



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 7th March 2024
7^ú Márta 2024**

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

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – February 2024

A Chara,

I enclose the above report for your statutory consideration which will be placed on the March 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 regarding advising you of the performance of executive functions in the last month and also planned works.

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

- The opening took place of the Drogheda Port Access Northern Cross Route which will unlock lands for the development of up to 5,000 homes in the Drogheda area over coming years.
- The announcement under the Shared Island Fund of the Narrow Water Bridge to link the Mourne Mountains in Co. Down with the Cooley Peninsula in Co. Louth.
- The success of the Brigid1500 festival in Louth and the significant number of people attending events in the County
- Our Outdoor Staff continue to work tirelessly for the betterment of the County
- The approval of the Louth County Council Local Economic and Community Plan at the February Council meeting.

Finally, it was great to get approval for the Louth Climate Action Plan as we continue the great work already being done to decarbonise our county.

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 29th February 2024
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 29 Feabhra 2024

Contents / Clár Ábhar

<u>Support Services / Seirbhísí Tacaíochta</u>	4
Financial Reports / Tuairiscí Airgeadais	
Information & Communication Technology / Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide	
<u>Strategic Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach</u>	10
Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch	
Local Enterprise Office / Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil	
European Relations / Caidreamh Eorpach	
Heritage/Oidhreacht	
Fire & Emergency Services / Seirbhísí Dóiteáin agus Éigeandála	
Civil Defence / Cosaint Shibhialta	
Planning / Pleanáil	
Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha	
Planning Enforcement / Forfheidhmiúcháin	
Forward Planning / Pleanáil Chun Cinn	
<u>Placemaking and Physical Development / Déanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhísticiúil</u>	24
Roads & Local Services / Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla	
Physical Development / Forbairt Fhísticiúil	
Place Making / Déanamh Áite	
<u>Organisational Development / Forbairt na hEagraíochta</u>	68
Corporate Services / Seirbhísí Corporáideacha	
Community Support & Sport / Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spórt	
Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action / Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide	
Veterinary Services / Seirbhísí Tréidliachta	
Human Resources / Acmhainní Duine	
<u>Social Development / Forbairt Shóisialta</u>	93
Housing / Tithíocht	
Cultural Services / Seirbhísí Cultúrtha	
Archives / An Chartlann	
Libraries / Leabharlanna	
Arts / Na hEalaíona	
Museum / An Iarsmalann	
<u>Ukraine Humanitarian Response / Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin</u>	114
Water Services / Seirbhísí Uisce	
Ukraine Humanitarian Response	

Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 29th of February 2024 / Caiteachas go dtí 29th Feabhra 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas larbhír go dtí 29/02/2024	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024	% Spent to/ % Caite go 29/02/2024
Housing/Tithíocht	€6,874,299	€62,912,092	11%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€3,153,814	€27,583,468	11%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€1,140,366	€8,804,737	13%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€2,441,606	€27,259,532	9%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€3,073,869	€23,558,956	13%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€1,380,747	€11,234,063	12%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€159,274	€1,491,272	11%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€1,061,476	€8,839,470	12%
	€19,285,451	€171,683,590	11%

Income to 29th of February 2024 / Ioncam go 29th Feabhra 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam larbhír go dtí 29/02/24	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 29/02/24
Housing/Tithíocht	€5,563,223	€64,380,831	9%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€346,484	€16,558,010	2%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€378,567	€8,131,617	5%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€882,877	€17,277,072	5%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€264,551	€4,348,102	6%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€131,008	€1,683,163	8%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€97,074	€558,596	17%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheanaitheach	€225,744	€11,372,937	2%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,679,011	€34,507,064	100%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€0	€11,366,198	0%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi larmhéid Dochair	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€42,568,539	€171,683,590	25%

The above is the current position as of the 29th of February 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 29th February 2024 are as follows:

Debtors as of 29th of February 2024/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 29th Feabhra 2024

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€28,576,478	€8,200,809	(€24,822,657)	(€0)	€11,954,630
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile	€93,780	€113,428	(€93,069)	(€0)	€114,139
Rates/Rataí	€5,352,430	€34,679,011	(€4,748,852)	(€4,529)	€35,278,060
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,913,181	€2,718,246	(€2,557,676)	(€0)	€3,073,751
Loans/Iasachtal	€293,852	€361,626	(€343,345)	(€0)	€312,133
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€227,341	(€407,571)	(€0)	€10,763,275
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€756,633	€71,604	(€65,390)	(€0)	€762,847
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€2,345,498	€1,719,387	(€1,277,095)	(€3,673)	€2,784,117
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€51,275,357	€48,091,452	(€34,315,655)	(€8,202)	€65,042,952

Above are the debtor balances as of 29th of February 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.

completed the Annual Financial Statement will be presented to Council.

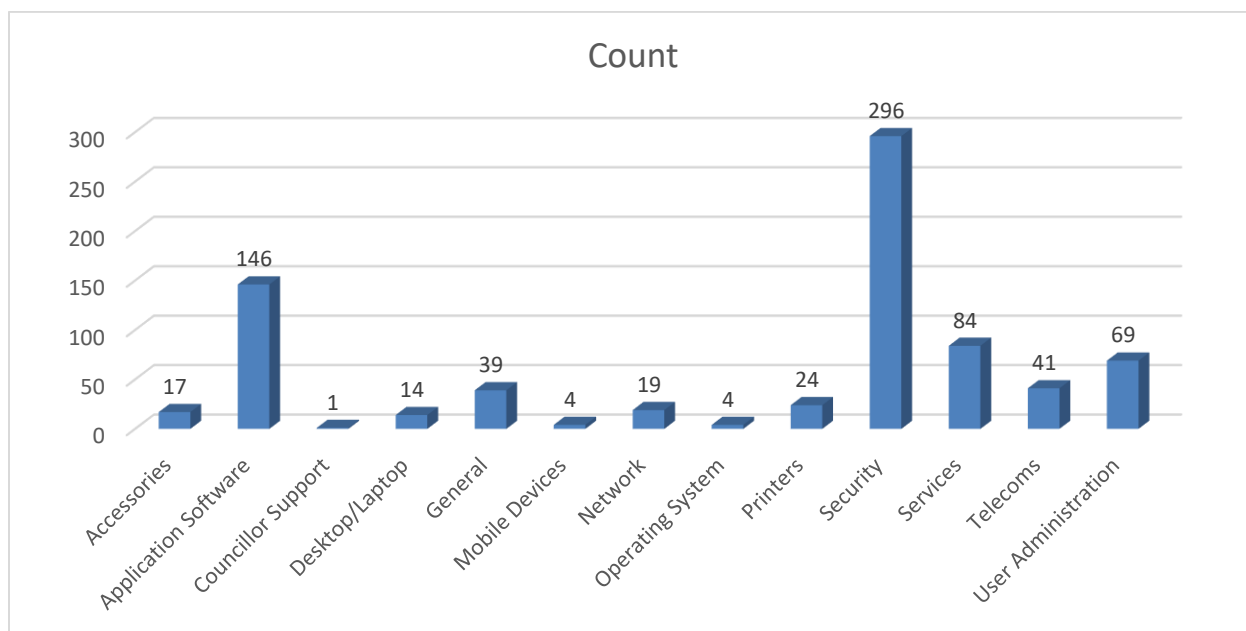
Annual Financial Statement

Work is continuing on the Annual Financial Statement and the above figures will change when yearend accruals and claims are posted. Once

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/02/2024 and the 29/02/2024 there were 875 support calls logged in the IT support system.



Security and Application Software followed by user administration were the highest category of support requests in February.

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 February 30% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.



Inbound Emails

170,172



Blocked Sender

3,017



Blocked at gateway

16,847



Blocked by spam /virus

30,428



Blocked by content rules

548



Potentially harmful emails

29.88%

Louth County Council Website

There were 17,610 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in February.

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

Page URL	Pageviews
/en/	4,114
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	1,319
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	1,008
/en/home/	661
/en/services/planning/	675
/en/services/	632
/en/services/dog-pound/	594
/en/services/library/	553
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	380
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/e-planni	415

The following Pages received the largest increase in page views in February in comparision to Janurary 2024.

PAGE TITLES	UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS	EVOLUTION
Amenity Grant Scheme - Louth County Council	130	928.60%
Social Housing Support Application - Louth County Council	126	148.20%
Affordable Purchase Scheme - Louth County Council	77	34.20%

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 5504 views in February, an average of 197 views a day.



Strategic Economic Development Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

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

Thomas McEvoy
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

Louth Economic Forum

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum will take place on Wednesday 20th March in Ardee Business Park.

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The next meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC will be online on Tuesday 26th March.

Tourism

sea louth

sea louth are engaging with Boyne Valley Flavours as part of their new five year ‘Strategy for Food in the Boyne Valley’ which is at consultation stage.

Visit Louth

Following a remarkably successful weekend at the Holiday World Show in Dublin from the 26th to 28th January, there were 535 entries for the competition held on the stand over the weekend, many of which agreed to be added to the Visit Louth and sea louth mailing lists. The winner of the hamper containing a selection of Co. Louth produce together with a mid-week stay in the Ghan House, Carlingford, has been notified and sent their prize.

Brigid 1500 Louth: Birthplace of Brigid

The Brigid 1500 Louth: Birthplace of Brigid Festival took place from the 26th January until the 5th February. There was a full programme of events

over the 10 days, from an Art Exhibition, live theatre performance and many associated events. Eleven events received funding under the ‘Arts & Creativity Community Grant’. These were a mix of festivals and community events and included financial contributions towards Brigid of Faughart Festival, Candlelit Procession at Faughart, community art, ‘Biddies Day’ at Ardee Bog, ‘Biddies Day’ in Drogheda, a St. Brigid / Brigid the Goddess poetry writing workshop and a creative nature sewing project called ‘Creating the Brigid Weave’.



Aerial photo of the completed Brigid's Cloak from Cooley Connect Well 'Creating the Brigid Weave' project

As part of the Brigid 1500 Festival, a Brigid's trail map has been developed incorporating the local points of interest associated with Brigid. The map and guide is currently available from the Dundalk Tourist Office and may be downloaded from <https://www.visitlouth.ie/assets/uploads/Brigid-Trail-A4-Home-PrintOut.pdf>.

23 applications were received under the ‘Brigid 1500 Retail Window Decoration Scheme’. The focus was to encourage commercial premises in Co. Louth to decorate their windows to join in the Brigid 1500 celebrations. There was great variety in the window decorations. See below for a selection of the completed windows.



Dolmen Centre, Omeath



Backhouse Pharmacy, Dundalk



An Siopa, Ardee



*Coyle's Bakehouse,
Dundalk*

Táin Trail

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

Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

The Wayfinding totems, engraved paving stones and bronze stud inlays have now been installed across Drogheda. The Council are in discussions with Fáilte Ireland on a launch event which is expected to take place in April. This tourism investment displays historical information and maps of easily accessed locations within walking distance.

Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light

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

Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)

- Boyne Valley Flavours AGM took place on the 27th February at Bellinter House, Co Meath.
- The first draft of Boyne Valley Flavours 2024 – 2028 5-Year Strategy has been received this month with the Boyne Valley Flavours steering committee to meet in March to review same.
- Boyne Valley Bites spring local dining workshop took place on 13th February in the Nelly, Drogheda. The objective is to encourage Drogheda businesses to put a

dish featuring Boyne Valley ingredients on their menus. Local chefs Tara Walker & Conor Halpenny demonstrated five dishes featuring Boyne Valley ingredients, along with a suggested drinks pairing, to foodservice businesses in the town.

- There is an ongoing campaign to encourage members to renew their BVF membership for 2024 with fifty-seven registered to date.
- A sea louth planning meeting took place on 29th February to plan for the year ahead.



Conor Halpenny & Tara Walker, Boyne Valley Bites

Drogheda Night Time Economy

Night Moves

Night Moves, curated by Droichead Arts Centre in collaboration with local creative partners, has transformed our nighttime economy with a dynamic six-part program. Supported by Love Drogheda BIDS, Moya Rodgers, Arts Officer, and Mark Davies, Night Time Economy Adviser, Night Moves offers an exciting exploration of alternative cultural experiences after hours. From late-night clubs with ambient music to immersive art installations and traditional music trails, this initiative promises to redefine nightlife in our community. Due to its resounding success, plans for a follow-up program in the autumn are already in motion. See www.droichead.com/show-detail/?id=873654336 for more details.

Drogheda Comedy Festival Launch

The Drogheda Comedy Festival launched with great fanfare at Weavers Bar on 1st February featuring renowned comics Barry Murphy and Karl Spain as

hosts. Highlighting the festival's significance in promoting local culture, the event saw speeches by key figures including Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, Tourism Officer, Mark Davies, Night Time Economy Adviser, Trevor Connolly from Love Drogheda and Collette Farrell from Droichead Arts Centre. With twenty-five acts spread across nine venues, the festival promises to inject positivity, laughter, and increased footfall into the Drogheda night-time economy.



Drogheda Comedy Festival Launch

Drogheda Comedy Festival Workshop

On 23rd February, the Drogheda Comedy Festival, in collaboration with Boomerang Youth Café, Droichead Arts Centre and Louth Local Development, announced a special workshop for young people to be held on 10th March. This exciting initiative underscores our commitment to community engagement and fostering grassroots talent. Young individuals, especially those from underrepresented groups, are warmly invited to participate in this empowering event. Led by esteemed comics Danny O'Brien and Karl Spain, the workshop promises an enriching experience.

Purple Flag Award

We are thrilled to announce that, coordinated by the Love Drogheda BIDS, and with support from Mark Davies, Night Time Economy Adviser, the Drogheda Purple Flag partnership group has achieved Purple Flag status for the town for a second time. Much like the esteemed Blue Flag awards for beaches and Green for Parks, the Purple Flag is a prestigious recognition of the town's commitment to overcoming challenges and creating a safe and vibrant nighttime economy through collaborative efforts.



Purple Flag Award

LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

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

Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: info@leo.louthcoco.ie or they can call to our office at Town Hall, Dundalk.

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

LEO continues to host a Louth 'shop local' online directory available at: www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal.

New businesses can be included on the Louth online directory by emailing: lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie.

Green for Business



The Green for Business programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective.

Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental

management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing market place.

During February four businesses were approved for Green for Business.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Business Training



During February, LEO held five training courses including Start Your Own Business, Trading Online Voucher Workshop, Costing and Pricing for Small Business, Tourism for Craft and Design and Blogging for small business.

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

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



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

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

Three Trading Online Voucher applications were received in February.

Business Advice Clinics

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

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.

Twenty-seven businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of February.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

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.

LEAN for Micro Programme



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

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

Energy Efficiency Grant



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

Eligible costs include Meters (electricity, gas, diesel, oil, water, steam & loggers) and installation costs, Smart energy controls e.g., heating, cooling, lighting, automatic on / off systems, parasitic load controls, upgrade lighting to LED (only as part of a package of eligible cost measures) and more. Full

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.

Student Enterprise Programme



The county finals of the Student Enterprise Awards were held in the Fairways Hotel on Tuesday 27th February where over 130 students competed in three different age categories to showcase their hard work. The winners will battle it out for a place at the National Finals which will be held on 9th May in Mullingar.

Local Enterprise Week 2024



Local Enterprise Week is organised every year by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices across the country. LEO Louth organised a large number of clinics and workshops which took place - Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March culminating with the Local Enterprise Awards ceremony, which was held in the Monasterboice Inn, Drogheda.

European Relations



PEACEPLUS

The latest PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting was held on Tuesday 6th February 2024. The County Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan was approved by

the partnership with some minor modifications at this meeting.

This PEACEPLUS Action Plan was subsequently approved by the Local Community Development Committee on the 19th February 2024.



The County Louth PEACEPLUS Partnership committee meeting on 6th February 2024

The PEACE team continues to work with our consultants, Blu Zebra, in finalising work on the approved PEACEPLUS Action Plan for submission to Special European Union Programmes Body in March 2024.

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

Contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

Heritage

In February 2024 work continued preparing and submitting applications to various national heritage funding schemes and encouraging community groups and private owners to apply to these schemes on their own behalf.

Five proposals, the maximum number allowed, were submitted by the Heritage Office to the Community Monuments Fund. Two were submitted on behalf of the private owners of Glaspistol and Castletown towerhouses (the latter the site of the Louis Convent School in Dundalk). The Council applied for funding for carrying out repairs to the boundary wall at Millmount, to Cappocksgate in Ardee and for a survey of the surviving stretches of Drogheda's town defences.

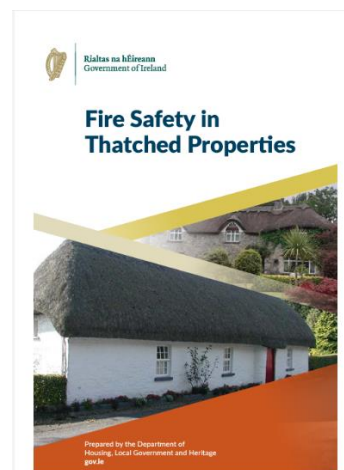
An application was submitted to the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) capital works fund for a detailed assessment of a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall and the Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust also submitted one, for the Tholsel. The Heritage Officer encouraged the Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust and the Old Drogheda Society to develop and submit applications to the IWTN for funding for interpretation and events (deadline 18th March).

The Heritage Officer applied to the Heritage Council's Heritage Plan funding stream and promoted its Community Heritage Grants scheme to community groups all over the county.

The recently discovered souterrain in Dromiskin graveyard was inspected, together with staff from the National Monument Service, with a view to supporting a submission to the Community Monuments Fund in 2025. The collapsing roof on the privately-owned well at Toberona was also inspected.

A Request for Quotations for specialists to advise us on getting Monasterboice onto the Tentative List for World Heritage remained on the eTenders platform.

