



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 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
5<sup>ú</sup> Iúil 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 Aitiuil, 2001.

## Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – June 2024

A Chara,

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

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

- The successful delivery of the Local Elections followed by the first Meeting of Council and Districts.
- The commencement of the Narrow Water Bridge construction contract.
- The opening of "The Still" in the common area between the County Library and County Museum in Dundalk, which is a gorgeous addition to the public realm as well a European Pilot Study area.

Finally, I want to wish the new Council well and I hope that the new Members find these reports useful, in updating them on the monthly activities of Council.

Is mise le meas.



---

Joan Martin  
Chief Executive

**Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
**Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 30ú Meitheamh 2024**

| <b>Contents / Clár Ábhar</b>  |            |
|---|------------|
| <b><u>Support Services / Seirbhísí Tacaíochta</u></b>   | <b>4</b>   |
| Financial Reports / Tuairiscí Airgeadais  |            |
| Information & Communication Technology / Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide                  |            |
| <b><u>Strategic Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach</u></b>                   | <b>10</b>  |
| 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   |            |
| <b><u>Placemaking and Physical Development / Déanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisticíúil</u></b>         | <b>25</b>  |
| Roads & Local Services / Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla   |            |
| Place Making / Déanamh Áite   |            |
| Physical Development / Forbairt Fhisciciúil   |            |
| <b><u>Organisational Development / Forbairt na hEagraíochta</u></b>                                 | <b>63</b>  |
| 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   |            |
| <b><u>Social Development / Forbairt Shóisialta</u></b>  | <b>89</b>  |
| Housing / Tithíocht   |            |
| Cultural Services / Seirbhísí Cultúrtha   |            |
| Archives / An Chartlann   |            |
| Libraries / Leabharlanna  |            |
| Arts / Na hEalaíona   |            |
| Museum / An Iarsmalann  |            |
| <b><u>Ukraine Humanitarian Response / Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin</u></b>                            | <b>115</b> |
| Ukraine Humanitarian Response / Freagairt Dhaonnúil Úcráin  |            |

## 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 Stiúrtóireacht 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 / Stiúrtóir



## Financial Report

### Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 / Caiteachas go dtí 30<sup>ú</sup> Meitheamh 2024

| <b>Section/Rannóg</b>  | <b>Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 30/06/2024</b> | <b>Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024</b> | <b>% Spent to/ % Caite go 30/06/2024</b> |
|--|---|---|--|
| Housing/Tithíocht  | €24,948,690   | <b>€62,912,092</b>                                      | 40%                                      |
| Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht                     | €11,096,129   | <b>€27,583,468</b>                                      | 40%                                      |
| Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce   | €3,474,063  | <b>€8,804,737</b>                                       | 39%                                      |
| Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha                                      | €12,880,809   | <b>€27,259,532</b>                                      | 47%                                      |
| Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta                                     | €10,203,847   | <b>€23,558,956</b>                                      | 43%                                      |
| Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste                                       | €4,800,420  | <b>€11,234,063</b>                                      | 43%                                      |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas | €504,238  | <b>€1,491,272</b>                                       | 34%                                      |
| Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach  | €3,927,713  | <b>€8,839,470</b>                                       | 44%                                      |
|  | <b>€71,835,909</b>  | <b>€171,683,590</b>                                     | <b>42%</b>                               |

### Income to 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 / Ioncam go 30<sup>ú</sup> Meitheamh 2024

| <b>Section/Rannóg</b>  | <b>Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 30/06/2024</b> | <b>Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024</b> | <b>% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 30/06/2024</b> |
|--|--|---|---|
| Housing/Tithíocht  | €22,744,633  | <b>€64,380,831</b>                            | 35%   |
| Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht                     | €4,124,764   | <b>€16,558,010</b>                            | 25%   |
| Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce   | €2,190,218   | <b>€8,131,617</b>                             | 27%   |
| Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha                                      | €6,677,115   | <b>€17,277,072</b>                            | 39%   |
| Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta                                     | €1,058,312   | <b>€4,348,102</b>                             | 24%   |
| Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste                                       | €477,293   | <b>€1,683,163</b>                             | 28%   |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas | €276,410   | <b>€558,596</b>                               | 49%   |
| Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach  | €4,199,261   | <b>€11,372,937</b>                            | 37%   |
| Rates/Rátaí  | €34,665,700  | <b>€34,507,064</b>                            | 100%  |
| General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach                                  | €5,683,099   | <b>€11,366,198</b>                            | 50%   |
| Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair                         | €0   | <b>€1,500,000</b>                             | 0%  |
|  | <b>€82,096,805</b>                                       | <b>€171,683,590</b>                           | <b>48%</b>  |

The above is the current position as of the 30th of June 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 30th of June 2024 are as follows:

#### Debtors as of 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 30<sup>ú</sup> Meitheamh 2024

|  | Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh | Invoices/ Sonraisc  | Receipts/ Fáiltais    | Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna | Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais</b>     | <b>€28,733,539</b>                | €75,110,044         | (€78,375,038)         | (€0)                      | <b>€25,468,545</b>                |
| <b>Other Local Authorities/Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile</b> | <b>€93,780</b>                    | €710,660            | (€519,934)            | (€8,220)                  | <b>€276,286</b>                   |
| <b>Rates/Rataí</b>                                   | <b>€5,352,580</b>                 | €34,665,700         | (€22,768,872)         | (€924,049)                | <b>€16,325,359</b>                |
| <b>Rents/Cíosanna</b>                                | <b>€2,913,161</b>                 | €7,913,628          | (€7,767,595)          | (€0)                      | <b>€3,059,194</b>                 |
| <b>Loans/Iasachtal</b>                               | <b>€297,248</b>                   | €1,080,346          | (€1,045,992)          | (€0)                      | <b>€331,602</b>                   |
| <b>Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha</b>         | <b>€10,756,762</b>                | €10,590,471         | (€4,932,813)          | (€3,415,400)              | <b>€12,999,020</b>                |
| <b>Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin</b>         | <b>€756,633</b>                   | €276,218            | (€226,969)            | (€13,296)                 | <b>€792,586</b>                   |
| <b>Miscellaneous/Ighnéitheach</b>                    | <b>€2,345,328</b>                 | €5,695,277          | (€4,341,893)          | (€19,223)                 | <b>€3,679,489</b>                 |
| <b>Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána</b>         | <b>€51,249,031</b>                | <b>€136,042,344</b> | <b>(€119,979,106)</b> | <b>(€4,380,188)</b>       | <b>€62,932,081</b>                |

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

#### Budget 2025 - Local Property Tax (LPT) Public Consultation

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

The report will go to you, the members, at the September meeting where you can decide whether to vary the basic rate of LPT by up to 15%. If the rate is varied upwards 100% of the additional income

will be available for the authority's own use. Similarly, if the rate is varied downwards the loss of income will be reflected in reduced LPT funding to the authority.

For every 1% of variation implemented it will result in +/- €106,847 for the authority.

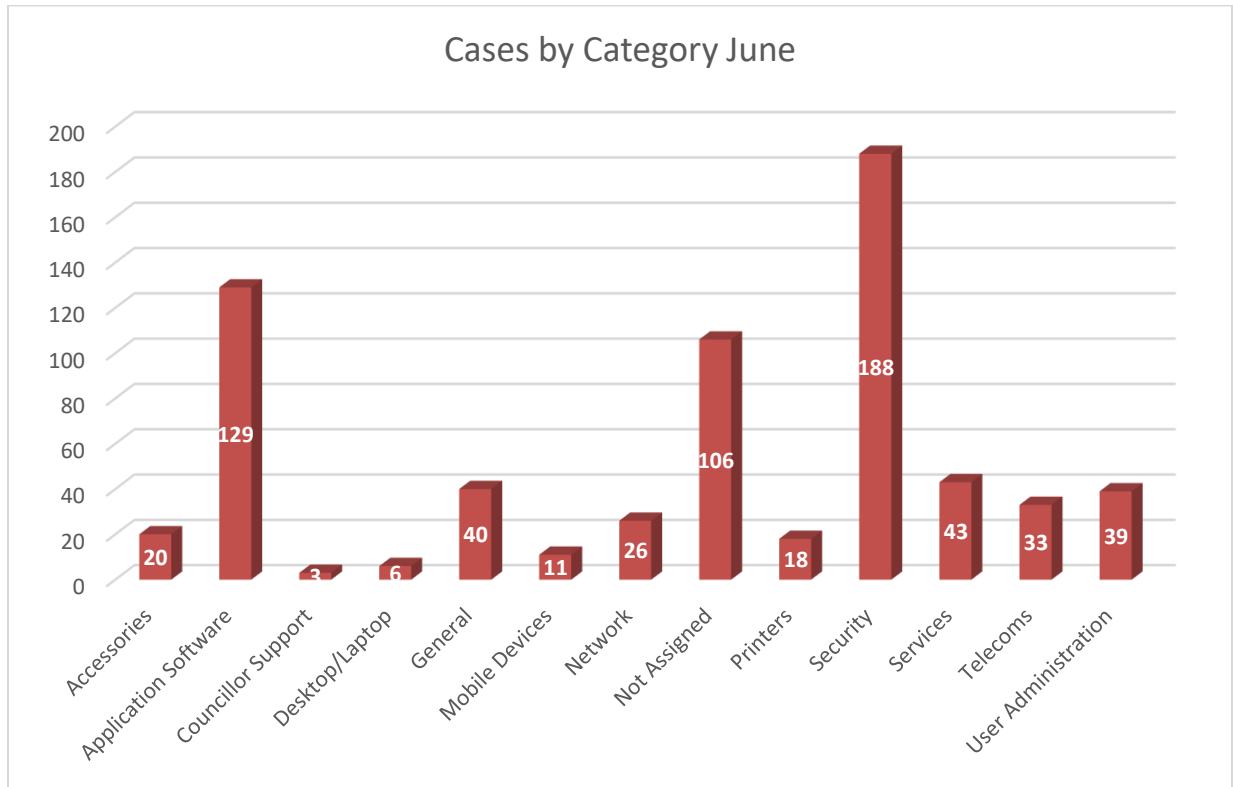
#### Budget Workshop

We are going to hold a budget workshop for the members in September. Confirmation of the dates will issue shortly.

# Information & Communication Technology

## Helpdesk

Between 01/06/2024 and the 30/06/2024 there were 662 support calls logged in the IT support system.



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


## 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 June 34% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.


 **Inbound Emails**  
174,108

 **Blocked Sender**  
7,166

 **Blocked at gateway**  
20,518

 **Blocked by spam /virus**  
31,431

 **Blocked by content rules**  
513

 **Potentially harmful emails**  
34.25%

## Louth County Council Website

There were 18,849 unique page views of [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie) in June.  
The below table indicates the pages on the website with the highest number of Page Views in June.

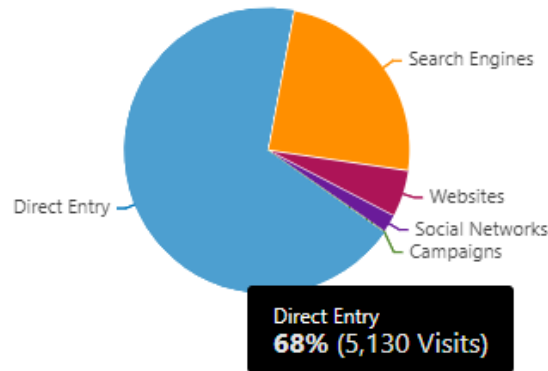
| PAGE URL                              | PAGEVIEWS |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <a href="#">en</a>                    | 24,622    |
| <a href="#">vacancies</a>             | 114       |
| <a href="#">login.aspx?ReturnUrl=</a> | 41        |
| <a href="#">ga</a>                    | 17        |
| <a href="#">libraries</a>             | 4         |

The areas on the website which saw the greatest increase in views in June were the Local Elections 2024 and the Election Count Result pages.

|  |      |        |
|--|------|--------|
| Election Count Results 2024 - Louth County Co... | +479 | +100%  |
| Local Elections 2024 - Louth County Council      | +292 | +70.9% |

## Channel Types

Most people accessing [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie) did so via direct entry. The next most used channel was via Search Engines.



## Website Search Issue

The IT department continue to work on a resolution for the issue where invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website.

## ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 5,177 views in June, an average of 179 views a day.



LCC provides an online map of Polling Stations. This received 151 views between the 31/05/2024 until the 08/06/2024. The largest number of daily views (41) occurred on the day of the Local Elections, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of June.



**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 Stiúrtóireacht 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 / Stiúrtóir**



## **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](http://www.localenterprise.ie/green) and [www.localenterprise.ie/louth](http://www.localenterprise.ie/louth).

### **Drogheda Business Improvement District (BIDS) Drogheda 2025 - 2029**

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

A Submissions Report has been prepared and will be presented to the Members at the July Council Meeting.

### **Age Friendly Business**

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

### **Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2024**

The scheme opened to applications on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, the closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

For full details of the scheme please visit: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/business-incentive-schemes-retail-prospectus/>.

## **Tourism**

### **Drogheda Visitor Experience**

Following on from the report compiled by LCC on the list of tourism assets in Drogheda, Fáilte Ireland has engaged with consultants for further study in collaboration with the Tourism Office. This will provide a visitor orientation plan and outline the support required to deliver memorable and engaging experiences at the tourism assets. Identify supporting assets: for example, food and craft and the part they can play in the experience for visitors. It will also identify areas where the use of the River Boyne for leisure recreation activities can be utilised to promote wider connections to the coast and Boyne Valley Greenway.

### **Festival Grants**

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

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

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

### **Drogheda Tourism Cluster – Boyne Midsummer Festival**

Louth County Council were delighted to support the Drogheda Tourism Cluster with their Boyne Midsummer Festival from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June. It was a wonderful celebration of all Drogheda had to offer, from music via the Busk at Dusk, Music at the Gate right through to family events at Scotch Hall. The event provided a significant increase in footfall throughout the town for the weekend.

### **Visit Louth**

As part of the ‘Reimagined Boyne Valley Destination’, Fáilte Ireland engaged a digital specialist to review the Council tourism websites in conjunction with the Tourism Section. This took place over an 18-month period. A meeting was held to review the findings and to discuss what options

the future of digital platforms might hold for the destination. These will feed into the forthcoming Tourism Strategy being led by the Tourism Officer.

Filming for an all-Ireland TV series 'Ireland from Above' has commenced. The show will feature six counties in Ireland and County Louth will have a full episode. The show will feature Louth's history and scenery using drone footage and will be broadcast in the USA on PBS. It will be aired in Spring 2025.

### **sea louth**

Following on from the workshops held in May, we have created a new ambassador pin for the participants, they will be our representatives promoting the trail and encouraging our visitors to explore the coast and the delicious seafood offering available.



*sea louth Ambassador Pin*

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

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

### **Táin Trail**

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

### **Reimagined Boyne Valley Drive**

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to work with the Boyne Valley Drive Cluster Orientation infrastructure steering group which comprises representatives from the two local authorities and relevant state bodies in the region. The focus is on the delivery of infrastructure design

at the clusters identified in the reimagined Boyne Valley Drive and enable signage and orientation to the cluster arrival points.

