailing details to [lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie](mailto:lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie).

## Lithuanian Ambassador Visit – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Ambassador Jonas Grinevičius and Renata Rinkauskienė visited Dundalk on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November and were met by Cathaoirleach Councillor Kevin Callan and members of the LEO Office. They also met with local businesses to discuss trade links. These visits have been a huge success in helping local companies to create links with foreign companies.



**Niall Gallagher, LEO Louth, Renata Rinkauskiene, Minister Counsellor, Cathaoirleach Cllr Kevin Callan, Haana Laatio McDonnell, Dundalk Chamber, Jonas Grinevicius, Lithuanian Ambassador and Paddy Malone, Dundalk Chamber**

## **Commercial Attache from the British Embassy Visit – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

A further Embassy Visit to Dundalk took place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November with a visit from the Commercial Attache to the British Embassy. He met with Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor John Reilly and members of the LEO Office and local businesses.

## **Oidhreacht / Heritage**

### **Funding Schemes**

Community Monuments Fund 2025, which is now open for applications, was promoted widely, as were funding opportunities for works under the Irish Walled Towns Network. Two other Heritage Council funding schemes were also widely promoted. These were the Heritage Organisation Support Fund and the Heritage Stewardship Fund.

Ministerial Consent was obtained for urgently needed works to Millmount in Drogheda, owned by the Council. It is hoped that some of these works might be funded under the Community Monuments Fund 2025.

Discussions were held about modifying and extending the existing Ministerial Consent for works in Old Abbey Lane, Drogheda.

### **Liaison**

The Heritage Officer took part in a meeting with staff from the Planning and the Climate Action sections, with academics from University College Dublin to discuss future management requirements of Dundalk Bay.

## **Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála / Fire & Emergency Services**

### **Fire Service**

A meeting with the Design Team for the upgrade of Dundalk Training Centre took place on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The development will include an extension to the training building, an extension to the breathing apparatus building and a new training tower. The design of the training building extension has progressed, and it will be proposed that this is a two-storey extension. Detailed design proposals are

being drawn up for the Part 8 Planning process. The paved area of the Training Centre will be increased as part of the development, increasing flexibility for training courses. Once completed, this development will greatly increase the quality of training facilities in Dundalk for Louth and other Fire Services.

The Fire Service purchased two new Peugeot Expert station support vehicles, to provide transport for fire crews and equipment for training and day to day operations and support at emergency incidents. They can transport up to six operational personnel and carry critical firefighting and rescue equipment. They are low-emissions vehicles running on hydrated vegetable oil (HVO), which is in accordance with the Council's Climate Action Plan.



***CFO Eamon Woulfe, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Callan, SO Mark McElearney and SACFO Robert Page with the new Support Vehicles at Drogheda fire station***

Four Louth Fire Service staff attended the Annual Women's Fire Service Network Event on 11<sup>th</sup> November in Portlaoise. This was an all island gathering of women in the fire service, including from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. There were a range of presentations from Fire Services, North and South. There were a range of presentations from Fire Services, North and South. There was also a team building event on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November, which was attended by Louth personnel. It was a very successful event.



***Karen Owens, Administrative Officer, Caroline McShane, Sub Officer, Dita Durse, Fire Fighter and Olivia Corrigan, Assistant Staff Officer at the Women's Fire Service Network Event***

Fire Service Training courses during November were as follows:

- Attendance of two Sub Officers on Compartment Fire Behaviour Instructor course in Devon and Somerset Training Centre, UK
- Louth Road Traffic Collision course
- Attendance at external Compartment Fire Behaviour Instructor course
- Attendance at external ESDS Emergency Driving Instructor Course
- Hydraulic Platform crew training
- Dignity at Work Training
- Fire Service Transition Year (TY) Programme completed in November. This offers TY students a range of skills and was very well received.

The Recruitment Plan for retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during November. Four new recruits started their three-week Recruits course on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The HR Section has further applications for fire fighter posts and interviews and station tests are arranged for early December.

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

The large increase in Fire Safety Certificate applications and Commencement Notices received during 2024 is continuing. There have been 219 Fire Safety Certificate applications to date in 2024, compared to 151 in all of 2023.

## **Major Emergency Management**

Members of the Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team attended national Teams meetings in relation to the Storm Bert snow, ice and severe rain weather event. The effect on Louth was not as significant as some other counties.

## **Climate Adaptation Strategy**

Dunleer Fire Station and Dundalk Training Centre extension will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. The Climate Action Plan includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

## **Building Control**

The Building Control Section continued with the inspection programme and the processing of Disabled Access Certificate applications and Certificates of Compliance on Completion.

This Section has written to Estate Agents requesting Building Energy Rating Certificates for properties for sale or rent.

## **Cosaint Shibhialta / Civil Defence**

Civil Defence Officer and three volunteers attended the annual Civil Defence Officer's Association Conference in Kilkenny.

Medical cover was provided at the following events during November:

- Frostival festival at the Square, Dundalk
- Annagasson 10k run

Training was provided for volunteers as follows:

- Weekly Training
- Cardiac First Responder training
- Regional Training, Monaghan
- Emergency First Responder Exams
- All-Terrain Vehicle Training
- Emergency Medical Technician Training Day, Navan

## Pleanáil / Planning

### Bainistíocht Forbartha / Development Management

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of October 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 107 planning applications received during the month of October of which 83 were valid. In addition, there were 33 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 26 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) Cur Síos / Description	(B) Forbairtí Tithíochta / Housing Developmen ts	(C) Tithe Aonair / Individual Houses	(D) Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT / Other applications -not requiring EIA	(E) Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth / Other applications- requiring EIA	(F) Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae / Total for all categories of development in County Area
(i) Líon na n- iarratas a cinneadh / Number of applications determined	2	8	36	0	46
(ii) Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais / No. of decisions determined which required further information	2	7	16	0	25
(iii) Céatadán na n- iarratas a diúltaíodh / Percentage of applications refused	50.00% (1)	25.00% (2)	19.44% (7)	0.00% (0)	21.74% (10)
(iv) Líon na n- achomharc cinneadh / Number of appeals determined	0	0	3	1	4
(v) Céatadán na gcinntí a	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	33.33% (1)	0.00% (0)	25.00% (1)

cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc / Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal					
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### **Forfheidhmiú Pleanála – Forbairt Neamhúdaraithe / Planning Enforcement – Unauthorised Development**

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

Cur Síos / Description	Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development		Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh / Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development	
	Deireadh Fómhair 2024 / October 2024	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date	Deireadh Fómhair 2023 / October 2023	Bliain go dtí seo / Year to Date
Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh / Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated	30	226	21	195
Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise / Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up	0	0	0	0
Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht / Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation	22	203	11	88
Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh / Number of Warning letters issued	12	192	24	145
Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh / Number of Enforcement Notices issued	0	13	2	11
Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí / Number of cases referred for legal proceedings	0	3	5	10
Líon na n-urghairí / Number of Injunctions	0	0	0	0
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh / Number of Prosecutions	0	0	0	0

## Comhfhorbairt Áite agus Forbairt Fisiceach

### 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 fhreagrachtaí tá:

- 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**

#### **Ceantar Dhún Dealgan agus Cuailgne / Dundalk and Cooley Area**

<b>Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking</b>	<b>Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month /</b>
<b>Carlingford/Omeath/Gyles Quay</b>	Litter pick for these areas
<b>Templetown</b>	
<b>Ramparts Road</b>	
<b>Racecourse Road</b>	
<b>Quay Street</b>	
<b>Barack Street</b>	
<b>Fairgreen Road</b>	
<b>Castletown Road</b>	
<b>Patrick Street</b>	
<b>Armagh Road</b>	
<b>Carroll Village</b>	
<b>Long Walk</b>	
<b>River Walk</b>	
<b>Old Newry Road</b>	
<b>Dublin Road</b>	
<b>Southern Link Road</b>	
<b>Muirhevnamor Estate</b>	
<b>Coxs Demesne</b>	
<b>Bay Estate</b>	
<b>Carrick Road</b>	
<b>Fatima</b>	
<b>Carrick Road</b>	
<b>Ardee Road</b>	
<b>Avenue Road</b>	
<b>Ashling Park Estate</b>	

<b>Bottle Banks at Long Walk</b> <b>Harp Car Park</b> <b>Meadow Grove</b> <b>Strimming around verges and walls</b> <b>Grass cutting in progress all areas around town</b> <b>Removing suckers from trees along bypass</b> <b>Cleaning around Oldbridge</b> <b>Removing suckers and low branches at Priorland Road</b>	
<b>Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins</b>  <b>Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay Area</b>  <b>Dundalk – nightly by contractor</b>	<b>Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency</b>     200 Bins
<b>Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping</b>  <b>Contract sweeper as per contract nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract</b>	<b>Bealaí gach tseachtain / Routes per week</b>
<b>Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles</b>  <b>As per bin management</b>	<b>Líon gach tseachtain / Number per week</b>
<b>Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking</b>  <b>Ring Buoys checked weekly report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk</b>  <b>Lifebuoy issues this month of areas included – Ice House Hill, Navy Bank – all replaced and new ropes added</b>	<b>Líon Seiceáilte gach tseachtain / Number checked weekly</b>  By the Water Safety Officer
<b>Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment</b>  <b>Daily/Weekly check lists carried out by Parks Caretaker</b>	<b>Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily</b>

Work progressing on upgrade of St. Helena's Park, contractor on site

Ashling Park vandalism reported again this month, damaged to bollards at front

New signage in parks

Litter Pick carried out in the parks

Dundalk retained its Gold Medal for Tidy Towns

Parks in Dundalk retained their Green Flags for 24/25 season

Suíomh / Location		Nótaí / Notes
Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs	<p><b><u>Cooley</u></b></p> <p>Ongoing patching of local roads also isolated pothole within the R173/Bush area</p> <p>Contractor patching a section of the R173 Bellurgan Straight Lordship Village Bush Riverstown R176 Carlingford Greenore Junction Carlingford Village Consist of digging out patches to replace with hot tar</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b></p> <p>Pothole Repair:</p> <p>Muirhevnemor De La Salle Glenwood Greenacres Bishop's Court Roden Place Coes Road East and road to NCT Centre Hardys Lane</p> <p>Bollards Replaced/Repaired:</p> <p>York Street Alphonsus Road Marrion Park Hardys Lane</p>	

<b>Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation</b>	<b>Cooley</b> Drainage on LP30570 Glenmore New Line 325246 Omeath Moneycrockroe LP3084 Aghameen LP308424 Upper Jenkinstown Consist of cleaning back drains Opening Culverts  Dundalk  Grey Acre Road Broughton Street	
<b>Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees</b>	None at this time	
<b>Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance</b>	<b>Cooley</b> Greenore R175, replacing section of footpath  <b>Dundalk</b> Alphonsus Road Oaklawns, Greenacres Pinewood Grove, Bay Estate	
<b>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs</b>	Pedestrian Traffic Light: The Quay  Traffic Lights Out of Order:  Roden Place McSweeney Street The Quay All light issues attended by Dundalk outdoor staff	
<b>Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings</b>	None currently	
<b>Comharthaíocht / Signage</b>	<b>Cooley</b> Ongoing maintenance of advance warning signs at all junctions  Also replacing liners at junctions  <b>Dundalk</b> Ard Easmuinn Francis Street Coxs Demesne Red Barn's Road St. Alphonsus Road	

	York Street Fairgreen Coe's Road East	
<b>Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping</b>	None at this time	
<b>Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal</b>	None at this time	



*Delivery of salt to Faughart ahead of the start of Winter Gritting*

**Na Creagacha Dubha, Fochaird , agus Ceantar Tuaiscirt Lár-Lú / Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area**

<b>Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking</b>	<b>Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month</b>
<b>Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins</b>	<b>Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency</b>  Blackrock – 6 days a week Knockbridge – once a week Dromiskin – once a week Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week
<b>Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping</b>	<b>Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week</b>

<b>Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles</b>	<b>Líon gach seachtain / Number per week</b>
<b>Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála / Ring Buoy Checking</b>	<b>Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly</b> Blackrock – 7 checked weekly Annagassan – 11 checked weekly
<b>Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment</b>	<b>Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily</b> Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly Blackrock – checked weekly

<b>Suíomh / Location</b>		<b>Nótaí / Notes</b>
<b>Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs</b>		Road repairs and patching and cleaning up  Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming  Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)
<b>Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation</b>		Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets and storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.
<b>Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees</b>		Cleaning fallen trees and debris

<b>Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance</b>		Footpath renewal
<b>Deisiú Soilse Tráchta / Traffic Light Repairs</b>		
<b>Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings</b>		Renewal of junction markings  Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
<b>Comharthaíocht / Signage</b>		Cleansing/repair/replacement/new signage
<b>Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping</b>		Collection of dumped waste for disposal  Collection and disposal after community clean up
<b>Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal</b>		

### Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Firdhia / Ardee Municipal District

#### Gnó Deiscirt Chontae Lú (Ceantar Tuaithe) / South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

<b>Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking</b>	<b>Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí / Location and metres per month</b>
All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)	
Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins	
<b>Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins</b>	<b>Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency</b>
Ardee Town	37 Daily
Dunleer town	20 Tuesday and Thursday
Collon	3 Tuesday and Thursday
Erecting of bin at Riverside walk	
Erecting of bin at Link Road	

<p><b>Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping</b></p> <p>All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)</p>	<p><b>Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week</b></p>
<p><b>Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra / Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles</b></p>	<p><b>Líon gach seachtain / Number per week</b></p>
<p><b>Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála / Ring Buoy Checking</b></p> <p>Ardee - River Dee</p> <p>Salterstown</p> <p>Port Beach</p>	<p><b>Líon Seiceáilte gach seachtain / Number checked weekly</b></p>
<p><b>Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne / Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment</b></p> <p>Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, &amp; exercise equipment at both locations.</p>	<p><b>Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil / Number of sites checked daily</b></p>

<b>Suíomh / Location</b>	<b>Nótaí / Notes</b>
<p><b>Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-52592-0 Sliabh Breagh Ardee</li> <li>• L-22538-1 Beechwood Drive Dunleer</li> <li>• L-2226-44 Charleville to R132</li> <li>• L-52292-0 McCreanor's Terrace Ardee</li> <li>• L-1260-0 John Street Ardee</li> </ul>

<b>Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N33 near Dromin</li> <li>• L-5267-0 Funshog</li> <li>• L-5265-13 Belpatrick</li> <li>• L-2226-44 Charleville to R132</li> </ul>	
<b>Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees</b>		
<b>Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance</b>		
<b>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs</b>		
<b>Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings</b>		
<b>Comharthaíocht / Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-62721-0 Lismanus Bollards</li> <li>• New signage at Playground Ardee</li> </ul>	
<b>Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach / Illegal Dumping</b>		
<b>Glanadh Graifítí / Graffiti Removal</b>		

### Ceanntar Buirge Dhroichead Átha / Borough District of Drogheda

### Ceantar Baile Dhroichead Átha / Drogheda Town Area

<b>Piocadh Bruscair / Litter Picking</b>	<b>Suíomh agus méadar gach mí / Location and metres per month</b>
Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	6 Daily
Termonfeckin	6 Daily
Baltray	3 Daily
	3 Daily

## Seapoint Carpark

Steps and lane ways weekly. 22 steps when resources allow and green areas.

Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.

Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also, all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m.

Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week.

## Folmhú Araidí Poiblí / Emptying of Public Bins

### Líon agus minicíocht / Numbers and frequency

Drogheda town centre – litter bins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.

234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.

Dominic's Park & Mell River walk emptied daily.

South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public litter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.

Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.

Removal of Bonfire material at various locations, Moneymore, St Laurence Pk, Rathmullen, Ballsgrove, Beechwood, Rathmullen Ravine & St Finian's Pk.

Preparation of salt to town centre footpaths during freezing conditions.

Reinstatement of public lighting at St Dominic's Bridge, due to vandalism

Removal of waste on river walk between Shop St and St Mary's Bridge.

Removing of waste and unblocking of water grid to stream at the Glen, Yellowbatter.

Removing of waste and unblocking of water grid to stream at Flaxmill Gate.

**Scuabadh Bóithre / Road Sweeping**

**Bealaí gach seachtain / Routes per week**

Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.

Social Housing Estates, swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow.

Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.

Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.

Drogheda town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).

Road sweepers town centre / approach roads with particular attention for Christmas Light switch on and Drogheda United Home Coming, West St, St Laurence St, Shop St, North Quay & Wellington Quay.

Road sweepers town centre / approach roads with particular attention to Boyne Rd, Riverwalks, Carparks, Ballsgrove Hill, Paradise Place, St Peters Place & Marian Court, Poorhouse Lane & St Mary's St.

Placing of pedestrian barriers and removal of bollards at West St for Christmas light switch on.

Road sweepers town centre / approach roads with particular attention to Poorhouse Lane & St Mary's St.

Preparation of sandbags & monitoring of high tide levels prior to storm Ashley & Storm Bert at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Ushers Corner & Queensborough.

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

<b>Suíomh / Location</b>	<b>Nótaí / Notes</b>
<b>Deisiú Bóithre / Road Repairs</b>	<p>Pothole repairs at Beamore Rd, Dyer St, Chapel Lane, Moneymore, Sunnyside, Barrack Hill, St Mary's Bridge, Pearse Pk &amp; Mary's St.</p> <p>Reinstatement of Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall &amp; gate are now complete.</p> <p>Preparation of sandbags &amp; monitoring of high tide levels prior to storm Bert at Wellington Quay, North Quay, Ushers Corner &amp; Queensborough.</p> <p>Preparation of salt stock for predicted freezing conditions.</p>

	<p><b>Road Works Program – Resurfacing Works 2024</b></p> <p>To date the following roads have been completed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Newfoundwell Rd</li> <li>2. Platin Rd</li> <li>3. Dual Carriageway</li> <li>4. Bredin St</li> <li>5. Boyne Rd</li> <li>6. Bull Ring</li> <li>7. Duleek St</li> <li>8. Patrick St / Bolton St Jnc</li> <li>9. Martello Villages</li> <li>10. Traffic calming ramp at Congress Ave.</li> <li>11. Bolton St</li> </ol> <p>Additions resurfacing works will commence at Patrick’s St on week commencing 2/12/24.</p> <p><b>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024</b></p> <p>Contactor is now appointed &amp; works are commenced at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hardmans Gardens – at Centra Carpark.</li> <li>2. Pearse Pk / Hardman Gardens.</li> <li>3. Lourdes Sq / Harman Gardens.</li> <li>4. North Rd @ O Raghallaigh GFC.</li> <li>5. R166 / Thomas St.</li> <li>6. Scarlett St / Sandyford Tce.</li> <li>7. R166 / Mount Sandford.</li> <li>8. R166 / Bridgeview.</li> <li>9. Scarlet St / Chadwicks Entrance.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Feabhasúchán Draenála / Drainage Remediation</b></p>	<p>Gully Cleaning Contract has now commenced – 1207 phase 1 – Approach roads and Drogheda Town Centre.</p>	

<b>Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha / Fallen or Dangerous Trees</b>	Trees fallen during storm Bert at Slane Rd & Termonfeckin Rd.	
<b>Cothabháil Cosán / Footpath Maintenance</b>	Commenced planned footpath repairs at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyer St</li> <li>• Ballsgrove</li> <li>• Yellowbatter</li> <li>• Patrickswell Lane</li> <li>• Barrick Hill</li> </ul>	
<b>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá / Traffic Light Repairs</b>	<p>DR06 R132 at Westgate - Fair St Jct –vehicle phase lamp fail phase on red</p> <p>DR28, R132/Patrick’s Street, Ireland –Lights out</p> <p>LO18 - Ardee Main St at Credit Union</p> <p>DR07, M1 Link - Cement - Cross Lanes (R132H), Vehicle Detector Fault</p> <p>DR31 Newfoundwell Rd (Termonfeckin Rd) Ped, Lights out</p>	
<b>Marcáil Bóithre / Road Markings</b>	Renew Yellow box at Horse Lane / Trinity St Junction.	
<b>Comharthaíocht / Signage</b>	<p>New bollards at top of Stockwell Lane to prevent illegal parking.</p> <p>New Bollards at Patrick’s St to prevent illegal parking.</p> <p>Reinstate bollards at ramps on Marsh Rd.</p> <p>New bollards at uncontrolled crossing at Mell School, junction with Mell.</p> <p>Reinstate damaged bollards on R132.</p>	

<p><b>Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair / Litterbin cleaning disinfecting</b></p>	<p><b>On-going on weekly basis.</b></p>	
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Drainage on the L-2318 Tullyallen



Drainage on the N33

**Comhfhorbairt Áite / Placemaking**

**Athghiniúint Uirbeach agus Forbairt Tionscadail Cistí / Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)**

**West Gate Vision (Drogheda)**

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

The Westgate planning documents, including the suite of drawings, the EIAR and the AA Stage 2 reports, represent a large volume of material and 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**

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. are currently on site; to minimise the impact on residents and businesses the works will be completed on a phase-by phase basis. Phase A has completed.

The contractor has commenced works on Phase B with the associated road closure scheduled from mid-November for approximately 3 months. Diversion routes are in place via Castletown Road and St. Nicholas Avenue.



**Phase A Completed**



**Phase A Completed**

The contractor has, in agreement with the Design Team, LCC and relevant stakeholders commenced work on Phases D and F also.

Pedestrian access will always be maintained and deliveries to and from all businesses will be accommodated to minimise the impact as much as possible.

Works will be minimised over the Christmas period to facilitate trade.

Glas have appointed a dedicated Liaison Officer for any queries, John Caffrey [jcaffrey@glascel.ie](mailto:jcaffrey@glascel.ie)

### **Phase 2 – Backlands Area of St Nicholas Quarter**

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project involves initial feasibility, analysis and preparation of a design concept for the re-development 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.

BDP are currently engaged with the Council in the initial feasibility and analysis stages in preparation of a design concept for St Nicholas Quarter – Phase II.

BDP have made initial presentations on the project. A follow-on summary report along with a presentation document to the URDF has been prepared.



Artist impressions of St. Nicholas Quarter Phase 2

### **AUCF Éileamh a Trí, Leithdháileadh Maoinithe / URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.**

On-site inspections and negotiations with property owners are ongoing regarding buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda. Following engagement, a number of properties have entered the planning process, been put up for sale and started works. Investigations are ongoing regarding possible purchase of properties and their eventual end use.

### **Athghiniúint Tuaithe agus Ciste Forbartha / Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)**

#### **Ardee Castle**

Ardee Castle has received approval from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to go to tender for the refurbishment of Ardee Castle.

The tender process for a main works contractor has closed. The tender assessment process is due to begin.

The project is part funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund as well as by Louth County Council.

## Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



Artist impressions of Carlingford

The Council are currently preparing a brief for the consultants to complete the detailed design, this is programmed to go to tender in Q4 2024.

### Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is now completed on site with making good of defects and snagging ongoing by the main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering.



### Ardee 2040

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

### Tionscadail Breise / 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.



### Tionscadail Tras-Rannóg / Cross Departmental Projects

#### Play Spaces

##### Termonfeckin

The community playground, funded through Town & Village scheme and part funded by Louth County Council is now open and operational. A formal opening will be organised for the new year

The playground was designed and built by Kompan, Footpath works and disabled parking space have also been completed.





initial design stages for the Library Square project. The Library Square project is one of the main initiatives that has arisen through the Dunleer Town Centre First plan and proved very popular at public consultation events and online surveys.

Tender documents for the appointment of an Architectural consultant are being written.

### Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

A meeting was held with the town team in Clogherhead in November in relation to opportunity sites coming forward through process. Work on opportunity sites and possible uses are ongoing.

### THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

A multi-disciplinary team led by Shaffrey Architects have been appointed and are assisting Louth County Council in completing an Integrated Urban Strategy for the West Street area of Drogheda.



A public engagement event was held on the 28th November to engage with community groups and individuals to help shape any potential project before proceeding to planning stage. It is anticipated that an application for Strand 2 funding will be made in April 2025.

### Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub

The tender for the appointment of a contractor for works to part of the former O'Reilly building on Narrow West Street has closed and returns are being assessed.

### Town Team Support Fund

Louth County Council were successful in receiving funding under the Town Centre First Suite of

### St Dominic's Park & The Glen

AA Screening Stage 1 report has been completed for the Glen and Part 8 documents are being prepared for Q4 2024

AA Screening Stage 1 report for proposed works in St. Dominic's Park playground is currently being prepared in addition to Part 8 documents for Q4 2024.

### Tionscadail Tosaíochta do Lár an Bhaile / Town Centre First Projects

#### Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer



Funding of €50,000 has been awarded to Dunleer under the Town and Village, Project Development Measure funding stream. The funding will allow for the appointment of a design team to complete the

Supports 2024 - Measure 1 Town Team Support Fund.

€10k was awarded to both Castlebellingham and Collon. The funding will go towards appointing a consultant to carry out a Town Centre Health Check for each town. A consultant has been appointed and the Health Checks are to be complete by March 2025.

### **Vacant Homes Officer**

The Vacant Homes Officer has identified and is engaging with several property owners regarding their properties and is explaining the supports available in bringing those Vacant Homes back to use. Vacant Homes notices continue to be affixed to many properties in the county where there is no easily identifiable owner to drive engagement.

A specific project is underway which involves carrying out a survey of Vacant Homes in the Castlebellingham, Collon & Ardee area. Please encourage all members of the public and councillors to log suspected or known vacant homes on [www.vacanthomes.ie](http://www.vacanthomes.ie)

## **Forbairt Fhisiciúil / Physical Development**

### **Tionscadail Bóithre / Roads Projects**

#### **Narrow Water Bridge**

Surfacing of the main carriageway and roundabout has commenced, temporary traffic diversion for the R173 and the greenway are in place.

Control building construction ongoing, up to wall plate level. Ring beam has been poured. Southern abutment wall steel reinforcement has been placed and concrete poured on the back wall on 18<sup>th</sup> of November.

Northern Works: Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North. Construction of the embankment has largely been completed. Works on diverting the existing final effluent pipe has commenced. Piling works for the northern abutment commenced early November; front wall of piles completed.



***Shuttering and Steel Reinforcement Southern Abutment***



***Concrete Pour Rear Wall Southern Abutment***



***Ring Beam on Control Building***



***Piling Works Northern Embankment.***



***Piling Platform Northern Embankment***

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 Rissan**

The design team and valuers continue to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders.

Delays to Archaeology have been overcome and test trenching has recommenced in the remaining plots.



*Test Trenching*

A TC2 budget submission for the entire project (€29.3M) has been submitted to the TII in October 2024 for their review and approval and to allow the scheme to progress to tender.

The Council awaits a date from the ESB on the relocation of the 38kv overhead network and when these works will progress.

#### **N52 Ardee Bypass**

The High Court recently delivered its judgment on the above matter. The entirety of the application for leave to appeal has been refused.

The applicant had until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November last to deliver submissions if it disagrees with the Order. This date has now elapsed, and the Council await status update from legal representatives.

#### **Boyne Enterprise Link Road**

The Council's section of the road is now complete. Final account has been agreed.

Ongoing consultations including a valuation process are taking place with stakeholders / landowners to acquire adjoining roadway. The CPO process has also commenced in conjunction with the valuation process. The CPO has been advertised and submissions to An Bord Pleanála close on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January.

#### **R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme**

Only one Tender for consultancy services was received. A letter of intent was issued to the preferred bidder. Department of Transport have now approved the Council to appoint the Consultant through to optioneering phase of the project, with a view that subject to funding approvals further phases will follow on through to planning consent stage.

#### **Glasbhealaí / Greenways**

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

**Section 1** – Carlingford Tourist Office to Carlingford Marina

Main civil works in Carlingford complete. Trailhead complete in Carlingford.

**Section 2** - Omeath to the Border

Mainline route of greenway now complete. Substantial completion achieved.

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.

**Section 3 – NI**

Works continue to progress on the construction of the boardwalk.



*Substructure of Boardwalk being assembled*



*Substructure including Piles*

## **Glasbhealaí Cistithe ag B.I.E / TII Funded Greenways:**

### **Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway**

As part of the Public Consultation Day 2 the total number of submissions received as part of the Route Corridor Options consultation stage was 1,657.

These submissions are being reviewed by the project consultants and will inform the process in determining an emerged preferred route corridor, which will be subject to the next public consultation phase. Further details on the project can be found on the dedicated website [www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie](http://www.dundalkcarlingfordgreenway.ie), including contact details for the Project Liaison Officer and the independent appointed agronomist.