The Heritage Officer represented the Heritage Officer Network on the Vernacular Built Heritage Working Group, led by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which has just published a new booklet about preventing fires in thatched buildings. Contact the Heritage Officer if you know anyone who could benefit from having a copy of this booklet.



Fire Safety in Thatched Properties booklet

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The table of incidents on the next page gives details of incident occurrence for 2023. There is also a five-year comparison in the table below. There was a slight decline in emergency incidents attended by Fire Brigades in Louth in 2023 compared to 2022. This reflects a longer-term trend of slightly reducing emergency incident numbers in Louth.

Comparative Period	No Incidents	of % Difference +/-
2019	1141	-10.2%
2020	1291	+13.2%
2021	1147	-11.2%
2022	1224	+6.7%
2023	1200	-2.0%

The 2023 emergency incident table shows the following:

- Drogheda Fire Brigade remains the busiest brigade, with 426 callouts in Louth.
- There were 174 callouts to Meath, the same as 2022. Almost all of these were attended by Drogheda Fire Brigade.
- There were 119 domestic fires including persons reported fires in 2023, the same as 2022.
- The most common incident type remains fire alarm activations, with 247 callouts, similar to 2022.
- Ambulance-assist call numbers remained high, increasing from 76 to 87.
- There was a decline in gorse and grass fires, from 53 in 2022 to 31 in 2023, probably weather related.
- There was a large increase in attendance to floods, from 8 to 49, mainly because of floods in Dundalk and the Cooley peninsula in October and November.

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during February. Vacancies were publicised in the stations and in social media resulting in an increase in applications. Further fire fighter applications were received by the HR Section and interviews will be arranged.

The current training focus is on recruit training. Other training during February was as follows:

- Manual Handling training
- Station Officer attendance on a Fire Service Management Course, Clonmel
- Sub Officer attendance on a BA Instructor Course, Tullamore

Emergency Incidents in Louth 2023								
Type	Ardee	Carlingford	Dunleer	Drogheda	Dundalk	Meath	Other Areas	Total
Fire/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire/Alarm Activation	19	8	8	93	85	32	1	246
Fire/Bus/Coach	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fire/Car	5	4	2	29	30	12	1	83
Fire/Caravan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire/Chimney	5	1	1	6	10	3	0	26
Fire/Controlled Burning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire/Domestic	10	2	6	41	29	7	1	96
Fire/Persons Reported	1	0	1	7	12	2	0	23
Fire/Fire (General)	0	0	3	10	4	2	0	19
Fire/Forest	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Fire/Gorse	1	5	0	6	2	0	0	14
Fire/Grass	0	2	1	4	7	3	0	17
Fire/Hay/Barn	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Fire/Industrial	1	0	0	4	9	0	1	15
Fire/Institutional	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	5
Fire/Motorcycle	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Fire/Oil/Petrol	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fire/Small/Bin/Skip	9	5	6	80	60	32	0	192
Fire/Smoke Issuing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire/Truck	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	6
Fire/Vegetation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SS/Alarm/Carbon Monoxide	3	0	0	4	4	0	0	11
SS/Ambulance Assist	1	5	2	37	30	12	0	87
SS/Animal Rescue	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
SS/Electrical	1	1	0	2	6	0	0	10
SS/Entrapment	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	7
SS/Explosion	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
SS/Flooding	3	13	1	8	18	6	0	49
SS/Garda Assist	1	0	0	7	10	0	0	18
SS/Gas Leak	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
SS/Hazardous Material	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
SS/Lift Persons Trapped	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	8
SS/Lockout	2	0	0	9	3	0	0	14
SS/Make Scene Safe	1	3	2	3	2	1	0	12
SS/Marine Emergency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SS/Oil Spillage	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
SS/Other	3	1	0	4	7	1	0	16
SS/River Rescue	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	6
SS/RTA	18	9	7	52	56	43	2	187
SS/Smell of Gas	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
SS/Trees Down	1	0	0	2	3	4	0	10
SS/Water Leak	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Total no. of Incidents:	88	66	40	426	400	174	6	1200

The Fire Prevention Section continues to support requests from Government Departments to inspect properties for the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees and International Protection applicants.

A Closure Notice served in respect of a furniture outlet in Dundalk was adjourned in court for three weeks to enable the works to be completed.

Tender documents for a design team for an upgrade and extension to Dundalk Training Centre are being prepared by the Placemaking and Fire Safety Sections. Once complete, this tender process will commence.

A new Scania Incident Support vehicle was delivered to Louth Fire Service during February.

Major Emergency Management

Louth County Council's Major Emergency Plan was reviewed and extensively updated during January and was adopted by the Management Team. The appendices of the Plan are currently being updated.

The review of major emergency rest centres in Louth is underway. The owners of the designated rest centres have been contacted.

Senior Louth County Council staff attended a cross border major emergency meeting and event in Armagh on 23rd February.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Dunleer Fire Station will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. These are being discussed and options include a geothermal heat pump, photovoltaic panels, and rainwater harvesting. Work on the Climate Action Plan is continuing, to include Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Civil Defence

Louth Civil Defence, in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service (NAS), formed a Community First Response (CFR) group which responds to life threatening emergencies within County Louth.

The group comprises Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who are all volunteers with Louth Civil Defence.

There were further callouts during February.

The following Civil Defence training took place during February:

- First Aid Responder
- Emergency First Responder
- Drone training
- Swiftwater
- Critical Incident Stress Management training

The following duties were attended:

- Five days medical cover for the Brigid 1500 festival
- Medical cover for the Rás na hÉireann cross country races
- Medical cover for the Runamuck adventure race

Building Control

The national construction products surveillance office in Dublin has continued to highlight issues with certain construction products and this has required inspections, including in Louth with the Building Control Officer.

A report is expected to shortly issue from a national Building Control Officers committee to the DHLGH on proposed changes to the rules for opt-out Commencement Notices.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of January 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 66 planning applications received during the month of January of which 57 were valid. In addition, there were 27 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 18 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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

(A) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae
(i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh	6	6	44	0	56
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	4	4	19	0	27
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	16.67% (1)	33.33% (2)	11.36% (5)	0.00% (0)	14.29% (8)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	1	1	4	0	6
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

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

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaráíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaráíodh	
	January 2024 / Eanáir 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	January 2023 / Eanáir 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	24	24	13	13
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	15	15	5	5
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	16	16	17	17
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	0	0	0
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Lettings Enforcement

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings	
	February 2024 / Feabhra 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	0	0
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	0	0
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	19	19
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	0
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	0
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

Forward Planning

Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan

The public consultation period for the pre-draft Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan commenced on 31st January 2024, with two well attended public consultation events held at Drogheda Library during the month of February. Members of the public are invited to make submissions to the Pre-draft on / before 4:30pm on Friday, 15th March 2024. Full details available to view / download at <https://consult.drogheda.ie>.



*Public Consultation Event
Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan*

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The Annual Draft Maps have been prepared, under Section 653C, as modified by Section 653M of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, for the purposes of identifying land that satisfies the relevant criteria and are to be subject to the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT).

The closing date for receipt of submissions to the Annual Residential Zoned Land Tax Draft Maps is Monday, 1st April 2024. Full details available at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/residential-zoned-land-tax-2024>.

Conservation Grant Schemes 2024

The closing date for applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund 2024, expired on 19th January 2024. A total of 42 application were received under

both schemes. Applications have since been assessed and forwarded to the Department for consideration. Details available at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/conservation/>.

Response(s) Issued to Submissions Received

Responses issued in relation to the Public Consultation on ESB Electricity Distribution Network Capacity Pathways Consultation Report and on the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Future Framework Policy Statement.

Placemaking and Physical Development

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
All areas on the list are done once a week and if needed spot picked. Recent strong winds blow a lot of debris from private sites onto roadsides.	Inner Relief Rd
	Town Centre Containers
	Ramparts
	Bothar Na Feirme
	Red Barns Rd
	Point Rd
	Barrack St
	Old Coes Rd
	Centenery Rd
	Fairgreen Rd
	Northgate St
	Market St
	The Square Shrub Borders
	Ecco Rd
	Castletown Rd
	John St
	Philip St
	Riverside Crescent
	Laurels
	Armagh Rd
	Mooreland /Lennonmelia Crescent
	Riverside Walk

	Racecourse Rd Dublin Rd Mourne View Walkway Ardee Rd Carrick Rd Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk Castleross hedgerow Ashling Park Estate River Grids Bottle Banks at Long Walk, Harp Car Park, Meadow Grove Gateway at Hoeys Lane cleared every day and area litter picked Cleanup household dumped rubbish at Fr Murray Park /O'Hanlon Park Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks on a daily basis and cleaning around them Cooley isolated locations, including Templetown, Gyles Quay, Greenore.
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht Nightly By Contractor- 200 Bins Solar Bins emptied All Tubs checked for rubbish Cleaned Flower Towers Cleaned borders around town Trimmed areas at Jocelyn Dr Illegal dumping is ongoing in areas Bin maintenance carried out by outdoor staff. Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown, Gyles Quay

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain Contract Sweeper as per contract- Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract Dublin road at Hospital pathway St Helenas Road Ardee Road Carrick Road
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra Most Dog Waste Bins are removed as dog waste is now deposited in general bins By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain 200 Litter Bins throughout the town As per bin maintenance in Cooley
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Ring Buoys checked Weekly. Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk Lifebuoy issues in a few areas this month of February. Areas included Icehouse Hill, Navy Bank and The Tain Bridge- all replaced and new ropes added. Carried out by water safety officer in Cooley
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Daily/ Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker

Contractor checking and replacing missing and damaged parts in town area and at Stephenstown Pond

Litter Picked in Parks

Checked by area staff in Cooley

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> Isolated potholes, maintenance of roads that were damaged through recent storms, ongoing. <u>Dundalk</u> N/A	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<u>Cooley</u> Major works been carried out at two locations, upper Jenkinstown L.P. 3084-44, also Lugbriscan/ Ballevery Riverstown L.S. 70730. <u>Dundalk</u> N/A	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	N/A	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<u>Cooley</u> Cleaning of footpaths, Carlingford , Greenore , Gyles quay , Templetown. <u>Dundalk</u> Avenue road	

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	On Going Repairs- Bulb Replacement of Traffic Lights at Bay Estate Junction.	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	<u>Cooley</u> N/A <u>Dundalk</u> N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<u>Cooley</u> N/A <u>Dundalk</u> Replaced damaged road signs and speed limit signs. Replaced numerous faded signage for new in areas around town and at the quays	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<u>Cooley</u> N/A <u>Dundalk</u> Dumping of sofas and mattresses in certain areas continues. Entrance to Woodview Estate- Black bags being dumped weekly. Mooreland Rd Fly Tipping Removed sofa and fire remnants at Muirhevnemor Park Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly. Cleaning at Ecco Rd Bags removed	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Cleaned Graffiti at Cu Cuchulainn Play Area by MVI contractor.	



Footpath works at Avenue road, Dundalk

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí N52 Ardee road from Dunmahon junction to Ardee cross
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht • Blackrock – 6 days/week • Knockbridge – once a week • Dromiskin – once a week • Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain N/A
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain N/A
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain • Blackrock (7No.) checked weekly • Annagassan (11No.) checked weekly
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil • Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly • Blackrock – checked weekly

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	LS-7127 Kilkerley road LP-3113 from Skyhill to N53 Hackballscross. LT-7093 feed LT-31222 Maghereagh Kilkerley R177 Armagh Road LT-31191 Rassan Hackballscross LP-3095 Plaster Mountpleasant LS-7093 feed Faughart LT-31521 Philipstown Hackballscross LT-31252 Clonalennaghan Hackballscross	Tar patching and pothole repairs
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	LS-7105 Dungooly Kilcurry LP-3097 Jonesborough Road LS-7096 Monascrebe Faughart	Cleaning gullies and storm line works
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	None at this time	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Main Street, Blackrock village	Footpath repairs
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	N/A	

Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	LS-7103 Carn More, Kilcurry LS-7162 Clermont Road, Haggardstown	Illegally dumped litter lifted
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	

Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí	
	All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins	
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht	
Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon	37 Daily 20 Tuesday and Thursday 3 Tuesday and Thursday	
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain	
	All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)	

Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain N/A
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain Ardee town River Dee Salterstown Port Beach
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil
Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground and exercise equipment at both locations.	

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	LS 5207-0 Stormanstown LS 5234-0 Glack LS 5211 Lambs Town Beechwood Drive Dunleer LS 5256-0 Jumping Church Road LP 1260-0 Shanlis LP 2239-0 Mountainstown Road LP 2290-0 Priest Hill Collon LP 1233-7 Hilly Road LP 1209-0 Glack LS 6224-0 Dillonstown

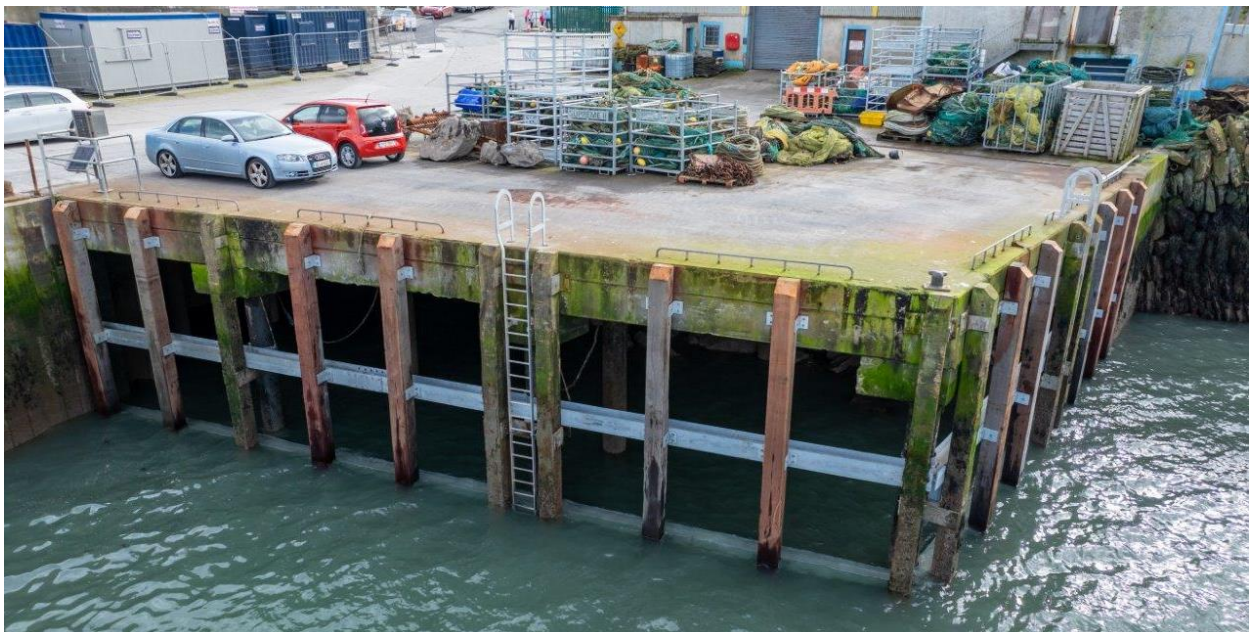
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	R169 outlets LP 2223-29 Verdonstown Lp 2254-21 Mosstown LS 5211-0 Lambstown	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	Beechwood Drive – 4 Trees R169 Dunleer – 5 Trees Nursery Cross – 2 Trees Oriel Road Collon – 3 Trees Braganstown – 2 Trees Ls-5256-0 Jumping Church – 1 Tree LP 2239-0 Mountainstown Road	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	N/A	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Railings on the Main Street Ardee. Railings on the Drogheda Rd. Ardee. Chevrons on the R169	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Stabilisation works the R132 at Mullary near the Village Inn



Stabilisation works the R132 at Mullary near the Village Inn



New timber buffers have been installed in Port Oriel. The addition of these timber buffers and ladders to the harbour platform area serves to enhance the mooring capacity within the designated area. These strategic installations not only facilitate the safe and efficient docking of vessels but also act as barriers preventing boats from slipping beneath the platform during stormy weather.

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair

Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí

- Steps and lane ways weekly, 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.
- New pedestrian green machine delivered to our depot in Greenlanes - we now have two pedestrian road sweepers in operation in Town Centre.
- New Drive on pedestrian road sweeper has been delivered and is in operation.

Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead
Clogherhead Beach
Port Beach
Termonfeckin
Baltray
Seapoint Carpark

7 Daily
8 Daily
6 Daily
6 Daily
3 Daily
3 Daily

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht • Drogheda Town Centre litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings. • 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town. • Dominic's Park & Mell River walk emptied daily. • South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Port Oriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day. • Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week. • Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing at various locations such as St Laurence St & Shop St. • Maintenance carried out on solar panel bin at St. Laurence St. • New bin installed outside Bank of Ireland on St Laurence St. • Carpark swept at Clogherhead to remove sand. • Power washing of pavements at Meat market Lane.
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain • Town Centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly. • Public Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow. • Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.

	- Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure. - Drogheda Town Boyne River walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday). - Road sweepers on all main approach roads to town centre. - Road sweeping of R132 in advance of opening of phase 1, port access port. - Clean-up of ramparts walk & St Dominics Pk after high tides and flooding. - Cleaning of open green spaces between St Laurence Pk & Moneymore - Glen stream at Yellow batter – LCC removed debris
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area disinfected.