### **Seapoint – EU Legends Tour**

Louth County Council were delighted to be a sponsor of the EU Legends Tour which took place from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Seapoint Golf links. Some well-known celebrities from the worlds of sport and entertainment descended on Co. Louth to play in the celebrity pro-am. Visit Louth and sea louth had a stand at the tournament to welcome players and visitors to Co. Louth and provide them with information on all there is to see and do in Co. Louth.



*Staff from the Tourism Office meeting some of the celebrities at Seapoint*

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

The Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy 2024 - 2028 was launched on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in Slane Castle by the Local Authorities of Louth and Meath and Fáilte Ireland. The new strategy brings together three pillars: the Discover Boyne Valley Flavours food and craft drinks network, Food in Tourism, and The Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture. It sets out the priorities for the region for the next five years, with an overall vision for the Boyne Valley to be

recognised for its collaborative approach to developing food as a sustainable economic sector and a food destination where our producers are at the heart of our food culture. Read the full strategy here: <https://bit.ly/3VL04qy>.



**Launch of The Boyne Valley Food Development Strategy 2024 - 2028**

Discover Boyne Valley Flavours have appointed 'Design Works' to conduct a brand and website audit. These were two recommendations arising from the new strategy. The audit will commence in mid-July and will be completed in October.

There was a Boyne Valley Bites workshop for local chefs and foodservice business owners in Nelly's, Drogheda on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The aim was to educate and inspire foodservice businesses to list local food and drink on their menu for the Drogheda Midsummer Festival.

### Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture

The Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture launched the following social media channels:

- LinkedIn - Centre of Food Culture Boyne Valley
- Instagram - @centrooffoodcultureboynevalley
- Facebook - @centrooffoodculture
- X - @cofcboynevalley

### Drogheda Night-Time Economy

#### Busk at Dusk

"Busk at Dusk" brought live music to the streets of Drogheda on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, as part of an initiative to add vibrancy to the early phase of the night-time economy. The event also collaborated with a local café to test extended closing hours. Over 20 acts performed across four locations, including West

Street, Peter Street, Shop Street, and Scotch Hall. This event was aligned with the inaugural Boyne Midsummer Festival, and feedback from performers and audience members will help foster future busking activities with local enthusiasts. Plans are underway for additional "Busk at Dusk" sessions later in the year.



**Busk at Dusk**

### Drogheda Cruinniú na nÓG

Additional funding was recently allocated to Louth County Council for the Cruinniú na nÓg youth festival in Drogheda, aimed at enhancing the early phase of the night-time economy. In collaboration with Boomerang Youth Café and Droichead Arts Centre, a "Microfest" music festival was held at the Coffee Courthouse off Merchants Quay on 15<sup>th</sup> June. The event featured 10 acts, stalls with local artists, and young people in vibrant anime cosplay. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed the festival, which ran from 3:30pm to 8:00pm. Designed to support grassroots talent within the town, the event fostered a chilled and inclusive atmosphere. Several talented young artists from this festival were selected to participate in the "Busk at Dusk" event on 21<sup>st</sup> June.



**Example of youth art available at Drogheda Cruinniú na nÓg**

## Prestigious Award for Lú Festival of Light

The Drogheda-based Lú Festival of Light has won a prestigious global award. Louth County Council, in partnership with Love Drogheda, is celebrating the phenomenal success of the Lú Festival of Light, which received the Best Arts and Culture Award at the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) Awards ceremony held in Glasgow on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Entering its third year in 2024 and triumphing over tough competition, the Lú Festival was recognised for its innovative use of storytelling, community, light shows, and the iconic historic architecture of Drogheda.



*Presentation of Best Arts and Culture Scheme 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](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth).

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

### 'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

LEO continues to host a Louth 'shop local' online directory available at: [www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal](https://www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal). New businesses can be included on the Louth online directory by emailing: [lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie](mailto:lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie).

### Business Advice Clinics

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

## Green for Business



The Green for Business programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials. This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective. Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing marketplace.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications

### Business Training



During June LEO held two training courses including 'How to Sell Successfully' and 'Canva for Small Business'. We also had a 'Start Your Own Business' course concluding in June.

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.

Six Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in June.

## 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 June.

## 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.

One MFI application was received in June.

## LEAN for Business Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally. The programme helps businesses to identify issues and potential improvement areas and provides support to implement these as well as achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced to €150 for businesses.

## Digital Start

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

## Energy Efficiency Grant



The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for 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. Further information on this grant can be found here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

**Network Louth Awards – Monasterboice Inn – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

On behalf of the Local Enterprise Office Louth, Pamela Kerr, Senior Enterprise Development Officer attended the Network Louth Awards on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in the Monasterboice Inn. As LEO Louth was a sponsor to the Louth Women in Business Network Pamela Kerr presented an award on the night.

The Networker of the Year award was presented to Hanna McDonnell of Hanna McDonnell Marketing. Hanna will have the honour of representing the Louth branch at the Network Ireland National Awards in September.



*Visit to Listoke Distillery*



*Visit to Zoma*



*Theresa Clark, Fionnuala Rogers, Estelle Cotter, President of Network Ireland Louth, Linda Kelliher and Pamela Kerr*



*Award Winners Andrea McQuillan, Caroline Duffy, Marina Branigan and Hanna McDonnell*

**Centre of Excellence, Enterprise Ireland Visit to the LEO Office**

On 12<sup>th</sup> June Elaine McCormack from the Centre of Excellence in Enterprise Ireland responsible for the

Local Enterprise Offices visited the office in Louth and some of the LEO clients. Elaine, Pamela Kerr, Niamh Dennehy and Sarah Mallon visited Bronagh Conlon of Listoke Distillery in Tinure and saw the production area and gin school. David Kierans and the team from Zoma who are the Regional National Enterprise Award winners in 2024 welcomed Elaine and the LEO staff to their new premises in Dundalk where they have state of the art facilities.

**German Irish Interparliamentary visit to Louth – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, LEO Louth had the honour of welcoming the German Irish Parliamentary Friendship Group to the Town Hall, Dundalk. This esteemed delegation was keen to understand the implications of Brexit on our community, specifically focusing on Dundalk and the border region.

The visit featured insightful presentations and discussions on a range of critical topics. Representing the Dundalk Chamber, Paddy Malone delivered a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities that have emerged in the wake of Brexit. His presentation highlighted the profound impact on local businesses and the

community, drawing parallels with the historical experiences of the Troubles and the subsequent peace and prosperity brought about by the Good Friday Agreement.

Additionally, Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, emphasised the importance of cross-border cooperation. His remarks underscored the resilient and robust ties we maintain with our Northern Ireland neighbours.

The members of the German Irish Parliamentary Friendship Group were highly engaged and appreciative of the detailed insights provided.



*In attendance were Robert Henneberg (Cultural Attaché and Head of Press & Communications at the German Embassy Dublin), Roisin Sheridan, Assistant (Political, Cultural & Press), Bundestag Member - Albrecht Glaser, Stephan Pilsinger, Ariane Fäscher and Linda Heitmann together with Thomas McEvoy, DOS, Pamela Kerr and Niamh Dennehy from LEO Louth.*

## Speed Networking Event – The Mill Drogheda – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Sarah Mallon represented LEO Louth at a network event hosted by Drogheda Chamber and sponsored by the Local Enterprise Office. A range of businesses from the area took part in a speed networking event in the Mill Enterprise Centre and the event was opened by the new CEO of Drogheda Chamber Hubert Murphy.



**Speed Networking Event, The Mill Drogheda**

## European Relations



### PEACEPLUS



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

Works continue in preparation for projects proposed under the Action Plan.

A PEACEPLUS newsletter was circulated on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 and is available at [https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peace-iv/peace-iv-newsletters/20240605\\_peace-iv\\_newsletter-15.pdf](https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peace-iv/peace-iv-newsletters/20240605_peace-iv_newsletter-15.pdf).

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](mailto:peaceplus@louthcoco.ie) for further information.

## Peace IV Programme



The final PEACE IV newsletter was circulated on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 and is available at [https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peace-iv/peace-iv-newsletters/20240605\\_peace-iv\\_newsletter-15.pdf](https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peace-iv/peace-iv-newsletters/20240605_peace-iv_newsletter-15.pdf).

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

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

## Heritage

### Heritage Week 2024

The national launch of Heritage Week 2024 will take place at Beaulieu House, Drogheda, County Louth on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Heritage Week will then run from Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August until Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Preparations continue for public events to take place during the week (most of which will be organised and led by volunteers). This year's theme is "Connections, Routes and Networks" and invites you to explore the ways we are connected to each other through physical or cultural connections. Ideas for other Heritage Week events are very welcome. Please contact the Heritage Officer directly with your proposals.

### Walled Towns Day Events Planning

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

### Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2024

Preparations continue for conservation works at Bellew's castle towerhouse in Castletown, near Dundalk (on the site of the Saint Louis Convent

School in Dundalk). These works will be supported by the 2024 iteration of the Community Monuments Fund.

Preparations continued in relation to the Council's two successful applications to the CMF 2024. These are for conservation works to Cappocksgate in Ardee and for a complete, new survey of the surviving stretches of Drogheda's town defences. Tenders and other administrative requirements for these works are being prepared. The Department has agreed the extension of the Ministerial Consent granted last year for the works at Cappocksgate, Ardee.

### Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2023

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

### Inspection of Millmount, Drogheda Town Walls, Old Abbey Lane and Narrow West Street

Specialist staff from the Department (National Monuments Service and National Built Heritage Service) met Council staff at Millmount in early June, so that Council staff could outline to them our plans for future conservation works at Millmount and be informed by the Department on its detailed requirements. The Department staff also examined several sections of Drogheda's town walls, including at Featherbed Lane, the Bridge of Peace and the Buttergate, as well as the Old Abbey, where works carried out by the Council were viewed very positively.

An application to the Irish Walled Towns Network capital works fund for a detailed assessment of a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall at Featherbed Lane was successful and awarded funding of €30,000. A Tender will be prepared shortly.

The Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust also applied to this fund, for works on the Tholsel, which was awarded €65,000. The Heritage Officer has received a request for assistance with this project from the Trust.

## Forward Planning

Advice continued to be given to planning colleagues on the inclusion of heritage aspects in the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan.

### Louth Urban Food Sanctuary (LUFS) - a creative climate project

The Heritage Officer met representatives of the trust which runs Townley Hall to discuss the participation of the walled garden there in the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary project. This garden is currently used to grow and supply vegetables to the Food Cloud initiative <https://food.cloud/news/foodcloud-collaborating-with-farmers-to-redistribute-food-waste-for-enough-meals-to-deed-a-full-croke-park-and-aviva-stadium-combined>.

### ORIS and the provision of access

Coillte has added information on the new Feede Loop walking route, developed by the Council with ORIS funding, to its recreation website: <https://www.coillte.ie/site/feede/>. This upgraded and better connected, cross-border walking loop is a major contribution to County Louth's and County Armagh's outdoor recreation infrastructure.

## Fire & Emergency Services

### Fire Service

A range of measures commenced in June aimed at reducing potential health risks that may be present during emergency incidents. These include precautions at incidents, after incidents at the scene and back at the station, as follows:

- Requirement to have respiratory protection in all cases where smoke is present
- Removal of contaminated fire gear after the incident and transport back in the side locker of the appliance. Similar with contaminated breathing apparatus (BA) sets.
- 'Clean cab concept', with cab filtration systems installed and no contaminated items permitted.
- Low temperature laundry service with removal of contaminants, while minimising wear and tear.
- Decontamination of BA sets, helmets and gloves in new decontamination washing machines.

These precautions are being implemented as the required fire appliance modifications are completed, with three crews started and the remainder to follow shortly.

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during June. New recruits completed station tests and literacy tests on 25<sup>th</sup> June. There are six in total, two each from Carlingford and Drogheda and one from Ardee and Dunleer. If successful, they will complete a three-week Recruits course. Two other new recruits will be attending a three-week Recruits course, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Fire Service Training courses in June were as follows:

- Hazardous Materials course
- ESDS Driving Refreshers
- Hydraulic Platform (ALP) training courses
- Critical Incident Stress Management courses



*Hazardous Materials Course in Drogheda station*

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

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

The Chief Fire Officer forwarded signed contracts to the Vendor (Emergency One in Scotland) for the purchase of two new water tenders for Louth Fire Service. The cost of these vehicles is approximately €400,000 each, funded under the DHLGH Capital Programme.

A Tender request went up on eTenders for the purchase of 325 sets of fire gear for Louth Fire Service personnel, under a four-year framework. This also includes a Care and Maintenance system for the fire gear. Tenders were received in June and are currently being assessed.

### **Major Emergency Management**

Louth County Council continued to chair regional Major Emergency Management Steering and Working Group meetings during June. Following the update of the Major Emergency Plan, the appendices of the Plan are now being updated. This includes emergency rest centres for the county. This is being done on a regional basis. There was more progress on the update of Louth's Major Emergency Plan during June.

### **Climate Adaptation Strategy**

Dunleer Fire Station will include a range of features to limit carbon emissions. These are being discussed and options include a geothermal heat pump, photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting. The Climate Action Plan has been finalised and includes Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

### **Civil Defence**

Training during June was as follows:

- Weekly Training
- Cardiac First Responder Community Training
- Emergency Medical Technician Medication Training
- Manual Handling Instructor Workshop

Medical cover was provided at the following events:

- Local election count on two days

- Dundalk Agricultural Show
- Cruinniú na Óg
- Garda / PSNI Boxing tournament

There were three callouts by Civil Defence volunteers in June under the Cardiac First Responder Scheme.

### **Building Control**

The Chief Fire Officer attended a national Building Control Advisory Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June. There will be new national Building Control legislation this year with the establishment of a Building Control Regulator.

## Planning

### Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of May 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 89 planning applications received during the month of May of which 80 were valid. In addition, there were 25 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 38 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)<br>Description / Cur Síos   | (B)<br>Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta | (C)<br>Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair | (D)<br>Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT | (E)<br>Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth | (F)<br>Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| (i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh   | 5  | 17                                      | 39  | 1   | 62   |
| (ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais | 4  | 5                                       | 13  | 0   | 2  |
| (iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh                                  | 0.00% (0)  | 29.41% (5)                              | 10.26% (4)  | 0.00% (0)   | 16.13% (10)  |
| (iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh  | 1  | 1                                       | 3   | 0   | 5  |
| (v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc          | 100% (1)   | 0.00% (0)                               | 33.33% (1)  | 0.00% (0)   | 40.00% (2)   |

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

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

| Description / Cur Síos  | Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh |                                  | Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|   | May 2024 / Bealtaine 2024   | Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo | May 2023 / Bealtaine 2023   | Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo |
| Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh                               | 16  | 115                              | 25  | 86                               |
| 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                                      | 30  | 111                              | 7   | 49                               |
| Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh  | 27  | 114                              | 8   | 70                               |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh   | 1   | 5                                | 2   | 5                                |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí   | 1   | 2                                | 1   | 5                                |
| 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 |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
|   | June 2024 /<br>Meitheamh 2024                  | Year to Date /<br>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                                   |

## **Planning Enforcement – Dangerous Structures / Forfheidmiú Pleanála – Déanmhais Chontúirteacha**

The Planning Indicators listed below are in relation to Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period April to June 2024.