TII approval has been received to move the project into options phase.

As part of the development of route corridor options for the project, the Consultants (RODA) will be carrying out several ecological walkover surveys within the identified study area from public roads and public lands, to undertake wintering bird surveys.

An Independent Agronomist has been engaged by the Council during the route corridor option selection stage to assist landowners through the project considering any relevant agronomy issues.

The Independent Agronomist will be made available to landowners to fully and fairly assess the impact of the proposed Greenway on their property types. The Independent Agronomist / Property Advisor will assist in identifying a route which minimises the impact of the scheme on affected properties. The Project Agronomist / Property Advisor will also assist in agreeing upon appropriate accommodation works and access

arrangements in consultation with the farmer / landowner. An initial meeting with IFA and project team in relation to the project took place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Scéim Bonneagair Áineasa Aeraíochta / Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, beach accessibility.**

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

Tender Documents for construction of both Templetown and Port were issued to a market of 81 suppliers, however only one tender was received with a value which substantially exceeds the funding from ORIS. The Council are currently exploring options of how to overcome the shortfall if possible.

## **Tionscadail Corparáideach / Corporate Projects**

### **Dunleer Fire Station**

Final purchase of the lands process is nearing completion with documents with the solicitors ongoing.

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.

## **Tionscadail Cosaint ar Thulite Chontae Lú agus Creimeadh Cósta / Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects**

### **Dundalk & Ardee Flood Relief Projects**

The Consultant Engineers continue to work on Stage 1 of the Dundalk Flood Relief Project. The baseline hydraulic modelling is essentially complete with the model outputs currently undergoing quality assurance assessment. A long list of proposed flood relief measures for Dundalk and Blackrock have been identified and are being hydraulically assessed.

The most hydraulically effective shortlisted measures will be combined into several potential flood relief options.

Public participation days to discuss the emerging options are programmed for early to mid-2025.

The Site Investigation Tender Report is nearing completion with a preferred bidder being identified. Subject to approval to appoint its envisaged that site investigation works will commence in early 2025. Other surveys such as environmental and archaeological surveys are in progress to inform the project development.

The Draft Ardee Options Report has been received and reviewed by the Steering Group.

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](http://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 review of the modelled flood extents has been undertaken and this has identified where flood defences will be required along the River Boyne and its tributaries. The defence locations are also under review, this is to check their effectiveness against present day scenarios and climate change scenarios.

A contractor has been appointed to undertake an underwater archaeology survey. Liaison is also underway with environmental specialists regarding updating the baseline data. An additional overwintering bird survey commenced in September and will continue until March 2025.

RPS are continuing to collect utilities information from the various infrastructure providers and have commenced development of the Scheme Analysis and Development report.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: [www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie](http://www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie)

### **Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project**

The Council has appointed a dedicated Engineer for the scheme.

CCTV and Topographical Survey Contractors have completed their initial works on site and the data is being quality assessed for use in building the Hydraulic model.

The Local Authority and OPW are continuing to develop a brief tailored to the requirement of study area to issue to the market to appoint project consultants to develop the scheme.

### **Tionscadail Muirí / 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: an amended Section 177 AE has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála and we await a decision on same.
- Bellurgan Point: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore: Section 177 AE has been approved by the Board and construction tender documents are being drafted.

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE approval of Drummullagh, it's anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1/2 2025, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual sites ecological constraints.

### **Tionscadail Cláir Scoileanna / Schools Programme Projects**

#### **Ardee E.T.N.S.**

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

- Blockwork Wall 95% complete
- Roof Trusses 95% complete
- Ring Beam 95% complete
- Masonry Support 95% complete
- Attenuation Trench 100% complete
- Joist to flat roofs 85% complete
- Cavity closers to windows – 90% complete
- Decking to roof 80% complete
- Kalzip roof has commenced to SNU
- Damp course at eaves 80% complete
- Watermain installation 60% complete

- Eir ducts installation 60% complete
- Plywood to flat roofs 70% complete
- Gullies 30% complete
- Entrance works along Jervis Street have commenced – wall is down, and trees removed

Proposed Works Forecast:

- Complete Rising Blockwork
- Ongoing roof installation
- M&E containment to SNU
- First delivery windows due in 3 weeks



*School Building under construction*

**Ríomhchlár Infheistithe Tasaitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Investment Program**

**2024 Budget Allocation**

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

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

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

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


They also divide the evolvment 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, were local authorities are to prepare and submit Gateway Reports for sign-off before obtaining approval to advance to the next phase.



The seven different phases are as outlined below...



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



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


## Tionscadail Tasitil Gníomhaigh / Active Travel Projects


Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	November 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>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the first 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 approved by the NTA in September 2024.</p> <p>The recent Gateway 3 Report and preliminary design drawings were amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team held a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in Drogheda Library on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November last, which was very well attended, with a prior briefing to Drogheda MD members online on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024.</p> <p>All observations, comments and feedback obtained during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Non-Statutory Public Consultation event will be reviewed by the Design Team and where necessary incorporated into amended design drawings. With the new information our designers envisage that this project will be brought forward for Part 8 public display in early 2025.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display early Q1 2025



Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	November 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	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 December 2024 in advance of non-statutory public consultations in Jan 2025.	Proposed Part 8 display late Q1 2025
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath Roundabout (RAB) and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>The final Gateway 3 Report is due to be submitted to the NTA in Dec. 2024, to allow the Active Travel Team to proceed to Part 8 public Consultation in early 2025.</p>  <p><b>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</b></p>  <p><b>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</b></p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€150,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Part 8 Public Display commenced on 22nd October 2024 with a submission closure date of the 3rd of Dec. 2024. Documents are available on the National Portal</p> <p><a href="https://planning.localgov.ie/en/part-8/application/bacd54f4-8bc0-11ef-a181-005056880cd6">https://planning.localgov.ie/en/part-8/application/bacd54f4-8bc0-11ef-a181-005056880cd6</a></p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q4 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band (updated March 2024)	Current Phase	November 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="789 589 1339 646"><i>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</i></p>	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€100,000	Band 2 €5 - €20M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p data-bbox="779 651 1356 841">The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project. A inter agency meeting was held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September to examine proposals on Active Travel measures under the Dublin Rd, railway bridge. Further meetings are planned.</p> <p data-bbox="779 870 1356 922">Gateway 3 (Preliminary Design Report) due to be completed by the end of Nov.</p>  <p data-bbox="800 1190 1339 1218"><i>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1377 651 1619 732">North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q1 2025</p> <p data-bbox="1377 760 1619 894">Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.</p>

<p>Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)</p>	<p>€250,000</p>	<p>Band 2 €5 - €20M</p>	<p>Phase 5 Detailed Design</p>	<p>Tender Document to establish a restricted panel of competent contractors has been advertised on etenders and Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). It is anticipated that a panel of contractors will be formed and detailed tender documents will be issued to this panel in Q1 2025.</p>  <p><i>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</i></p>	<p>Completed – Part 8 Approval on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024</p> <p>Construction Tender Procurement Stage May 2025</p>
<p>Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge</p>	<p>€150,000</p>	<p>Band 2 €5 - €20M</p>	<p>Phase 4 Statutory Process</p>	<p>Project progressing through the Part 8 process. Public consultation closed on 15<sup>th</sup> October last and we received 6 No. submissions. It is anticipated that the Part 8 proposals will be brought to Dundalk MD Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p>  <p><i>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</i></p>	<p>In progress</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>Workshop held with the NTA in October, and we intend to accelerate parts of the scheme, namely, McEntee Avenue, Mulholland Avenue &amp; Pearse Parks to deliver key elements associated with pedestrian provision and Safe Routes to School infrastructure.</p>  <p><b>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</b></p>	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025
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. Transport consultants Systa appointed in September 2024 and progress on Stage 2 – Options Development is being undertaken.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) The Elected Members, having considered the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030, of which the Transport Plan forms part of the background documentation, and the Chief Executive’s Report on submissions received and following a series of Special Meetings, resolved, at the monthly Council meeting on 18th November 2024 to amend the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024-2030. A copy of the Proposed Material Alterations will be on display from Friday 6th December 2024 until Monday 13th January 2025 (inclusive)</p>	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>GW3 Reports were submitted to and are being reviewed by the NTA. Comments received on drawings and drawings will be updated in line with these comments for the next phase. Public consultation proposed for Q1 2025.</p>	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025

Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20 <sup>th</sup> November last. Resultant from this workshop the drawings will be updated, and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in Q1 2025.	2025
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	GW3 comments received from NTA and a workshop held with NTA, LCC and consultants on 20 <sup>th</sup> November last. Resultant from this workshop the drawings will be updated, and a non-statutory public consultation will be held in Q1 2025.	2025
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Second public consultation day along with stakeholder engagement meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November last. Louth Consult portal for submissions to close on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p>  <p><b>View of entrance to Xerox Campus Looking to Xerox Junction</b></p>	Proposed Part 8 Q1 2025
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 5 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed 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 6 – Construction	<p>Various locations in the town of Drogheda</p> <p>Works to be completed in Q4 2024</p>	N/A
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 6 – Construction	<p>Various locations in the town of Dundalk</p> <p>Works to be completed in Q4 2024</p>	N/A

Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee	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 6 – Construction	<p>In accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended, proposed works at schools 1, 3 &amp; 4 were advertised in the local press and Consult Louth for a period of two weeks from Tuesday 9th July to Tuesday 23rd July last and inclusive.</p> <p>Works relating to Rehab Care on Mill Street, will be incorporated as part of Mill Street, Active Travel Project.</p> <p>Works are underway in Dundalk &amp; Drogheda and are expected to be completed by mid-December 2024</p> <p>Below are images of Sundays Gate Drogheda Works.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	N/A

					
<p>Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2)</p> <p>1. Bellurgan National School  2. Callystown National School  3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge  4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk</p>	€125,000	Band 1 €0 - €5M	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. Section 38 to be displayed by Q1 2025</p> <p>It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in Q1 2025 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025.</p>	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 Dramhaíola agus Sheirbhísí Tréidliachta.

Tá cúig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Inbhuanaitheacht
- 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
- Sustainability
- Veterinary Services
- Human Resources