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	LCC's crew 1. Prepare stocks of sandbags and Signage in event of weather conditions. 2. Pothole repairs at Bredin St, Barrack Hill, Barrack lane, Loughboy, Whitethorn, Mayoralty St, Patrick St, Fair St, Greenhills, Chord Rd, Duleek St, Stockwell St, The Dale and Rathmullen. 3. Thermal pothole repairs on Dual Carriageway at Haymarket Bridge. 4. Reinstatement of stone wall at Poor house lane. 5. Bollards on R132 reinstated. 6. Gully grate maintenance at Rathmullen Pk. Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2024 Survey of roads have commenced at: 1. Newfoundwell 2. Cord Rd 3. Platin Rd 4. Dual Carriageway 5. College Rise 6. Rathmullen 7. Bredin St 8. Boyne Rd 9. Westgate

	10. Crosslanes 11. Bull Ring 12. Duleek St 13. Broadmeadows 14. Trinity Gardens 15. Patricks St / Bolton St CIS Lanes. 1. Working on final account for 2023 @ Stumpa and The Burren. Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2023: 1. Works now completed at Boyle O Reilly. 2. List of sites been surveyed by IWA for 2024. R166 Clogherhead LP-2318-17 Tullyallen R166-141 Clogherhead R170-152 Walshetown LS-6316 Coolefore LS-6323-0 Rosehall	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing - Gully cleaning contractor Drogheda Town – day rate gully cleaning commenced, currently there are 218 gullies cleaned out of our schedule of 500. - Cherrymount housing estate out the Donore Rd, gully survey to be carried out. - R132 Mullary - R170 Dunleer Slieveboy - Baltray Village flap valves	

Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	N/A	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Currently preparing at list of locations for footpath repairs for commencing in March depending on weather conditions. February footpath repairs at Castlewood and Mellifont.	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	• DR06 – R132 @ Westgate (vehicle phase lamp green phase A fail) • DR06 – R132 @ Westgate (vehicle phase lamp green phase H fail) • DR22 – North Quay Ped (Red man not working) • DR19 – Termonfeckin Rd / Kieran's Corner (green man not working fault no showing on RMS). • DR06 – R132 @ Westgate (vehicle phase lamp green phase Q fail) • DR04 – R132 @ Bull Ring / North (vehicle phase lamp green phase G fail) • DR22 – North Quay Ped (Vehicle phase green not working) • DR53 - Ardee ped @ Credit Union (vehicle phase lamp Red phase A fail) • DR25 – Trinity St @ Motor Factors Ped (Red man lamp out)	

Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	• St Laurence St – up-grade of disabled parking bays. • West St – up-grade of disabled parking bays. • Haymarket – up-grade yellow box. • Donore Rd- Renew White Lines. • Dublin renew yellow boxes and white lining.	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	1. Up-grade of pole and signs for pay & display at town centre. 2. Erect liable to flood signs on the rampart walk. 3. New STOP sign on Duleek St. 4. Barrack Hill – all pay parking poles and signs up-graded. 5. Stop sign Tullyallen 6. Fallen Gateway sign Monasterboice	
Weed killing / Marú fialí	N/A	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	Illegal signage Illegal dumping at Calvary Cemetery A new case has been created: Case 358169: EPA pollution report 25 01 2024 Early morning inspections Southside location	Action taken. Fixed Penalty Notice issued. Liaised with Complainant Area checked. Complaint passed to Meath County Council.

	Rathmullen	Dumping removed. No evidence found.
	Marleys Lane	
	Old hill Bottle Banks	
	IDA road clean at Bottle banks	Dumping removed. No evidence found.
	Ballsgrove house	
	St Dominics Park	Dumping at property. Matter referred to housing office.
	Rathmullen	
	Marleys Court	Dumping. Fixed Penalty Notice to issue
	Patrick Street	Dumping no evidence. Clear by outdoor staff..
		Abandoned vehicle. Ownership follow up ongoing
		Abandoned vehicle. Ownership follow up ongoing
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been received from 2 tenderers. These will be assessed for compliance with the works proposals and quality of submissions.

Post Tender Clarifications are ongoing.

A welcome announcement under the Shared Island Fund stated that the Government “will also invest in the Narrow Water Bridge to link the Mourne Mountains in Co. Down with the Cooley Peninsula in Co. Louth”

A Marine Construction Licence was advertised in the Mourne Observer and Down Recorder as part of our application for consent to Marine and Fisheries Division DAERA, the closing date is 28 days from the advertising.

Site hedge clearance in Warrenpoint took place in Feb.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing in order to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services has been procured and they are liaising with the agents of landowners. A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service.

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

The CPO became operative on the 20th of Sept. 2023. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has approved the gateway to issue ‘Notice to Treat’. The notices issued on the week ending 15th December 2023 and following this and the ‘notice to enter’ the hedge removal and fencing contract to meet the requirements of the Wildlife Act finished on the 29th February.

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders. The technical acceptance report has received its initial approval for structures. Tenders have been assessed for an archaeologist to carry out test trenching and other services which will be required. TII approval to award the archaeological contract has also been approved. Letters of regret and intent to award have now issued and test trenching license is being sought. A consultant has been appointed for geotechnical advice for some soft soils areas and options are currently being incorporated in the tender documents.

Tenders have been received for valuers and a claims adviser/peer review and both are now being appointed following TII approval. An order is being made to ESB for relocation of 38kv overhead network



Hedge Removal in progress between land holdings prior to the end of February

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

2024 allocations were notified to Louth and Monaghan County Council on Friday, 23rd

February 2024. No allocation was provided for this project, and the project continues to be suspended.

Note - An allocation of €100,000 was provided to Monaghan County Council for a HD15 / HD17 Minor Works scheme called 'Ardee to Castleblaney Safety Improvements'. This funding is separate to the N2 Ardee to Castleblaney Road Scheme. Monaghan County Council will liaise with TII over the coming weeks to determine the expected nature and scope of this project.

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

N52 Ardee Bypass

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

The Applicant has confirmed it is not filing any further papers by way of response to the Bord or the State Respondents; this means that the pleadings are "closed" & case is ready for a hearing.

A hearing is set for Tuesday 9th April 2024 and it is scheduled to take 3 days so will continue on Wednesday 10th April and Thursday 11th April.

The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

Port Access Northern Cross Route Phase1

Clonmel Enterprises, employed by HISCO, have substantially completed the section of road from the R132 to Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane. Entry to the remaining lands have been secured and outstanding works are now completed.

Realignment of the Twenties Lane is complete in partnership with CFS Homes. It is envisaged that the road will open to traffic following public lighting, traffic light commissioning and completion of a road safety audit on the week commencing the 4th March.



Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

The LCC Section of road is now complete, with snagging ongoing.

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



New carriageway with footpaths

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Department of Transport allocated monies in 2024 towards progressing feasibility and options design. The tender for consultant is to be issued in March (subject to approval by Department of Transport).

Greenways

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

Section 1 - Carlingford to Carlingford Marina

The main surfacing works in Carlingford is complete. There are outstanding works to trailhead, along with crossing points at Back Lane and streetlighting to be completed.



Retaining wall works in Section 1 Carlingford

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

The mainline route of the greenway now complete. The remainder of fencing and surfacing to be completed in March along with directional signage.



Greenway heading towards Omeath

Landowner engagement is 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.



Access control gates installed at culvert/

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

A revised major planning application was submitted in Feb 2023 and granted in March. The minor planning application for the route change was submitted in April 2023 and received its planning on the 26th of Oct 2023. Works have commenced Nov. 2023 in NI to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk.



Works Complete in Victoria Lock in NI

Tender for design and the construction of a greenway at Carlingford Lough connecting Victoria Lock with NI/ROI Border. The proposed Greenway consists of a 4m wide piled timber deck boardwalk (1025m in length) with associated works to tie into the levels of the adjacent unbound greenway sections is currently out to market and will close on 13th March 2024.

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

TII Funded Greenways

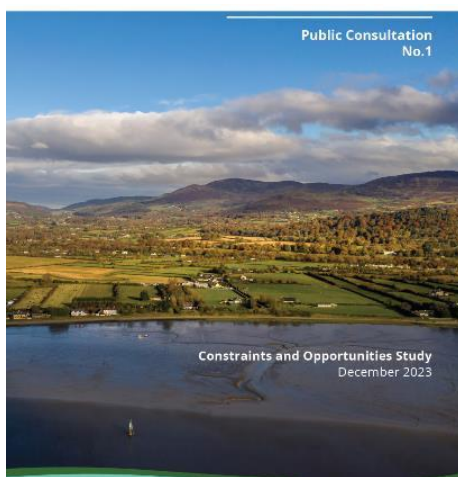
Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

The draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) has been approved by TII.

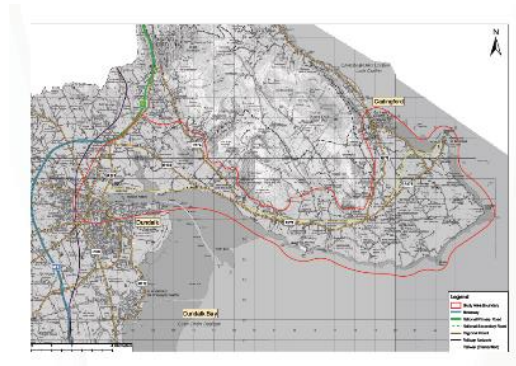
Mapping, flooding information and other relevant databases have been shared with the appointed consultant to enable the constraints to be recorded.

Phase 1 public consultation took place on Thursday the 7th December at Carlingford Heritage Centre. The aim of this public consultation was to receive feedback on the Project Study Area, the constraints identified and any other features/opportunities within the study area that the Project Team should consider. The feedback and submissions received through this public consultation will be considered by the Project Team and will help to inform the development of the project.

This public consultation closed on 19th January and the project team has received responses by post and email. A report will now be prepared with the feedback received. Once this report is completed, route corridor options will be produced ahead of the Public Consultation Phase 2 which will be held in Q2 2024. Environmental assessments are ongoing including meeting with project ecologist.



Public Consultation 1 in Heritage Centre, Carlingford



Study Area

The delivery of this scheme going forward will be under the TII Project Management Guidelines.

2024 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads, Active Travel and Greenways have allocated €850,000 for this scheme this year.

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

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Beach Accessibility Project relates to better accessibility to the beach areas at Templetown, Clogherhead and Port beaches. The Preliminary designs are now complete and issued to the Members for information purposes. Applications under the ORIS Fund are being made for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown.

Further information request from ORIS for Templetown was received at the end of Feb. and a response is being prepared.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

This scheme is developer led, assisted by the offset of development levies under agreement with the Council. Main carriageway works are nearing completion. Works are ongoing on the Marsh Road.



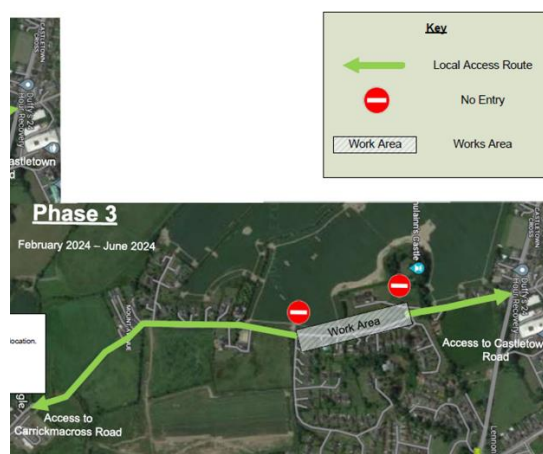
Overall layout of the Road, image from of Google Maps.

LIHAF Project:

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are ongoing on the scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Roadwork's are complete on the Castletown road and a new pedestrian crossing has been commissioned. Substantial upgrade of IW watermains is currently taking place.

Changes to traffic management have taken place from the 19th February with access to more houses to the south via a newly realigned section of road with cycle lanes and footpaths. ESB high voltage ducting is now complete, drainage and other services are taking place north of the new roundabout. This plan will be in place until June when road works will continue further north. Facilities are in place for access to all properties and housing development schemes. Kerbing, drainage, ducting, public lighting and footpath works are also progressing on the off-line section north of Lis na Dara.



Current Phase Traffic Management.



Works in the vicinity of Headford

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Shot blasting of steel members is complete. Perished steel members being removed to enable proposed remedial works to proceed. Damaged stonework taken down and raking out of remaining stonework completed on South side of bridge approach walls.

Priming of metal work over 70% complete ongoing. Platform erected for closer inspection of Bridge Abutments. Root treatment undertaken in exposed areas of stone walls.



Typical Loss of cross section at Lattice Members



*Drilling for repair section to Lattice Members
Obelisk Bridge Section of primed steel*



Template for Lattice Repairs

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Plastering has commenced throughout building, with Cupola external cladding and louvre installation by Specialist Contractors still ongoing. Verge coping stone complete. Glazed Panel installed to courtyard area on Western elevation. Ridge Roof Detailing ongoing. Fit-out of rooms ongoing, flooring laid.



Gallery Area in Block B

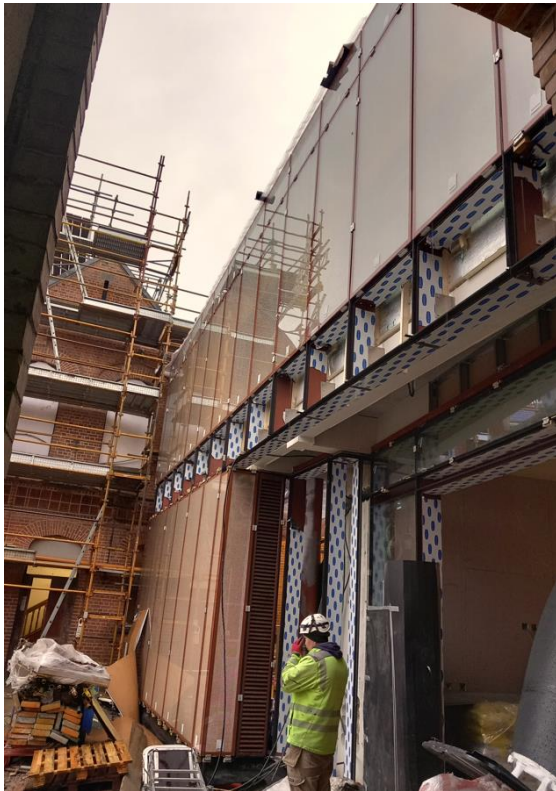


Fitout of New MD Meeting Room ongoing

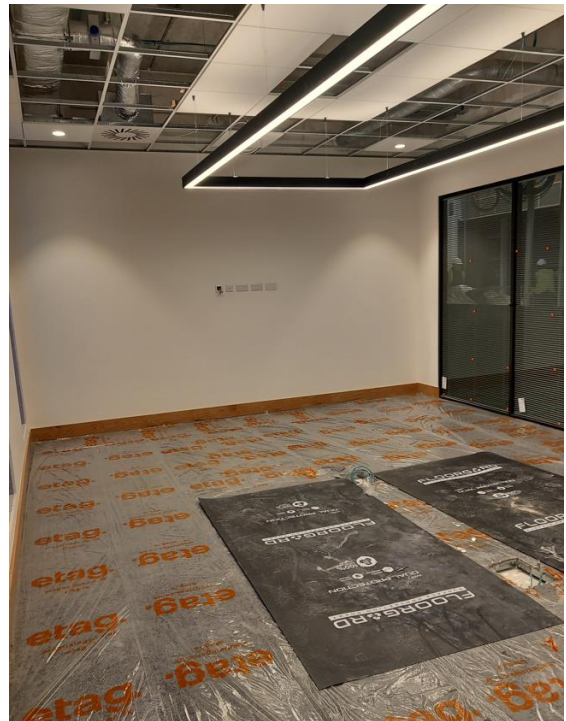
Block N: New Link Building

Mechanical Air Ventilation fitout ongoing in Toilet Blocks. Heating Units installed at both

Main and Rear Entrances. Breakout Area to Francis Johnson Building Frames and glazing installed. Front Copper Façade entrance Curtain Walling nearing completion. Final Layer of Roof Membrane installed. Internal Window flashing and grounds and sound insulation installed at clear story level in foyer. Meeting Room and Staff Office fit outs ongoing. Site Services ducting ongoing.



Feature Façade Nearing Completion



Meeting Room Fit Out with feature Lighting



ESB switch gear now installed

Block C: Community Services Building

Internal Ceiling services and ceiling fitout continuing. Eastern Roof hip completed. Rebuilding of Eastern Elevation 70% complete. South Area Planters Slab Pours completed. Internal brickwork to North elevation completed with remaining ceiling structures installation completed. Mechanical and Electrical Service installation continuing. Windows installed.



Block C New Roofing



Block C Internal Fit out

Block E: Annex Building

Roof construction ongoing. Emergency escape stairs are in place.

Dunleer Fire Station

Consultants appointed, designer currently working on preliminary proposals and options on site layouts continue. Site surveys completed. Final purchase of the lands process is on-going.

Stage 1 Report consisting of Project Inception and Preliminary Investigation was submitted in December 2023. Approval to proceed to stage 2 will now be sought from the funding body when the site is fully acquired.

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer Joint Venture (JV) continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The draft Hydraulic report has been reviewed by the Office of Public Works (OPW) / LCC, the JV has reviewed the comments received and are developing the final report, with the final sensitivity analysis being carried out.

A preliminary options assessment for an extensive range of possible Flood Relief Measures continues to be developed and assessed. There is a Formal Emerging Options Workshop scheduled for early 2024. The proposed locations for ground investigation works have been finalized, along with accompanying environmental and archaeological assessments. Tendering will be carried out in the New Year. Additional seasonal environmental surveying e.g. wintering bird's surveys are being carried out. The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by LCC and OPW.