Tá na Táscairí Pleanála thíos liostaithe bainteach le Fógraí a eisíodh faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Seirbhísí Sláintíochta) 1964 sa tréimhse Aibreán go Meitheamh.

| Description / Cur Síos  | Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha |                                  |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
|   | April – June 2024<br>Aibreán go Meitheamh 2024   | Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo |
| Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhais Contúirteach a osclaíodh  | 11   | 26                               |
| Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (1)(a) – Ag Tabhairt ordú d’úinéir obair a dhéanamh | 24   | 30                               |
| Number of Section 3 (2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (2)(b) – Obair le déanamh ag CCL                                  | 0  | 0                                |
| Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 2 – Áit Chontúirteach  | 0  | 0                                |
| Number of Dangerous Structures entered on the DS Register   | 20   | 26                               |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí  | 0  | 1                                |
| Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh   | 0  | 0                                |
| Number of Dangerous Structures Removed from the DS Register   | 14   | 15                               |
| Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh  | 21   | 24                               |

## 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**

| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>                               | <b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b>                           |
|--|--|
| <b>Carlingford, Omeath, Gyles Quay</b>                                 | <b>All areas listed are completed once a week, and if required, spot litter picks also</b> |
| <b>Templetown</b>  |  |
| <b>Dublin Road</b>   |  |
| <b>Market Street</b>   |  |
| <b>Demesne</b>   |  |
| <b>Pearse Park</b>   |  |
| <b>Ramparts</b>  |  |
| <b>Point Road</b>  |  |
| <b>Barrack Street</b>  |  |
| <b>Inner Relief Road</b>   |  |
| <b>Castletown Road</b>   |  |
| <b>Old Coes Road</b>   |  |
| <b>Centenary Road</b>  |  |
| <b>Fairgreen Road</b>  |  |
| <b>Ecco Road</b>   |  |
| <b>Riverside Walk</b>  |  |
| <b>Armagh Road</b>   |  |
| <b>Racecourse Road</b>   |  |
| <b>Ardee Road</b>  |  |
| <b>Carrick Road</b>  |  |
| <b>Woodview Estate</b>   |  |
| <b>Mooreland Road</b>  |  |
| <b>Under the bridges at Fr. Murray Park</b>                            |  |
| <b>River Grids checked weekly and any debris lifted</b>                |  |
| <b>Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day and area litter picked</b> |  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Rubbish removed daily from the Bottle Banks</b></p> <p><b>Grass Cutting in Progress</b></p> <p><b>Trimming around verges and walls</b></p> <p><b>Illegal dumping ongoing at Williamson's Place</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b></p> <p><b>Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore,</b></p> <p><b>Templetown Car Park, Gyles Quay area. Extra bin collection over the Summer months due to end in September</b></p> <p><b>All tubs checked for rubbish</b></p> <p><b>Cleaned borders around town</b></p> <p><b>Nightly by contractor in Dundalk – 200 Bins</b></p> | <p><b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b></p>   | <p><b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b></p> <p>Sweeping of roads for surface dressing, also kerb line off footpath in R174 Ravensdale</p> <p>Dundalk –daily, nightly, weekly and monthly as per contract</p> |
| <p><b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b></p> <p><b>As per bin management in Cooley and Dundalk</b></p>  | <p><b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála</b></p> <p><b>By the Water Safety Officer in Cooley</b></p> <p><b>Ring Buoys checked weekly in Dundalk and report sent to the Water Safety Officer</b></p>   | <p><b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b></p> <p>27 checked weekly</p>  |

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

**Lordship, Cooley, Carlingford, Omeath**

**Checked weekly in Dundalk by the Parks**  
**caretaker**

|   | Location / Suíomh  | Notes / Nótaí |
|---|--|---------------|
| <b>Road Repairs /</b><br><b>Deisiú Bóithre</b>  | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b></p> <p>Ongoing patching of local roads also isolated potholes within the area – R173 Bush</p> <p>Preparation of roads for surface dressing as per the 2024 Road Works Programme</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b></p> <p>JCB Patcher Pro onsite in Muirhevnamor repairing potholes. Bollards repaired and replaced in Park Street after a road traffic accident</p> |               |
| <b>Drainage Remediation /</b><br><b>Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>                                     | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b></p> <p>Drainage at Belleverty, Rathcor and Castletowncooley</p>  |               |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous</b><br><b>Trees /</b><br><b>Crainn Leagtha nó</b><br><b>Chontúirteacha</b> | <p>N/A</p>   |               |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/</b><br><b>Cothabháil Cosán</b>   | <p>N/A</p>   |               |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs /</b><br><b>Deisiú Soilse Tráichta</b>                                   | <p>Pedestrian lights in Ravensdale</p> <p>Lights checked on the Castletown Road, outside the Gateway Hotel and the pedestrian lights at the train station</p>  |               |
| <b>Road Markings /</b><br><b>Marcáil Bóithre</b>  | <p>N/A</p>   |               |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>                      | <b><u>Cooley</u></b><br>New advanced warning signs at Ravensdale Park leading onto the R174 |  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b> | <b><u>Dundalk</u></b><br>Ongoing at all the usual areas                                     |  |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>           | <b>Ongoing issue at the skate park</b>  |  |



*Resurfacing works at Kilkerry*

### **Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>              | <b>Location and metres per month /<br/>Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b><br><br>N/A                                       |
| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b> | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b><br><br>Blackrock – 6 days a week<br><br>Knockbridge – once a week |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | Dromiskin – once a week<br>Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week  |
| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>   | <b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b><br>N/A  |
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>                                    | <b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b><br><br>As per bin schedule  |
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála</b>  | <b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b><br><br>Blackrock – checked weekly<br>Annagassan – checked weekly   |
| <b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b> | <b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b><br><br>Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly<br>Blackrock – checked weekly |

| Location / Suíomh   |  | Notes / Nótaí  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Road Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Bóithre</b>  |  | Preparation of roads for surface dressing as per the 2024 Road Works Programme |
| <b>Drainage Remediation /<br/>Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>                         |  | N/A  |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous<br/>Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b> |  | N/A  |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b>                               |  | Footpath renewal scheme underway   |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráichta</b>                       |  | N/A  |
| <b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b>                                      |  | Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings                  |
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>   |  | Ongoing cleaning of signage in the area  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b>                        |  | Collection and disposal of waste after community clean up                      |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>                                  |  | N/A  |

## Ardee Municipal District

### South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>                                     | <b>Location and metres per month /<br/>Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b> |
|--|--|
| All bins in Ardee daily<br>Clogherhead car park - daily clean up around bins |  |
| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b>                        | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b>                  |
| Ardee Town   | 37 Daily   |
| Dunleer Town   | 20 Tuesday and Thursday  |
| Collon   | 3 Tuesday and Thursday   |
| Port Oriel Pier  | 7 Daily  |
| Clogherhead Beach  | 8 Daily  |
| Port Beach   | 6 Daily  |
| Termonfeckin   | 6 Daily  |
| Baltray  | 3 Daily  |
| Seapoint Carpark   | 3 Daily  |
| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>                                      | <b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b>                        |
| All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)                                     |  |
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>         | <b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b>                          |
| As per bin cleaning schedule   |  |
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>                        | <b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b>         |
| 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**

|   | <b>Location / Suíomh</b>   | <b>Notes / Nótaí</b> |
|---|--|----------------------|
| <b>Road Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Bóithre</b>                | LS6329 Castle Lane Annagassan<br>LS6224-0 Dillonstown Lane<br>Annagassan<br>LP2214-30 Kaigs Cross<br>Richardstown<br>LS6237-0 Cappoge<br>LS 5267-0 Funshog<br>LP 1210-41 Gudderstown<br>LS 5266-0 Oriel Road Collon<br>LS 5257-0 Roestown<br>LS 5258-0 Millockstown<br>LS 5211-0 Irishtown<br>LS 5235-0 Harristown<br>LS 5236-0 Toberdoney<br>R165 Ardee<br>LP 2295 Boyd's Bridge<br>LP-2275 Kellystown<br>L-63272-0 Baltray Village<br>LP-6272 Baggotstown<br>LP-6286 Harestown<br>R167 Baltray to Drogheda Road<br>R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin<br>LS-6327 Beaulieu<br>LS-6292-0 Tinure |                      |
| <b>Drainage Remediation /<br/>Feabhasúchán Draenála</b> | LS6329 Castle Lane Annagassan<br><br>LS6224-0 Dillonstown lane<br>Annagassan.<br><br>Culvert repairs at the LP-2295-25<br>Boyds Bridge to Brannagans<br>cross  |                      |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | <p>Castleguard junction with the N33 repairs to manhole cover Ardee</p> <p>LS-6242 Lurganboy culvert repairs.<br/> LP-6272 Baggotstown<br/> LP-6286 Harestown<br/> R167 Baltray to Drogheda Road<br/> R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin<br/> LS-6327 Beaulieu<br/> LS-6292-0 Tinure</p> |  |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b> | N/A   |  |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b>                           | N/A   |  |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráichta</b>                   | N/A   |  |
| <b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b>                                  | N/A   |  |
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>   | <p>Repairs to sign at Sean O' Carroll Street Ardee</p> <p>Repairs to sign on Stoney lane Ardee</p> <p>Repairs to barriers on Main Street Ardee</p> <p>Direction signs for Tinure installed on the R132 junction with the LS-6291</p>  |  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b>                    | N/A   |  |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>                              | N/A   |  |



***New picnic benches at Port Beach***



***New Junction signs on the LP-2308-24 Cockle Road***

## **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

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 every Saturday evening

Drogheda Rural Bring Banks are cleared daily during working week

Preparation for Drogheda Mid Summer festival weekend 21<sup>st</sup> May, street cleaning, power washing West Street and Meat Market Lane and placing of pedestrian barriers at St. Laurence Gate

#### **Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí**

#### **Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht**

Drogheda Town Centre – circa 60 litterbins emptied daily every morning

234 litter bins (including 10 Solar Bins) are emptied weekly around the town

Dominic's Park and Mell River Walk emptied daily

South Louth Drogheda Municipal District rural area's litter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed, especially at the beaches – at least 40 bins per day

Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week

Bin upgrade and maintenance on-going throughout the town

Power washing of pavements and street furniture in West Street on-going

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | New bins ordered so as to upgrade existing ones throughout the town  |
| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>                             | <p><b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b></p> <p>Town centre daily, approach roads fortnightly</p> <p>Public Housing Estates – swept every two months</p> <p>Private Housing Estates – swept every three months</p> <p>Hotspots cleaned weekly on Monday after the weekend, decided daily by Supervisor after checking around the Drogheda Urban area</p> <p>Villages are swept once per month – i.e. Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen and Tinure</p> <p>Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday</p> <p>Road sweepers are used in the town centre and approach roads with particular attention to Collon Road, Ramparts, Termonfeckin Road, Windmill Road and Crosslanes</p> <p>Cleaning and painting of public toilets at Newtown Cross Graveyard in advance of the Blessing of the Graves</p> |
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra</b> | <p><b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b></p> <p>About 35 emptied once a week, washed and disinfected</p>   |
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>               | <p><b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b></p> <p>Checked weekly by the Water Safety office</p>   |

**Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne**

**Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil**

Between 4 and 5 daily daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, skate park, adult exercise equipment, 3 playgrounds in Drogheda Rural area) cleaned and disinfected.

| Location / Suíomh  | Notes / Nótaí  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b></p>                | <p>Pot hole repairs at Fr. Connolly Way, Mount Street Oliver, Bessexwell Lane, Marsh Road, Termonfeckin Road, North Strand, Cement Road, Kings Street Carpark, Aston Villages, Bothar Brugha, Crosslanes and Greenhills</p> <p>Preparation for Drogheda Mid Summer festival 21<sup>st</sup> June, placing of pedestrian barriers and removal of planters at St. Laurence Gate, power washing at West Street and Meat Market Lane</p> <p>Road closure at Narrow West Street and pedestrian diversion due to emergency works at 74 Narrow West Street</p> <p>Footpath closure at Shop Street and pedestrian diversion due to emergency works at Mr. I Phone Shop</p> <p>Upgrade of 'Welcome to Drogheda' signs on all approach roads</p> <p>New bench placed at the public paving at Magdalene Street</p> <p>Overhead barrier removed at carpark from St. Mary's Carpark</p> |
| <p><b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b></p> | <p>Manhole Cover and frame repair at Donore Road, Termonfeckin Road and Shrewsbury Manor</p>   |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <p>Road gully cleaning at Newfield Estate, Termonfeckin Road, Bredin Street, Donore Road and Fr. Connolly Way</p> <p>Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall and gate repairs – Structural Engineer appointed for design and Project Supervisor design process.</p> <p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning programme ongoing</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b></p> | <p>Fallen trees at St. Finian's Park housing estate removed by LCC staff</p> <p>Hedge cutting at Poorhouse Lane and Twenties in preparation for the Blessing of the Graves</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b></p>                           | <p>Commenced planned footpath repairs at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. St. Mary's Street</li> <li>2. Paving repairs at Meat Market Lane</li> <li>3. Paving repairs at West Street</li> </ol>  |  |
| <p><b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b></p>                    | <p>DR06 R132 at Westgate to Fair Street Junction – lights out of sync at junction<br/>DR30 Ballymakenny Road – lights out<br/>DR25 Trinity Street – vehicle phase A green<br/>DR20 Ballsgrove Pedestrian Light – green light out<br/>DR23 Cross Lane – Windmill Road Junction – constant fail to schedules<br/>DR06 R132 at Westgate – Fair Street Junction – vehicle phase lamp fail<br/>DR10 – R132 at dual carriageway – lights out</p> |  |
| <p><b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b></p>                                  | <p>N/A</p>   |  |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b></p>   | <p>New yield sign and pole at Cherrybrook</p> <p>New Children Crossing sign, junction sign and no u-turn sign at Rathmullen Road</p> <p>New bollards at carpark across from St. Mary's Grave Yard</p> <p>Reinstated bollards on North Road</p> <p>New 50km sign on Cement Road</p> <p>New bollards at the pedestrian crossing at Mell</p> <p>New Children Crossing sign at Elmwood</p> <p>New 'Welcome to Drogheda' signs erected at Baltray Road, Marsh Road and Donore Road</p> <p>Reinstated taxi rank pole at Shop Street</p> |  |
| <p><b>Weed Management /<br/>Marú fiailí</b></p>  | <p>On-going by Parks Sections</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Litterbin cleaning<br/>disinfecting / Díghalrú<br/>glantacháin boscaí<br/>bruscair</b></p> | <p>On-going on weekly basis</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b></p>                                  | <p>Acorn Way, Wheaton Hall – received a referral regarding an ongoing rubbish issue, continued monitoring and follow up actions are in progress</p> <p>Nitrous Oxide Cans – Followed up on reports of nitrous oxide canisters found in various locations, co-ordinated with An Garda Síochána and contractors to address and manage the disposal of these canisters</p> <p>Identified an abandoned blue Ford Puma, requested the waste management team to issue a notice for its removal</p>                                      |  |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | <p>Illegal dumping at Beechwood Drive – discovered wood dumped on the green space beside 53 Beechwood Drive</p> <p>St. Dominic’s Park Dumping – collected evidence of illegal dumping in St. Dominic’s Park, a fixed penalty notice was issued</p> <p>Monitored the bottom of Clinton’s Lane, Breamore Road for litter and other related issues</p> <p>Responded to damage at a premises on Meat Market Lane, LCC contractors were on site to manage repairs and clean up</p> <p>Conducted an on-site visit to Sienna Apartments in response to reports of drug related litter, liaised with the resident’s association to implement disposal measures and increase awareness</p> <p>Collaborate with St. Nicholas GAA Club to carry out improvement works in the Marley’s Lane/Rathmullan Estate area, addressing both litter and general maintenance issues</p> <p>Investigated reports of waste originating from building activities on the Dublin Road, further investigations are ongoing to identify sources and enforce waste management regulations</p> |  |
| <p><b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b></p> | <p><b>Graffiti removal on wall at<br/>Crosslanes</b></p>  |  |