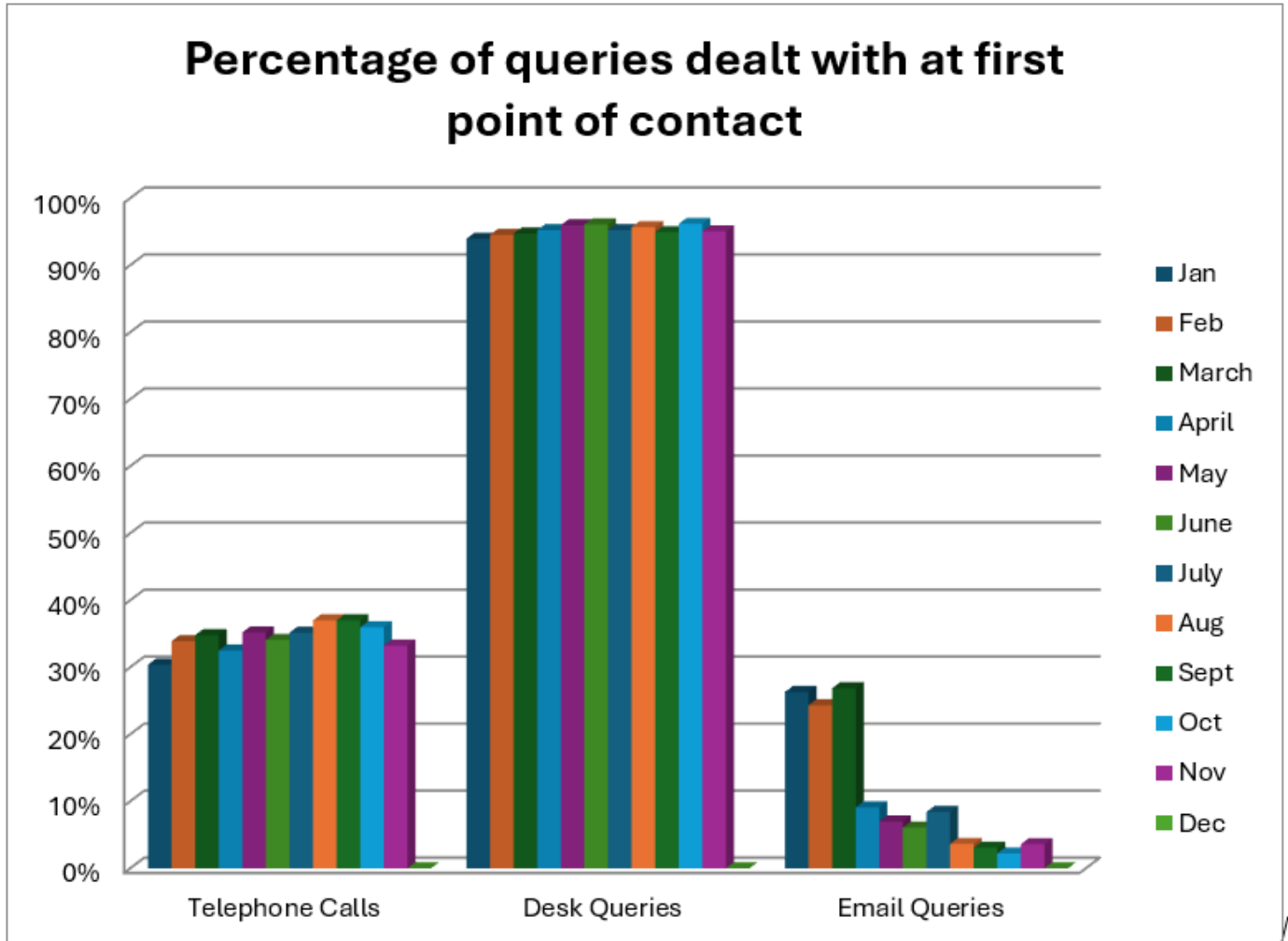


David Hanratty  
A/Stiúrthóir / A/Director of Service

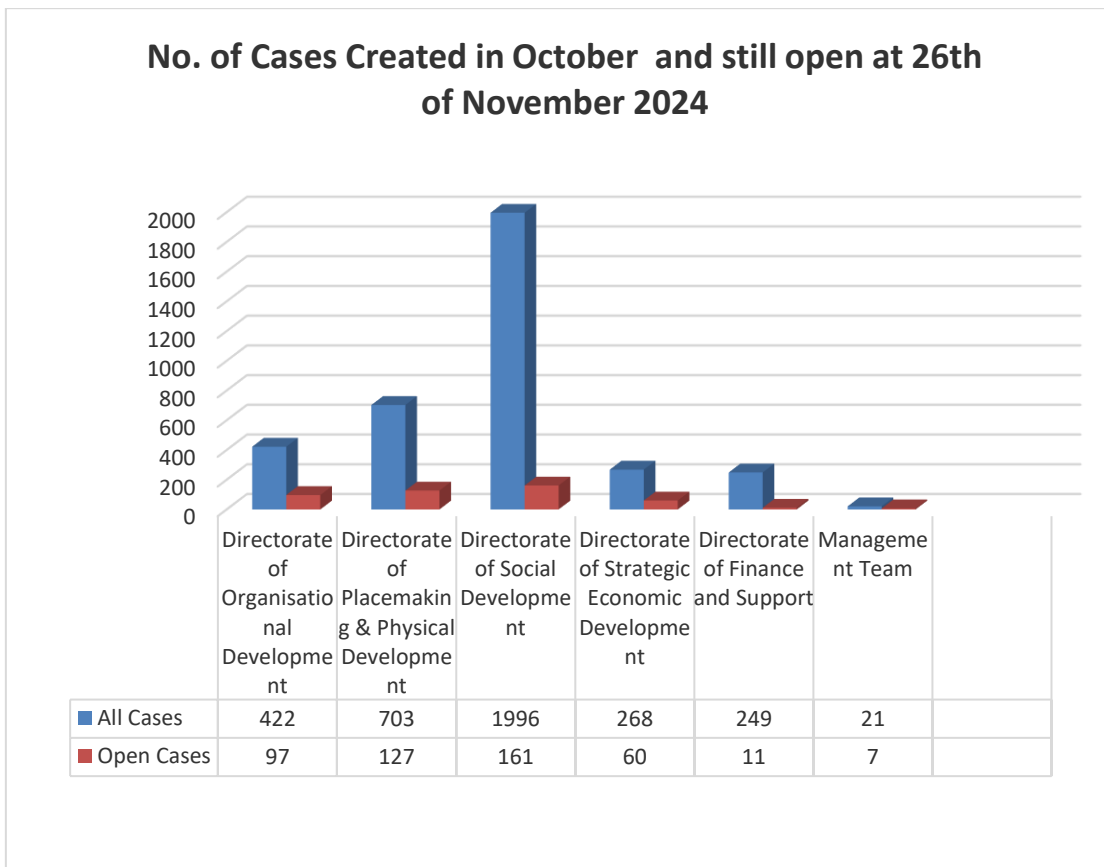
## Seirbhísí Corporáideacha / Corporate Services

### Tuairisc ar Sheirbhísí Custaiméirí / Customer Services Report

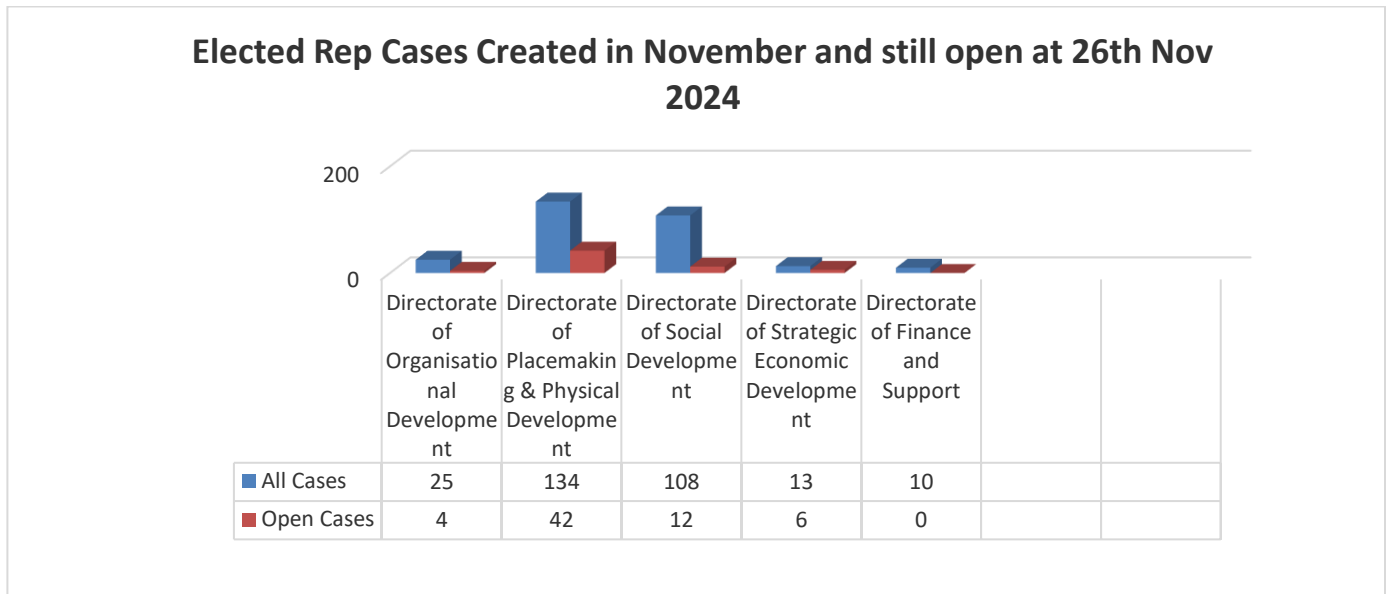
During the month of Nov 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries 8620 calls, 1252 e-mails and 6953 counter queries.



There were 3659 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during November of which 463 (12.6%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During November 2024, 290 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 64 (22 %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan- Nov	2024 Total Jan - Nov	Nov only 2024
FOI Request	116	139	8
Data Subject Access Request (DSAR)	11	12	0
Data Protection Request	7	20	3
Access to Information on Environment (AIE) Information	19	16	2
Ombudsman's Request	19	21	2
Complaints under Complaints Procedure	36	36	1

### Clár Togthóirí / Electoral Register

Following the build up to the General Election, the Electoral Register finished as following on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Category	Number	Percentage
Total Electorate	101512	-
Total Electorate with DOB	99759	98.27%
Total Electorate with Eircode	100100	98.6%
Total Electorate with Contact No.	16503	16.25%
Total Electorate with DOB & Eircode	98494	97%
Total Electorate with PPSN	20100	19.8%

### Mayoral Visit to Derry City

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 Mayor of Drogheda Borough District Paddy McQuillan met with the Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council Lilian Seenoi-Barr prior to the FAI Cup Final.



## Tacaíocht Pobail / Community Support

### Contae Lú atá Báúil le hAois / Age Friendly Louth



### Age Friendly Ireland Awards 2024



The Ardee Garden Care & Repair project which provided free gardening services to older people in Co Louth was shortlisted for an award under the environment theme. Project partners including Dee Hub, Ardee Tidy Towns, An Garda Síochána and Age Friendly Louth attended the awards ceremony which took place in Santry Fingal.

Whilst not overall winners on the night the project partners received their certificate of achievement from Age Friendly Ireland in recognition of the local success and positive impact of the project in improving the lives of older people in the local area. The project has been part funded by the Ardee Municipal District Councillors through their discretionary fund.



Ardee Garden Care & Repair project partners receive their Certificate of Accreditation from Age Friendly Ireland.

### Older People Council Meeting (OPC) Meeting

The final Older People's Council meeting of 2024 was held on 27 November in the new civic offices in Drogheda. It was an opportunity for OPC members to view the new offices and review the many Age Friendly events, activities and projects delivered in 2024.

Active Travel presented on their proposals for active travel in the Drogheda area and a good discussion ensued about the OPC recommendations on foot of the walkability study along part of the R132 undertaken by age friendly this year.

Members of the economic development team provided an overview of the Age Friendly Business Training programme in 2024 which saw several new businesses achieve age friendly accreditation during 2024.

Age Friendly Healthy Homes Co Ordinator reported back to the members on the success of the local programme to date. Mary Fitzsimons, new Regional Manager, was introduced to the OPC and provided an update on regional and national events and activities.

Members also considered the work programme for 2025 which will include preparing and implementing a new Age Friendly Strategy for Co Louth.

### Training & Development

Members of the Age Friendly Team attended training on the use of the Place Standard Tool. This tool helps people think about their local area in terms of the built physical environment and the social,

cultural and community resources located within an area.

The Community Office will be running training in 2025 for OPC members and it is envisaged the tool will be used to assist with walkability audits and accessibility studies helping older people recognise the positive resources in their community and identify issues for improvement.

## Louth Comhairle na nOg

Louth Comhairle na nOg held their annual conference in the Redeemer FRC in Dundalk on 17<sup>th</sup> November. 108 young people from all over County Louth came together to have their voices heard on local issues. The day was a mixture of workshops, discussions, feedback on 2024 activity and of course fun.

The day started with breakfast and straight into an ice breaker Human Bingo game. This got the young people interacting and talking to other young people they have never met before.

Dundalk Comhairle na nOg Chair Erin Myers welcomed everyone and introduced the four workshops for the day. They included Storytelling, Crafts, Drama and Discussions. The young people enjoyed the variety of workshops and gave plenty of feedback in the discussion groups.

The discussions focused on four key themes selected by the Comhairle members themselves in their planning sessions in the lead up to the event. All young people got to identify issues and possible solutions. The issues were Education, Community, Mental Health and Quality of Life. The attendees worked with trained facilitators from the Comhairle na nOg team to clearly identify the issues and then to identify what can be done to improve these issues for young people. These discussions will be the basis for the workplan for Louth Comhairle na nOg in 2025.

After lunch the Louth Comhairle na nOg members updated the conference on their projects for 2025. In what was an extremely busy year the members highlighted the Cross Broder work that has been completed to date with Newry and Mourne Youth

Council. In addition, the young people launched their new online E Zine for young people called "iILúminate".

Sophie Campbell from Dunleer is the current National Executive representative and she outlined the work of the National Executive for 2024 and plans for 2025. School Stress is the overall topic for the National Executive, and they are currently exploring mechanisms to support teachers to recognise signs of stress in young people and secondly provide help for students.

Kayla Bannon and Aisling Sauramba from Mid Louth made a presentation on the Cross Border project with Newry and Mourne and Down Youth Council. The project involved a series of dialogue events, study trip and residentials. The young people got to visit Dail Eireann and Stormont during the project. The project also saw the young people develop a set of films highlighting their expectations for the future.

Yasmin Milligan and Victoria Bodhurin then launched "iILúminate" which is the new youth magazine for young people in Louth. The magazine contains information, articles, things to do and lists lots of support agencies that can provide help to young people when they need it. The magazine is available online and will continue in 2025.

The event was great fun and had a very positive atmosphere. Louth Comhairle na nOg will continue with its projects in 2025 based on the suggestions of the young people at this event.



*Participants at Louth Comhairle na nOg Annual Conference*

## Public Participation Network (PPN)

Louth PPN's Community & Voluntary Awards 2024 took place on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> in the Imperial Hotel in Dundalk. These awards are an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the fantastic work being carried out by community groups across the County. Louth PPN collaborated with Louth Volunteer Centre for the awards this year. Louth PPN's recipients represented each of the 3 pillars of Louth PPN's membership and were as follows:

- Community & Voluntary – Cooley Community Alert
- Social Inclusion – Drogheda & District Support 4 Older People
- Environmental – Haggardstown Tidy Towns



**PPN Community & Voluntary Awards 2024**



**Launch of iLUminate Youth Ezine**

A meeting of all Louth PPN Representatives took place in the Outcomers premises in Dundalk on Monday November 18<sup>th</sup>. This meeting brought all of Louth PPN's community representatives together to discuss collective issues of concern to the community and how these issues may be discussed and dealt with within the structures of the Local Authority.

Louth PPN's workers attended the National PPN Worker's Meeting which took place on November 21<sup>st</sup>. This meeting brings all PPN workers together at a national level to discuss matters affecting PPNs nationwide.

Louth PPN offered its members the opportunity to participate in "Writing Effective Funding Applications" training which took place online on the evening of Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup>

Louth PPN held its final Secretariat meeting of 2025 on Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> in The Mill in Drogheda.

## Healthy Louth

### LMETB – Wellbeing Day – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Healthy Louth took part in O'Fiaich Institute's Wellbeing Day, where we had the opportunity to engage with students interested in learning more about mental and physical health. The event was enhanced by Rory's Stories, whose energy and enthusiasm inspired many, as well as the support of other local organisations that helped make the day a success. It was a valuable experience and a reminder of the collective efforts to build a healthier community in Louth.



**Ms. Paula Keenan and Ms. Louise Larkin attending O'Fiaich Institute's Wellbeing Day**

### Healthy Louth Newsletter – 12th edition, released November 2024

Healthy Louth has published the 12th edition of its newsletter, providing stakeholders with the latest updates on health and wellbeing initiatives and events taking place across the county. This resource provides updates on health and wellbeing

programmes and events happening across Louth, aligned with Healthy Ireland themes such as:

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

The Healthy Louth Newsletter continues to serve as a valuable tool for signposting health and wellbeing resources and engaging the community.

For more information or to view the current edition, visit

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/community/programmes/healthy-louth/healthy-louth-monthly-newsletter/>

### **Dear Future Me – Football Blitz at Redeemer Family Resource Centre – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The 'Dear Future Me' project hosted a fantastic Football Blitz at the Redeemer Family Resource Centre, Dundalk, featuring six youth teams showcasing incredible teamwork and energy. Youth Work Ireland Louth emerged as the winners, with strong participation from Mid Louth Youth Services, Blackrock Youth Club, Southside Youth Club, and The House – Cox's Demesne Youth and Community Project. Healthy Louth was delighted to support this event, which celebrated youth engagement and community spirit. Funded by Creative Ireland, Creative Wellbeing in the Community, and the Shared Island Fund.



*'Dear Future Me' Football Blitz at Redeemer Family Resource Centre*

### **Health & Wellness Fair – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Healthy Louth participated in the Health & Wellness Fair hosted by AkiDwA at Dundalk Sports Centre. This event provided an excellent opportunity to network with other organisations and explore collaborative approaches to promoting health and well-being within the community.