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

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

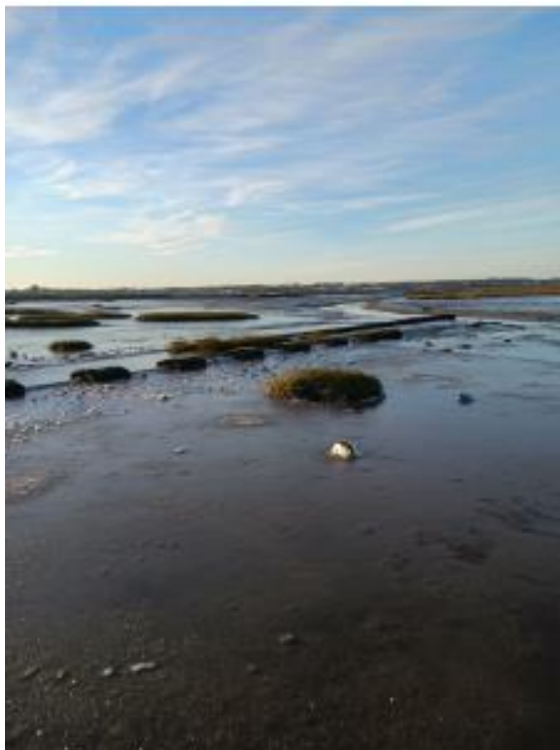
Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. Hydraulic analysis continues with the Core design runs, sensitivity and blockage assessment runs now complete and being assessed. RPS has completed the draft hydraulics report and LCC and OPW are currently reviewing, and queries are being resolved.

Additional topographical surveying has been carried out and the hydraulic model updated accordingly.

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

The specification for an underwater archaeology survey is being developed prior to procurement of a specialist contractor. An otter survey has been completed and an overwintering bird survey commenced in October and will continue until March 2024



Photograph taken during over wintering bird survey

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

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

OPW and LCC have commenced information gathering including ICWWS, latest LiDAR, River survey, Topo (including thresholds), CCTV, Beach profiles, Bathymetry, etc. Procurement of CCTV and Topo Contractors to complete the information required is to begin in first quarter 2024. A data collection exercise has been carried out to collate data from the recent flood event. This data will be used to inform the project and calibrate hydraulic modelling.

Marine Projects

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

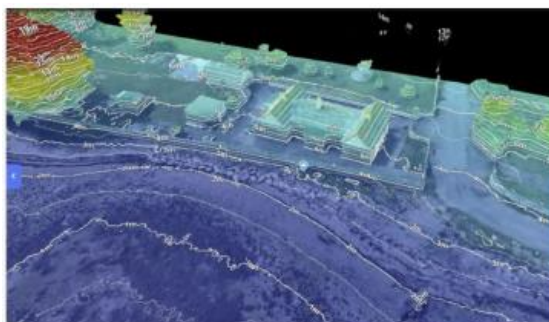
Louth County Council submitted 3 No. Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

- Drummullagh, Omeath, and
- Bellurgan Point,
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore.

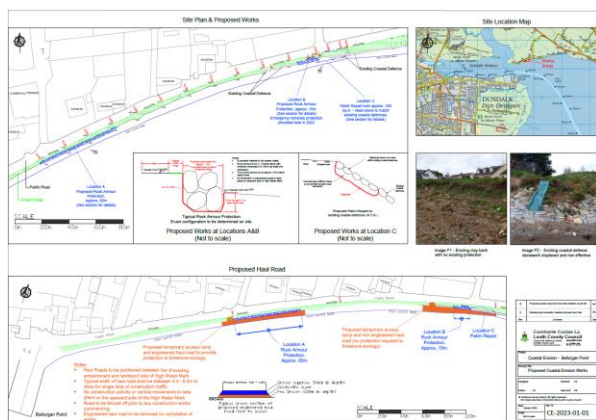
The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

Louth County Council is currently engaging with MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority) in order to obtain MAC (Marine Area Consent) for the proposed works at Drummullagh, Omeath.

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE consent and foreshore consent, it is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1 2024, with construction works anticipated to commence in Q2 2024.



Drone 3D Elevation Model showing elevation contours of Drummullagh works site



Typical works proposal Bellurgan site.

Schools Programme Projects

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

A site has been acquired and Department of Education has submitted a planning application. Further information is due to be submitted by the applicant.

Ardee E.T.N.S.

A contractor has been appointed and works commenced on the 10th July 2023 with mobilisation and site clearance. Drainage, foundations and ground works are ongoing. Pathway around west side of building filled. Dead building, steel framework, floor slabs and rising blockwork ongoing. Tree removal for N52 access is also now complete. Progress :

- Blockwork to substructure level 80% complete.
- 1st Phase of slabs in place.
- Shale in place to the lower strip of the building.
- Steel frame in place.
- Columns poured to beam level – 50%

Proposed Works Forecast:

- Complete blockwork to substructure around the steel frame.
- Next phase of slabs due on site week commencing 12th Feb.
- Pour remaining columns

- Continue Rising Blockwork



Floor slabs in place in preparation for Radon membrane



Steel frame to General Purpose Hall

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

As constructed drawings of the completed emergency lighting has been issued by the PSDP. The contractor is due to resolve a roof leak issue.

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council have appointed Weev to install and operate 25 rapid electric vehicle chargers at locations across the border region in the Republic of Ireland.

SITE BUILD STATUS	
Site 14	NAVAN; Site Live
Site 7	VIRGINIA; Additional ESB requirements now complete. WEEV to Commission
Site 4	CARRICKMACROSS; Site Live
Site 8	BALLYBOFEY; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 3	DUNDALK; Site Live
Site 1	ARDEE; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 2	DROGHEDA ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 12	SLIGO Site Live
Site 11	MANORHAMILTON ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 6	CAVAN ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 10	Carrick-on-Shannon Site Live

The full list and maps across all regions can be view on the project website by clicking on the below link:

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

Information is available at the following outlets:

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

Civil works are all complete and chargers installed, awaiting connecting for all sites by the ESB.

Active Travel Investment Program

2024 Budget Allocation

On 7th February 2024, 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 the development of transport studies for Drogheda and Dundalk.

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

ease of referencing, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocate projects into particular Cost Bands depending on the total estimated project cost including, fees, land acquisitions and constructions as follows;

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

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

The seven different phases are as outlined below...

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

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

On the 22nd February 2024, the Active Travel Team and their Design Consultants held a Public Consultation Day in Drogheda Library to allow key stakeholders and members of the public to meet and discuss proposals for Active Travel Infrastructure along the Collon Rd, North Cross Route Rd & Dublin Rd to Southgate in Drogheda.

Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band	Current Phase	March 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 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023. The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report. A Gateway 3 Report was completed in December 2023. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route. 	Proposed Part 8 display end of Q2 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Consultants RPS Group has commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in early 2024 in advance of public consultations.	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Gateway 2 Report completed in November 2023 and submitted to the NTA for approval. The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. A further update was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024. The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm.	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.  <u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u>  <u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	LCC received Gateway 2 Report from Design Consultants at start of October and report was submitted to the NTA on 27th October 2023. The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants, have commenced to assess some elements in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <u>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</u>	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024. The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project. The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.  <u>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</u>	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	Gateway 2 Report was approved by the NTA in May 2023. Junction traffic modelling completed in July 2023. Gateway 3 Report (Preliminary Design Report) was submitted to the NTA in early August 2023 and we are currently awaiting approval from the NTA.	Proposed Part 8 display early Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process.  <u>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout</u>	
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19th June 2023. Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 4th October 2023.  <u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u>	Proposed Part 8 display early Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€150,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29th June 2023. Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 "Statutory Process". DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package. Towards the end of 2023 we held a number of meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route. The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process. The Active Travel Team met five key residents' groups, to discuss key areas of contention i.e. parking etc, in order to amend some proposals in advance of Part 8 publication.  <u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u>	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2024
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€450,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	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. Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27th July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with the consultants gathering baseline information. Baseline Report completed and we are now assessing Forecast Transport Demand. This ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€165,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA 29 th Feb 2024.	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€145,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA 29 th Feb 2024.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€235,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. The Active Travel are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2024
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€160,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	2024
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€100,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	N/A
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda- All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A

Project Name	Allocation 2024	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€50,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€930,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil (per scheme)	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above. Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed. Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced. Traffic, Drone & Topographical Surveys to be completed Nov 2023. Joint Gateway 2 & 3 Reports submitted to the NTA at the end of Nov 2023.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1.Bellurgan National School 2.Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4.St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	€125,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Active Travel have conducted a Procurement Competition for a Design Consultant in Q4 2023, with a Letter of Intent issued to the preferred Design Team in Dec 2023. It is anticipated that the Design Team will be appointed in 2024.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application is currently with An Bord Pleanála. LCC is awaiting the planning report from the Bord and preparing to respond to any information requested.

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

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

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

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

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

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

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



Submissions on the planning application were accepted by An Bord Pleanála up until February 9th 2024.

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

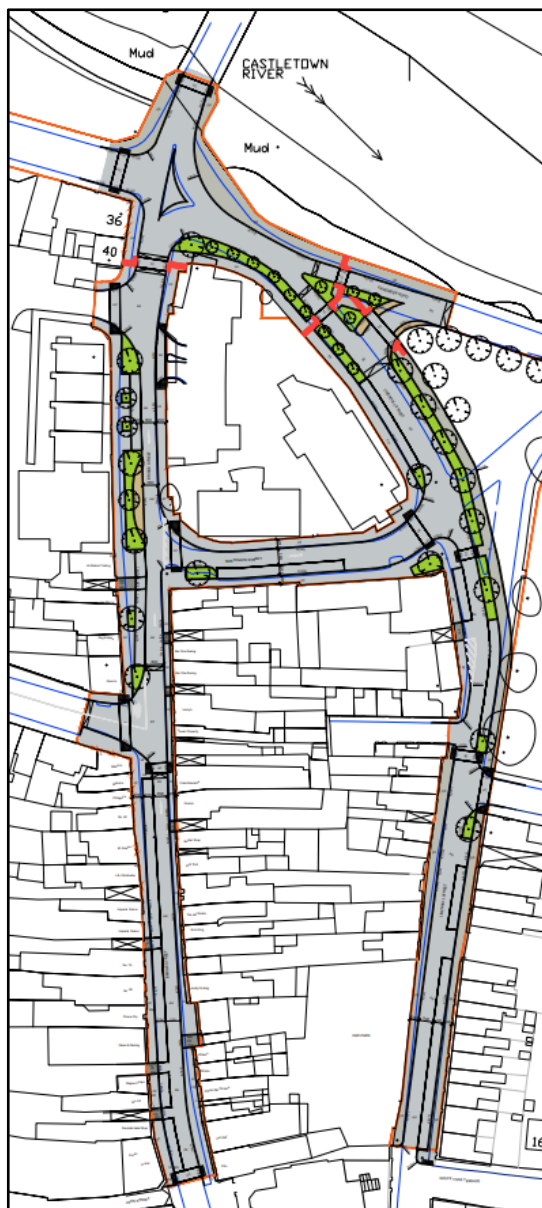
BDP Ltd are the Urban Design Team for Phase 1 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. This project involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. Part 8 approval of the project was received in April 2018.

Following Decision Gate 2 for funding approval by the URDF, as per the Public Spending Code, the tender for construction has now been advertised.

The tender process for St Nicholas Quarter Phase 1 has commenced. Phase 1 works have been published on etenders with the

return date of March 25th 2024 for completed tenders.

It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in Q2 2024. A public engagement day was held on Wednesday 29th November in Dundalk Town Hall where residents and stakeholders had a chance to review drawings and information on the delivery of this project. It was a well-attended event with positive feedback received on the project.



Phase 2

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.

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

URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

On-site inspections and negotiations with property owners are ongoing regarding buildings in Dundalk and Drogheda. The process of acquiring the initial tranche of properties selected to be compulsorily acquired has commenced.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

The new Part 8 application for the Ardee Castle Refurbishment works is on public display in both the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee and Ardee Library. It is also available to view on the Council's online Consultation Portal and the National Part 8 Portal. Submissions or observations can be made in writing or via the online National Portal before 5pm on Thursday 4th April 2024.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8 process at the July Dundalk Municipal District meeting. The Council have met with the RRDF section in the Department and discussed the next steps for the project. An application for category 1 funding for the project was submitted for RRDF in February 2024.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

Glas Civil Engineering are continuing with the initial phase of the project, with majority of the utility work is now complete on site. Kerbing and final pavement preparation has commenced. Glas Civil Engineering will work through the next stage of works on an agreed phased basis. There is ongoing public engagement with local stakeholders to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. The proposed works are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths.



Road and Footpath Layout R173

Ardee 2040

Turley planning is in the process of completing the final design Audits, reports and planning documents for Ardee 2040. The planning submission will then be lodged with An Bord Pleanála. The project will enhance the streetscape and amenity areas in Ardee with a focus on the key areas of the Main Street, the Old Railway Lands and the new amenity lands to the east of the town centre.

The objective of Ardee 2040 is to develop projects that support regeneration, compact growth and sustainable development. The key themes are:

- creating quality gateways; public spaces; recreational areas; sporting areas and public realm in Ardee,
- improving connectivity and legibility for all members of the community and for visitors/tourists to the town.

The project aims to capitalise and respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by provision of new and better-quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways, and sports recreational areas.

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports are required and have been commissioned for the Part 8 process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The proposed play space in Termonfeckin successfully received planning permission through the Part 8 process at the December Drogheda Municipal District meeting.

The water tower at Termonfeckin has been demolished above ground. Site clearance has continued and the water tower foundations and associated pipework will be removed in the coming weeks with site clearance.

Site analysis in Termonfeckin is underway examining services and existing infrastructure. Assessment of the design and build tender for a playground contractor has been completed and appointment is being undertaken.

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

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The associated environmental reports are in the process of being finalised and will be completed in March.

Following completion of the environmental reports, a launch event to promote the Town Centre First (TCF) Plan will be held in the Market House Dunleer before the end of March.

The National launch event of the TCF policy was held in Adare, Co. Limerick at the end of February, with members of the Dunleer Town Team and LCC in attendance.

Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

The appointed urban design consultants who will help prepare the new Plan held their first meeting with members of the town team in February. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the key challenges facing Clogherhead and the potential opportunities.

A public consultation event will be held in the coming weeks to obtain the views of the local community and key stakeholders.

