



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

Spring 2019  
ISSUE NO. 6

# NEWSLETTER

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## DEAR READER

I am delighted to share with you the latest Louth County Council Tenant newsletter. We, in the Housing Department, place significant emphasis on developing and maintaining good communications with all our Tenants. In this regard, I would encourage you to engage with our teams if you have any queries in regard to the services we, in the Housing section, provide. You should, in the first instance contact any of our Customer Service desks at Ardee, Drogheda or Dundalk. I look forward to your continued respectful engagement with our staff and hope that you find this newsletter beneficial.

Paddy Donnelly  
Director of Services

## WELCOME

As a tenant of Louth County Council we would like you to have the best housing service that we can provide. We want you and your family to enjoy your home in a safe and comfortable environment.

### My Home

Remember you haven't just rented a house/apartment from the Council, you are also renting the front and back gardens. As a tenant you are responsible for keeping your house/apartment and your garden in a clean and tidy condition. Please don't let your garden become an eyesore for your neighbours.



### Is there a Residents Association?

Tenants are encouraged to participate in the running of the Council's housing estates. You can do this by joining your local Residents Association or by forming a Residents Association if there isn't one already. If you need information on your local Residents Association or need information on how to start one contact your local Tenant Liaison Officer at 1890 202 303. The Tenant Liaison Officer can help you get started. They can also give you advice on how to get grants to help run community activities.



## Be the Fleadh in 2019



Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018 was the biggest event to come to County Louth with 500,000 visitors coming to the Drogheda and many locals out and about enjoying the atmosphere and tunes. Did you know the Fleadh is the biggest volunteer event in Ireland? Last year 1,200 people put their names forward

to help out, most from the local area.

Volunteers who helped out last year scored their experience of volunteering at the Fleadh 4.7 out of 5. Many people had such a good time that they are going to volunteer again. We asked volunteers to let us know why they wanted to come back again and they said things like 'I thoroughly enjoyed volunteering in 2018, I felt very proud'; 'The previous experience was so rewarding'; 'the day we met

you and signed up for the Fleadh you were so encouraging. It was all you said and more thank you.'

Anyone over the age of 15 can volunteer, the minimum commitment is just one shift and there are a wide variety of volunteer roles available throughout the week of the Fleadh. Contact Louth Volunteer Centre at 041 9809008 or [www.volunteerlouth.ie](http://www.volunteerlouth.ie) fleadh to apply or find out more.

## CONDENSATION IN YOUR HOME

Condensation causes dampness and mould in homes. If it continues, it can



make walls, floors and ceilings damp and discolored, and mould can grow on their surface.

Louth County Council cannot take responsibility for condensation and damage caused by condensation in your home, but the following notes explain how condensation occurs and what you can do to prevent or cure serious outbreaks of it in your home.

### Why does condensation occur?

Condensation occurs when warm moist air meets a cold surface. The likelihood of condensation, therefore, depends on how moist the air is and how cold the surfaces of the room are. The moistness of the air and the coldness of the surfaces depend on a range of factors, many of which are determined by the way the house is used.

### When does condensation occurs?

Condensation usually occurs in winter time. This is because the building surfaces are cold, more moisture is generated within the house and, because windows are opened less, the moist air cannot escape.

### Where does condensation occur?

Condensation, which you can see, occurs for short periods in bathrooms and kitchens because of the steamy atmosphere. It also occurs for long periods in unheated bedrooms and sometimes in wardrobes, cupboards or corners of rooms where ventilation and air movement is restricted. Condensation can also occur in places you cannot see, for example, in roofs.

### Prevention & Cure

- Keep moisture low in your house and confine it as far as possible to specific areas, (e.g.) kitchen,

bathroom.

- Prevent very moist air spreading to other rooms from the kitchen, bathroom or from where clothes are dried.
- Provide some ventilation to all rooms so that moist air can escape
- Provide some level of heating.

### Minimise Moisture Production

- Dry clothes externally, when possible
- If using a clothes dryer, provide venting to the outside
- Limit the use of moveable gas or paraffin heaters as these types of heaters release large amounts of water vapour into the air and greatly increase the risk of condensation
- Reduce cooking steam as far as possible, e.g., keep lids on saucepans, do not leave kettles, etc., boiling for long periods
- Use an extractor fan when cooking where possible

### Prevent spread of moist air

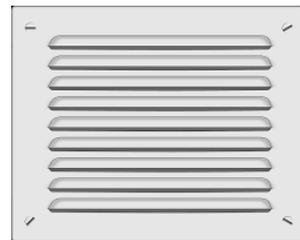
- Good ventilation of your kitchen is essential when cooking or when washing clothes. If you have an extractor fan in your kitchen, use it when cooking, washing clothes and particularly when the windows mist up.
- If you do not have an extractor fan, open the kitchen windows and keep the doors between the kitchen and the rest of the house closed as much as possible.
- After taking a bath, keep the bathroom window open and the bathroom door shut until the bathroom dries off.
- Do not use unventilated cupboards for drying clothes.
- If you do dry clothes in the bathroom or kitchen, run the extractor fan if you have one. Do not leave the door open or the moist air will spread to other parts of the house.
- If you have to use a moveable gas or paraffin heater, make sure the room that the heater is in is well ventilated and sealed off from the rest of the house.