The fair facilitated valuable discussions on supporting healthier communities and aligning efforts to address shared goals.

This engagement reinforces our commitment to fostering partnerships that enhance community wellness.



*Participants at the Health & Wellness Fair in Dundalk Sports Centre*

### **Enabling Wellbeing - The Role of Early Intervention & Prevention - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The Healthy Louth Coordinator attended the "Enabling Wellbeing Webinar – The Role of Early Intervention & Prevention," held on Monday, 18th November 2024. The session featured expert speakers, including Dr. Austin O'Carroll, a Dublin Inner City GP; Grainne Berrill, Director for the National Office for Community Safety; Colma Nic Lughadha, National CYPSC Coordinator; Dr. Aoibhinn Walsh from Children's Health Ireland; and Diarmaid Lawlor from the Scottish Futures Trust. These presenters shared valuable insights into the role of early intervention and prevention in promoting wellbeing. If you missed the webinar, the recording and presentations are available to download via the link below: <https://hilocalgov.ie/resources/enabling-wellbeing-webinar-the-role-of-early-intervention-prevention-download-and-presentations-available/>

## Place Standard Event – Rush, Fingal – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

The Healthy Louth Coordinator, along with representatives from the Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee, the Age Friendly Programme Manager for Louth, and Public Realm, attended training on using the Place Standard Tool at an event in Rush, Fingal. The event was organised by Fingal Regeneration Team in collaboration with Healthy Fingal. It was a very worthwhile event, providing valuable insights into how local environments impact health and wellbeing. We intend to share the learning with our colleagues here in Louth to enhance future community engagement and planning efforts.

## ‘Dear Future Me’ Project – Launch Heroes Quest

Healthy Louth, in collaboration with Dundalk Youth Centre, launched the Heroes Quest project as part of the 'Dear Future Me' initiative. This series of events, running over several weeks at Stephenstown Pond, celebrates Louth's rich mythology through engaging storytelling and crafts, focusing on Cúchulainn and the Táin Bó Cúailnge.

Funded by Creative Ireland under the Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community and Shared Island Initiative, the programme offers young people a unique opportunity to connect with local heritage while fostering creativity and learning.



Launch of Heroes Quest Project at Stephenstown Pond

## LEADER Programmes

**LEADER**  
Development led by local communities

### LEADER 2023-2027 Programme

The LEADER 2023-2027 Programme continues to support private enterprises and community groups to improve the quality of life and economic activity in communities throughout County Louth. There is approximately €3.75 million available for project funding in Louth throughout the life of this Programme.



L-R Mr Ciaran Reid, CEO Louth Local Development, Mr. Dermot McArdle, GR Eight Entertainment & Mr Finbar Gethins, Chief Officer Louth LCDC

Louth LCDC signed a contract with GR Eight Entertainment Ltd for the new GR Eight Social project, which will be in the centre of Dundalk, on Park Street. This project was awarded €196,588.00 of LEADER Funding and will consist of a bowling alley, advanced AR games and meeting space. This is the first project awarded funding under the LEADER 2023-2027 Programme.

### LEADER Project Funding Approved

The LAG at its November meeting approved funding support, in the amount of €41,047.27 for one LEADER project. The project supported is located in the Louth Village area.

### 2024 LEADER Targeted Call

The LEADER Targeted Call for 2024 was advertised during November inviting expressions of interest under the Theme of Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment & Climate Change Mitigation & Adaption.

## Louth In Bloom 2024 Awards Ceremony

The Community Section of the Council proudly hosted the third "in-person" Louth in Bloom awards ceremony at Bellingham Castle on the evening of Wednesday 30th October 2024, celebrating the hard work, dedication and passion that our community invest in making our county beautiful.

The essence of the ceremony revolved around acknowledging remarkable accomplishments across eight diverse categories including housing estates, best gardens, best presented hospitality and business premises, biodiversity and sustainable innovation. The Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council and the respective Cathaoirleach from each Municipal and Borough District unveiled the winners, while our esteemed guest speaker on the night – author, environmentalist and native of County Louth - Ms. Éanna Ní Lamhna presented the awards.

The evening culminated with Acting Director of Service, David Hanratty congratulating all of the winners and announcing the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution Award – Mr. Pat Roche, Dunleer Tidy Towns.



**Mr. Pat Roche, Dunleer Tidy Towns, receiving the Outstanding Contribution Award**



**Members of Blackrock Park Committee – Overall County Winner in the Best Sustainable Innovative Initiative for their Sustainable Lighting Project**

## PEACEPLUS



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



PEACEPLUS  
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government

A Pre-Procurement meeting was held with stakeholders who may be interested in submitting a tender for a PEACEPLUS project. Details of PEACEPLUS Procurement are available via the PEACEPLUS section of the website. The PEACEPLUS Procurement Plan was also published on the website, alongside the slides from the meeting.

A training provider was procured to deliver Tender Submission Training for those who are interested in submitting a tender under PEACEPLUS. It is envisaged that this training will be held in January 2025.

Invitations to join the PEACEPLUS Tender Assessment Panel have been circulated. The aim of establishing these Assessment Panels is to streamline the Tender Evaluation stage and to ensure that resources are not always being pulled from the same pool. Those on the panels comprise those working within the Council or externally, who have previous PEACE or procurement experience, or who have worked in the area being procured, i.e. Youth, Sports, etc, or worked with the target groups.

A wreath laying ceremony organised by ONE (Óglaih Náisiúnta na hÉireann) took place at the Dundalk WWI Memorial. The memorial was funded under PEACE IV.



**Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Dundalk WWI Memorial**

## Local Authority Integration Team

The Team held their second information sessions in the libraries in Drogheda and Dundalk. The sessions were focused on Road Safety. Attendees were given a presentation by An Garda Síochána and The Road Safety Authority around taking care on the roads over winter. They were also given access to a driver simulator which simulate driving conditions on Irish roads.

## Ukraine Humanitarian Response

### Offer A Home Programme Property Figures as at 30/11/2024

Properties offered in November	1
Families moved into properties in November	0
Expressions of interest in being accommodated received from families in November	5
Property offers recorded to date	80
Owners successfully contacted to date	79
Properties currently occupied	39
Beneficiaries currently assigned	133
Assessments carried out to date	57
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable to date	40
Properties with minor works required	0
Properties withdrawn to date	19
Properties not viable to date	21



**Attendees at the Road Safety Information Session**



**Road Safety Information Sessions**

### Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme (ERUP) to date

Since the 31<sup>st</sup> of October the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) are no longer accepting offers of commercial accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.

Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP	38
Unsuitable / withdrawn	30
DCEDIY Letters of Intent Issued to date	11
DCEDIY Letters of Intent Withdrawn	3
No. of beds combined for delivery	635
DCEDIY contracts issued to date	4
No of beds delivered*	375 incl LCC refurb

\*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

AkiDwA held a Health and Wellness Fair in the Dundalk Sports Centre on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The event was attended by medical service providers, the Irish Red Cross and other agencies. Attendee's had access to medical screening and other information on the day. The Integration team met IPAS and BOTP residents on the day.

The LAIT team were invited to the Ukraine Civil Society Forum event in Dublin to mark 1,000 days since the war broke out. The purpose of the event was to support the Ukrainian community and share experiences.



## Sport

### Dundalk Sports Centre Age Well

Age well classes continued for the month of November. They cater for over 50s and take place every Thursday at 4pm. The class is 45 minutes long, providing a full body workout to improve muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance. We provide many over 50s classes, but Age Well is our most advanced class using gym-based equipment such as barbells and power bags. The class has been successful and has recently been growing in numbers. Amazing strength in this picture as participants perform a side plank.



*Participants at an Age Well Class in Dundalk Sports Centre*

### Shortlisted for Active Ireland ‘Community Engagement Initiative of the Year Award’

Dundalk Sports Centre was shortlisted along with 4 other centres across the nation, for the Active Ireland ‘**Community Engagement Initiative of the Year in the Leisure, Health and Fitness Industry**’. The award only launched this year and was aimed at facilities who have gone above and beyond to engage the community through physical activity. Dundalk Sports Centre submitted our ‘Active Ageing’ programme for older adults which currently has 5 programmes on throughout the week along with social and educational events during the year. Unfortunately, we did not win this time around but were delighted to be shortlisted out of 28 entries.

### Lourdes Stadium

#### Bootcamp

The Lourdes stadium has hosted a total of five Bootcamps this year with a steady number of 10

participants per bootcamp. The last two bootcamps of the year tested out the new MUGA area. The final bootcamp of the year took place this month and is due to finish in December. The bootcamp entailed a mix of cardio and strength classes.



*Bootcamps at Lourdes Stadium*

## Louth Local Sports Partnership

### Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

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

#### Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	Online

#### Social Media

Activity	Date	Venue
Social Media for Community Groups	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	Online

### 2024 Volunteer in Sport Awards a huge success

Louth Local Sports Partnership hosted the 2nd Annual Louth ‘Sports Club’ Volunteer of the Year Awards on Monday, November 11th, celebrating the remarkable contributions of volunteers who dedicate their time to fostering sport and physical activity opportunities across Co. Louth. Held at the Carrickdale Hotel, the event brought together elected members, NGB representatives, sports

clubs, and family members, to honour these outstanding volunteers who are essential to the county's vibrant sports culture.

In a spectacular evening hosted by Sky Sports presenter and Boyne Rugby Club member Kieran O'Sullivan, 109 volunteers from sports clubs across Louth were recognised for their selfless commitment to their communities. Each sports club nominated a volunteer to be celebrated for their dedication to creating and sustaining local sporting opportunities.

The event opened with a welcoming address by Leas Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr John Reilly, who emphasised the vital role of volunteers in making sport and physical activity accessible throughout the county. Oreena Lawless, Chairperson of Louth Local Sports Partnership, also expressed her gratitude to the staff at Louth LSP for organising the event, applauding the evening's success and the dedication of the volunteers. Other key speakers included Louise Burke, Director of Participation at Sport Ireland, and Graham Russell, Head of Sport at Louth County Council, who further highlighted the significance of volunteering in Irish sport.

The evening featured inspiring on-stage interviews, including members of the Louth Disability Cycling Club, who shared their mission to make cycling and physical activity accessible for children and adults with additional needs. Brenda Hill and Sarah McEneaney of Parkrun also spoke on stage, discussing the growth of Parkrun in Louth and the invaluable role of volunteers in its sustainability. The final interview of the night featured Claire Louise O'Donoghue from the Federation of Irish Sport and Graham Russell, who underscored the importance of volunteerism in Irish Sport and highlighted the upcoming National Volunteer in Sport Awards.

Volunteering in sport is an integral part of community life across Ireland, with over 450,000 people giving their time every week to ensure that sporting activities continue in communities nationwide. Volunteers play essential roles, from coaching teams and preparing pitches to organising events and supporting every level of participation, often without any expectation of recognition or reward.

The Louth 'Sports Club' Volunteer of the Year Awards is a tribute to these unsung heroes, whose dedication keeps the spirit of sport alive in Co. Louth and beyond.



*2024 Volunteer in Sport Awards at the Carrickdale Hotel*

### **Louth LSP 2023 Annual Report published**

Louth LSP was delighted to publish its annual report for 2023 highlighting the work and impact of the organisation as required under the Governance Code for Sport. The report outlines the progress of Louth LSP's work including:

- The number of people participating in Louth LSP supported initiatives.
- The number of programmes and initiatives organised.
- Building capacity of local sports clubs and organisations providing opportunities for people to get physically active.
- Supporting volunteers across all sports and physical activities in the sector

A full copy of the report is available for download from [www.louthlsp.com](http://www.louthlsp.com)



all/everyone...Uile go leir as Gaeilge. The project will provide support, opportunities and initiatives that are proven to improve physical and mental health, reduce crime levels, provide positive outlets for people of all ages and abilities, and in doing so, bring communities closer together.



**Launch of SportUile in Drogheda**

### Federation of Irish Sport Volunteer in Sport Awards launched

Double Olympic hurdler Sarah Lavin was on hand to lend her voice to the launch of the 2024 Volunteers in Sport Awards, a national celebration of the extraordinary individuals who contribute to the vibrant fabric of Irish sports.

Hosted by the Federation of Irish Sport and supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships, these prestigious awards recognise the selfless volunteers who dedicate their time, skills, and passion to support sports clubs and community organisations across Ireland.

- Supported by the Sport Ireland National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships
- Nominations open from 12th November – 17th December 2024
- To nominate a volunteer visit [volunteersinsport.ie](http://volunteersinsport.ie)

The 2024 Volunteers in Sport Awards will bring together individuals from all 32 counties to celebrate their commitment to fostering participation and ensuring that sport is accessible to all. Their contributions not only inspire communities but also enable clubs and organisations to thrive, supporting social cohesion and well-being across Ireland. Without their dedication, many sporting opportunities simply would not exist.

### SportUile – ‘Driving Change through Sport’ launched in Drogheda

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, Minister for Sport and Physical Education, Thomas Byrne launched an exciting new project ‘SportUile’ for the Drogheda and East Meath area, which aims to deliver on the objectives of the Drogheda Implementation Plan through the medium of Sport and Physical Activity.

The project which has secured multi-annual funding from Sport Ireland and the Local Authorities in both Louth and Meath, is a collaboration between the Local Sports Partnerships in Meath & Louth. The funding was secured on the strength of a proposal put forward by the two Sports Partnerships, entitled ‘Driving Change Through Sport’.

The 5-year project, endorsed by the Drogheda Implementation Board, has initially secured €200,000 per year, for the first three years from Sport Ireland to employ three Sports Development staff to work directly in the communities of Drogheda and East Meath. Meath and Louth County Councils will each provide an additional €60,000 in funding to support the work of SportUile in these communities.

SportUile by its very name, encompasses unity, bringing together the different sectors of community life. It is a bi-lingual title where Sport represents the vehicle for change and “Uile” meaning

Nominations are now open, and the awards celebration will take place in Dublin in February 2025.



### **Her Moves Introduction to Martial Arts kicks off in Dundalk**

Louth LSP teamed up with Hybrid Martial Arts club in Dundalk this month to develop a HER Moves introduction programme for teenage girls aged 13-17 years. The aim of the programme is to introduce the girls to a new sport while using the 8 principles of HER Moves as guidance.