***New 'Welcome to Drogheda' sign on the Breamore Road***



***Gully cleaning on Fr. Connolly Way***



***Footpath repairs at St. Mary's Street***

## **Placemaking**

### **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)**

#### **West Gate Vision (Drogheda)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

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



*Artist impressions of Westgate project*

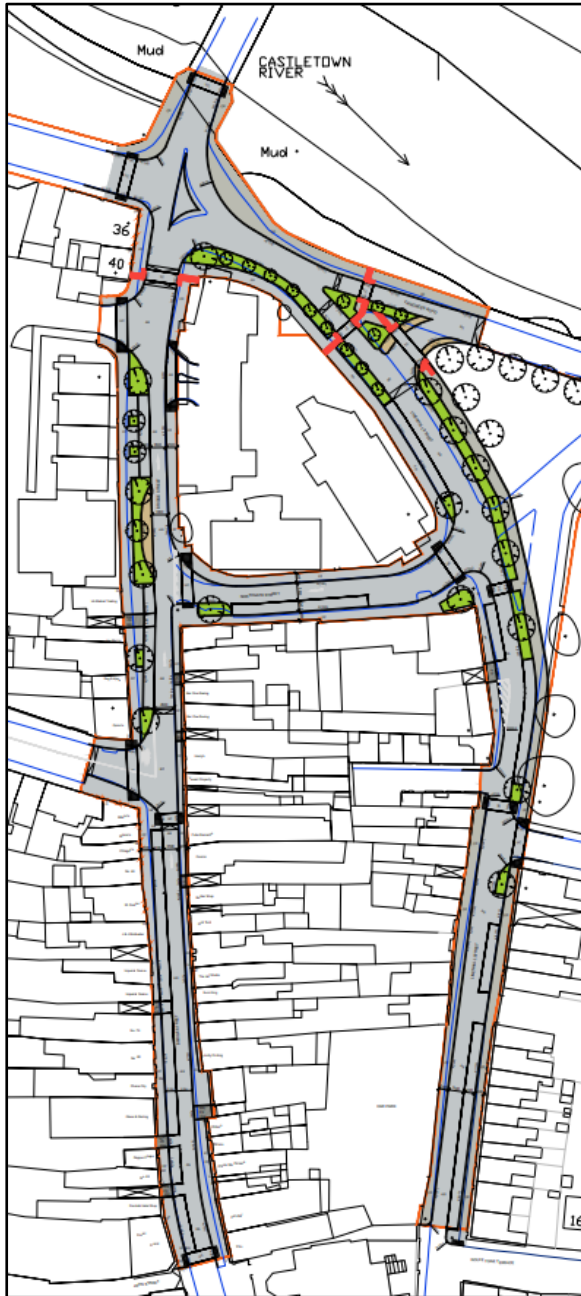
### **St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)**

#### **Phase 1**

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

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

It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in Q3 2024. A public engagement day was held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 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 21<sup>st</sup> February in County Hall,

Dundalk. The event was well-attended with positive feedback received on the project and local insights provided on the St Nicholas Quarter area.

BDP are currently engaged with LCC in the initial feasibility and analysis stages in preparation of a design concept for St Nicholas Quarter – Phase II. Engagement with project stakeholders is planned to commence in Q3 of 2024.

### **URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.**

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

### **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)**

#### **Ardee Castle**

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

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

## Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



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

## Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is progressing on site. The main contractor, GLAS Civil Engineering are continuing works, installing new pavements, kerbs alignments and green spaces. Most of the utility work has been completed and liaison with ESB is continuing. Areas for soft landscape and planting are being prepared with topsoil. The works at Omeath proceed on an agreed phased basis and public engagement continues through the project.

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



*Road Footpath along R173.*



*New Public Lighting on Station Road*

## Ardee 2040

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

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

The objective of Ardee 2040 is to develop projects that support regeneration, compact growth and sustainable development. The key themes are: creating quality gateways; public spaces; recreational areas; sporting areas and public realm in Ardee, improving connectivity and legibility for all members of the community and for visitors/tourists to the town. The project aims to capitalise and respect the rich heritage of the town centre location by providing new and better-quality streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

## Additional Projects

### **St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda**

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



## **Cross Departmental Projects**

### **Play Spaces**

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

Kompan Ireland Ltd has been appointed for the contract to Design & Build the new play space, and a programme of works has been received with works due to commence in July with works scheduled to be complete in Q3 2024.

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

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

#### **Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead**

A public consultation event was held on 8 May in the Clogherhead Community Centre, the event drew substantial local interest with

over 120 attendees including predominantly local residents.

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

## **Physical Development**

### **Roads Projects**

#### **Narrow Water Bridge**

In June 2024, Taoiseach, Simon Harris TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Heritage & Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD and Northern Irish Minister for Infrastructure, John O'Dowd MLA announced the commencement of construction of Narrow Water Bridge.



*Official Narrow Water Bridge Ceremony*

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

Earthworks for the formation of the main road in the south has commenced, temporary diversion works for the greenway is underway. Test Pile works to establish road depths and bearing force are underway.

Proposed surface water diversion works has commenced in the North.



*Earthworks Cut commencing.*

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

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

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

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

Archaeological Phase 1 test trenching commenced on site and continue to progress.

Land valuers' services has commenced and will be engaging with landowner's agents on receipt of approval of budget from TII.

The initial peer review of draft main works construction tender documents is nearing completion.

A works order has been made to ESB for relocation of 38kv overhead network and we await a date from ESB on when these works will progress.

#### **N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme**

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

The N2 Project Team can be contacted by landowners and members of the public via

the N2 Project Phonenumber 087 340 3786, or email:

[ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie](mailto:ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie)

#### **N52 Ardee Bypass**

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

The Judge's directions are that the Applicant should prepare its application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. An Bord Pleanála will likely know in July whether the Applicant will be granted leave to appeal the High Court's decision to the Court of Appeal. If the Applicant is unsuccessful in obtaining leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal, the matter can still be referred to the Supreme Court.

Currently TII & LCC await to see if an appeal is made.

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

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

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



*New carriageway with footpaths*

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

The Department of Transport allocated monies in 2024 towards progressing feasibility and options design. Tenders for consultants were issued to the DoT in late March and received approval to proceed to

tender at the end of May. Document will be uploaded to e-tenders early July.

## **Greenways**

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

### **Section 1 - Carlingford to Carlingford Marina**

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



***Greenway access control point and signage***

### **Section 2 - Omeath to the Border**

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



***Section of Greenway at Back Lane Carlingford.***

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

Additional funding from Dept of Transport capital grant will be made available to Louth County Council for an amount up to €2,961,413, this grant will be available to

claim in the period ending 31st December 2024 for expenditure to complete the project.

## **Section 3 – Northern Ireland**

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



***Works Complete in Victoria Lock in NI***

Design works for the design and build element of the boardwalk are ongoing and the contractors is seeking approval for the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Planning permission for the scheme prohibits works below high-water mark to September.

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

## **TII Funded Greenways:**

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

TII approval received to move the project into options phase.

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



**Route Corridor Options**



**Public Consultation No. 2**

Dundalk MD elected representatives workshop also held to provide further information.

Public feedback will be used to assist the team in determining the preferred route corridor, which will be presented at PC3 in Q4 2024. Submissions close 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.

Environmental assessments are ongoing including meetings with project ecologists.

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 Measure 2 have been successful for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown. Tender Documents for construction are now currently being prepared to be issued to the market.

**Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda**

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

**LIHAF Project:**

**Mount Avenue Road Upgrade**

Works are ongoing on the scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Kerbing, drainage, ducting, public lighting and footpath works are progressing from the Castletown Rd junction. Road Surfacing ongoing in sections from Lis-Na-Dara to Castletown Cross.

Works in relation to the new signalised junction on the Carrickmacross Rd are ongoing.

Works in relation to Uisce Éireann infrastructure at the Castleblaney Road Junction are continuing with a road closure planned for the Mill Road from 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.

Traffic will be diverted from the Rise/Paddocks though Lis Na Dara from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, this is to complete the cul-de-sac works at Mount Avenue. Temporary traffic calming measures will be in place in Lis na Dara for the duration of these works.



**Aerial Photo of the full extent of the scheme.**



*Works south of Castletown Cross*

**Specific Bridge Improvement Grants**

**Obelisk Bridge**

Obelisk Bridge was substantially completed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May and opened to traffic thereafter. Snagging works ongoing.

**Corporate Projects**

**Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda**

Project is nearing Substantial completion now with BC(A)R expected to be uploaded in early July. Extensive snagging is being undertaken throughout all buildings.

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

**Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building**

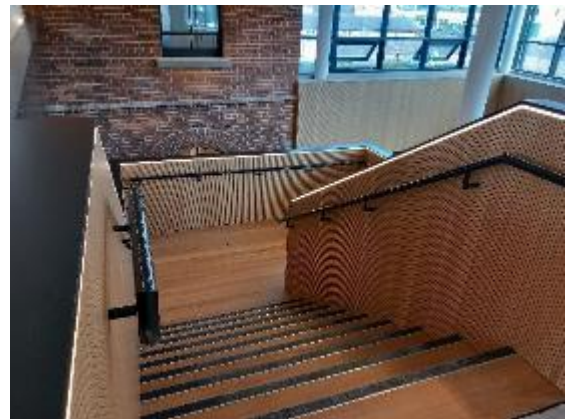
Works within Block B are substantially complete.



*Council Chamber fixed furniture installation*

**Block N: New Link Building**

Lift Monitoring Testing due to conclude. Feature Façade works completed. Extensive final coat painting ongoing.



*Main Staircase White Oak Cladded*



*Fixed Seating at Mezzanine Area*

**Block C: Community Services Building**

Southern Planter Area Paving completed along with drainage pipework installation and bench seating. Subsoil and French drains

and topsoil placed in Southern Planter, due to be completed by end of week. Ridge Ventilators installed along with Ridge Tiles.



**Block Community Services Building**



**Block B View Front Elevation and Feature Facade Fair St**



**Block C open plan First floor Office central room.**

### **Block E: Annex Building**

Automatic Opening Vents tested, Fire Doors Tested, Painting both inside and outside taking place. Fire Escape Stairs linoleum laid, and handrails fitted. Planter works to be completed by end of June (weather dependent).

### **Dunleer Fire Station**

Final purchase of the lands process is ongoing but in latter stages of purchase process being completed.

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

### **Dundalk Fire Station Training Centre**

Tender documents for the appointment of a design team have been tendered in early June, with a return date in mid-July.

### **Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects**

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

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

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

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

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

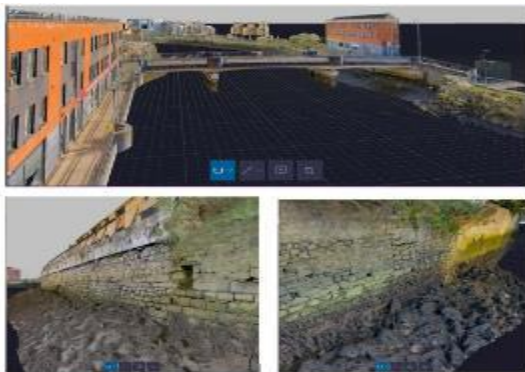
The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by Louth Co. Council and OPW.

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](http://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home)

### **Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project**

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



**Output from Photogrammetry**

RPS have reviewed the final comments received from Louth Co. Council /OPW and have completed the final hydraulic modelling report. RPS have started to review the accompanying flood extent maps to identify the flooding mechanisms within Drogheda and Baltray. This is being used in the identification of potential flood relief measures that could be constructed as part of the scheme.

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

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

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

Tendering of the CCTV and Topographical surveys has been completed with the successful contractor being appointed, works are due to start in June (weather depended).

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

### **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, (temporarily on hold, until Maritime Area Consent is granted circa May'24, the Section 177AE, will be immediately resumed post MAC. Construction start date for Drummullagh is dependent on MAC and Section 177AE approval dates
- Bellurgan Point (Section 177 AE ongoing),
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore (Section 177 AE ongoing).

The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on

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

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

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE approval and foreshore consent, tender documentation are prepared, and it is now anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q3/4 2024, with subsequent construction works programmed in accordance with the individual sites ecological constraints.

## Schools Programme Projects

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

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

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

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

- Blockwork Wall ongoing
- External Brickwork Plinth to SNU continuing.
- Commencement of roof structures in some blocks.



*Ongoing brick and block work*



*Roof structure commencement*

### **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. All sites are now 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/> .

### **Active Travel Investment Program**

#### **2024 Budget Allocation**

On 7<sup>th</sup> 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 development of transport studies for Drogheda and Dundalk.

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

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

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


The seven different phases are as outlined below...



- PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose
- PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection
- PHASE 3: Preliminary Design



PHASE 4: Statutory Processes  
PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement  
PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation  
PHASE 7: Close-out and Review


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



## Active Travel Projects

| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                 | Jul 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<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design  | <p>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023.</p> <p>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>A Gateway 3 Report and preliminary design Drawings amended to reflect the New Cycle Design Manual. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route and completing a Road Safety Audit. A workshop between LCC &amp; NTA held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024. All scheme layouts approved and the Design Team are to look at new junction layouts for Rathmullan Rd / Bridge of Peace and John Street Junctions.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team envisage to hold a second Non-Statutory Public Consultation event in early August 2024.</p>  | Proposed Part 8 display late Q3 2024                                |
| Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.                                     | €100,000        |  | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design  | <p>Consultants RPS Group have completed draft Gateway 3 Report. It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in late July / early August 2024 in advance of public consultations.</p>   | Proposed Part 8 display late Q3 2024                                |
| Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.                | €100,000        |  | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>Gateway 2 Report completed and submitted to the NTA for approval. The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public. All</p>   | Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024                                     |


| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                | Jul 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
|   |                 |  |                                   |                              | <p>relevant observations / comments are now incorporated into the preliminary design.</p>  <p><i>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</i></p>  <p><i>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</i></p> |   |
| Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project) | €150,000        |  | Band 2<br>€5 - €20M               | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design | <p>A non-statutory consultation was held late 2023 and the Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>GW 3 report due to be completed at in early July 2024, with a likely proposed Part 8 display in August 2024.</p>                                   | Proposed Part 8 display early Q3 2024                               |

| Project Name                             | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                       | Jul 2024- Project update   | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways  |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|  |                 |  |                                   |                                     |  <p data-bbox="1010 630 1598 654"><u>View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</u></p>  |  |
| Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design. | €100,000        |  | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 2 -<br>Concept and<br>Options | <p data-bbox="926 688 1640 740">An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p data-bbox="926 769 1661 850">The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project.</p> <p data-bbox="926 880 1640 987">The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.</p>  <p data-bbox="1052 1284 1549 1310"><u>View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</u></p> | North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display early Q3 2024<br>Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail. |

| Project Name   | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                 | Jul 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)  | €250,000        |  | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 4<br>Preliminary Design | <p>The proposals for the project were placed on Part 8 Public Display on Wednesday, 15th May 2024 and will remain on display until Wednesday, 12th June 2024 (inclusive). Submissions relating to the proposals are invited up to the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.</p> <p>See link to Part 8 Portal<br/> <a href="https://www.localgov.ie/en/info/inner-relief-road-active-travel-scheme-planning">Inner Relief Road Active Travel Scheme   Planning (localgov.ie)</a></p>  <p><i>View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout extract from Fly Through</i></p> | Proposed Part 8 display 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024.                  |
| Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge | €150,000        |  | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 3<br>Preliminary Design | <p>Gateway (GW) 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The NTA have given approval in principle to the GW 3 Report and the Design Team are commencing to prepare Part 8 documents.</p>  | Proposed Part 8 early Q3 2024                                       |

| Project Name   | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                                     | Jul 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  |                 |  |                                   |   |  <p data-bbox="989 626 1612 651"><i>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</i></p>  |   |
| Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station. | €150,000        |  |                                   | Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process | <p data-bbox="926 656 1654 708">Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="926 737 1598 789">Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 “Statutory Process”. DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package.</p> <p data-bbox="926 792 1665 844">Towards the end of 2023 we held a number of meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route.</p> <p data-bbox="926 847 1640 925">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.</p> <p data-bbox="926 928 1671 1006">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.</p>  <p data-bbox="1005 1320 1598 1344"><i>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</i></p> | Proposed Part 8 Q3 2024   |

| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                       | Jul 2024- Project update   | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham | €450,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 2 -<br>Concept and<br>Options | <p><u>Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)</u><br/>Drogheda Online survey completed and synopsised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed “Proposed Active Travel Links” as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps. The NTA directly are going to task one of their Framework Consultants to develop the next steps of the ABTA.</p> <p><u>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)</u><br/>Consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with Parts 1,2,3, 4 completed, i.e. baseline information &amp; estimated Forecast Transport Demand, Part 3 Option development and assessment. Thereafter the consultant will be competing the final stages i.e. Part 4 &amp; 5 for draft review by the Executive.<br/>The ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.</p> | N/A   |
| Hoey's Lane, Dundalk  | €165,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary<br>Design  | Gateway 2 approval received from the NTA on 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Design Team have commenced Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.  | 2024  |
| Mill Street, Dundalk  | €145,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 2 -<br>Concept and<br>Options | LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.  | 2024  |
| Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk  | €235,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 2 -<br>Concept and<br>Options | <p>LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.</p>  | 2024  |
| R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)   | €160,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary<br>Design  | <p>Gateway 2 approval received from the NTA on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The Design Team have commenced Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.</p> <p>An on-line briefing given to Dundalk MD Councillors on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 with a non-statutory public consultation days held at the Geraldines</p>  | 2024  |

| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                      | Jul 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
|   |                 |  |                                   |                                    | <p>GFC Club House, Marlbog Road, Haggardstown on Thursday 30th May &amp; Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 from 3.30pm to 8.30pm.</p>  <p><i>Photomontage of Preferred Option</i></p> |   |
| Moneymore, Active Travel elements                         | €100,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 5 –<br>Concept<br>Proposals  | Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have design completed for the proposals. We are liaising with relevant landowners on a preferred route.   | N/A   |
| Drogheda improvement of accessibility                     | €50,000         |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary<br>Design | <p>Various locations in the town of Drogheda-</p> <p>All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.</p>  | N/A   |
| Dundalk improvement of accessibility                      | €50,000         |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary<br>Design | <p>Various locations in the town of Dundalk</p> <p>All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.</p>  | N/A   |
| Ardee improvement of accessibility                        | €40,000         |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary<br>Design | <p>Various locations in the town of Ardee</p> <p>All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.</p>  | N/A   |
| Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1)<br>1. St Louis Secondary | €930,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary<br>Design | All four projects reviewed.<br>St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off.  | No part 8's but possible Section 38's                               |

| Project Name   | Allocation 2024 |  | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                    | Jul 2024- Project update   | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| School Dundalk<br>2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk<br>3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda<br>4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda                           |                 |  |                                   |                                  | Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above.<br><br>Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed.<br><br>Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023. Preliminary design commenced.<br>Traffic, Drone & Topographical Surveys to be completed Nov 2023. |   |
| Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2)<br><br>1. Bellurgan National School<br>2. Callystown National School<br>3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge<br>4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk | €125,000        |  | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 2 -<br>Concept and Options | The Design Team were appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design. It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in 2024 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025.  | No part 8's but possible Section 38's                               |

## 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 Rural Water & 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 Dramháiola agus Sheirbhísí Tréidliachta.

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

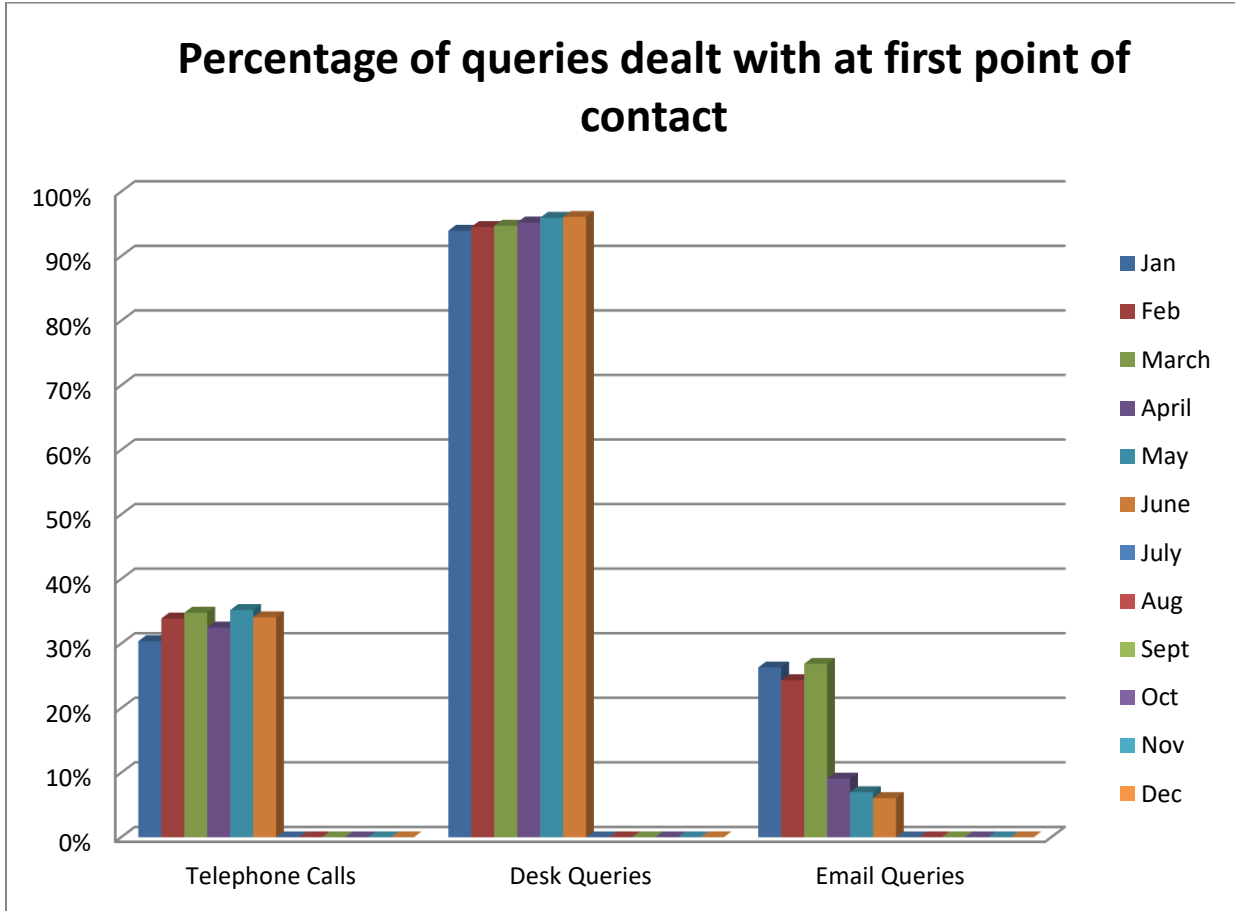
- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil, Uisce Tuaithe & Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine



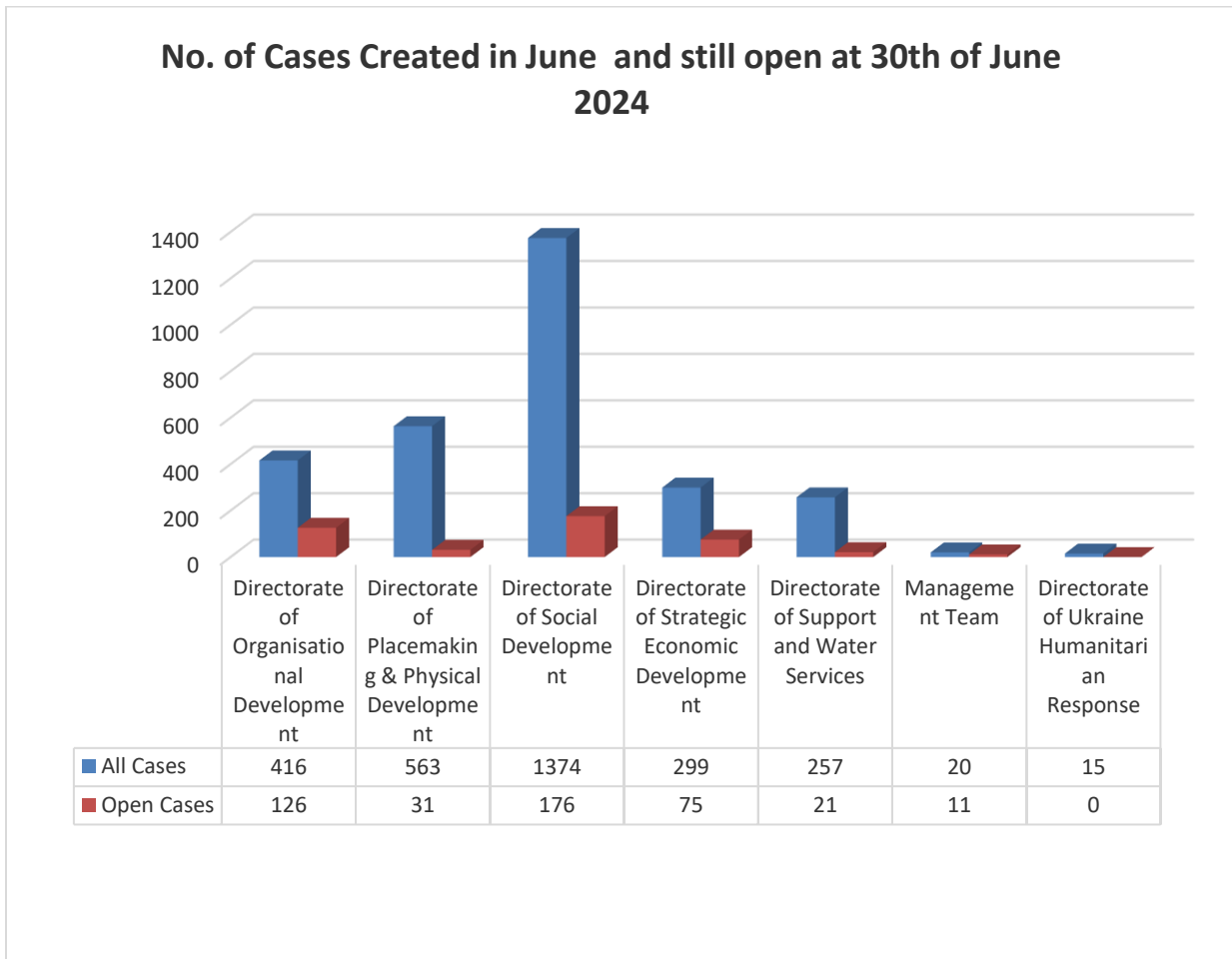
# Corporate Services

## Customer Services Report

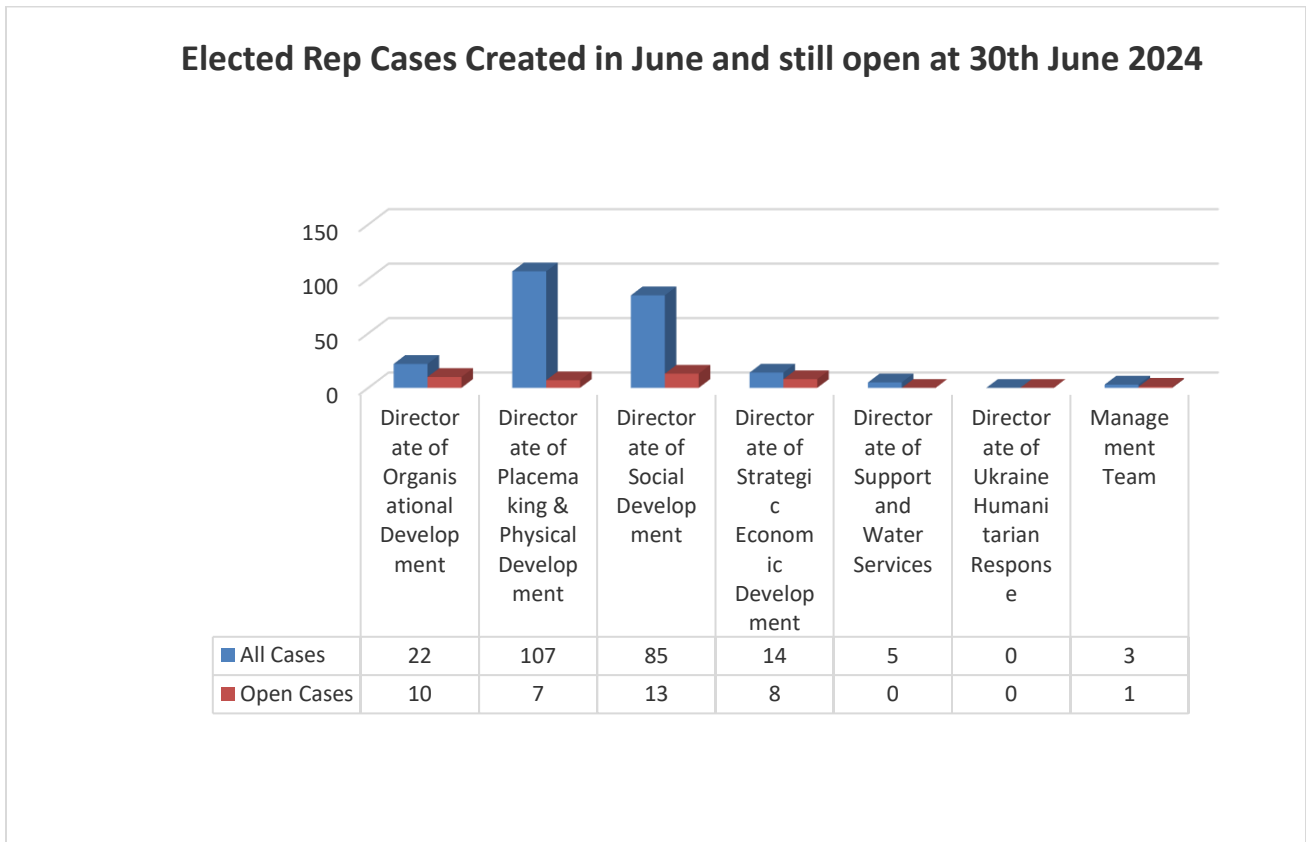
During the month of June 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries 6,873 calls, 1,334 e-mails and 5,461 counter queries.