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

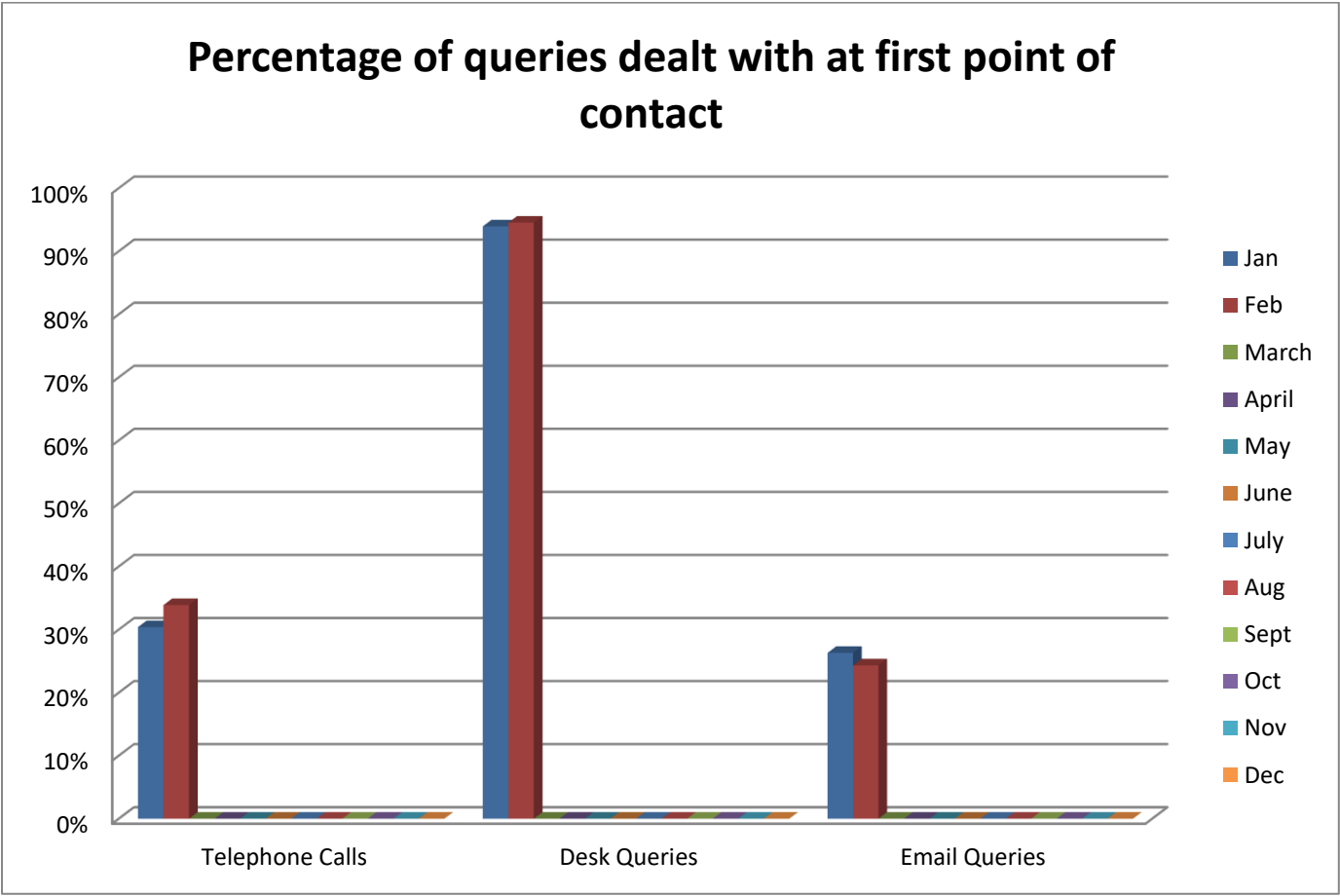


Joe McGuinness
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir

Corporate Services

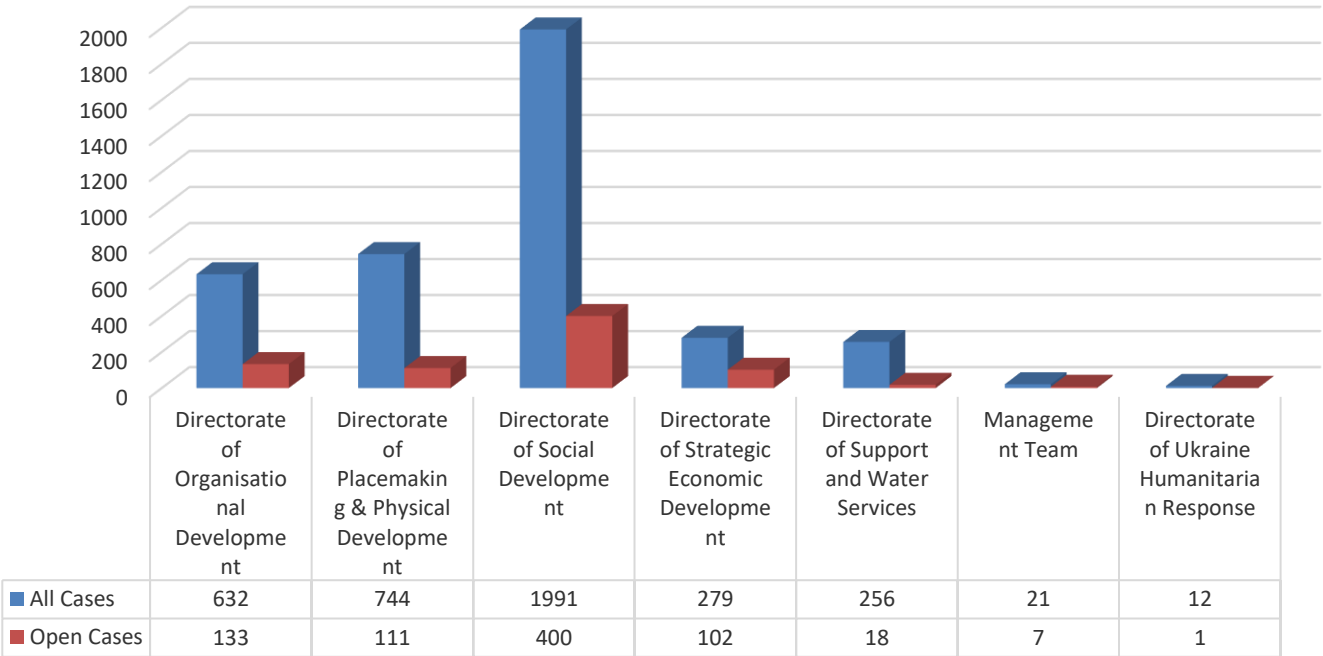
Customer Services Report

During the month of February 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries – 7,738 calls, 1,475 e-mails and 5,318 counter queries.

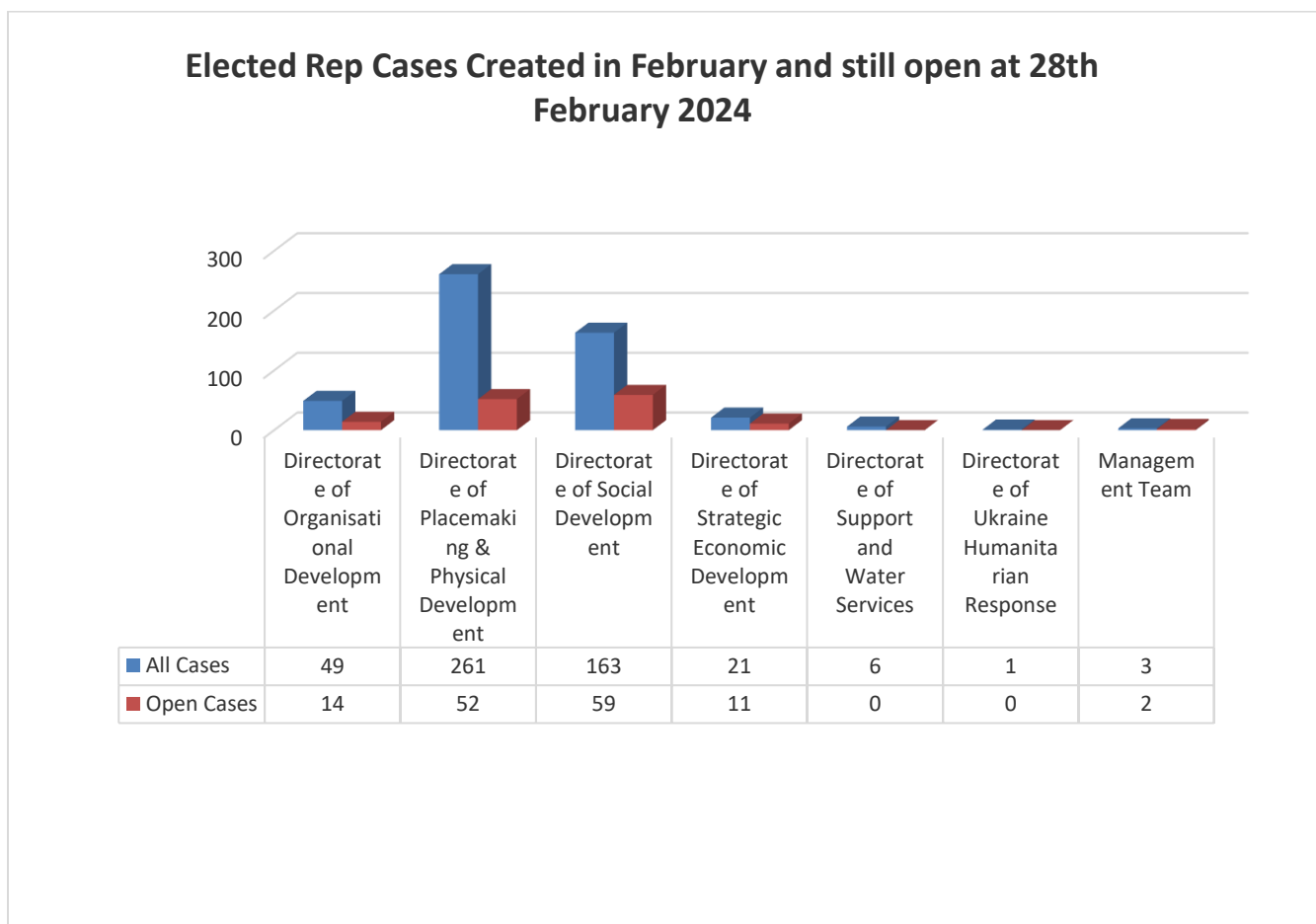


There were 3935 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during February of which 772 (19.6%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in February and still open at 28th of February 2024



During February 2024, 504 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 138 (27%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan-Feb	2024 Total Jan – Feb	2024 Feb ONLY
FOI	17	27	13
DSAR	1	1	1
Data Protection Request	0	5	1
AIE Requests	3	1	0
Ombudsman	3	5	4
Complaints	7	11	7

Electoral Register

February has been an extremely busy month for the Franchise Team due to the upcoming Referendums on March 8th 2024.

A huge number of applications were received online via www.checktheregister.ie, with over 500 applications being made daily to add or amend elector details. The closing date for receipt of applications was the 20th February 2024 and with all additions and amendments made the total electorate figure for County Louth was 90,731.

Due to increased accuracy with the use of eircodes, it is possible that some electors may not be voting at the same polling station as they were previously. It is therefore essential that electors check their details on either their polling cards or on www.checktheregister.ie to ensure they are aware of their Polling Station. Please note, Polling Stations cannot be reversed to what may have been in place prior to the addition of the Eircode.

Although the Local and European Elections are scheduled to take place in June, the date hasn't been confirmed yet. When a polling day order is made, the closing dates will then be made known.



Community Support

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The primary aim of the LECP is to set out the objectives and actions needed to support the economic and community development of the county for the next 6 year period.

The LECP was approved by Council on 19th February 2024. It was submitted to the Minister, and the Plan is now being graphically designed to make it accessible to all and will be published shortly.



Age Friendly Louth Accessibility Audit

Members of Louth Older People's Council, service users from the Irish Wheelchair Association and

members of the public were invited to take part in an accessibility audit along a portion of the Dublin Rd, Drogheda on 27th February 2024.

The audit was conducted along a section of the R132 from the pedestrian lights located at the entrance to the Train Station along the R132 to the pedestrian lights located beside Scotch Hall, along both sides of the road.

This section of the R132 is a particularly busy part of the road with large volumes of cars, buses, HGV lorries, bikes, e scooters and pedestrians using the road on a regular basis.

Participants were looking at the physical built environment, including footpaths, roads signage, street furniture and also environmental conditions. Participants commented on the experience of navigating this section of road from the point of view of an older pedestrian or an individual with mobility issues.

Following the accessibility audit, participants held a debriefing session and discussed their findings and observations. All comments and observations will be collated into a report and presented to TCD, Louth County Council & presented as a submission to the Joint Local Area Plan for Drogheda.



Participants of an accessibility audit in Drogheda



Christy Faulkner of Drogheda District Support with Iain Hovelt and Joe Grogan of Louth Older Peoples' Council at the take part in an accessibility audit in Drogheda

Members of the Age Friendly Team gave a presentation on the Age Friendly Programme to those attending the Dementia Café in Dundalk Library on 27th February 2024 and to the members of the Quality of Life SPC on 7th February 2024.



Age Friendly Louth attended the Age Dementia Café in Dundalk

JPC Meetings

The JPC steering committee held a meeting in January to agree JPC meeting schedule for 2024. They also considered the draft JPC Annual Report 2023. The Annual Report will be presented to each JPC in March for noting and subsequently presented to full council for approval.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 closed for applications on 23rd February 2024. Over 150 applications have been received from groups throughout the entire county. The applications will be assessed and presented to the LCDLDC in March. The successful applicants will be announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development in the coming months.

Green School Assessments

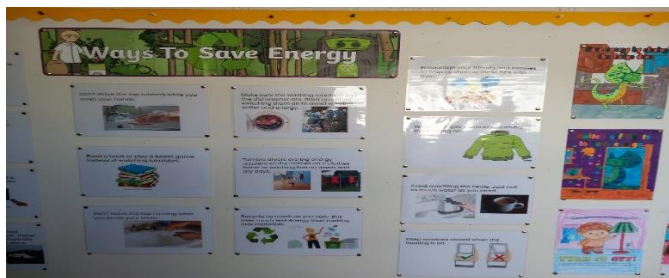
The Community Support Team is actively engaged in conducting green school assessments in various primary and secondary schools across Louth. Our team has been meeting with the schools' green committees and teachers to discuss and assess their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices.

Over 70 schools were contacted, informing them about the Green School's programme and extending an invitation for an assessment visit. The primary objective of these visits is to assess and promote the adoption of eco-friendly initiatives aligned with the

schools' particular themes. E.g. Litter & Waste theme, energy theme, etc. Schools that demonstrate success in incorporating sustainable practices will be honoured with a Green Flag at a dedicated ceremony scheduled for May in Dundalk this year.



Mullaghbuoy National school's Green Schools Committee



Presentation Primary school Ballymakenny- Green Schools Notice Board

Amenity Grants Scheme 2024

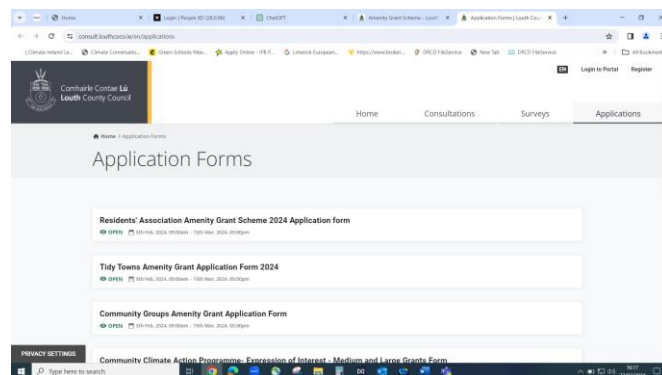
The Amenity Grant Scheme for 2024 officially opened on Monday, 5th February. To ensure widespread awareness, the scheme was extensively promoted through various channels, including advertisements in local newspapers, coverage on LMFM, publication on our website, inclusion in the Friday Communiqué, on social media platforms, and featured in news sections and recent news updates.

Groups are strongly encouraged to submit their applications through the Consult portal at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/applications>.

Comprehensive information about the scheme is also accessible on Louth County Council's website. <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/funding/amenity-grant-scheme/>

This online platform provides detailed guidance and resources for applicants, ensuring a clear and user-friendly application process. Interested groups are advised to visit the websites for further details and to initiate their application for the Amenity Grant Scheme.

However, traditional application methods remain available for those who prefer them. It's important to note that the application period closes on Friday, 15th March, and no late submissions will be entertained this year. Interested parties are urged to adhere to the specified timeline for a successful application process.



PPN

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN's held it's second Secretariat meeting of 2024 on Wednesday 21st February 2024.

2023 Income & Expenditure Report

Louth PPN issued their 2023 Income & Expenditure Account for 2023 to the DRCD on 19th February.

Workplan & Budget 2024

Louth PPN's Secretariat have developed their Workplan and Budget for 2024 which will be ratified at the next plenary Meeting due to take place on March 20th.

Thematic Projects

The thematic Projects for 2024 are as follows:

Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

This project is an extension of 2023's mentoring project, aiming to share the vast wealth of knowledge and experience which currently exists across the community and voluntary sector of County Louth with other community groups within Louth PPN's membership.

Intercultural Sports

It was agreed to complete this project in 2024 with a sporting event in Drogheda

Youth

It was agreed at our February Secretariat Meeting that the Youth Thematic Project in 2024 will be to develop an information service for Youth members across the County. This information service will be accessed online and contain information on resources and events available for youths to access, such as sports, music, arts, etc alongside information videos and forms.

Environment

It was agreed to build on the success of last year's environmental project at Rathescar Lake for 2024, with a particular emphasis on biodiversity.

Training

During the month of February Louth PPN offered it's members the opportunity to participate in the following training:

- Writing Effective Funding Applications – took place online on Wednesday 28th February
- Property Marking Machine – took place in Philipstown Community Centre on Saturday 24th February

It was agreed at the February Secretariat Meeting that Louth PPN will be offering the following training in the coming weeks:

- Canva – due to take place online on Monday 15th April
- Social Media - due to take place online on Monday 29th April and 13th & 20th May.

Nominations for SPCs

Nominations closed on Friday 26th January and Louth PPN welcomed 2 new PPN Representatives as follows:

- Obele Stephanie Abassah – Louth PPN Secretariat – Drogheda MD seat
- James McMahon – Planning & Support Infrastructure SPC – Social Inclusion seat

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Louth's '**Mental Health Matters**' Project Shortlisted for 'Best Mental Health' initiative at the recent Local Authority Members Association Awards.

The event took place at the Royal Convention Centre in Dublin on Saturday, February 17th, where representatives from LCC and Louth Local Development Company, Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) attended the ceremony.

Our 'Mental Health Matters' project, a collaboration between Healthy Louth and SICAP, has been recognised for its innovative approach to promoting mental well-being within the community. Through a series of workshops, events, and outreach programmes, the initiative aims to raise awareness about mental health issues, reduce stigma, and provide valuable resources and support to those in need.

Healthy Louth and the Louth Local Development Company extend their gratitude to all those who have supported the 'Mental Health Matters' project and helped to make it a success. We remain committed to continuing our efforts to promote positive mental health and well-being right across our community.

For more information about Healthy Louth Programme please visit <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/communities/programmes/healthy-louth/>



Alison Quail, Chair of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Office (SEO), Community Section, Louth County Council, Paula Keenan, Healthy County Coordinator, Louth County Council. Ina McCrumlish, Project Co-ordinator, SICAP, Louth Local Development Company at LAMA Awards

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2023:

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The most recent SICAP Programme came to an end in December 2023. Below are some of the programme highlights of 2023 from the Annual Report approved by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in February.

2023 SICAP Highlights

- SICAP supported 84 local community groups and registered 1,326 individuals.
- 84 community groups received developmental, technical, and capacity building supports.
- 24 Local Community Groups received grants with 2 Local Community Groups receiving funding for 2 grant aid activities. In total 26 Grants were administered.
- 1,326 individuals engaged in lifelong learning and labour market supports.
- 21 individuals were supported into employment.
- 100 individuals were referred by Department of Social Protection were supported to establish their own business through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme
- 151 individuals received education/training grants.
- 23 individuals received enterprise grants.
- 7 Social Enterprises received a social enterprise grant.



2023 Pathways Graduates

LEADER Programme:

Recently, LCC paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programme 2021-2023 for the following projects:

PROMOTER NAME	AMOUNT €
Louth Local Development CLG Innovating Communities – Designing Our Future - Capital	€937.50
Roche Emmets GFC Community Floodlit Walking Track Extension	€36,263.25
Louth Village Community Centre Louth Village Community Development Plan	€7,749.00
TOTAL	€44,949.75



Launch of the Equality for Women in County Louth Report

SICAP 2023 Case Study

The Case Study submitted for 2023 was in video format and was titled: **SICAP and Dundalk Institute of Technology – Back to Education Access.**

Sports

LCC Sports Facilities

Older Adult Programmes

Dundalk Sport Centre's older adult programmes have become extremely popular with each of the 5 classes having 40+ older adults participating in physical activity and socialising with peers. Sports Facility staff were asked to attend Women's shed in February to do a talk on the activities the Centre offer for seniors and why seniors should keep active. This has created more interest in the older adult programmes and more classes are going to be ran to meet the demand.