The girls will complete an 8-week programme, and the hope is that they will join the club and become members in 2025.



### **Beach Wheelchairs secured for Blue Flag Beaches**

Louth LSP successfully secured €10,000 in funding to provide three accessible Beach Wheelchairs for Port, Templetown and Clogherhead beaches.

The grant was secured by Louth Local Sports Partnership through the Healthy Ireland Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Fund - which is administered by Sport Ireland.

The grant aims to help the National Swimming Strategy and encourage more people to participate in water sports, especially outdoor swimming.

## **Inbhuanaitheacht/Sustainability**

### **Sustainability Waste Enforcement Summary of Complaints**

A total of 13 complaints were received and investigated by the Waste Enforcement team in November 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

A total number of 244 complaints have been received in 2024 to date.

Waste Facility Permits/Certificates of registration:  
One Waste Facility permit review application is currently being reviewed in November. There is also an additional Waste Facility Permit application under Class 5 for the backfilling of soil and stone which is currently being assessed.

To date in 2024, 19 site inspections have been carried out by waste enforcement staff at waste authorised sites. This includes 2 multi-agency inspections.

Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Byelaws 2019  
Four Fixed Payment Notices (FPNs) were issued in November under the above byelaws for failing to remove bins from a public place at Chapel Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth. FPN payments which have not been received within the 21 days will now be referred for legal action.

Bin presentation surveys are continuing to be carried out in areas of Dundalk where presentation and storage of bin receptacles is an issue. FPN's will be issued accordingly.

To date this year 17 FPN's have been issued under the Waste byelaws.



- Chapel Street, Dundalk
- Williamson's Place, Dundalk
- Hill Street Bridge, Dundalk
- Hoey's Lane, Dundalk
- Various locations in North County Louth

### Diesel Laundering Waste

There was 1 Integrated Bulk Container (IBCs) dumped in November 2024 costing approximately €1,250 to clean up. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is €44,933.50.

### Litter Enforcement & Investigations

Litter wardens continue to deal with all litter matters within the county daily responding to complaints from members of the public, councillors and engaging with tidy towns groups and communities.

In November, Litter Wardens completed 71 investigations in response to dumping reported by members of the public. 8 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in November where evidence was found under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.



A 5-hour foot patrol was carried out by all Litter Wardens in November covering Drogheda Town and the large estates in Drogheda. The main emphasis of this foot patrol was to raise awareness of cleaning-up after your dog.

Attached are some photos of waste and clean ups carried out by Louth County Council Litter Wardens throughout the county:





the Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries for cross compliance. (see below)



## **Environmental Regulation**

### Water Quality and complaints

Three Water pollution complaints were received in November, two of which related to general water pollution and one related to an agriculture complaint. Investigations and site visits were carried out in all cases and all complaints were investigated with one complaint remaining open.

### Air Pollution Complaints

Two air pollution complaints were received this month. They were investigated and closed out.

### Noise Pollution Complaints

Six noise pollution cases were received of which four have been closed out and two are in progress.

### Farm survey Inspections

During the month of November, the Council carried out 14 planned farm survey inspections under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Complaints were received in October and November regarding a discharge from a farm to a stream. Following inspection and sampling it was referred to

### River Water sampling and Water framework directive

Routine surveillance and operational monitoring of rivers for the water framework directive programme and EPA schedule has been completed for November 2024.

### Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 17 monitoring results received by the Council in November for Section 4 Discharge Licences.

### Licensed landfills

Quarterly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate was carried out in November at Dundalk landfill, Drogheda and Whiteriver landfills as required by EPA licence. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at Dundalk, Drogheda and Whiteriver as required by EPA licences for the site. Biological monitoring at Whiteriver landfill was carried out as required by the licence. One incident was uploaded onto the EPA EDEN website in November. This related to flare operation at Drogheda landfill. The incident has now been rectified and closed off.

### Septic Tanks

One septic tank advisory notice was closed off this month. All advisory notices in relation to septic tank

inspections conducted in 2024 have now been closed off.

## **Rural Water Programme**

### **Capital Funding for Group Schemes**

The 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 (MARWP) 2024 – 2026. The Department has now processed these applications, and we will liaise with the Group Water Schemes in due course.

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**

In November €16,457.45 was paid in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells).

### **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**

One application was received in November for Lead Replacement.

## **Climate Action**

### **Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029**

The Climate Action Team continue to implement the Council's Climate Action Plan, 2024 – 2029.

Climate action topics are being prepared to help inform the drafting of the new Sustainability SPC work program.

The Climate Action Team recently attended several in person and online webinars on the DZ Zone which were run by CARO, focusing on building environment opportunities, community activation and natural environment opportunities.

### **EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change**

Members of the 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.

The Council has applied for funding from the EU government's CLIMAAX project, to carry out an enhanced climate risk assessment for County Louth.



### **Climate outreach**

The Climate Action Team have continued to support the Creative Ireland funded Louth Urban Food sanctuary project.

The Climate Action Team recently attended the LUFFS Food Fair, taking place in the Hospitality Building of DKIT to support the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary Project.

The Climate Action Team attended the Louth Science Festival Fair in Dundalk and Drogheda to support the festival and speak to members of the public on climate action.

The Community Climate Action Officer also delivered two workshops to schools in the County as part of Louth Science Festival on Climate Action.

### **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 Officer has contacted 22 successful groups who have been approved for funding under the Community Climate Action Fund to discuss their projects. The 22 successful groups continue to work with the Community Climate Action Officer as they enter the delivery phase of their projects.

### **Biodiversity Action**

End of year funding reports have been completed and grant claims recouped for funding allocated for biodiversity action in 2024.

Claims have been made for funding allocated under the National Parks and Wildlife Service administered Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF).

Projects included:

- The Baltray Little Tern Conservancy
- The Louth Swift Project
- Louth Parks, Biodiversity Action & Awareness
- Recording Irish Mayfly – Establishing Conservation Status

Co-funding from the NPWS and Louth County Council through LBAF has helped to strengthen protection for vulnerable bird species like terns and swifts.

The Louth Swift Project has helped to identify vulnerable Swift nests in Louth, with nest boxes provided for more than 120 breeding pairs to be installed in high-risk, priority areas by the end of 2025.

The fund enabled the Little Tern Conservancy Project at Baltray to provide 1,500 hours 'wardening' at the site. Project actions helped to reduce site disturbance, providing physical protection for nests with more than 167 chicks fledging. A record year!

Nearly 300 people attended events focused on biodiversity issues and actions in 2024, helping to raise awareness of the importance of Louth's biodiversity and the types of actions that can be taken.

Claims have been made for funding allocated under the Heritage Council administered Local Biodiversity

Action Plan Grant Scheme for funding associated with the development of a Louth Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and the establishment of a Louth Biodiversity Working Group.

A Pre-Draft Consultation on the Louth County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan was launched at the inaugural meeting of the Louth Biodiversity Working Group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The Council are seeking feedback on how to address biodiversity loss locally and what actions should be prioritised in Louth to inform the development of the Plan. Submissions are sought from all interested parties including members of the public, community groups and organisations during this first phase of the development of the Plan. A series of drop-in events will be held over the 6 week consultation period. The consultation closes at 4pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024.



### **Council Facilities**

#### Drogheda Fair Street Machinery Yard Security Update

The Councils Facilities Team has engaged a competent Contractor to implement comprehensive security upgrades at the Drogheda Fair Street Machinery Yard. The planned works include:

- Underground automation of the vehicle gate, including safety sensors
- Access control systems for the vehicle gate, featuring a long-range reader
- Access controls for the machinery office door and clocking-in machine door
- Pedestrian gate access control
- Installation of 11 additional high-definition megapixel IP cameras.

Work is expected to commence in December 2024.



Current access to Fair Street Machinery Yard, off Greenlanes, Drogheda

### Drogheda Fair Street Francis Johnson Building Planned Upgrades 2025

Planning for Upgrade of the Council's Francis Johnson Building at Fair Street Drogheda is almost complete and the works are expected to be offered for tender shortly. Council staff (Energy Team and the County Louth Fire Service Building Control Representative) met with Consultant Design Engineers to finalise the procurement documents.

### Drogheda Aura Car Park

The Facilities Team recently completed refurbishment works around the Drogheda Aura Leisure Centre Carpark and associated areas. Works undertaken included:

- Removal and resurfacing of four ramps to match surroundings or restore as required.
- Installation of six modular plastic speed ramps along the access road.
- Cleaning and adjustment of tactile paving for the new crossing point.
- Removal of trees posing tripping hazards.



Repair works on ramps at Drogheda Aura Leisure Centre



Resurfacing and repair works on ramps at Drogheda Aura Leisure Centre



Cleaning and adjustment of tactile paving for the new crossing point at Drogheda Aura Leisure Centre



New modular plastic speed ramps at Drogheda Aura Leisure Centre

### Millmount Governors House Boiler Upgrade

In October, the Council replaced a 40+ year-old, floor-mounted, inefficient gas boiler at the Governors House at the Millmount Complex in Lagavooren, Drogheda. The outdated system was upgraded with a newly commissioned 30kW Condensing Gas Boiler, complete with a circulating pump set and motorised valve sets, significantly improving energy efficiency and operational performance.



New 30kW condensing Gas Boiler installed at the Governors House, Millmount, Drogheda

### Millmount Museum LED Lighting Upgrades

Electrical improvement works began in November at Museum, Millmount to replace existing internal and external light fittings and lamps to low energy LED lights. This will result in an energy saving of up on 8,500kWh of electricity annually, with an annual carbon dioxide emission reduction of 5,047kgs or the equivalent of 1.38 acres of forest being added or taking one car off the road for one year.

### Christmas Street Lights in Drogheda

In November, the Council's Energy Team, collaborated with the Council's electrical contractor and the local area engineer for ESB Networks, to undertake measures to improve safety and security for festive lighting at public streets in Drogheda. The works related to seven electrical mini-pillars and junction boxes housing electrical meters and switchgear for the Christmas lighting. These preparations were meticulously carried out ahead of the scheduled switch-on event in Drogheda Town Centre on 15th November, which was officially inaugurated by Trevor Connolly, CEO of Love Drogheda.

The switch-on was well attended in Drogheda, and prominently featured on the Love Drogheda website

<https://www.lovedrogheda.ie/post/droghedas-christmas-light-switch-on-delights-thousands>



West Street Drogheda, illuminated with the festive lighting 15th November



Stockwell Lane, Drogheda, illuminated with the festive lighting 15th November

### Ardee Civic Centre Roof Work

The Council's Facilities Team is in the process of procuring a competent Contractor to undertake essential cleaning, repairs, and finish coating works at the Ardee Civic Office. The scope of works includes:

- Securing the site to ensure safe operations
- Removing all mechanical equipment from the roof area
- Stripping the damaged roof surface
- Repairing insulation as required
- Applying a new roof surface for durability and protection
- Reinstalling mechanical equipment with care
- Addressing and repairing internal damage

Works are expected to commence on site in December 2024.

### Bush Depot at Ballaverty, Plans Underway

Council staff from various sections (Energy in collaboration with the Placemaking and Physical Development – Operations team) are planning substantial upgrades to the Council's Bush Depot, which serves the Cooley Peninsula public roads

network. This depot, along with the outdoor staff stationed there, plays a critical role in daily operations, including the maintenance of footpaths, roadways, drainage systems, and emergency response activities.

The Bush Depot has been identified as a key strategic asset. As such, both teams are committed to replacing the existing, outdated facilities with modern, energy-efficient solutions



Drone Footage taken by the Facilities Team in October showing the site and boundary of the Bush Depot. Credit: Dean Hearty

## ENERGY

### Louth County Council Energy Use

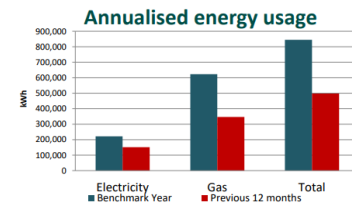
#### Optimising Power @Work Programme and Energy Initiatives

The Council's Energy Team conducted an early morning energy use inspection at Dundalk Town Hall on November 13th, which showed well managed energy use. The Key findings were as follows:

- 99.4% of approximately 160 lights were switched off, with only one left on.
- 100% of 78 computers were powered off.
- 100% of approximately 119 monitors were in standby mode, with none left on.
- Printers remained in standby mode as intended.
- No portable heaters were present, demonstrating adherence to energy policies.

The most recent monthly energy use report for Dundalk Town Hall, October 2024, indicated that since joining the scheme, the Council has reduced electricity used in the Town Hall by 32%, and heating gas consumption has been by 44%. Carbon emissions over the last twelve months have reduced by 40%. The figures demonstrate the Council's

commitment to improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.



Description	Electricity	Gas	Total
Benchmark Year	221,634	622,949	844,583
Previous 12 Months	151,370	346,661	498,032
<b>% Difference</b>	<b>-31.7%</b>	<b>-44.4%</b>	<b>-41.0%</b>

**% Difference Oct 2023**  
 Electricity: -31.7%  
 Gas: -58.2%  
 Total: -36.9%

#### Reducing Energy Use at Dundalk Town Hall

Overall, Energy consumption in this building has reduced by 41%.

#### Staff Awareness - Launch of Government's Reduce Your Use Energy Efficiency Campaign

The Council has decided to participate in the Government's **"Reduce Your Use"** energy efficiency campaign again this winter heating season 2024 - 2025. This initiative underscores the shared responsibility we all have in promoting energy efficiency and sustainability.

The Public Sector is required to lead by example to reduce the nation's energy demand. The campaign aims to achieve **5-10% energy savings across the sector**, with potential savings of up to **15% in buildings**.



Before the October Bank Holiday weekend, the Energy Office called on staff to help eliminate "energy vampires" silently draining power from our systems! Staff are encouraged to take proactive steps by switching off or unplugging any electronic devices not in use and not required over- night and at weekends.

#### Reduce your Use November '24

This month we are tackling Transport fuel use - avoiding trips where we can and shifting our mode

of transport to cheaper healthier active modes such as walking, cycling, and using public transport.

### SEAI Monitoring & Reporting 2030

The Council have completed SEAI's Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) 2030 Phase 2, which required uploading Council energy data. The next key date is 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024, when the Council's Final Scorecard will be issued by SEAI. After this, we expect SEAI to issue its annual report for public sector bodies by Q1 of 2025.