### Provide some ventilation

The easiest method of reducing the moisture content of room air is to provide some ventilation. Ventilation

removes the stale moist air and replaces it with fresh air which contains less moisture.

In older houses, a lot of ventilation occurs through fireplaces and draughty windows. However, in many modern houses and flats, sufficient ventilation does not occur unless a window or a ventilator is open for a reasonable time each day and for nearly all the time the room is in use.



Do not block the air vents in your home. If condensation occurs in a room where you have a heater connected to the chimney, you should have the installation checked as the chimney may have become blocked.

### Provide some heating

Try to make sure that all rooms are at least partially heated. Condensation most often occurs in unheated bedrooms. If you leave a room unheated you should keep the window open slightly and the door shut. Mould growth If small black spots appear on the walls or other room surfaces, this is the start of mould growth. Any sign of mould growth indicates the presence of moisture. If the moisture is caused by condensation it is a sign that the level of moisture in the room needs to be reduced or that the heating, ventilation or structural insulation, or all three of them, need to be improved.

### New Homes

New buildings can take a long time to dry out and during the first winter, more heating and ventilation is necessary than in subsequent winters. Excessive temperature should be avoided to prevent warping of new joinery.

### Extractor Ventilation

If you propose to fit an extractor fan or otherwise change the ventilation of a room which has a gas or solid fuel appliance connected to the chimney, you should get advice from the installer of the heating appliance. This is because there may be a risk of drawing toxic fumes back from the appliance into the room.

**For more info see [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie)**

## Am I responsible for the garden?



You are responsible for maintaining/cutting the grass in your garden and for maintaining the walls, gates, fences, railings, hedges and other garden boundaries. You must make sure that you and others living in the house with you, including children, and any visitors to the home, look after your house and garden. The tenant is responsible for any accidents which occur in the garden area due to a failure to maintain it.

## External Repairs

- Keeping gardens and hedges tidy
- Repairing or replacing fences, gates and garden boundary walls, whether erected by us or by you
- Maintaining, pruning and removing trees from gardens
- Cleaning silt, leaves and other deposits from gullies, gutters and downpipes

## Who is responsible for litter outside my house?

You are responsible for keeping the footpath or walkway and road gutter in front of your house or apartment free from litter. You must also make sure that rubbish bins and bags left outside for collection are securely closed so that they do not cause litter.



## Household Waste - Your Obligations General Waste

Householders are obligated under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended to dispose of their waste appropriately. It is an offence to transfer waste to another, other than an authorised person.

In County Louth there are two options for waste disposal:-

1. Employ the services of an authorised bin collection service.
2. Take waste directly to a civic amenity site. In County Louth civic amenity sites are run by V & W Recycling and are located in Drogheda and Dundalk.

Please always ensure that you get a proper receipt. In order to collect and/or transport waste the collector/ transporter must hold a valid waste collection permit, a list of all holders of waste collection permits is available from the National Waste Collection Permit Office [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)

You have a legal responsibility, or Duty of Care, to make sure that all waste from your household is disposed of correctly and in accordance with legislation.

## Advice for Householders:

Whenever you arrange for anyone else to dispose of your waste, remember the "SCRAP" code:

- Suspect. Beware of rogue waste carriers who dump

waste illegally. If in doubt do not let them take your waste.

- Check. Ask for their waste collection permit details. Note down the vehicle registration number used to take your waste away.
- Refuse Unsolicited Offers. Always carry out your own research and choose who you want to take your waste away.
- Ask Questions. Ask what is going to happen to your waste. Seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately and in accordance with legislation.
- Paperwork. Make sure that you get a proper receipt for you waste.

## Where can you recycle in Louth?

Remember to please sort and segregate your waste materials before arriving at your recycling centre.