Pilates

Pilates has continued to grow in February with an additional class being added on a Tuesday night to meet the demands. We offered a morning class every Monday morning from 9:30 – 10:15am and two evening classes from 7:15 – 8pm & 8pm-8.45pm every Tuesday. Dundalk Sports Centre partnered with the Staff Well-Being Officer in Louth County Council who offered funded spots to staff of Louth County Council for a 6 week block. This was a very successful initiative which resulted in many staff trying a new activity for the new year.



LAS Bootcamp

The first LAS bootcamp of 2024 finished up in late February with 20+ participants completing the six-week programme which consisted of strength and cardio sessions. Sports facilities teamed up with LCC Staff Well-Being Officer who offered funded spots on our Lourdes Stadium bootcamp.

Lourdes Stadium works.

Capital works continues at Lourdes Athletic Stadium. Phase 1 is underway with the base for our new storage unit now in place.



Capital works continues at Lourdes Athletic Stadium

Nordic Walkers

Nordic walking continued in February with the group using the facility every Tuesday morning. Nordic walking is a great, stress free form of exercise and a great activity. All details can be found on the Boyne Nordic Walks Facebook page.



Nordic Walking at Lourdes Stadium

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

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

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	February 1 st 2024	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	February 15 th 2024	Online

Autism in Sport

Activity	Date	Venue
Autism in Sport	February 21 st 2024	Online

Federation of Irish Sport Volunteers in Sport Awards

The Federation of Irish Sport recently announced the county recipients of the 2023 Volunteers in Sport Awards proudly supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships.

The County Louth award for 2023 has been awarded to Fintan Cooper of Glen Magic Football Club in Drogheda, a club that is focused on girls' football and open to all. The club was founded 2014 and will celebrate its ten-year anniversary very soon.

Before Glen Magic Soccer, opportunities for girls to play football in the region did not exist. In 2017, Fintan helped to establish the Louth School Girls League, which launched in 2019 and immediately brought 300 girls into the sport.

By the end of 2023, increasing participation rates for Girls Soccer in Louth were exponential, and Glen Magic is a key part of that success with over 100 girls & ladies actively involved in the club. Fintan continues to volunteer, to make sure participation and enjoyment in the sport continue to rise.

Louth Local Sports Partnership would like to extend our congratulations to Fintan and Glen Magic Soccer Club.



County Louth Federation of Irish Sport Volunteers, Volunteer of the year 2023 has been awarded to Fintan Cooper of Glen Magic Football Club in Drogheda

Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness training with DKIT

Staff from Louth Local Sports Partnership were delighted to provide Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness training to from the BA (Hons) Sport, Exercise & Enterprise course in DKIT today. The students learned about:

- Understanding Disability
- Communication
- Barriers to participation in Sport
- TREE Model
- Sport Inclusion Disability Charter
- Adapting and modifying a Sport or Physical Activity session to promote Inclusion.



DKIT Students attending Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness training

New Community Walking Group in Tullyallen

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to support the Men's Shed group in Tullyallen to establish their weekly community walking programme in February. The men will now use the walking track in Glen Emmets GAA Club on a weekly basis to conduct their walks.



Members of Tullyallen Men's Shed

Couch to 5K Programmes in Dundalk & Drogheda

Two Couch to 5k programmes continued in Dundalk and Drogheda in February to support people to exercise and work towards completing a local 5km run in their local park run events in Spring 2024.



Coach to 5k in Drogheda and Dundalk

Physical Activity Leaders Training in Drogheda

Louth Local Sports Partnership's Physical Activity Leaders training for activity leaders continued during February in Drogheda. The leaders attended 3 workshops (five hours each) and engaged in both practical and theory work to ensure they receive all the knowledge and skills to lead their local group in physical activity.



Participants in the Physical Activity Leaders training

Louth Local Sports Partnership visit DKIT Sports students

In February our Head of Sport Graham Russell, and Senior Sports Officer Odhran Doherty were invited by staff from the DKIT Careers Office to talk to students from the BSc (Hons) in Health & Physical Activity and BA in Sports, Exercise & Enterprise courses within the college.

They both provided valuable information and advice on future careers within Sport and Physical Activity and placement opportunities in Louth Local Sports Partnership.



Head of Sport Graham Russell, and Senior Sports Officer Odhran Doherty with DKIT students

Huge numbers of men participating in Men on the Move

Our 12-week Men on the Move programmes in conjunction with Cooley Kickhams GAA and St

Fechins GAA continued in February with huge numbers participating.

The Men on the Move Programme encourages men to get more active, have fun and improve their fitness levels through twice weekly activity sessions. The programme offers men the chance to learn and take part in safe, effective exercises tailored to suit their needs.



Men on The Move Programme

Try Sports Leadership Programme

Congratulations to the TY students of Coláiste Rís, Dundalk who completed our Try Sports Leadership programme in February.

The students explored topics such as leadership skills & behaviours, communication skills, developing a sports session, and inclusion. The students also delivered an activity session to their peer group.



TY students of Coláiste Rís, Dundalk who completed our Try Sports Leadership programme

Women’s Social Soccer in Dundalk & Philipstown

Women’s Social Soccer continued through February in Dundalk and Philipstown. Social Soccer a fun and non-competitive social sports opportunity for female participants to enjoy a weekly game of Soccer.



Women’s Social Soccer

Community Fitness Bootcamps continue in Dundalk & Drogheda

Two Community Fitness Bootcamps continued through February in Dundalk and Drogheda with large numbers taking part in both activities.

The bootcamps are an ideal opportunity to engage in physical activity within a social group within the local community. The camps are facilitated by experienced instructors.

For further information on any of these programmes please email louthlsp@louthcoco.ie or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.



Community Fitness Bootcamps

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Waste Enforcement

Summary of Complaints

A total of 27 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in February 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in February 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	6	14
Farm	3	4
Waste/C&D	15	36
Water Quality	3	8

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

Waste Bye-Laws (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) were introduced in 2019. The key objectives of the Waste Bye-Laws are:

- To encourage households and businesses to manage their waste in an environmentally responsible manner.
- To promote better segregation of household and commercial waste.
- To ensure only authorised waste collectors are used to dispose of waste.
- To reduce illegal dumping and backyard burning of waste.

Letters are continuing to be issued to householders and businesses in areas where bin presentation is a prevailing issue.

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

County Council to the householders where breaches of the Waste Presentation By-laws are identified.

Article 27 By-Products

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

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

Extended Producer Responsibility Initiatives

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes have been developed for several waste streams, based on the ‘producer pays principle’, whereby producers of specific products have responsibility to finance the collection and environmentally sound waste management of their products at the end of life.

In Ireland, EPR schemes are in place for the following waste streams:

- Packaging
- WEEE
- Batteries
- End-of-life vehicles (ELVs)
- Farm plastics and
- Tyres.

Louth County Council waste enforcement officers are currently undertaking inspections for 2024 to ensure compliance with the Regulations.



Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme

The Deposit Return Scheme came live on the 1st February 2024. If you buy a drink in a container with the Re-turn logo, you are charged an extra refundable deposit in addition to the price of the product. You can then claim back the levy by returning the empty container for recycling.

To prevent waste, for a limited period, from 1 February there will be some stock of plastic bottles and cans without the Re-urn logo. As consumers will not have paid a deposit on these plastic bottles and cans, they can be placed in recycling bins.

A deposit of 15 cents will apply to each container from 150ml – 500mls and a deposit of 25 cents for containers over 500ml to 3 litres.

The following are **NOT** included in the Deposit Return Scheme:

- Glass drink containers
- All dairy products. Eg. Milk, Yogurt Drinks.

These containers will **not** have a Re-turn logo, but should still be recycled.

You can return containers to shops that have a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) point or accept the containers manually. Some shops have a take back exemption as they are not able to accept the containers back for the Deposit Return Scheme.

The locations of all Deposit Return Points can be found using the following link: <https://re-turn.ie/>



Annual Return Validations

All Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (CoR) holders are required to submit their Annual Returns (AR) to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) via the online Eden Portal before the **28th February 2024**. The AR provides details on all waste collected / processed in the year 2023.

The Eden Portal will open to all Local Authorities for Annual Return Validation from the 1st April 2024.

Litter Enforcement & Investigations

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

In February our wardens completed 108 investigations. Where evidence was found fixed penalty notices were issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 11 fixed penalty notices have been issued this month.

A successful prosecution was obtained in February 2024 in relation to illegal dumping under section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. The dumping occurred at Chapel Lane (Dummies Lane) in Drogheda in April 2023. Upon non-payment of the associated fixed penalty the case was heard in Drogheda District Court and the defendant was fined €300, allowing four months to pay. An Order was also made directing payment of Louth County Council expenses of €2,450 and legal costs of €500 plus VAT. This was Louth County Council's second successful prosecution in relation to this case of large-scale illegal dumping.



Photograph in relation to successful prosecution in Drogheda Court.

A successful conviction was also obtained at Dundalk District Court in February for waste outside a commercial premises in the town. This was also under Section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Due to non-payment of the associated fixed penalty, the case was heard in Dundalk Court this month. In this case the judge fined the Defendant the sum of €300 together with the councils' expenses in the sum of €475 and legal fees in the sum of €675 with 4 months to pay same.

Our litter wardens continue to investigate all reports received by Louth County Council of littering and illegal dumping within urban and rural areas. They also continue to engage with businesses advising on litter mitigation measures and actively patrolling litter hot spots. Illegal signage is also removed and fixed penalty notices issued accordingly.

Five hour foot patrols will recommence from March with the first patrol scheduled for Drogheda.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in February. All waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found. All the waste has been subsequently removed.





Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 4 Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC) dumped in February 2024 at an approximate cost of €4,992, bringing the yearly total to 8 IBC's at an approximate cost of €9985.



Environmental Regulation Bathing Water

In accordance with the Bathing Water regulations 2008 the Local authorities must report all newly identified bathing waters to the EPA before the 24th February annually. No new beaches in Louth were identified following the public participation held last year. The current designated beaches in Louth namely Templetown, Port, Clogherhead and Seapoint will be monitored in accordance with the bathing water regulations for the bathing season in 2024.

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



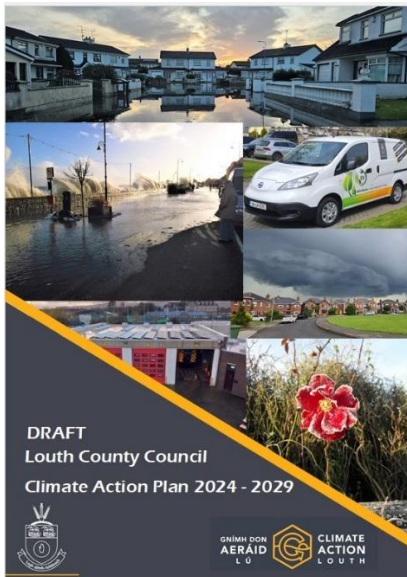
Climate Action Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

On Monday the 19th of February, the elected members of Louth County Council formally adopted the Louth Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024 – 2029. This is a five year plan that sets out a pathway for Louth County to formally decarbonise. It deals with Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and presents a unified approach to climate action for the whole county.

Work has now begun on drafting an implementation plan to deliver on the ambitious actions contained within the LCC CAP.

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

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



Climate Adaptation 2024

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

The Climate Action Team also supported the VARCITIES team by attending the recent SEAI Event in Dundalk Library.



Minister Eamon Ryan, Cathaoirleach Cllr Tommy Reilly and Fiona Lennon, Community Climate Action Officer, LCC.

Members of the LCC Climate Action Team attended an EU government led training session as part of the EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change. This was aimed at peer learning between the EU regions for Climate Adaptation. The LCC Climate Action team will be commencing a formal training programme as part of this EU Mission, in March.



Community Climate Action

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

The Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1) has launched and is available to community groups in Louth. The Shared Island Strand (Strand 1a) of this funding stream has also launched and is open for applications until 5pm on the 6th of March.

Applications can be submitted online, by email or in hard copy, late applications cannot be accepted.



Community Climate Action Officer, Fiona Lennon, Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly, CEO Joan Martin and Director of Services Joe McGuinness at the recent launch of the Community Climate Action Fund.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Framework for the Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

November 2022

The Community Climate action Officer has held a number of drop-in clinics on the Community Climate Action Fund across each of the Louth Libraries. The workshops were well attended by community groups across the County.

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

The Community Climate Action and Shared Island fund will both close on March 6th and 5pm. Late

applications cannot be accepted, all community groups who wish to apply under Strand 1 or Strand 1a funding stream are welcome to contact the Community Climate Action Officer at climateaction@louthcoco.ie if they have any questions or queries on a potential project.

Members of the Climate Action Team also recently attended an event ran by Dundalk Credit Union on Sustainable Energy Communities.



Community Climate Action Officer, Fiona Lennon and Climate Action Officer, Tracy Fitzpatrick.

Collaboration at work with LCC, SEAI and Dromiskin Tidy Towns Sustainable Energy Community – Dromiskin Energy Masterplan Launch Event

Louth County Council were represented at a climate change and energy awareness event in St Peters schools Dromiskin by Climate action officer Tracy Fitzpatrick and Ursula Conlon Executive planner on the energy team.

Dromiskin Tidy Towns Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) are undertaking an Energy Master Plan for the area and had a launch meeting in partnership with Dromiskin School on the 21 Feb 2024. This Energy plan which is supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Louth

County Council and will evaluate the energy use in the areas served by Dromiskin.

The students participated in the full day of workshops at St Peter School as part of the Dromiskin Tidy Towns Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Energy Master Plan launch. All classes participated in the workshops which were funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and delivered by SEAI Mentors from the Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community.

This was an example of collaboration with Dromiskin TTSEC, SEAI, Louth County Council and Dunleer SEC in continuing the important work on addressing the Challenges of Climate Change.



Gerry Reaburn DKIT, Tracy Fitzpatrick Louth County Council, Aoibheann Lynch Headmistress, Susan Richardson SEAI, Ursula Conlon LCC and Pat Mulligan Dromiskin SEC

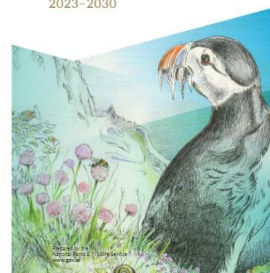
Biodiversity Action

The Biodiversity Officer has applied for Heritage Council funding to support the review, consultation, and publication of an updated Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth.

The current Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth 2021-2026 was endorsed by Louth County Council in 2021. The Biodiversity Officer will set up a Biodiversity Working Group and through public consultation will update the plan and agree a shared vision for biodiversity in Louth. The plan will align with Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan which was published in January 2024.



Ireland's 4th National
Biodiversity Action Plan
2023 - 2030



The Biodiversity Officer has also applied for National Parks and Wildlife Service Local Biodiversity Action Funding to deliver a series of projects which will contribute to improving conservation knowledge and management and enable the implementation of projects that promote the objectives within Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Education and Awareness Initiatives

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

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

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

ENERGY TEAM

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

VARCITIES' Dundalk Pilot Team from Louth County Council held a collaborative morning on 10th February 2024 with the SEAI. A variety of activities were hosted that Saturday morning jointly by the two groups.

The team shared updates on the project's progress to date and gave an exciting, interactive display of

Dundalk's new Health & Wellbeing Platform, which has been developed and will launch soon! A demo of VARCITIES GoNature VR game was also presented.



Padraig O'Hora from Louth County Council with Ruth Buggie and Eilish McCabe from SEAI at the Collaborative Event

The Health and Well Being Platform, developed for the Varcities Project was demonstrated and presented real-time environmental data from the site, such as external humidity and temperature readings. The audience learned about the practical applications of this data to optimize energy efficiency.

The audience encompassed adults from diverse backgrounds, including family units and individuals attending alone, providing personalized insights into the project's scope and significance. Children exhibited keen interest in specific aspects of the presentation, notably the Health and Well Being Platform and were captivated by the GoNature game.



Padraig O'Hora from Louth County Council demonstrating the Health and Well Being Platform from the Varcities Project with a family group at the Collaborative Event

The event also featured discussions on home energy improvements and a 'guzzler' play workshop for children on energy saving tips. Visitors experienced how smart cities applications (from the VARCITIES project) improve energy efficiency and carbon reduction, in a fun filled interactive way.

Follow the Projects Progress and **Like and Share** and help us raise Public Awareness

<https://www.facebook.com/VARCITIES>

<https://twitter.com/VARCITIES1>

<https://www.instagram.com/eu.varcities/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2ogZP3ne_Tbl_xwf1-5jQ/videos?view=0

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/varcities-green-cities-are-healthier-cities/>

Energy Awareness - Government of Ireland's Reduce Your Use Campaign

Reduce your Use is a joint initiative of SEAI and the Office of Public Works which supports public bodies to run a winter energy awareness campaign for staff and to undertake recommended actions on heating, lighting, operating hours and audits/O&M checks.

The campaign runs from October 2023 to March 2024. Louth County Council continues to participate in the campaign.

This month we are tracking transport costs which are often greater for Irish households than food. To help manage these costs, the Reduce Your Use developed tips, blogs and webinars to help manage the costs of transport fuel. These are promoted to all Council staff weekly in February.

SEAI state that people spend up to €50 per week to fill up their car. In recent weeks, this estimate has increased to €100 per week however, and many households have more than one car on the go.

€50 x 50 weeks = €2,500 per year in fuel alone (and 1,500L x 2.68kg CO₂/L diesel = 4 tonne CO₂ per year)

The message is that we are all agents of change - when small actions are continuously repeated and added to those of many others, the result becomes very significant.



Reduce your Use – to save fuel – drive as smoothly as possible, gently use steering, accelerator and brakes. Reducing speed by 10 kph can save up to 18% in fuel.

Optimising Power@ Work Campaign

The Council's 2 largest energy user buildings, County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall participate in the Office of Public Work's (OPW's) Optimising Power @Work Programme.