### Energy Audits Update

The final Energy Audits for a significant number of Council buildings have been completed. This work is an important milestone in implementing a roadmap to achieve the 2030 national targets for 50% energy efficiency and 5-0% reduction in Carbon Emissions.

### Display Energy Certificates Update

The Council has procured and engaged a service provider to provide Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for a significant number of Council buildings. This work is scheduled for completion by end December. DECs are displayed in the relevant buildings, in compliance with the Council's legal obligations and the requirements of ISO 50001 Accreditation.

### Non-Domestic Building Energy Ratings (NDBERs)

The Council has engaged a Consultant and is in the process of finalising arrangements for the Consultant to undertake Non-Domestic Building Energy Rating (NDBER) Certification for a select number of Council buildings, including:

- Dundalk Library and Bookstore
- Dundalk Museum
- Drogheda Fair Street

The completion of these certifications is a requirement for funding by SEAI's Pathfinder Programme. The Council is participating and reclaiming expenditure on Council energy projects through that programme by its membership of the Mid East Energy Unit.

## **Varcities Project Update - 'The Still'**

The Council presented on work at the Dundalk Pilot at the 60th World Planning Congress of ISOCARP - International Society of City and Regional Planners in Siena, Italy. The event was attended by more than 400 global experts to explore urban regeneration.



*Ursula Conlon, Louth County Council, with representatives from other partners at the 60th World Planning Congress of ISOCARP in Siena, Italy*

The session compared urban regeneration projects relying on nature-based interventions from around the world, focusing on resilience and sustainability!

Discover <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1400&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fvarcities.eu%2Fdundalk-presents-their-pilot-at-isocarp-world-planning-congress%2F&t=6e9cda1efb4cdf1bea29e7e9c279b733950e8dd6> more:

## **Seirbhísí Tréidliachta / Veterinary Services**

### **Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)**

As of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the Council's Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and fourteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County.

The section has carried out 133 inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir.

**Smacht ar Mhadraí / Control of Dogs**  
**Control of Dogs Act 1986**

Dogs through the pound November 2024	
Dogs through the pound November 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	16
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	6
Surrendered by owners	10
No dogs reclaimed by owners	2
No of dogs rehomed direct	4
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	5
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/11/2024	7

Dog Licences November 2024	
No of Licences sold	438
Licence Checks:	
House calls	102
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	91
Fixed Penalty Notices	6

**Control of Horses**  
**Control of Horses Act 1996**

Horses through the pound November 2024	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 30/11/2024	0

**Dog Breeding Establishments**

**Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010**

Dog Breeding Establishments November 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 30/11/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

**Opening of Dog Enrichment Park**

This month, the Cathaoirleach Councillor Kevin Callan carried out the official opening of the Dog Enrichment Park at the Pound in Dromiskin. This is the first of its kind in the country and is a fully enclosed, all-weather space that allows the dogs to regularly exercise and relax while they are at the pound. This has proven benefits to the health and wellbeing of the dogs in the pound. This was jointly funded by the Council and the Department of Rural and Community 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

### Ag Déileáil le hEaspa Dídine / Addressing Homelessness

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

**Tábla 1: Gníomhartha atá déanta ag Seirbhísí do Dhaoine gan Dídean / Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services**

20th October to 19th November 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	5	133	85	<b>223</b>
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	21	24	<b>45</b>
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	5	1	<b>6</b>
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Total number of Person who presented as Homeless	<b>5</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>274</b>

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

the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

**Tábla 2: Inscne / Table 2: Gender**

Gender	Total
Male	123
Female	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

**Tábla 3: Aoisghrúpaí / Table 3: Age Groups**

Age Group	Total
18-24	35
25-44	133
45-64	66
65+	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

**Tábla 4: Saghas Loistín / Table 4: Accommodation Type**

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	129
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	111
<b>Total unique individuals</b>	<b>240</b>

**Tábla 5: Teaghlaigh le paistí cleithiúnaí / Table 5 - Families with dependent children**

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	47	52	91
Couples with dependent children	20	40	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>149</b>

**Tábla 6: Tithíocht ar dtús / Table 6 - Housing First**

Number of tenancies established	47
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	35

**Leithdháileadh Tithíochta suas go dtí 18 Samhain 2024 / Housing Allocations up to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	40	10	3	1
Drogheda	139	22	189	16
Dundalk	111	11	119	12
Total	290	43	311	29

**Aistrithe / Transfers**

District	Number
Ardee	4
Dundalk	14
Drogheda	18
Total	36

**Liosta Tithe / Housing List**

18 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	373	678	1069	2120
HAP Transfer List	292	987	1626	2905
Total Housing List	665	1665	2695	5025

There are **331** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 70 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

**2024 Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2024**

The 2024 Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) has been completed. A total of 659 applicants required reassessment. A total of 421

applicants remain on the housing list. We are still waiting on further information from 21 applicants in order to reassess their files. A total of 217 applications were closed. Below is a breakdown of the closed files

Reason for Closure of Files	Number closed
Adequately Housed	12
Application Withdrawn	3
Long Term Care	11
Left Administrative Area	7
No Reply received	144
Over Income Threshold	33
Returned to Family	1
RIP	6

**Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta / Housing Assistance Payment**

The total number of applications in HAP is **2,905**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
292	987	1626	2905

**Bainisteoireacht Chíosa / Rent Management** The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **950**

Current Rents Arrears at 20th November 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	191	€73,946
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	176	€125,350
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	911	€3,253,860
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>€3,453,156</b>

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 November 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1 <sup>st</sup> Reminder	November 2024	83
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reminder	November 2024	90
Final Reminder	November 2024	35
<b>Total issued</b>		<b>208</b>

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 November 2024 (up to and including 20<sup>th</sup> November).

#### Airíonna Re Lig & Neamhní / Relet and Void Properties

Relet / Void Properties on 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	9
Dundalk Municipal District	17
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	26
<b>Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties</b>	<b>52</b>
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	2
<b>Total Number of Properties (Relets &amp; CPO)</b>	<b>54</b>

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

#### Cuairteanna Chothabhála / Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	21st October-20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	1094	7586
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	857	6286
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	184	950
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	53	350

#### Ríomhchlár Aisfheistithe Éifeachtúlachta Fuinnimh / 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
<b>Ardee MD:</b> Cherrywood Park, Tallanstown Smarmore, Ardee Ferdia Park, Ardee	47
<b>Dundalk MD:</b> Hillview Dundalk, Barton Park, Dundalk Market Street, Dundalk Defenders Row, Dundalk	32+10
<b>Drogheda BD:</b> Ascal a Haon/ Do/ Tri, Drogheda Sunnyside Cottages, Drogheda Rathmullan Park, Drogheda Bredin Street, Drogheda John Kirk Park, Clogherhead	61

Ten additional units have commenced in Barton Park, these are over the allocation of 140 but will be completed W/C 4<sup>th</sup> November. Should the DHLG have a shortfall in units these shall be recouped in 2024 otherwise they will come off the 2025 allocation.

**Cigireachtaí ar Tithe Príobháideacha atá ar fáil ar cíós / Private Rental Inspections**

	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>	<b>Total (YTD)</b>
Properties inspected monthly	139	1631
Advisory letters issued	127	1090
Improvement notices issued	1	19
Prohibition notices issued	0	2
Private Inspections	0	3
HAP First Inspections	109	971
RAS First Inspections	0	0
AHB First Inspections	0	442
Private Re-inspections	1	4
HAP Re-inspections	25	185
RAS Re-inspections	0	0
AHB Re-inspections	0	2
Inspections from Complaints	4	25
Properties Made Compliant	11	89

**Páirtíocht Tionóntachta / Tenancy Engagement**

<b>21<sup>st</sup> Oct to 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024</b>	<b>Drogheda<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Ardee</b>	<b>Dundalk</b>	<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>Yearly Total</b>
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	4	4	21	29	292
Post-tenancy inspections	22	4	13	39	198
Tenancy Investigation Visits	11	3	15	29	373

**Iompraíocht Fhrithshóisialta / Anti-Social Behaviour**

<b>21<sup>st</sup> Oct to 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024</b>	<b>Drogheda</b>	<b>Ardee</b>	<b>Dundalk</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Yearly</b>
ASB Cases* Received	5	1	10	16	178
ASB cases Ongoing	7	2	14	23	-
ASB cases complete	3	2	5	10	147

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

## Fógraí a D'eisigh le haghaidh Sáru Tionóntachta / Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

21 <sup>st</sup> Oct to 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	3	2	1	6	42
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	2
Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	9
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	5

## Déisiú agus Léas / Repair and Lease

There have been no Repair and Lease Applications submitted for the month of November.

## Tithíocht Inacmhainne / Affordable Housing

Affordable housing applications for two schemes in Drogheda have been submitted to DHLGH for funding which we are awaiting approval on. Developers of both schemes have given provisional completion dates before the end of quarter one 2025. Subject to funding approval, it is anticipated that promotion and advertising of both schemes will commence as soon as feasible. Discussions are ongoing with various other developers regarding further schemes in Drogheda and Dundalk area which are expected to come on stream in late 2025 and 2026.

## Morgáiste go Cíos (MGC) / Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

Active MTR Applications Total	35
AHB MTR Applications Active	19
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	14

Private MTR completed 2024	6
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	2

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

## Deontas Athchóirithe D'áras Folamh / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	231
Approved:	166
Rejected:	14
Withdrawn	26
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	25
Legal Stages before Funding issued	25
Funding Issued to Applicant	23
Principal Private Residence	173
Rental Applications	58

**Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil / Local Authority Home Loans**

<b>2024 Budget Allocation</b>	<b>€7,230,000</b>
LAHL Approvals at 21/11/2024	€3,191,520
<b>Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2024</b>	
Total Number of Applications at 21/11/2024	46
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	13
Approved	18
Declined	13
For Review	1
Outstanding – waiting on further information	7

**Gnóthaithee/Acquisitions**

The Council was actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants had been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council was purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability.

In November, the Council purchased one property in Dundalk. DHLGH has now advised the Council there is no further funding available for acquisitions in 2024.



*Recently acquired properties in Dundalk*

**Cúnamh Deontais do Sheandaoine agus do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas / 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, 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 requiring help with their application forms can contact the Louth Health Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator, Adrienne McCann at [amccann@meathcoco.ie](mailto: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 20/11/2024	74	15	332	-	421
Grants Approved 20/10/2024 to 20/11/2024	9	4	10	23	271



**Bathroom Adaptation in Dunleer completed in November part-funded by a HAG**



**Ferrard Park, Drogheda – Part V & Turnkey Housing**



**The official launch of Part V & Turnkey Housing at Ferrard Park, Drogheda. Tim Nulty (CFS Group), Joe McGuinness Temporary Chief Executive, Cllr. Kevin Callan Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paddy McQuillan Mayor of Drogheda and Ger Murphy Director of Services Social Development**



**Level Access Shower completed in Dundalk during November part-funded by a HAG**

**Seabrook, Dromiskin, Co. Louth**

The Council acquired 2 new 3-bedroom houses in the residential development at Seabrook, Dromiskin, Co. Louth. The housing units are A-Rated energy efficient homes and have been acquired through the Part V process.



**Seabrook, Dromiskin – Part V Housing**

**Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery**

**Ferrad Park, Twenties, Drogheda**

On 4<sup>th</sup> November the Council held the official launch of 28 new houses in the residential development of Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda. The units include a mix of 2 and 3 bedroom two-storey houses. All houses are A-Rated energy efficient homes. The houses have been delivered by the Council through SHCIP Part V and Turnkey funding at a cost of €8.8m.

## Seachadadh Caipitil Tithíochta / Capital Housing Delivery

### Seachadadh SHIP / SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamor, (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	30/09/2025	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	4	Stage 2 Approved	27/05/2026	2 * 2 bed, 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
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.
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	130	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	15/12/2027	52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1 bed Apt
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/3	4	Completed	03/10/2024	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	2/3	4	On-site	31/03/2025	4 * 3 bed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	3/3	4	On-site	30/06/2025	4 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site	31/03/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	Completed	22/08/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	Completed	13/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	Completed	03/10/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	Completed	05/11/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee, Co. Louth	1/1	20	On-site	28/02/2025	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoeys Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Contract Awarded	30/09/2025	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed

Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/12/2025	2 * 4 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	2/3	8	On-site	30/06/2025	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/2026	1 * 2 bed
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	2/3	12	Completed	16/10/2024	6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex
Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows	3/3	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2026	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Bothar Glas / Ard Patrick, Green Road, Louth Village	1/1	5	Completed	02/09/2024	5 * 3 bed
Medebawn Court, Dundalk	1/1	2	Completed	04/09/2024	1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex
Seabrook, Commons Road, Dromiskin	1/1	2	Completed	07/11/2024	2 * 3 bed
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	1/2	12	On-site	30/06/2025	12 * 1 bed Apt
Seven Winds, North Road, Drogheda	2/2	24	On-site	31/12/2025	12 * 2 bed Apt, 12 * 3 bed Duplex

## Seachadadh CAS / 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	30/11/2024	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	15/09/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 2 approved	02/09/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

## Seachadadh CALF / 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	31/12/2024	* 26 Three Bed Houses * 11 Two Bed Houses
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/6	On Site	31/12/2024	* 16 Two Bed Houses * 40 Three Bed Houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	3/3	40	36/4	On Site	31/12/2024	* 19 One Bed Apts * 12 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	31/12/2024	* 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	15/12/2024	* 27 One Bed Apts * 22 Two Bed Apts
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	1/3	18		On Site	30/01/2025	* 18 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	2/3	8		On Site	30/03/2025	* 8 Three Bed Houses
Racecourse Meadows with Circle	3/3	19	12/7	On Site	30/06/2025	* 10 Three Bed Houses * 9 Two Bed Houses
Connollys Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	01/04/2025	* 20 One Bed Apts * 10 Two Bed Apts
Connollys 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	31/01/2026	* 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
MacNeill View, Ecco Road, Dundalk Co. Louth Cluid Housing	1/1	45	40/5	Funding Approved	15/12/2024	* 5 One Bed Apt * 31 Two Bed Apts * 9 Three Bed Apts
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Housng	1/2	20	15/5	Funding Approved	30/01/2025	*20 Two Bed apt/ Duplex
Crushrod Avenue Drogheda Co. Louth Cluid Housing	2/2	33		Funding Approved	28/02/2025	*8 One Bed Apt *16 Two Bed Apt *2 Two Bed House *7 Three Bed House

## **Seirbhísí Cultúrtha / Cultural Services**

### **An Chartlann / Archives**



*Archives Entrance Gate Sign*

### **National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group**

The County Archivist is assisting with draft records retention schedule revisions and regularly assists staff 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 County Archives. Work is continuing to take place in reviewing and appraising records for retention as archives or for destruction with work on Operations', Peace and on Planning records being carried out recently.