There were 2944 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during June of which 440 (15%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During June 2024, 236 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 39 (16.5. %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

| Request Received        | 2023 Total Jan-May | 2024 Total Jan – May | 2024 May ONLY |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| FOI                     | 50                 | 66                   | 10            |
| DSAR                    | 1                  | 8                    | 0             |
| Data Protection Request | 5                  | 8                    | 1             |
| AIE Requests            | 8                  | 6                    | 2             |
| Ombudsman               | 7                  | 7                    | 1             |
| Complaints              | 17                 | 26                   | 5             |

### Electoral Register

Local & European Elections took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with a total turnout of 48.77%. It is noted that a total of 958 votes were invalid.

Declaration of Results and Count Results can be viewed on our Local Elections 2024 page on the website: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/local-elections-2024/>

Work has recommenced on again updating the Electoral Register with over 1,000 additions/amendments being made since the register closed prior to the Local Elections. The Franchise Section will be working over the coming months on promotion of “Check The Register” and the importance of ensuring your details are up to date and accurate.

Elector control totals for each area currently stand at:

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Ardee                   | 19,913        |
| Drogheda Rural          | 14,122        |
| Drogheda Urban          | 19,709        |
| Dundalk Carlingford     | 20,033        |
| Dundalk South           | 25,668        |
| <b>Total Electorate</b> | <b>99,445</b> |



**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND  
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

Check that your details on the  
Electoral Register are current and correct

[checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie)

Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## **Community Support**

### **Age Friendly Louth**

#### **Sustainable Arts & Crafts Project at Treadagh Lodge Day Care Centre**

Age Friendly Louth partnered with local artist Aga Hutchinson to support a 5-week arts and crafts course for the clients of Treadagh Lodge Day Care Centre.

Treadagh Lodge Day Care Centre provides dementia specific, person-centered care to meet the needs of the person with dementia in a warm, welcoming and safe environment while providing support and stimulation.

Aga facilitated a suite of arts and crafts workshops working with the clients at the lodge to reuse and upcycle everyday objects and household items. The objects and household items were transformed into practical and sustainable items for use in the new garden that is currently under way at the lodge.

Clients at the lodge created bird feeders, bee hotels, planters, lanterns and fabric bunting. All the sustainable creations will be utilised in the new garden currently underway in the centre.



***Bee Hotels and Decoupage Lanterns made from recycled objects and materials***

#### **Louth Older People's Council (OPC) meeting June 2024**

The most recent Louth OPC meeting took place on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in Ardee.

Members welcomed Sarah McAllister from Louth Libraries who gave a presentation of the wide variety of services and supports provided by Louth Libraries.

In addition, members discussed the launch of the Ardee Garden Care & Repair service which is an innovative community project which sees Ardee Tidy Towns, Dee Hub, An Garda Síochána, Louth County Council & Age Friendly Louth collaborate to provide free gardening services to older and vulnerable people living in Ardee.

This service helps and assists older people and vulnerable members of the community who are



***Clients and staff from Treadagh Lodge Day Care Centre Drogheda with some of their upcycled sustainable creations as part of the arts and crafts workshops supported by Age Friendly Louth***

struggling to maintain their garden and outdoor spaces.

The main aim of the service is to assist older people to carry out necessary small gardening projects including grass cutting, general tidying and weeding and hedge cutting. This community-driven initiative aims to assist those in need by offering essential garden care at no cost.

Ongoing assistance with garden maintenance gives older people a sense of safety and security in their home and enables them to live independently in their local community in ongoing comfort and safety. By focusing on the well-being of senior citizens and vulnerable residents, the scheme fosters a stronger sense of community support and enhances the quality of life for everyone in Ardee.

Whilst only launched in early June 2024, the scheme is already proving popular with local older people in Ardee.

For more details, please contact : 087-483-1042



**Members of Louth OPC with Sarah McAllister from Louth Libraries**



**Joe Grogan, Chairperson of Louth OPC & Sarah McAllister from Louth Libraries**



## **Local Enhancement Programme 2024**

The Minister for Rural & Community Development announced the successful projects in County Louth under the Local Enhancement Programme 2024. There are 88 projects in total, 68 mainstream and 20 ring-fenced (Women's Groups), with an overall value of €185,641.85.

The successful groups have been contacted and are currently submitting further information which is being assessed and followed up as necessary. Unsuccessful groups were also contacted.

## **Louth Comhairle na nÓg**

Louth Comhairle na nÓg have had a very busy month taking part in training and events to understand more about politics, voting and representation as the Local and European Elections took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> June.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 16 young people visited both the sorting of the votes in Colaiste Cuchulainn and the Count later that evening in County Hall. This was a great opportunity to see the voting and counting system first hand and they got to meet Candidates, Election Officials and the Count Staff. They even got

interviewed by local Radio and gave their opinions on the big issues for young people in the County.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 28 young people visited Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast. This was part of the Cross Border programme with Newry Mourne and Down Youth Council. Young people from Drogheda, Dunleer, Ardee and Dundalk took part in the Stormont Education Programme and learned how the Parliament works in Northern Ireland. They got a tour of the building and held a vote in the Chamber of the Assembly.



*Local Election Count on 8th June in County Hall Dundalk*



*Visit to Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast*

## PPN

### Updates on Thematic Projects 2024

#### Youth E-zine

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

## Environment

This year's environmental project will focus on improving the bio-diversity at Rathescar Lake. This project will be a collaboration between the local community, Louth PPN and Louth County Council's Biodiversity Officer. A site visit took place on 19<sup>th</sup> June to progress the project to the next stage.

### Art Classes for All

This project was a collaboration between AAEX and Dundalk Arch Club to provide accessible art classes for all. This 8 week course finished the first week of June.



*Site Visit to Rathescar Lake*

## LEADER Programmes



Recently, Louth County Council paid out funding to beneficiaries under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and LEADER Transitional Programme 2021-2022:

| PROMOTER NAME   | AMOUNT<br>€       |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Louth Local Development CLG</b><br>Tourism Town Skills             | €20,590.00        |
| <b>Roche Emmets GFC</b><br>Community Floodlit Walking Track Extension | €27,187.67        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>€47,777.67</b> |



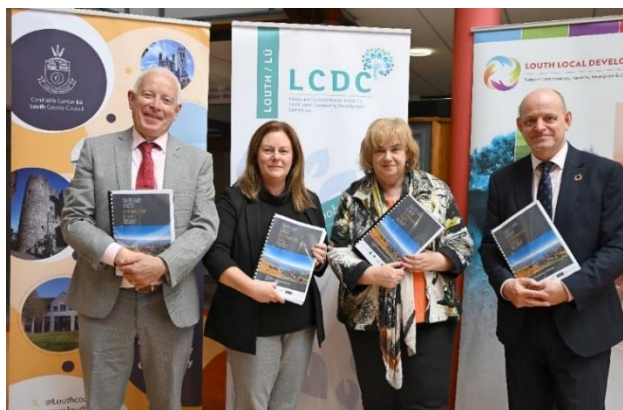
**Attendees at the Launch of the Louth Local Development Strategy on Tuesday 28th May, 2024.**

Both LEADER Programmes will draw to a close and see the last claims submitted to the DRCD by 28<sup>th</sup> June. A total of approximately €6.2m in funding will have been awarded to successful projects in Co Louth over the duration of these two Programmes.

### LEADER Programme 2023-2027

As the above LEADER Programmes conclude, we are delighted to announce that the County Louth Local Development Strategy (LDS) 2023 – 2027, was officially launched on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. This heralds the beginning of the new programme which has a budget of approx. €4.9million. It was great to see so many of those who attended the launch were also those who contributed to the LDS through the series of public engagements which were held county wide in 2023.

### Louth Local Development Strategy Launch: 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2024



**L to R: Mr Joe McGuinness, DOS and Chief Officer, Ms. Alison Quail, Chairperson of the LAG, Ms. Joan Martin, Chief Executive Louth County Council and Mr. Ciaran Reid, Chief Executive of Louth Local Development.**

### Social Integration and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028 (SICAP)



SICAP provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP addresses high and persistent levels of deprivation through targeted and innovative, locally led approaches. It supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups.

The SICAP Mid-Year Review is currently underway. The SICAP mid-year performance review assesses Louth Local Developments performance at the mid-point of the year. It is an opportunity for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to take stock of their performance in delivering SICAP in accordance with the 2024 Annual Plan, SICAP Programme Requirements and the Funding Agreement, prior to the end of year review. It is

designed to serve as a catalyst for greater engagement between the LCDC and the Louth Local Development and to be a supportive process in the lead up to the end of year review. This must be completed and formally approved by the LCDC by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

### **Louth In Bloom 2024 competition**

Louth County Council launched its annual environmental competition “Louth in Bloom 2024” on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Entries and nominations are now being sought in the following categories - Best Garden, Best Estate, Best Business/Hospitality Premises, Best Biodiversity Project & Best Sustainable Innovative initiative/project.

Entries/nominations can be submitted on-line at [www.louthcoco.ie/louthinbloom](http://www.louthcoco.ie/louthinbloom) where the nomination forms will also be available to download. Entries can also be submitted by post or by dropping same, into any of the Louth County Council customer services desks at any of our offices in Ardee, Drogheda and Dundalk.

Full details of this year’s competition are available on our website or by emailing [community@louthcoco.ie](mailto:community@louthcoco.ie) for further information. The closing date is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024.



**Cllr. Paula Butterly and Chief Executive Joan Martin with pupils from Scoil Mhuire na Trocaire and Busy Bee at the launch of Louth County Council’s Louth in Bloom annual environment competition**

## **Sports**

### **Dundalk Sports Centre**

#### **Age-Well Programme begins its 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-week block**

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> Session back in April, the newest Dundalk Sports Centre programme ‘Age-Well’ has been extremely successful. It has been fantastic to see members who signed up on the very first day not only coming back every week, but also bringing along friends to try it out. The progress made by the participants has been nothing short of incredible and it is a testament to their continued commitment and effort.

The programme includes a mix of standing and floor-based exercises to target whole body strength and cardiovascular fitness.



#### **Go for Life Games**

On Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2024, a group of 13 older adults from Dundalk Sports Centre went to DCU in Dublin to represent Louth in the Age & Opportunity Go for Life Games 2024. The group had been practicing very hard every Tuesday evening in the Centre for several weeks before making the trip to Dublin. They took on teams from all over the country. A fantastic day was had with plenty of friendly competition, socializing and exploring the fabulous DCU Campus Facilities. The team won some, lost some but overall had an amazing day! Well done to all who participated and thank you to Age & Opportunity for organizing a great day!

The group is now hoping to continue practicing and maybe even play against some of their newly made friends in neighbouring counties such as Meath, Cavan and Monaghan. The group will be commencing their first practice session back on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July from 4-5pm in Dundalk Sports Centre. New members are always welcome.



**Chair Yoga for Older Adults**

### Lourdes Athletic Stadium

#### Capital Works Progression

June has seen further work at Lourdes Stadium, consisting of upgrading the equipment room into a new sleek modern room to allow for activities/programmes to be started in the upcoming weeks.

Upgrades to the reception area have also commenced which will see a new window overlooking the track and two new toilets including a disability toilet.



**Dundalk Group attending the Age & Opportunity Go for Life Games in DCU**

#### Record Numbers in Older Adult Classes

Every month the older adult's classes continue to grow, with June being no exception. Chair Yoga for Older Adults has been seeing over 60 participants every Thursday morning, whilst Strength & Balance has been reaching numbers of over 80 between the two classes. Considering these classes started with a handful of participants, it is astonishing to see the huge numbers of people showing up to take part. It is an exciting time in the Dundalk Sports Centre and we are all looking forward to continuing to expand in order to meet the needs of the older adult community.



**Capital Works at Lourdes Stadium**

#### Outdoor Bowls Event

Our second Bowls Event of 2024 took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Many of the participants returned after initially attending on 29<sup>th</sup> May.



### School Sports Days

During the last two weeks we have seen a lot of local Primary & Secondary schools use our facility for their sport's days. They consisted of a variety of team challenges and activities. The kids and the teachers had a lot of fun as they both enjoyed the excellent weather.



*School Sports Day at Lourdes Stadium*

### Louth Local Sports Partnership

#### Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

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

### Safeguarding

| Activity             | Date                       | Venue  |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Safeguarding Level 1 | 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024  | Online |
| Safeguarding Level 1 | 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 | Online |
| Safeguarding Level 3 | 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 | Online |

### Disability Inclusion Training

| Activity                      | Date                       | Venue            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Disability Inclusion Training | 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024 | Louth GAA Darver |

For further information on any LLSP programmes or events please email [louthlsp@louthcoco.ie](mailto:louthlsp@louthcoco.ie) or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.

### €10,000 Secured for Accessible Beach Wheelchairs in Louth

Louth LSP was delighted to secure €10,000 in funding through Sport Ireland's Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Fund to support people with disabilities to access outdoor swimming opportunities.

This initiative, developed in line with the Healthy Ireland objective of enabling more people to be more active, more often, builds on the recent growth in popularity of outdoor swimming by improving the facilities and equipment at designated swimming locations across the country.

Applications for the funding were received from Local Sports Partnerships. Awards have now been granted to 51 projects around the country, including designated swimming spots at beaches, lakes and rivers, as well as outdoor pool facilities.

Louth Local Sports Partnership has secured €10,000 through this fund to provide accessible Beach Wheelchairs at Port, Clogherhead and Templetown beaches to support people with disabilities to access and enjoy activities on the beach and in the water.

For further information on this programme please email [louthlsp@louthcoco.ie](mailto:louthlsp@louthcoco.ie) or telephone Louth Local Sports Partnership 042-9324318.

### Sport Ireland Sports Development Conference

Staff from Louth Local Sports partnership were delighted to recently attend the Sport Ireland Sports Development Conference on the National Sports Campus.

With almost 300 development staff from across the National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships sector attending the conference, this year's event was a roaring success.