In January 2024, a new milestone of 41% reduction in energy use at our Town Hall Office since our baseline year of 2016 observed, whilst Co. Hall has achieved 33% savings compared to the baseline year (2016). Congratulations to all staff for their immense efforts by embracing this behavioural change programme in a very positive way.



41% Energy Savings in January 2024 at Dundalk Town Hall and 33% Energy Savings at Co. Hall

Energy Efficiency Performance

Reporting Obligations to SEAI M&R-2030 System

“All public bodies must achieve +50% improvement in energy efficiency, including a -51% reduction in fossil and total CO₂ emissions by 2030. The final goal for public bodies is to be NET Zero GHG emissions by 2050.”

Council staff are working to update SEAI's revised PSME 2030 Portal (used to submit energy data) with energy meter data for 2023 and in time for the Meter Data Deadline, of the 22nd of March 2024. Such reporting offers us an opportunity to showcase our achievements.



Louth County Council's glidepath towards 2030

Energy Efficiency Upgrade Works at County Archives Building

The County Archives Energy Upgrade project to the historic building included destratification fans, a BMS Upgrade and an internal Draught Lobby. Carbon savings from the 3 measures will result in are 17.6t and 85852 KWh of energy per year at this one site.



New Draught Lobby at the Council's Archives Building

Energy Management System Deliverables 2024

Council staff met recently with representatives from the regional Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU), led by Wicklow County Council, & their consultant CODEMA to discuss energy use at our Leisure Centres in Dundalk and Drogheda.

At the end of March, Louth County Council intends to sign a Service Level Agreement with the MEEU, to participate in the National Building Retrofit Pathfinder Programme for Local Authorities (Mid East Sub Region Caro) 2023 – 2025. It is expected this will further support the Council’s carbon saving journey towards 2030.

Path to Decarbonising LCCs Fleet

Carbon Emission reduction in the Council’s fleet is being considered jointly by the Council’s Operations and Energy Teams.

Trials are being initiated with reputable suppliers for the introduction of HVO Fuel on some of the Council’s HVO compatible fleet to enable data compilation for our PSMR obligation.

The recently acquired Multihog Sweeper vehicles are HVO ready and present as an appropriate start on the road to carbon neutralising fleet vehicles for LCC.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 29th February 2024, LCC 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.

LCC has carried out twelve inspections in the year to date.

There were sixty-six valid Sugar CRM cases assigned to Veterinary Services during February 2024, with four still in progress.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound February 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	15
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	8
Surrendered by owners	7
No dogs reclaimed by owners	5
No of dogs rehomed direct	8
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	7
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 29/02/2024	6

Dog Licences February 2024	
No of Licences sold	572
Licence Checks:	
House calls	247
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	62
Fixed Penalty Notices	13

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses impounded February 2024

Horses seized, and 0
reason for seizure:

Horses reclaimed by 0
owner

Horses rehomed 0

Horses disposed of 0

No of horses on hand
in Pound on 0
29/02/2024

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments February 2024

Total no of registered DBE's in
Louth (as at 29/02/2024) 6

Hunt 1

Boarding Kennels 2

Training Kennels 1

Welfare 2



The dog wardens and County Vet completed a one day training update course in safe handling equipment and techniques in dog control.

Facebook Page

The Louth County Council Dog Pound page on Facebook is regularly updated with information about dogs coming through the pound; below are figures showing the reach and visits to the page during February.



Social Development Forbairt Shóisialta

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

Housing, which encompasses all initiatives which aim to match need and available resources in a sustainable way throughout our county.

Cultural Services, a wide range of initiatives and programmes designed to make living in Louth a stimulating, safe and rewarding experience, including the arts, and our libraries.

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

Tithíocht, a chuimsíonn gach tionscnamh agus de chuspóir acu ná na riachtanais agus na haicmhainní ar fad atá ar fail a chur le chéile go hinbhuanaithe ar fud ár gContae

Seirbhísí Cultúrtha, réimse leathan tionscnaimh agus cláir atá deartha chun saol spreagúil, sásúil, sábháilte a chur ar fail i gContae Lú, na healaíona, agus ár leabharlanna san áireamh

Ger Murphy
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir



Housing

Addressing Homelessness

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

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 th January – 19 th February 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	9	104	52	165
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	2	27	12	41
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	3	5	8
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Persons who presented as Homeless	11	134	69	214

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	83
Female	90
Total	173

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	34
25-44	86
45-64	48
65+	5
Total	173

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	94
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	79
Total unique individuals	173

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	23	28	45

Couples with dependent children	14	30	44
Total	37	58	89

Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	43
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	33

Housing Allocations up to 20th February 2024

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	7	2	0	0
Drogheda	18	1	7	3
Dundalk	29	2	15	1
Total	54	5	22	4

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	1
Dundalk	2
Drogheda	3
Total	6

Housing List

February 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	390	654	1060	2104
HAP Transfer List	298	1118	1661	3077
Total Housing List	688	1772	2721	5181

There are **294** applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including **49** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,077**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
298	1,118	1,661	3,077

Rent Management

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

Current Rents Arrears at 20 th February 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	212	€78,665
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	169	€120,038
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	903	€3,068,741
TOTAL	1,284	€3,267,444

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 February 2024:

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	February 2024	96
2 nd Reminder	February 2024	26
Final Reminder	February 2024	17
Total issued		139

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **46** new payment plans commenced in February 2024 (up to and including 20th February).

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 19 th February 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	9
Dundalk Municipal District	12
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	24
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	45
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	3
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	48

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

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	23 rd January – 19 th February 2024	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	476	1,039
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	399	868
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	61	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	16	40

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program

The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme for 2024 is being finalised and will be subject to confirmation of funding allocation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Private Rental Inspections

	23 rd January – 19 th February 2024	Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	134	215
Advisory Letters issued	72	112
Improvement Notices issued	2	2
Private Inspections	0	0
HAP Inspections	92	112
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	30	76
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	6	12
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	7	7
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	0	0

Tenancy Engagement

1 st February 2024 to 21 st February, 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	6	6	12	24	52
Post-tenancy inspections	7	0	18	25	47
Tenancy Investigation Visits	17	6	25	48	58

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st February 2024 to 21 st February, 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	7	1	7	15	30
ASB Cases Ongoing	7	1	14	22	-
ASB Cases Complete	6	0	2	8	13

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

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st February 2024 to 21 st February 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	2	0	0	2	3
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	0
Tenancy Notifications	0	1	2	3	3
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	1	0	1

Repair and Lease

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

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Under negotiation for works
6	Castlebellingham	2	Planning approved

Affordable Housing

Louth County Council, in partnership with the Westdalk Group and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, has launched the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme for 10 properties at Cois Farraige, Blackrock, Co. Louth. Closing date for the scheme is the 28th February 2024 and currently there are 11 fully submitted applications to be assessed in due course. Other discussions are ongoing with other developers for Affordable units in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Mortgage to Rent February

Active MTR Applications Total	28
AHB MTR Applications Active	14
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	11
Private MTR completed 2024	0
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	3

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

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant February 2024

Applications Submitted:	138
Approved:	73
Rejected:	6
Withdrawn	8
Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections)	51

Funding Issued to Applicant	4
Rental Applications	36
Principal Private Residence	102

Local Authority Home Loans

2024 Budget Allocation	€7,230,000
LAHL Approvals at 20/02/2024	€653,830
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 20th February, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 20/02/2024	8
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	0
Approved	5
Declined	2
For Review	4
Outstanding – waiting on further information	3

Acquisitions

The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. Louth County Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and/or have a disability. In February the Council purchased one property.



Recently acquired property in Drogheda.

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Grants are available for adaptations to a person's home. Qualifying works are those that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering

a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who is a member of the household. Grants are also available towards necessary repairs or improvements to the home for persons aged 66 and above, who are living in poor housing conditions. All grants are assessed based on the household income and limits apply. Priority is given where adaptations are needed to help the person leave hospital/residential care.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on Hand 21/02/2024	152	21	342	-	515
Grants Approved 01/02/2024 to 21/02/2024	6	0	9	11	19



Handrail installed in February in Drogheda with the support of a Housing Adaptation Grant.



Ramp completed in February in Dundalk, assisted with a Housing Grant for a Disability.

Capital Housing Delivery

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, (Infill) Dundalk	1/1	11	On Site	31/10/2024	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	19/02/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/05/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 2 Approved	30/01/2026	2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	72	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	105	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	43	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	20	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Anne St. Dundalk	1/1	16	Stage 1 Approved	31/12/26	8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	31/03/2024	1 * 3 bed

Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	31/12/2024	1 * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	100	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
Mullagh Close, Clogherhead	1/1	12	On-site Turnkey	31/12/2024	12 * 3 bed
Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Dundalk	1/1	12	On-site Turnkey	31/03/2024	12 * 2 bed Apt.
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	1/4	7	On-site Turnkey	31/03/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	2/4	7	On-site Turnkey	30/06/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	3/4	7	On-site Turnkey	30/09/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Ferrard Park, The Twenties, Drogheda	4/4	7	On-site Part V	31/12/2024	2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed
Quarry Court, John St. / Stoneylane, Ardee	1/1	20	On-site Turnkey	31/12/2024	11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt.
Derryveigh House, Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed
Clontygora, Dundalk	1/1	2	Funding Approved	31/03/2025	2 * 4 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	5	On-site Turnkey	31/03/2024	1 * 3 bed, 4 * 2 bed
Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee	2/3	8	On-site	30/09/24	7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed

Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee	3/3	1	Funding Approved	30/06/25	1 * 2 bed
Ballymakenny Park, (Phase 1) Drogheda	1/1	10	On-site Part V	31/03/24	2 * 4 bed, 8 * 3 bed

CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk	Tuath	10	On Site	03/09/2024	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	31/03/2026	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
St. John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	31/03/2026	Four * 1 Bed units
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	31/03/2026	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

CALF Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Non Part VI/ Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	1/4	40	36/4	Delivered	31/12/2023	• 31 Three bed House • 5 Two bed House • 2 Four bed House.
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	37	43/3	On site	31/03/2024	• 26 Three Bed Houses • 11 2 bed Houses

Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	56	51/5	On site	31/03/2024	• 40 Three Bed Houses • 16 Two Bed Houses
Tullybrook, Drogheda Clúid Housing	1/3	18		On site	19/12/2023 30/03/2024	• 8 Two bed apt • 7 Two bed duplex, • 24 Three bed duplex, • 22 Three bed terraced, • 22 Two bed terraced • 2 Four bed terraced
Tullybrook, Drogheda Clúid Housing	3/3	39	23/16	On site	30/03/2024	• 15 Two Bed Apartments • 24 Three bed Apartment
Tullybrook, Drogheda Clúid Housing	2/3	28		On site	Delivered	• 14 Two Bed House • 14 Three bed House
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12		On Site	01/03/2024	• 12 three bed houses
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	1/3	25	23/2	Delivered	31/03/2023	• 4 One bed House • 5 Three bed terraced, • 8 one bed apartment • 8 Two bed Apt
Dublin Road Dundalk Respond	2/3	24	22/2	On site	31/03/2024	• 11 One bed Apt • 11 Two bed Apt • 2 Three bed apt
Dublin Road Dundalk Respond	3/3	16	14/2	On Site	01/04/2024	• 9 One bed Apt • 7 Two bed Apt
Donore Road Drogheda Clúid Housing	1/1	66	59/7	Delivered	31/12/2023	• 4 One bed apt, • 54 Two bed apt • 8 Three bed apt

Duiche Roden, Dundalk Clúid Housing	6/6	36		On-site	31/06/2024	• 18 2 bed apt • 18 3 bed apt
An Caisleán, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter, Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/04/2024	• 7 One bed apt • 7 Two bed apt • 3 Three bed apt
Friary Place, Mill Lane, Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	19/07/2024	• 27 One bed apts • 22 Two bed apts
Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On- Site	29/09/2024	• 20 One bed apt • 10 Two bed apt
Connolly's Field, Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On- Site	29/03/2025	• 31 One bed apt • 9 Two bed apt

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

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

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

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

Archive Transfers

Several sizeable transfers of records that are now archival have been received in recent months. These include Drogheda engineering drawings, fire records and valuation archives. These archives require sorting, cataloguing and boxing before they can be made available for access.

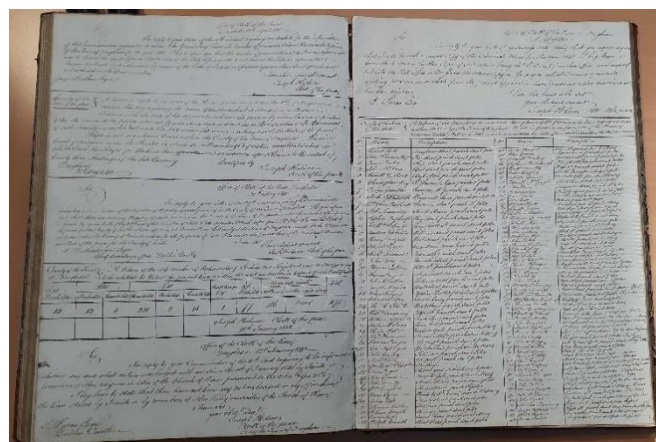
Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded as the current system is now end of life. It will be upgraded to a modern, cloud-based, system with enhanced features and improved speed. Preparation work for the upgrade is ongoing and a copy of the system has been sent to the software company in order to commence the upgrade process.

Donating Archives

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

Research Enquiries



Research Enquiries: Book of returns to parliament (1830-68) of Drogheda Corporation that was used recently. Page on right shows return of persons holding arms.

The preservation of archives is a vital need for our society and the service receives a steady volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics

(historians, archaeologists, social scientists, etc), professionals (solicitors, engineers, planning consultants, etc), family historians, students and state agencies. The Archivist also supports staff in various sections with many business-related enquiries.

Climate Action

The County Archives supports our corporate Climate Action Goals. Environmental conditions in the County Archives building are being monitored and adjustments to the new BMS settings made by the Archivist with support from Facilities staff. A glazed partition in the lobby area of the building was recently installed. Supported by the SEAI, this will assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building.

Libraries

Right to Read



Ireland Reads

Throughout the month of February, libraries throughout County Louth asked borrowers to “Get Lost in a Good Book” for the Ireland Reads campaign.



Louth Library Service were delighted to partner up with Ms Larkin’s Class in Réalt na Mara National School Dundalk for Ireland Reads. Here they are “Getting Lost in a Good Book”.

Part of the Government’s Healthy Ireland programme to celebrate reading and its benefits, the Ireland Reads Campaign and Ireland Reads Day (February 24th) saw Irish libraries team up with publishers, booksellers, authors and others to encourage reading.

To help choose the right read, the campaign’s dedicated website – <https://www.irelandreads.ie/> - contains more than 1,500 book recommendations from librarians all around the country for all interests and reading levels.

Ireland Reads local ambassadors included authors Florence Gillan, Susan McGovern, Valinora Troy and the 2024 KPMG Children’s Books Ireland Award shortlisted author Clara Kumagai for her title ‘Catfish Rolling’. Other local ambassadors included Sinead Brassil LMFM, Cllr. Michelle Hall, Aoibheann McLernon Louth County Council Staff Wellbeing Officer, Sinead Nugent Connect Family Resource Centre, Lara Williams Louth ABC and Emma Jane Larkin Réalt na Mara Primary School.



Dunleer Library Branch Manager Muriel with Ireland Reads Ambassador and local author, Valinora Troy.

To mark Ireland Reads Day on Saturday, February 24th, Manga Art Workshops were facilitated by John Carpenter in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries. Ardee Library hosted an event for adults titled; “Book Lovers – make a date with your next read”, where literary enthusiasts got the chance to talk about their favourite reads and inspire others to pick up a book. Other events throughout February for Ireland Reads included class visits from St Peter’s NS Drogheda,

storytime for the first class pupils of Bay Estate National School, and a visit to the Gary Kelly Centre in Drogheda. Executive Librarian Theresa McNally discussed the benefits and comforts of reading, particularly as an escape and comfort when undergoing medical treatment.



Book Lovers sharing their book recommendations for Ireland Reads in Ardee Library.

A special Baby Book Club event was also held on February 20th in Drogheda Library, in collaboration with Lara Williams, development officer for the 0 – 2 baby massage group in Louth ABC.

Equity Book Club

Led by members of the Drogheda Place Based Leadership (PBL) group in collaboration with Louth Library Service, the Equity Book Club focuses on topics relating to equity, including social justice; trauma-informed approaches; restorative practice and community leadership.

Connect Family Resource Centre

Library staff attended a women's coffee morning in Connect Family Resource Centre, Moneymore on February 20th to give information on Ireland Reads and reading as a tool for wellbeing.

Louth ABC Parent Forum

Louth Library Service attended the Louth ABC Parent Forum event, organised by the Dundalk Area Coordination Team, on February 1st in The Imperial Hotel, Dundalk. Dundalk Library staff provided information on literacy supports and regular family events in the library, including Parent and Toddler

Group and Baby Book Club. They also promoted the Right to Read programme and Little Library at Bedtime initiative. The event focused on healthy eating, and guest speakers included Ciara Beague from Glenville Nutrition and Alan McCabe from the Culinary Arts Department at DKIT.

Programmes and Initiatives

Launch of Age Friendly Libraries

Heather Humphreys, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, awarded Age Friendly Recognition Charters to Ireland's public libraries at an event at Edgeworthstown Library in Co Longford on February 16. Minister Humphreys said she was "delighted" to recognise "the superb work of our public libraries in developing enhanced services for ageing communities and to award the Age Friendly Recognition Charters to our library services". Libraries, she added, "are a core service within our neighbourhoods, and they are particularly invaluable to older people as a source of information, and as community hubs, learning centres and cultural facilities."

The Age Friendly Recognition Charter recognises the progress made by the public library service in developing enhanced services for older communities. Public libraries have reviewed their collections and event programmes along with their facilities and services to identify improvements to meet older person's needs.