### **125 Years of Irish Local Government**

2024 is the 125<sup>th</sup> 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. A digital exhibition has been produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in cooperation with the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers network. The exhibition explores the history of Irish local government going back to the first local elections in 1899 and the important services carried out by local councils. These are illustrated in the exhibition by records that are preserved and made accessible by local government archivists. The digital exhibition can be accessed at

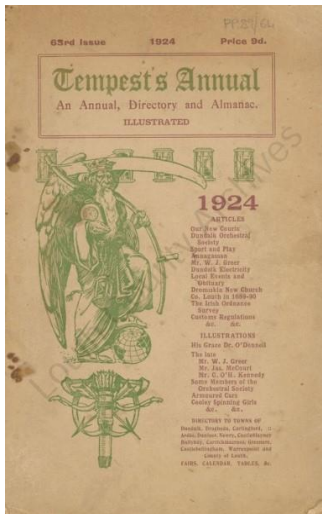
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/636ef-125-years-of-irish-local-government/> and the launch video can be viewed [here](#). A printed version was given to Elected Members and copies are available from the County Archives.



*125 Years of Local Government in Ireland digital exhibition*

### **Commemorations Grant**

As part of the Commemorations Grant 2024, a quantity of County Council archives that support the 1924 period received conservation treatment and some were digitised. Conservation treatment assists in stabilising vulnerable archives in poor condition so that they can now be accessed by researchers, while digitisation provides an important preservation security copy. The project supports local research and scholarship and a free public access copy to the digitised volumes has been placed online on the County Archives <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/archives/online-digital-archives/>. This will also improve the democratisation of access to records. The Commemorations Grant is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



*Digitised page from Tempest's Annual 1924*

### St Patrick's Cemetery Project

The County Archives, along-with the Place-making department, is assisting with the creation of a website for a free, searchable database of burials for St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk. The cemetery opened in 1895 and the database contains a transcription of data from the burial records held in the County Archives. The transcription was produced by a retired fireman and local historian, Jim Kerley of the Old Dundalk Society, with the help of volunteers and the Council's GIS Officer developed the searchable database. Further research has been done on the individuals recorded with the purpose of providing a valuable resource for those researching family history or locating a grave while also assisting with local history research. It is to be launched during the month of December.

### Leabharlanna / Libraries

#### Right to Read



#### World Prematurity Day

As part of Louth Library Service's collaboration with the 'Baby Talk' reading project in the NICU in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, library staff were delighted to celebrate World Prematurity Day with staff from

the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. Parents and guardians along with children who had graduated from the NICU were invited to a wonderful event to celebrate World Prematurity Day in The Monasterboice Inn on Friday November 18. Library Staff facilitated an interactive music and storytime session while providing families with information on regular Baby Book Club and Parent & Toddler events in their local library and promoting the benefits of library membership for the youngest members of our community.

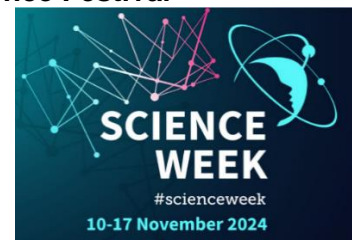


*Louth Library staff with staff from the NICU in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital*

#### World Children's Day

Louth Library Service celebrated World Children's Day on November 20. This year's theme was "Listen to the Future!" which encouraged children to share their visions for the future while urging adults to listen and incorporate these perspectives into the decisions that will shape the world the next generation will inherit. Executive Librarian Leona Burgess joined Siobhan McCarthy from Louth ABC and Donal McDonald from the Irish Coastguard to visit primary schools and early learning centers in North Louth. They visited children in Cooley Community Play Group, Woddlers and Toddlers Childcare in Omeath and primary school children in Scoil Naomh Brid, Ardagh and Rathcor National School.

#### Louth Science Festival



The 7<sup>th</sup> Louth Science Festival recently took place funded and supported by Creative Ireland through Louth County Council Arts Office and Research Ireland.

To make the festival as accessible as possible and maximise audiences, this year we hosted two Sunday day-long **free** science fairs in Dundalk Library and Drogheda Civic Offices on November 10 and 17, respectively.

The fairs featured demonstrations, workshops and talks for all ages. The fairs were a great success in both Dundalk and Drogheda, attracting large audiences and providing an opportunity to showcase the beautifully refurbished civic buildings in Fair Street.

Drogheda library hosted talks with Anna Geary, Dr Niamh Shaw, Nuala Moore and Sonairte. They also hosted workshops with Circus 250, Dr. Barry Fitzgerald, The Brickx Club, The Rediscovery Centre, Anyone4Science, Go Fly Your Kite, Origami and Yoga.



**The Brickx Club attendees in Dundalk Library**



**Talk facilitators at Louth Science Festival at Drogheda**

The fair in Dundalk library featured stands, workshops and this year hosted talks with Sonairte – the National Ecology Centre, Nuala Moore - open water swimmer, and Dr Niamh Shaw – science communicator. Featured workshops were with Circus 250, the Rediscovery Centre, Anyone4Science, Origami and Yoga.



**Circus 250 at Dundalk Library**



**Mini-Beasts stand in Dundalk Library**



**Some of the facilitators at Louth Science Festival**

Throughout the two weeks of the Science Festival partnerships continued between Louth Library Service and Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT), iCrag - the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre in Applied Geosciences, the Irish Air Corps and Met Éireann, as well as our local

primary and secondary schools. Several workshops for invited schools also took place in the three main branches during the festival. Louth County Council's Community & Climate Action Officer Fiona Lennon facilitated talks on Climate Action & Biodiversity. Hugh McElveen, Go Fly Your Kite, and DKIT Cell Explorers also facilitated talks and workshops for primary school children with invited school groups.

### **Drogheda Memory Café**

Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café was held in Drogheda library on November 12 with Ann Shortt from the local branch of the Alzheimer Association of Ireland. The guest speaker was Nutritional Therapist Johanne O'Dowd. Johanne explained what foods the brain needs to function well and what foods to reduce or avoid and why. This was followed by a Q&A session. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday December 10. The café provides a welcoming space for people living with dementia. All are welcome to attend.



*Louth Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery, Johanne O'Dowd, Ann Shortt Tredagh Lodge Daycare Centre and some attendees*

### **Na hEalaíona / Arts Creative Ireland**

#### **Creative Ireland Grants 2025**

Our 2025 Creative Ireland Grants will open for application on Monday December 9. Applications are invited from professional artists or community groups who are seeking financial support for an artistic project, training or development. Closing date for applications will be Thursday February 6 at 4p.m

Application forms and guidelines can be found on our arts website at <https://createlouth.ie/funding/> along with an instructive video on how to complete applications. You can also email [creativeireland@louthcoco.ie](mailto:creativeireland@louthcoco.ie) for details.

**Creative Climate** –On Tuesday November 19 Louth Urban Food Sanctuary (LUFS) held a special 'Louth Feast' event at the Hospitality Suite in DKIT with the culinary students cooking up a storm. The students provided tasters of recipes they have devised, inspired by the food we have grown over the past 12 months of the project. We also had several local food producers such as Coole Farms and Dunany Flour on hand to talk guests through their work and how they strive to ensure sustainable food production.

The final event of the project will take place early in the new year when we launch our LUFS recipe booklet, and our evaluation report.



*Blackrock Community Gardens Table at the Louth Feast event in DKIT on November 19*

Our growers network are hoping to continue meeting into the future and sharing growing tips, and we will keep all details up to date on the LUFS website <https://louthurbanfoodsanctuary.com/> for anyone interested.

### **Cruinniú 2025 Consultations**

We have started our consultations with local children and young people to inform our 2025 Cruinniú na nÓg programme. Craobh Rua and Cox's Demesne Traveler Youth Groups are starting to work with Eoin Maguire on writing a song about their culture and producing a music video to accompany it – particularly important as the group in Cox's Demesne is new.

Elsewhere various primary schools and after schools across Dundalk and Drogheda have been working on a variety of creative consultations with creative facilitators such as Little Sunflower and Daire Stanley.



*Children at our Cruinniú 2024 consultations last year embracing their creative side!*

## Arts

### Arts Grants 2025

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Application forms and guidelines can be found on our arts website, <https://createlouth.ie/funding/>, along with an instructive video on how to complete applications. You can also email [arts@louthcoco.ie](mailto:arts@louthcoco.ie) for details.

### Droichead Arts Centre

The renowned Fishamble Theatre company brought 'Outrage' by Deirdre Kinahan to the Droichead stage at the end of November. Following the story of two sisters, Outrage is a play that explores the true nature of women's role in the Irish revolutionary years, and in particular the Civil War in 1922.

**Absinth and Absence** is the new and incredible exhibition from Jackie Hudson Lawlor, which launched in Droichead's Gallery Space on November 16 and runs until January 25, 2025. The exhibition seeks to make visible that which we typically seek to hide from: the effects of trauma, the ignored pain of women, and the prejudice against ageing.

For more details on the book club and all other events happening check out Droichead Arts Centres website <https://www.droichead.com/>

### Drogheda Traditional Music & Singing Weekend

The annual DTMSW took place from 22–24 November. Run in partnership with Droichead Arts Centre this year's festival featured appearances from Matt Molloy, John McCarthy, Vivienne Conway and Eva & Paula Carroll.

### Highlane's Gallery

#### Exhibition, Talks and Workshop

John Graham's exhibition Familiar Things opened on Saturday November 16, including an in-person conversation event with the artist himself, facilitated by Sarah McAuliffe, curator of Irish Art at the National Gallery of Ireland. The talk was also given through ISL (Irish Sign Language) and the exhibition will run until January 25, 2025. For more details on the exhibition see:

<https://highlanes.ie/exhibition/john-graham-familiar-things/>



*One of the family workshops exploring nature and reusable materials at Highlane's*

Highlane's continued their series of Family Workshops throughout November, along with several talks including a poetry reading event with Drogheda Creative Writers, a special performance from the Réalta Chamber Choir and a gorgeous Christmas Clay Workshop with artist Maureen Finn.

For details on all upcoming events at Highlane's please see <https://highlanes.ie/all-events/>

### An Táin Arts Centre

Oriel Traditional Orchestra held their annual charity event at An Táin on Sunday November 24. This year the event commemorated the centenary of the death of Irish born composer Charles Villiers Stanford.



**The Oriel Traditional Orchestra**

**IMPACT** – is a new play by Theatre Company in Residence, Chalk on the Wall. Exploring the pressing challenges faced by Irish road users today, revealing the human cost behind stark statistics, the play was told through a heartfelt narrative weaving together poignant stories of those whose lives have been changed forever.

**Exhibition:** Identity, a Scope of Liminality is an exhibition by Carlos Navarro. In a society where traditional values are fading and uncertainty prevails, his work emerges as a search for lost individuality and authenticity. Navarro’s abstract and geometric portraits represent the complexity of the modern being. The exhibition runs until January 18, 2025, and details can be found at: <https://www.antain.ie/event/exhibition-identity-a-scope-of-liminality/>

For all events and exhibitions in An Táin Arts Centre see <https://www.antain.ie/whats-on/> for details.

The Arts Service of Louth County Council has joined forces with Creative Spark to offer bursaries to Louth-based artists seeking to gain new qualifications and skills to expand their practice through the FAB Academy and Creative Spark.

There will be four bursaries of €500 which will be awarded through an application process. For details of the bursary and the course see: <https://creativespark.ie/fab-academy-bursary-.html>

## **An Iarsmalann / Museum**

### **Museum news**

The month of November has been a particularly productive one for the Museum. Preparations are underway for its Christmas activities with the county’s National Schools, whilst a series of lectures and talks organised to mark Science Week proved to be popular. In addition, the Museum added to its collection with the donation of several fascinating items.

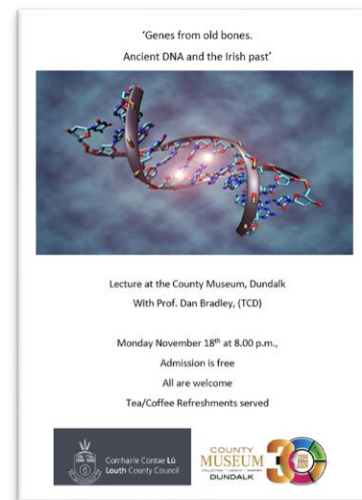
## **Science Week**

Award-winning writer Eoghan Daltún commenced Science Week at the Museum with a number of talks to National School audiences highlighting the importance of allowing natural ecosystems to return and thrive without interference, and in doing so heal an ailing planet.



**Award-winning writer Eoghan Daltún who spoke to schools at the County Museum, Dundalk**

Trinity College’s Professor Dan Bradley was also invited to speak during Science Week. His lecture *Genes from Old Bones – Ancient DNA and the Irish Past* was a fascinating overview of how DNA and genome analysis is used to assist archaeology in interpreting the past.



**'Genes from Old Bones - Ancient DNA and the Irish Past' - a lecture at the County Museum, Dundalk**

## **BIMM Lecture**

Museum Curator, Brian Walsh was invited to talk to students at the BIMM (British and Irish Modern

Music) Dublin campus. These musical students learn the theory and practice of song and stage craft.

The Museum was given the opportunity to highlight items from its collection which would then be used as the basis for a songwriting assessment. The songs will be performed in Dublin before the college's teaching staff and students during December.

### **Recent acquisitions**

November has been a particularly good month from an acquisition's perspective. Amongst those items added to the collection are:

- A signed pair of Louth professional track and field athlete Israel Olatunde's running spikes as well as his vest from the Munich meet in August of this year.



***Spikes worn and signed by Ireland's fastest man, Israel Olatunde***

- A beautiful piano accordion



***A recent acquisition - Midella piano accordion***



***Close detail from the piano accordion***