This year's theme focused on Sport for Social Good and the Power of Sport. It provided impactful talks from Paula Phelan, a career coach with Traverso Coaching, which guides attendees on how to overcome the challenges of career development in sport; Sport against Racism Ireland (SARI) who highlighted ways of addressing unconscious bias; and a Her Moves session exploring the expanding creative and innovative potential of the programme.



**Julie Duffy, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer & Odhran Doherty, Senior Sports Officer**

## Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

### Summary of Complaints

A total of 43 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in June 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

| Complaint Type | Received in June 2024 | Total Received in 2024 |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Air & Noise    | 12                    | 52                     |
| Farm           | 5                     | 24                     |
| Waste/C&D      | 17                    | 118                    |
| Water Quality  | 9                     | 25                     |

### Waste Complaints

In June 2024, the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) reported four complaints to the Environment Section regarding illegally dumped material identified during routine site monitoring of Dundalk Bay. This included four sites within the boundaries of Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Material included C&D waste material and grass cuttings.





***Illegally dumped material identified by NPWS during routine site monitoring of Dundalk Bay SAC.***

## Deposit Return Scheme



Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section have a role to play in monitoring compliance with the Separate Collection (Deposit Return Scheme) Regulations 2024 which promotes the recovery and recycling of in-scope containers and bottles.

Retailers were provided a four-month transition period for selling old stock up until the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024, retailers can only sell stock with the re-turn logo on it.

Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section will be responsible for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the DRS at Producer, Distributor, Retailer and Return Point Operator level.

The DRS enforcement portal is now live with 6 retailers assigned in Co. Louth for inspection in 2024.

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

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

Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Officers and Litter Wardens carried out door to door calls around Chapel Street, Dundalk regarding bin placement on the street. Additional assistance was obtained from the bin collection providers to contact account holders regarding the byelaws in place and ultimately remove any in-active bins from the street which were obstructing pedestrians and cyclists on the street.

Louth County Council's Waste Enforcement Officers and Litters Wardens are in the process of obtaining

householders details which may result in Fixed Payment Notices of €75 being issued by Louth County Council to the householders where breaches of the Waste Presentation Byelaws persist.



*Bins removed from footpath on Chapel Street, Dundalk*

### **Waste Management (Food Waste) (Amendment) Regulations 2024**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 was amended. The regulations are designed to promote the segregation and recovery of food waste arising in the commercial sector. The new Regulations will obligate all commercial premises to segregate their food waste (other than those commercial premises specifically exempted) in line with the requirements in the European Union Waste Framework Directive. The new Waste Management (Food Waste) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 will come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

### **Waste Facility Permits & Certificate of Registration**

Currently there are 25 Waste Facility Permits (1 new permit granted) and 2 Certificates of Registration (COR) in operation in Co. Louth. There are 2 Waste Facility Transfer applications being assessed, and one review waste facility application currently being assessed.

### **Annual Return Validations**

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

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

### **Litter Enforcement & Investigations**

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

In June our wardens completed 40 investigations. Where evidence was found, Fixed Penalty Notices were issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 23 fixed penalty notices have been issued in June 2024.

A significant amount of illegal dumping was discovered in Aisling Park in Dundalk within a wooded area by local authority staff. Our litter wardens investigated and examined the waste which included shopping trolleys, household items including furniture and other domestic waste for evidence. Three lorry loads of waste were removed by Louth County Council staff. If a conviction is secured by the local authority through the courts a penalty of up to €3,000 can be imposed as well as the costs of bringing the action to court.

A five-hour foot patrol was conducted in Drogheda this month by all litter wardens. All areas of the towns were patrolled, notably the litter 'Hot Spots' such as Bring Banks, Bachelors Lane, Bessexwell Lane, Rathmullan Park/St. Finian's Park and Moneymore/St. Laurence's Park. A large emphasis was placed on anti-dog fouling in the main public parks of The Glen/Little Wembley Park and St. Dominic's Park. Free dog waste bag holders were handed out to members of the public to increase

awareness and promote education on the subject. The patrol vans were in conspicuous positions with attached 'Anti Dog Fouling' signs on full view for public attention.

A second five-hour foot patrol was also held in mid-June in Dundalk. All areas of the town centre and surrounding streets were patrolled by all wardens notably Clanbrassil Street, Park Street, Bridge Street, Castletown Rd, Jocelyn Steet, St Mary's Rd, Ramparts Rd, Williamsons Place etc. Particular attention was paid to Aisling Park following the recent illegal dumping earlier this month. The patrol vans were also parked in conspicuous positions with attached 'Anti Dog Fouling' signs on full view for public attention.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which were investigated in June by our wardens' following complaints from the public and from the five hour foot patrol which took place in Drogheda at the start of this month. 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.



***Illegal dumping near Aisling Park, photographed before and after clean***



***Illegal dumping near Aisling Park, photographed before and after clean***







## Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 2 IBC's dumped in June 2024 with an associated clean-up cost of €2,496.20. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is €28,706.30.

## Environmental Regulation

### Water Quality and Complaints

In June 2024

- 4 queries received in relation to wastewater treatment system remediation which were logged on the CRM system and closed out.
- 9 Water quality complaints – 4 of the complaints related to general water pollution and 5 related to agriculture. One complaint was referred to the Council directly from the EPA. Seven complaints are closed and the remaining two are in progress. One complaint relates to spreading of slurry too close to a well and the other relates to a direct discharge to waters.
- 5 complaints in relation to farms. At one site it was alleged slurry had been discharged to waters and others related to slurry spreading. Both complaints are open and currently being investigated.



*Example of poor spreading*



*Slurry in a drain*

### River Water sampling and Water framework directive

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

### Discharge Licences

Assessment inspections were carried out on 15 monitoring results received by Louth County Council

in June. On-site inspections of 11 premises was also carried out in June 2024.

### **Licensed landfills**

Monthly monitoring of groundwater, surface water and leachate is carried out in June, as required by EPA licences. Monthly monitoring of perimeter gas monitoring points was completed at all three sites. Monthly gas balancing of Whiteriver completed in June. Quarterly laboratory monitoring of compost was completed at Dundalk landfill.

Statutory electrical inspections were completed at Whiteriver, Dundalk and Drogheda landfills during June. Annual inspection of fire appliances was also completed.



*Operational gas flare at Whiteriver*

### **Bathing Water**

The bathing water season commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and will run until the 15<sup>th</sup> September. There was a temporary prohibition notice placed at Seapoint beach following an elevated result from a sample taken on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. However following an investigation and a review of the results received from resampling, the beach was subsequently re-opened. Results from all bathing water sampling are available at [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie)

Currently submissions are invited from the public for the identification of new bathing water sites in

County Louth. Further details are available at the following link:

[https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/environment/water/bathing\\_waters/](https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/environment/environment/water/bathing_waters/) .

Closing date for submissions to Louth County Council is 26/9/2024.

### **Draft Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 Public Consultation**

The Draft Noise Action Plan is currently out for Public Consultation and the closing date for submissions or observations on the draft plan is 5pm 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.

Readers are also invited to make any comments on the SEA and AA screening reports accompanying the Draft Noise Action Plan.

Submissions or observations in relation to the Draft Plan are to be made electronically through the Louth County Council Consultation Portal at the following link: <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/>

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

### **Rural Water Programme**

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

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

The overall purpose of the MARWP and other grants is to provide the necessary funding to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of the water services

relied upon by rural dwellers, where no public water services are available.

### Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant

10 grants were issued in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells) in the total amount of €17,565.00 for June 2024.

### Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant

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

### Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

There were no Domestic Lead Remediation grants issued.

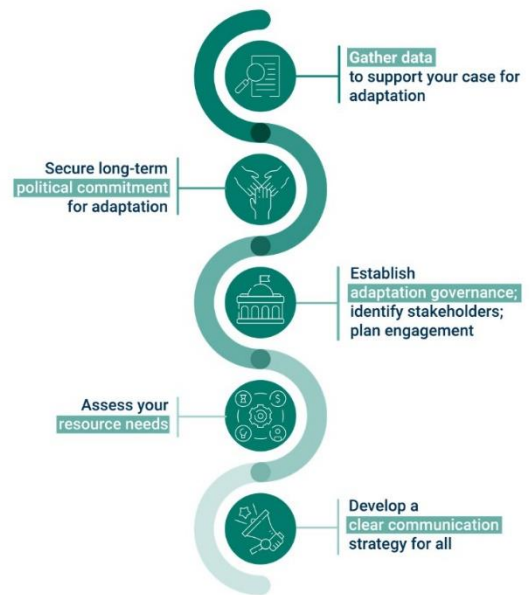
### Climate Action

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

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

#### EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change

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



*Climate adaptation process, steps.*

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

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

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.

### Community Climate Action

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

The Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1) and Shared Island Fund (Strand 1a) have now closed as of 5pm on the 6th of March 2024. In total Louth

received 48 applications under the Community Climate Action Fund, which totalled €1,596,625.

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

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

It is expected that all community groups will be informed of the outcome of their application by July 2024.

Communication with the DECC has continued during the review phase of this funding stream.

### **Junior Achievement Ireland Workshop – ran in conjunction with Louth County Council’s Climate Action Team and the Local Enterprise Office**

On Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, Louth County Council and Junior Achievement Ireland hosted a workshop in County Hall Dundalk, focusing on the topic of sustainability. The ‘Energize’ workshop encouraged students from 6<sup>th</sup> class in Castletown Girls National School to design and create a blueprint for a sustainable festival. Focusing on sustainable measures to power and run the festival, the students were supported by members of Louth County Council’s Climate Action Team and Local Enterprise Office alongside the team from Junior Achievements Ireland. For the second part of the workshop the students were provided with materials to design and create a prototype for a wind turbine.

The students then presented both their blueprint/poster for the sustainable festival and their prototype for a wind turbine in the Council Chamber to Louth County Council staff including the Chief Executive of Louth County Council Joan Martin.



**Students from Castletown Girls National School with the Chief Executive Joan Martin and members of Louth County Council’s Climate Action Team and Local Enterprise Office Team.**

### **Biodiversity Action**

A WOWTH! Children’s Art Competition was held this month as part of this year’s Louth Cruinniú na nÓg programme. The competition, which included a special theme on “Louth’s Brilliant Biodiversity”, was run in collaboration with Creative Ireland, Louth Library Services and the Biodiversity Officer. The winners were presented with their prizes at an exhibition in Dundalk Library.



**Louth’s Brilliant Biodiversity Children’s Art Competition Winner Age 7 and under**



**Louth's Brilliant Biodiversity Children's Art Competition Winner Age 8-12**



**Coir matting used for peatland management.**



**Louth's Brilliant Biodiversity Children's Art Competition Winner Age 13-18**

This month the Biodiversity Officer took part in Heritage Council training in Carrick-on-Shannon. Training included sessions on mapping ecological corridors to help prioritise sites for biodiversity enhancement and restoration works and advice about peatland restoration methods.



**Biodiversity Officer Network training Leitrim.**

The Biodiversity Officer also attended the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Council Conference in Dublin. Presentations included case studies from South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown and Dublin City Councils on the work they have been doing to create and manage semi-natural meadows, harvest brush, build stocks of native plants, including the development of LA wildflower seed banks and managing pesticide usage through landscape design.

See the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - June 2024 newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](mailto:mailchi.mp) for more information.



**Extracts from LOUTH LIFE Magazine Biodiversity Feature**

Louth County Council's work on biodiversity was featured in the new LOUTH LIFE magazine (July/August 2024 issue). The 7 page spread

included an interview and photographs from the Louth County Council Biodiversity Officer.

## **ENERGY TEAM SUSTAINABLE ENERGY Energy Efficiency Performance Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update**

The Official Opening Ceremony for the Dundalk Pilot Site for the Varcities Project took place on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The Visionary Solutions developed with the support of Dundalk Library and Museum Cultural Quarter were presented to the public. The following solutions were demonstrated at the site:

- Outdoor Learning Pod
- Outdoor Urban Green Learnings, Sensory Garden and Sensory Cubbie
- Bike-stations and Sensors



**The new Visionary Solutions on Display at the County Library and Museum Quarter**



**European Partner Prospex Institute at the Opening Ceremony on 24 June**

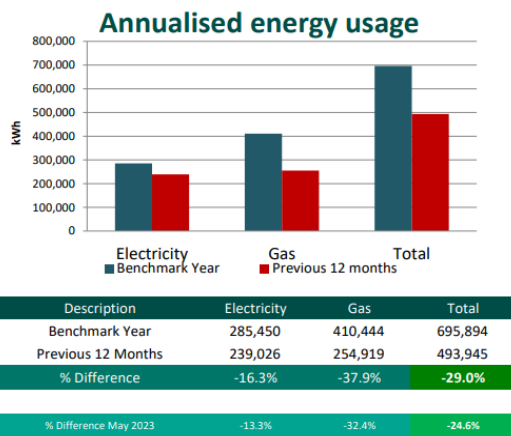
Discover more: <https://varcities.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/kR8h9VSLeHJ247aT/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

## **Louth County Council's Energy Emissions and Gap to Target 2030 Optimising Power@ Work Campaign**

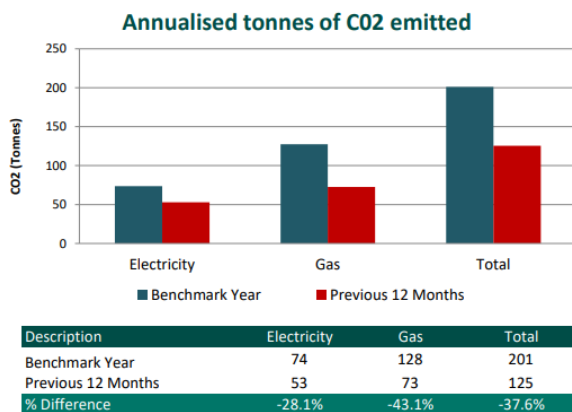
Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in Council buildings. The Council's two largest energy user buildings (County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall) participate in the Office of Public Work's (OPW's) Optimising Power @Work Programme.

County Hall This building's energy consumption has significantly decreased by 29%. The total annual energy usage has dropped from 695,894 kWh to 493,945 kWh. Specifically, on-site electricity consumption has been reduced by 16%, and gas consumption has seen a substantial reduction of 38%, decreasing from 410,444 kWh to 254,919 kWh



**Graphic: Energy Saving at County Hall**

Dundalk Town Hall Combined energy savings at Dundalk Town Hall show a significant 39% reduction in energy consumption. Carbon dioxide emissions over the last twelve months have reduced by 38%. Monthly comparison data shows that the May 2024 CO2 Emissions are 57% lower (08 Tonnes) than May 2014.



**Graphic: Carbon Emissions at Dundalk Town Hall**

The achievements in energy reduction can largely be attributed to significant changes in staff behaviour, with a strong emphasis placed on energy awareness in the workplace. Tailored staff energy events have heightened awareness about energy consumption among employees.