"Library staff across the country go above and beyond to create welcoming, accessible, and relevant services for older people and people who have diverse and changing needs."

Louth Libraries are vibrant, welcoming, diverse settings with an array of supports and services that enable older people to visit, learn and be part of the fabric of their communities.



Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries pictured at the launch of Age Friendly Libraries in Longford with Acting County Librarian, Amanda Branigan.

SEAI Energy Workshop

SEAI held a home energy upgrade drop-in clinic in Dundalk Library on Saturday, February 10th. Attendees received information on home upgrade options, home energy efficiency, and grants from SEAI. There was also an energy activity stand for children' aged 6 – 12 years old, which highlighted the importance of energy conservation, renewable energy sources and practical ways to reduce your energy usage and carbon footprint.

The Varcities Project Team also attended, sharing updates on the project, and providing an interactive display of Dundalk's new health and wellbeing platform.



Staff from SEAI and The Varcities Project Team in Dundalk Library.

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023



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

The Decade of Centenaries exhibition, 'Local Context and Connection', is available to view in Drogheda Library. The exhibition presents information on the Boyne Obelisk; the ambush at Rockmarshall; the Dundalk Jail Break; the Great War; the bombardment of Millmount; Cumann na mBan; Ardee Battalion; Coastguards; Courthouses and Railways.

An essay by Decade of Centenaries Historian in Residence Thomas Tormey entitled “22 January 1923: A second round of three executions” is available on the Louth Library Service blog shelf Life:

<https://shelflifethelouthlibraryserviceblog.wordpress.com/category/decade-of-centenaries/>

This extract is from Thomas Tormey's forthcoming book 'War and peace in the Wee County: Louth during the struggle for independence and after' provides some background to those events.



The Decade of Centenaries exhibition, 'Local Context and Connection' is now available to view in Drogheda Library.

The Red Door Project

Louth Library Service are working with the Red Door Project to provide service users with book recommendations. The aim is to set up a bookclub to empower service users to realise the benefits of reading for overall wellbeing.

Drogheda Youth Connect Festival

Staff from Drogheda Library attended the Drogheda Youth Connect Festival in February in the Lawrence Centre. Louth Library Service manned an information stand, where staff gave out free bookmarks which were created on the 3D printer, as well as offering information on how to join the library and all library services.

Outreach

Louth Library Service recently organised a LEGO Brickx workshop in Mosney with the Brickx Club. 27 attended the event, which was a huge success among children and adults alike.



Some of the wonderful creations built during the LEGO Brickx workshop.

Creative Ireland Art Workshop

Drogheda Library was delighted to welcome Susan Farrelly from Abbey Art Studios in February for the commencement of a series of art workshops for children. Participants will have the opportunity to create a colourful 3D piece of wall art for the Children's Section in Drogheda Library. A great afternoon was enjoyed by all.



Susan Farrelly from Abbey Art Studios.

Adult Events

Alzheimer's Café



Maeve Montgomery and Sinead McVerry pictured at the Alzheimer's Café in Dundalk Library.

The monthly Alzheimer's Café took place in Dundalk Library on February 20th. Guest speaker Sinead McVerry from Age Friendly Louth spoke about the opportunities and services that are available to help older people become involved in their communities. The next Alzheimer's Café takes place on Tuesday, March 19th at 11am. All are welcome to attend.

Drogheda Alzheimer's Memory Café

Drogheda's Alzheimer's Memory Café was held in Drogheda Library on February 13th. Guest speaker Maeve Montgomery, Dementia Advisor for County Louth, gave a talk on the importance of brain health, and offered advice on how to keep the mind active. This was followed by a helpful Q&A session. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 12th.



Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery pictured with staff from Tredagh Lodge Drogheda Day Care Centre.



Dr Niamh Shaw pictured during her talk for the TY students of St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk.

Creative Writing

If you are looking to take up a new skill in 2024 or want to become more confident in your writings, library Creative Writing groups are back in session.

- Ardee Library: The Vere Foster Writers Group meets every second Friday.
- Drogheda Library: Meeting on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2.30pm-4pm.

Age Action Computer Classes

New computer courses for people over the age of 55 have commenced in Drogheda and Dundalk Libraries. Facilitated by Age Action, the course offers free one-to-one for people who have little or no computer experience. To book in for future courses, please email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie.

Children's and Family Events

Antarctica with Dr Niamh Shaw

Pupils from St Vincent's Secondary School visited Dundalk Library for a talk with Dr Niamh Shaw. The students heard Dr Shaw speak about her unique experience on the Homeward Bound Women in Leadership Voyage to Antarctica for Climate Change.

Regular Events



Sylvie and Luce enjoying Baby Book Club at Dundalk Library.

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

Baby Book Club

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

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

Parent and Toddler Group

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

Drogheda Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Dundalk Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm



Enjoying Baby Book Club in Drogheda Library.

Board Game Club

If you would like to hone your chess skills, try your hand at draughts, or get a triple word score in Scrabble, Ardee Library's Board Games Club takes place every Saturday afternoon at 2:15pm. Bring a friend or meet new people for a chat, while playing your favourite board games.

eServices

Press Reader



The Irish Independent, The Argus and The Drogheda Independent are now available to access for free on Press Reader with your library card!

To access Press Reader, visit <https://www.pressreader.com/catalog>, select 'sign in', select 'library or group' and then enter 'Louth' and your library card number and PIN. You can also download the Press Reader app on mobile and tablet devices.

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

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

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

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

Arts

Brigid1500

The Arts Office was front and centre during the Brigid1500 festival which ran in February. The Community Art Exhibition was a huge success, taking over the Houston's building on Clanbrassil Street. Over ten days, more than five thousand visitors came through the doors of the exhibition space. Dozens of classes from local schools called to see the art and enjoyed talks by some of the artists involved. It was a rewarding and fulfilling experience for all the staff and artists who manned the exhibition space throughout the festival.



The 3D Brigid Cross Geometric Sculptures that were part of the Community Art Exhibition in Houston's.

Around the corner in An Táin Arts Centre, 'Brigid: Lady of Light' premiered on January 31st. This specially commissioned theatre event was performed over three nights to a sold-out venue.

Boasting a cast and crew who were predominantly from Louth, the mixture of music, storytelling and dance was received so well by all who attended.



Hannah Bergin and the ensemble of contemporary dancers who performed in the Brigid: Lady of Light event in An Táin Arts Centre.

The Brigid1500 art competition winners came to see their work framed and on show at the community art exhibition and each winner received their framed entry along with their prize in the post after the festival finished.



Art competition winners Laura Ford and Lilyanna Dunne who came 1st and 3rd in the Brigid1500 Schools Art Competition. The girls are both from Scoil Naomh Buithe in Tenure and travelled down to Dundalk with their school to visit the exhibition and see their entries on display.

Creative Ireland

Creative Climate

The new Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary, continues its preparations for 2024.

Trial produce selected for growth will include Ginger, Bok Choi, Ugu, Heritage Peas and Sweet Potato. For details of all produce and how to get in touch to take part, email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie, or keep an eye on the new website: <https://louthurbanfoodsanctuary.com/>. The website will also contain some videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting Garlic. You can also email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie if you wish to find out more about the project. Planting for the season began on March 2nd in the Dundalk Inclusive Garden at Creative Spark. Details of all community planting events and workshops will be posted on the website.

Creative Ireland Grants

The Creative Ireland Grants closed for application on February 7th with assessments being carried out before the end of the month. Under Strand 1 funding we had 32 applications totalling €134,000, while under strand 2 we had 17 applications totalling €232,000. With a total grant fund available of approximately €100,000 the panel had some very difficult decisions to make. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by the end of March.

An Táin Arts Centre

King Lear

An Táin Arts Centre's Theatre Company In Residence, Chalk on the Wall Productions, presented their adaptation of Shakespeare's 'King Lear' in February. The adaptation is set in rural Ireland and explores the history of land ownership from the start of the British invasion. Chalk on the Wall Productions is comprised of graduating students from Dundalk Institute of Technology's Drama and Performance and Theatre and Film Practice courses. The Theatre Company in Residence Programme is supported by the Arts Office.

Exhibition – SHED

Dundalk's Bridge Street Studios opened their new exhibition in the basement gallery on February 21st.

Working in response to the word 'shed' the artists and makers have produced an array of paintings, sculptures, prints, textiles and ceramics.



The poster for the 'SHED' exhibition.

Bridge Street Studios is a collective of nine artists that have been working alongside each other for a number of years. The exhibition will remain in the gallery until March 30. Full details are available at: <https://www.aintain.ie/event/exhibition-shed-bridge-street-studios/>

Droichead Arts Centre

Solo Exhibition

Yellow, Pink and Blue, the first solo exhibition by artist Jenny Slater was launched in Droichead Arts Centre Gallery on February 10th. Jenny's work tells stories: personal, historical and fictional. Curated by Droichead's Curator in Residence, Dorothy Smith, the exhibition encompassed the multimedia work carried out by Jenny including photography, sculpture, print and installation.

Night Moves – Late Night Programme.

Starting back in January, this programme of late-night events runs until May with the second instalment happening on March 1st with The Bonk and Ultan Conlon appearing in McHugh's. Produced by Droichead Arts Centre, in partnership with Love Drogheda BIDS, and supported by the Arts Council, Night Moves provides new and engaging cultural experiences across Drogheda and East Meath.

Highlanes Gallery

Painting Preludes

Highlanes gallery continued their Youth Reach programme with their 'Painting Preludes: Teenager Workshop'. Emerging artist Juliette Morrison spoke about her journey into art and introduced the students to her work and her techniques. A micro exhibition of Juliette's works was on display in the gallery and students had the opportunity to take part in practical drawing and painting sessions.

Yoga with Grá

March will see the 'Yoga with Grá' wellbeing programme begin in the gallery space. For full details on how to take part in the wellbeing programme throughout March and into April, visit: <https://highlanes.ie/event/yoga-with-gra-wellbeing-series-spring-2024/>

Arts Grants

Our Arts Grants closed for application on February 7th. We had 54 applications, totalling €125,000. Successful applicants will be notified at the end of March following noting at the March council meeting.

Other Funding opportunities

The Arts Council will once again have a vast range of funding opportunities throughout the year. All details can be found on the Arts Council funding page <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

Museum



Members of the Sisters of St Brigid, New Jersey, just one of the groups who visited the St Brigid exhibition at the County Museum, Dundalk.

St Brigid's Celebrations

The Museum's programme over the course of February was dominated by events celebrating St Brigid. Between advance activities in January and organised events in February, these set pieces have ensured that the Museum continues to be a vibrant centre for citizens and visitors alike.



A close-up of one of the St Brigid's Crosses on display as part of the Museum's permanent collection.

To coincide with the St Brigid's Festival, the Museum hosted an in-house exhibition about St Brigid's life and career, which ran from late January and throughout the month of February. Aside from featuring a number of crosses and other items associated with her and her legacy, the exhibition featured a dress made from paper flowers, a spectacular piece of art created by:

- Gaelscoil Dhún Dealgan
- Kilcurry NS
- Redeemer Girls NS

- Faughart NS
- Muchgrange NS
- Scoil Eoin Báiste

The flowers were made by the schools during workshops held in the Museum in January.

The exhibition also featured a variety of crosses associated with St Brigid.



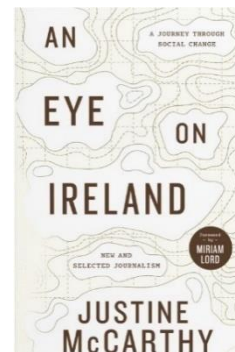
One of the St Brigid's Crosses on display at the Museum.

The Museum also hosted other events over the St Brigid's weekend, most notably a series of lectures including guests:

- Mael Brigde
- Dolores Whelehan
- Manchán Magan

An Eye on Ireland

As the Museum celebrated its 30th anniversary, journalist and broadcaster, Justine McCarthy, gave a talk 'An Eye on Ireland – A Journey Through Social Change' on Monday, February 26. The talk covered many of the seismic changes experienced in Ireland over the past three decades.



Justine McCarthy's 'An Eye on Ireland'

Ukraine Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

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

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

Yvonne O'Brien
Acting Director / Stiúrtóir Gníomhach



Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 29/02/2024

Property offers recorded to date	59
Owners successfully contacted	59
Properties allocated to date	33
Beneficiaries assigned to date	103
Assessments	47
Assessments currently underway	1
Properties assessed as suitable	35
Properties with minor works required	2
Properties withdrawn	12
Properties not viable	9

Two families were housed in February under the Offer a Home Programme. One couple who were living in Cork were able to be reunited with their children who are living nearby with their grandmother. Another family who had been living in one of our Centres was very happy to move to a house in Dundalk which will benefit their child who wants to attend DKIT in September.

Refurbishment Programme

The Ukraine Response team are facilitating the delivery of accommodation under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) led Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme (ERUP), for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Following refurbishment, The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) enter a contract with the provider to manage and operate the facility.

The strategy is to relocate beneficiaries from hotel, or other unsuitable accommodation to more long term accommodation delivered through the ERUP initiative. The Ukraine response team will work with DCEDIY relocations team to minimize disruption to families / beneficiaries where possible.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP to date

Total Offers to ERUP	37
Unsuitable / withdrawn	21
evaluation process Feb. 2024	7
Letter of Intent issued	8
No. of beds combined for delivery	683
DCEDIY contract issued	1
DCEDIY Review Letter of Offer	1
No of beds delivered via ERUP	46

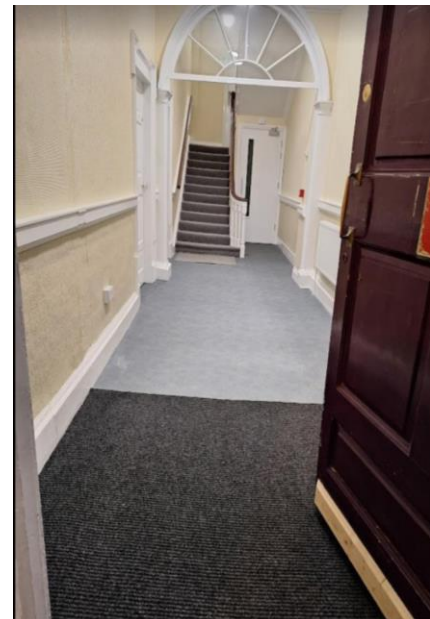
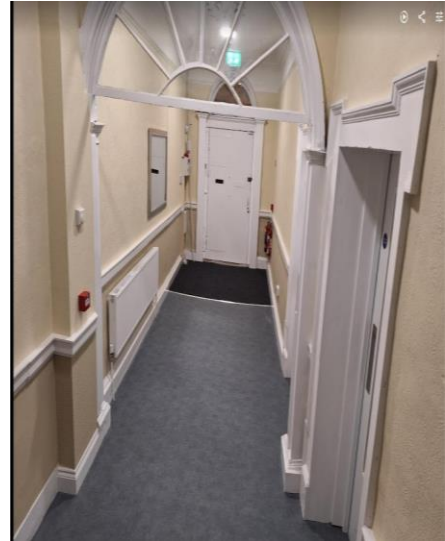
Relocations from terminated contracts to ERUP sites

LCC terminated two contracts with B&Bs in Blackrock hosting beneficiaries who had responded to the crisis early on. The Ukraine response team identified and recommended to DCEDIY relocations team, moves that would cause the least disruption to families, and planned the move to coincide with the mid-term break. The team worked with the DCEDIY relocations unit to ensure these families were relocated within the town, to a newly refurbished property in Dundalk delivered through the ERUP initiative and two existing refurbished local authority managed properties. Two people were relocated slightly outside the town, but within commuting distance of the town. Several beneficiaries took the opportunity to source their own accommodation. The children were able to retain their school places and adults stayed in their places of employment. The B&B contracts were then ended potentially putting tourist accommodation back into the market.

Regeneration through ERUP

A property in St. Laurence's St., Drogheda was refurbished to a high standard as part of the ERUP initiative and is now at letter of offer stage with DCEDIY. This property, a protected structure, was in 1835 the residence of Thomas Kelly RC archbishop of Armagh, and as one historian remarked on why archbishops of Armagh resided in Drogheda was because it was... 'prudent during the many centuries of tumult outside the Pale'. Today, it is designated to provide sanctuary once again to people fleeing conflict, this time in Ukraine. Both the

refurbishment of such a historic property on St Laurence St. and its designation as a home to 26 beneficiaries will contribute to the regeneration of Drogheda and potentially the release of valuable hotel beds in local hotels.



Local Authority Integration Team

The role of the team is to compliment mainstream services by linking in with and coordinating integration supports for 4 refugee cohorts:

- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)
- International Protection Applicants
- Programme Refugees, and

- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status.

During February, the team were busy with their training programme and completed Human Trafficking Training and Trauma Informed Training. The team met with teams from Fingal, Wicklow and Meath County Council at the Trauma Informed Training session which was hosted by Louth County Council.

team are coordinating and providing collaboration across the mainstream services and supports required via the CIF at the DHotel.



The LGMA information sessions kicked off on 26/02/2024 with all LAITs that have been set up countrywide .

The team began hosting clinics in the centres located in Co.Louth. The team met residents and dealt with issues such as access to medical care, training opportunities and transport. The clinics are going to continue to assist the residents with integrating in Co.Louth.

Staff attended the Cultúr Interagency meeting which was held in the Gateway hotel on February 26th.

The Community Response Forum

The Community Response Forum is being re-aligned in 2024, with a new name and a new expanded remit as agreed by the City and County Management Association through the HBLU committee. The forum is now changing from the Community Response Forum (CRF) to the Community Integration Forum (CIF). It has an expanded remit and will now cover not just Ukraine/BOTPs but also extends to International Protection, Those with Status (TwS) and IRPP.

In preparation for the arrival of International Protection Applicants in the DHotel, the Integration