Recycling Centres are located in both Drogheda and Dundalk, please find details below:-



Dundalk Recycling Centre Newry Road 042 932 9200



Drogheda Recycling Centre Mell Road 041 980 3900

For further details please visit [www.vandwrecycling.ie](http://www.vandwrecycling.ie)

## RENT REVIEW 2019

The Council are currently undertaking a rent review for all tenants.

Has your rent recently been reviewed and you have a rent increase?



Please contact your account manager if your rent has recently increased. The onus is on you, the tenant, to pay the correct rent at all times. If you pay by Household Budget, your account manager can change your deduction

If you pay by bank standing order you must contact your bank yourself to make the change. Forms are available from our Customer Services Departments.

As and from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, there is a new Rent Scheme, details of which can be found on our website at [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie). If your circumstances change, you should continue to notify the Council by completing a Differential Rent Form.

### **Has anybody moved out of your house since your last rent review?**

If so, please advise the Council of the date that the person moved out, and provide proof of new address. Proofs accepted are: Copy of lease, utility bill, bank statement, letter from Government Department. If you do not inform the Council within 4 weeks, you will not receive a credit on your rent account. If you do not provide proof, your rent will remain unchanged.

### **Are you considering moving other person/s into your house?**

Under no circumstances should you allow anyone to move into your property with prior approval from the Council.

If you are considering moving other person/s into your home, please advise the Council the names of person/s and the date they intend to move in. You must also complete a Permission to Reside Form for any new occupant. This application will be assessed and you will be notified if Permission to Reside is granted or not.

### **INSURANCE & INDEMNITY**

The Council only insures the structure of Council Properties. The Council does not insure any of the contents of its properties that belonging to the tenant (e.g. furniture decorations, improvements and personal belongings).

Therefore as a tenant you are responsible to take out contents insurance to protect these items against damage caused by fire, water leak, flooding vandalism, theft burglary, criminal damage or accidental damage. Home contents insurance is available

from a variety of insurance companies, banks and post offices.

The Council is NOT responsible for repairs to property caused by criminal damage. This should all be included on your insurance policy.

### **LOUTH COUNTY LIBRARIES**

There are five branch libraries in Louth in Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Dunleer and Carlingford.

A mobile library service visits rural and urban communities, nursing homes and crèches. A schools service visits all primary schools in the county. The mobile library timetable is available at [www.louthcoco.ie/libraries](http://www.louthcoco.ie/libraries)

### **Free Library Membership**

Membership is free to all. You can join online, then bring a valid photo ID and a current proof of address to your library where you will be given a library card. Under 18's need parental permission to join the library.

### **Library App - 24/7 access via Online Services**

We are delighted to announce the availability of our free mobile app for Android. With our library app on your mobile device you'll have a quick and convenient way of

- searching the library catalogue,
- accessing and managing your library account,
- reserving and renewing items,
- locating your nearest branch library and its opening hours,
- viewing a list of upcoming library events,
- downloading eBooks, eAudiobooks & eMagazines.
- accessing a wealth of online resources courtesy of your library membership.

The app is available from the [Google Play store](#) and will be available on iTunes App Store shortly.

### **Work Matters at the Library**

The Work Matters service aims to support job seekers and budding entrepreneurs. A dedicated Work Matters hot desk space is available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee

Libraries.

Resources include a dedicated seating and table area, Free WiFi, a designated PC or Laptop, printing and photocopying, books, newspapers, information, and a jobs board.

Users can also avail of a suite of free digital resources including, online courses, eBooks, eNewspapers and online language learning. A programme of business, enterprise and employment related events will be delivered throughout the year. For more information see [www.louthcoco.ie/libraries](http://www.louthcoco.ie/libraries)

### **Computer Classes**

If you feel you need to get started on, or improve your computer skills, why not drop in and join a free computer class? Classes are available in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee libraries throughout the week. You can drop in to enquire or Tel: 042 9353190 for more information.

### **My Open Library**

Ardee Library is now open 7 days a week, 365 days a year, allowing more accessibility to the community. My Open Library users can avail of the usual everyday library services but with the enhancement of freedom of access and lack of time constraints. Terms & conditions apply. See the library webpage [www.louthcoco.ie/libraries](http://www.louthcoco.ie/libraries) or call into Ardee Library for more information.

### **Library Events**

There is a wide programme of events throughout the year in all branches, to suit all ages and tastes. Logon to our webpage on [www.louthcoco.ie/libraries](http://www.louthcoco.ie/libraries) to keep up to date or follow us on:-

### **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/louthcountylibraries](http://www.facebook.com/louthcountylibraries)

### **Twitter**

[#louthlibraries](https://twitter.com/louthcoco)

### **Instagram**

[@louthcountylibraries](https://www.instagram.com/louthcountylibraries)