## Staff Energy Awareness Event -Celebrating EU Sustainable Energy Week 2024

Information stands were set up and manned by the building's Optimising Power @ Work Energy Advisors and Council Energy Team members during EU Sustainable Energy Awareness Week in June. The theme was sustainable energy, covering energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The aim of the event was:

- Get colleagues involved in helping to meet their building's energy and carbon reduction targets.
- Raise colleagues' awareness about home energy savings to support their wellbeing, help them reduce their energy bills and their carbon footprint.
- Assist the Council to meet our commitments under the Public Sector Climate Mandate for staff engagement workshops on energy emissions.
- Provide an interactive platform for discussing energy savings with free giveaways, engaging activities and additional prizes



**Council staff with OPW's Consultant Aramark at the Energy Event.**

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

Posters and all-staff emails were used to communicate with Council staff for European Sustainable Energy Week from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June.

The campaign by the Council's Energy Team focused on renewable projects in the home that can

be undertaken - solar hot water and solar electric (PV), biomass heating systems or heat pumps.

Details of useful one stop shop services and available grants, from SEAI's website was detailed, along with some simple tips for doing our part in our clean energy transition.

### **Energy Efficiency Performance and Gap to Target Reporting Council Energy Use to SEAI**

Louth County Council are finalising data submissions to the new Monitoring & Reporting Portal 2030, to be completed by the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. After that, the next key date is the opening of stage two, which starts on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. This will include the opening of data entry for buildings, projects, vehicles & travel and the deadline for this submission is the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

### **Energy Action Plan 2024 Update**

Louth County Council's Energy Action Plan for 2024 involves implementing new energy projects at Dundalk and Drogheda Fire Stations and Dundalk Library. In addition, plans are being made for energy improvements at the Council's Fair Street Office in Drogheda, along with Fleet investigations.

### **LCC Energy Charters 2024**

The energy team are managing mechanical & electrical engineering design consultation at several Council buildings as follows:

1. Dundalk Fire Station
2. Dundalk Museum
3. Drogheda Fair Street Civic Offices and
4. Drogheda Fire Station

By mid-July, we expect to upload the first set of tender documents to the e-Tenders Portal for some of these sites.

### **Facilities Projects**

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

- Tholsel Drogheda Roof Repairs, which should be completed by end of July next.
- Renovation of former Bank of Ireland in Dunleer to a new Library, which should be completed by end of August.
- Boiler Replacements in Drogheda Swimming Pool which should be complete by end of July.
- Revised entrance arrangements at Dundalk Swimming Pool, Dundalk and exterior paint which is due to commence in July.

## **Veterinary Services**

### **Control of Dogs**

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

Louth County Council has carried out fifty-six inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir.

### **Control of Dogs Act 1986**

| <b>Dogs through the pound June 2024</b>          |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Total dogs through the pound</b>              | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Seized under Section 16</b>                   | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>Strays</b>                                    | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Surrendered by owners</b>                     | <b>16</b> |
| <b>No dogs reclaimed by owners</b>               | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>No of dogs rehomed direct</b>                 | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups</b>      | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/04/2024</b> | <b>9</b>  |

| <b>Dog Licences<br/>June 2024</b>  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>No of Licences sold</b>   | <b>494</b> |
| <b>Licence Checks:</b>   |            |
| <b>House calls</b>   | <b>290</b> |
| <b>Section 16 Notices issued<br/>(request to produce licence<br/>within 10 days)</b> | <b>75</b>  |
| <b>Fixed Penalty Notices</b>   | <b>21</b>  |



*Some of the dogs who entered the Dog Pound during June 2024*

### Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996  
Control of Horses Byelaws 2003

| <b>Horses through the pound<br/>June 2024</b>              |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Horses seized, and<br/>reason for seizure:</b>          | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Horses reclaimed by<br/>owner</b>                       | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Horses rehomed</b>                                      | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Horses disposed of</b>                                  | <b>0</b> |
| <b>No of horses on hand<br/>in Pound on<br/>30/04/2024</b> | <b>0</b> |

### Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs)

| <b>Dog Breeding Establishments<br/>June 2024</b>                    |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Total no of registered DBE's in<br/>Louth (as at 30/04/2024)</b> | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Hunt</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Boarding Kennels</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Training Kennels</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Welfare</b>  | <b>2</b> |

The Louth County Council Dog Pound page on Facebook is regularly updated with information about dogs coming through the pound; these are figures showing the reach and visits to the page during June 2024.



## 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 20<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 can be summarised as follows:

**Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services**

| <b>20<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>                                 | <b>Ardee MD</b> | <b>Dundalk MD</b> | <b>Drogheda MD</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility) | 11              | 123               | 92                 | <b>226</b>   |
| Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation  | 4               | 23                | 33                 | <b>60</b>    |
| Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation                                     | 0               | 4                 | 1                  | <b>5</b>     |
| Not eligible from outside county or non HRC  | 0               | 0                 | 0                  | <b>0</b>     |
| <b>Total number of Person who presented as Homeless</b>                                | <b>15</b>       | <b>150</b>        | <b>126</b>         | <b>291</b>   |

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

**Table 2: Gender**

| <b>Gender</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|--------------|
| Male          | 100          |
| Female        | 112          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>212</b>   |

**Table 3: Age Groups**

| <b>Age Group</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------|--------------|
| 18-24            | 37           |
| 25-44            | 112          |
| 45-64            | 57           |
| 65+              | 6            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>212</b>   |

**Table 4: Accommodation Type**

| <b>Accommodation Type</b>               | <b>Total</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)   | 135          |
| Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) | 77           |
| <b>Total unique individuals</b>         | <b>212</b>   |

**Table 5 - Families with dependent children**

|                                     | No. of families with dependent children | No. of Individual Adults | No. of Dependents |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Individuals with dependent children | 39                                      | 44                       | 69                |
| Couples with dependent children     | 17                                      | 36                       | 46                |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>56</b>                               | <b>80</b>                | <b>115</b>        |

**Table 6 - Housing First**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of tenancies established            | 44 |
| Number of individuals currently in tenancy | 33 |

**Housing Allocations up to 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

| District     | LA         | LA Refusal | AHB        | AHB Refusal |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Ardee        | 22         | 4          | 2          | 0           |
| Drogheda     | 84         | 16         | 139        | 11          |
| Dundalk      | 52         | 3          | 55         | 3           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>158</b> | <b>23</b>  | <b>196</b> | <b>14</b>   |

**Transfers**

| District     | Number    |
|--------------|-----------|
| Ardee        | 3         |
| Dundalk      | 5         |
| Drogheda     | 13        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>21</b> |

**Housing List**

| June 2024                 | Ardee      | Drogheda    | Dundalk     | Total       |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Housing List              | 388        | 664         | 1157        | 2209        |
| HAP Transfer List         | 296        | 1035        | 1647        | 2978        |
| <b>Total Housing List</b> | <b>684</b> | <b>1699</b> | <b>2804</b> | <b>5187</b> |

There are **314** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including 59 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

**Housing Assistance Payment**

The total number of applications in HAP is **2,978**

| Ardee Municipal District | Drogheda Borough District | Dundalk Municipal District | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| 296                      | 1035                      | 1647                       | 2978  |

**Rent Management**

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **925**.

| Current Rents Arrears at 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 | No of Accounts | Value             |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Rents between 4-6 weeks old                         | 203            | €75,397           |
| Rents between 7-12 weeks old                        | 185            | €139,711          |
| Rents greater than 12 weeks old                     | 938            | €3,150,871        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>1326</b>    | <b>€3,365,979</b> |

Rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis and letters are issued to customers within two weeks of their falling into arrears. Failure to address these arrears will result in a second letter being issued and if necessary a third and final reminder. Failure to

respond at that point will result in the escalation to tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in June 2024:

| Letter Type              | Month/Year | Number Issued |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reminder | June 2024  | 204           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reminder | June 2024  | 35            |
| Final Reminder           | June 2024  | 16            |
| <b>Total issued</b>      |            | <b>255</b>    |

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. 61 new payment plans commenced in June 2024 (up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> June).

### Vacant Properties

| Vacant Properties on 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024      | Total     |
|--|-----------|
| Ardee Municipal District                             | 12        |
| Dundalk Municipal District                           | 13        |
| Drogheda Municipal Borough District                  | 25        |
| <b>Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties</b>          | <b>50</b> |
| CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)  | 3         |
| <b>Total Number of Properties (Relets &amp; CPO)</b> | <b>53</b> |

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

### Maintenance Calls

| Maintenance                             | 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 21st June 2024 | Total (YTD) |
|---|--|-------------|
| No. of Maintenance Requests Received    | 680  | 3,186       |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Completed   | 541  | 2,509       |
| No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress | 117  | N/A         |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Refused     | 22   | 129         |

### Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

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

| Municipal District  | Number of Commenced/ Completed Units |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Ardee MD:</b><br>Cherrywood Park, Tallanstown<br>Smarmore, Ardee<br>Ferdia Park, Ardee   | 48                                   |
| <b>Dundalk MD:</b><br>Hillview Dundalk,<br>Barton Park, Dundalk<br>Market Street, Dundalk<br>Defenders Row, Dundalk   | 10                                   |
| <b>Drogheda BD:</b><br>Ascal a Haon/ Do/ Tri, Drogheda<br>Sunnyside Cottages, Drogheda<br>Rathmullan Park, Drogheda<br>Bredin Street, Drogheda<br>John Kirk Park, Clogherhead | 61                                   |



**Energy Retrofitting works taking place at Ascal a Haon, Yellowbatter, Drogheda**



**External wall insulation at John Kirk Park, Clogherhead**



**Heat pump installation at Ascal a Haon, Yellowbatter, Drogheda in June**

### Private Rental Inspections

|                              | 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024 | Total (YTD) |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Properties inspected monthly | 156  | 763         |
| Advisory Letters issued      | 126  | 584         |
| Improvement Notices issued   | 0  | 5           |
| Private Inspections          | 0  | 3           |
| HAP Inspections              | 37   | 376         |
| RAS Inspections              | 0  | 0           |
| AHB Inspections              | 102  | 320         |
| Private Re-Inspections       | 0  | 2           |
| HAP Re-Inspections           | 12   | 47          |
| RAS Re-Inspections           | 0  | 0           |
| AHB Re-Inspections           | 1  | 1           |
| Inspections from Complaints  | 4  | 15          |
| Properties made Compliant    | 14   | 31          |

### Tenancy Engagement

| 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024 | Drogheda <sup>a</sup> | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly Total | Yearly Total |
|--|-----------------------|-------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training            | 12                    | 5     | 7       | 24            | 162          |
| Post-tenancy inspections                                 | 4                     | 0     | 12      | 16            | 104          |
| Tenancy Investigation Visits                             | 16                    | 6     | 5       | 27            | 204          |

## Anti-Social Behaviour

| 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024 | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly | Yearly |
|--|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| ASB Cases* Received                                      | 5        | 2     | 3       | 10      | 117    |
| ASB Ongoing cases  | 5        | 2     | 8       | 15      | -      |
| ASB complete cases                                       | 7        | 4     | 9       | 20      | 92     |

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

## Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

| 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024 | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly | Yearly |
|--|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| Verbal Warnings  | 0        | 0     | 2       | 2       | 26     |
| Written Warnings   | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0       | 2      |
| Tenancy Notifications                                    | 0        | 0     | 1       | 1       | 7      |
| Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014                       | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0       | 2      |

## Repair and Lease

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

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

|   |         |   |   |
|---|---------|---|---|
| 1 | Dundalk | 2 | Finished & inspected. Awaiting final sign-off on Legal Agreement. |
|---|---------|---|---|

## Affordable Housing

Discussions are ongoing with developers regarding two schemes in Drogheda and a further two schemes in the Dundalk area which are expected to come on stream.

An online survey is expected to go live in the coming weeks. This will be circulated through social media so as to gain an updated understanding of interest and demand to assist in planning for future Affordable Housing Schemes.

## Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Active MTR Applications Total      | 26 |
| AHB MTR Applications Active        | 18 |
| AHB MTR completed 2024             | 0  |
| Private MTR Applications Active    | 5  |
| Private MTR completed 2024         | 4  |
| 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 may be given the option to buy the home back if they are in a position to do so.

## Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Applications Submitted:                     | 183 |
| Approved:                                   | 113 |
| Rejected:                                   | 13  |
| Withdrawn                                   | 9   |
| Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections) | 48  |
| Funding Issued to Applicant                 | 7   |
| Principal Private Residence                 | 133 |
| Rental Applications                         | 50  |



## Local Authority Home Loans

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>2024 Budget Allocation</b>   | <b>€7,230,000</b> |
| LAHL Approvals at 20/06/2024  | €1,659,680        |
| <b>Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2024</b> |                   |
| Total Number of Applications at 20/06/2024                                    | 23                |
| LAHL carried over from 2023   | 6                 |
| Invalid/Returned  | 5                 |
| Approved  | 10                |
| Declined  | 9                 |
| For Review  | 3                 |
| Outstanding – waiting on further information                                  | 2                 |



*Recently acquired properties in Dundalk*

## Acquisitions

The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice of termination, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. In June, the Council purchased 6 properties.

## Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

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

| Status                                   | HAG | MAG | HOP | Month | YTD |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Grants Approved 2023                     | 159 | 27  | 117 | -     | 303 |
| Applications on Hand 22/06/2024          | 178 | 26  | 385 | -     | 589 |
| Grants Approved 25/05/2024 to 20/06/2024 | 7   | 3   | 10  | 20    | 96  |



***New housing units delivered in Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda, through the Part V planning process***



***New door fitted in June in Dundalk, part-funded with a Housing for Older Persons Grant***

### **Capital Housing Delivery**

#### **New Housing delivery via the Part V Planning process.**

The Council continues to acquire new housing stock through the Part V planning process at various locations throughout the county.



***New housing unit delivered in Newtownwood, Drogheda through the Part V planning process***

## 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                                     | 31/03/2025                            | 3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed  |
| Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2) | 1/1           | 72                                    | On Site                                     | 06/06/2025                            | 27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt             |
| Mount Avenue, Dundalk                 | 1/1           | 93                                    | On Site                                     | 31/05/2025                            | 29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt |
| Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill      | 1/1           | 6                                     | Stage 2 Approved                            | 27/05/2026                            | 2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed, 2 * 2 bed Apt  |
| Point Road, Dundalk                   | 1/1           | 44                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | 31 * 2 bed, 10 * 3 bed, 3 * 4 bed  |
| Dunleer (Ravel Grange)                | 1/1           | 70                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | 45 * 2 bed, 20 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed  |
| Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West    | 1/1           | 97                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | 52 * 2 bed, 32 * 3 bed, 13 * 4 bed   |
| Mullavalley, Louth Village            | 1/1           | 58                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | 28 * 2 bed, 24 * 3 bed, 5 * 4 bed, 1 * 5 bed                                     |
| Greenhills, Drogheda                  | 1/1           | 46                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | 42 * 2 bed, 3 * 3 bed, 1 * 5 bed   |

|  |     |     |                                     |            |  |
|--|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Anne St.<br>Dundalk  | 1/1 | 16  | Stage 1<br>Approved                 | 31/12/2026 | 8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed<br>Apt.                                   |
| Gort Uaine,<br>Clogherhead -<br>Infill                         | 1/1 | 1   | Completed                           | 04/06/2024 | 1 * 4 bed  |
| School Lane,<br>Dunleer - Infill                               | 1/1 | 1   | Completed                           | 31/05/2024 | 1 * 3 bed  |
| Ballymakenny<br>Road - East Site,<br>Drogheda                  | 1/1 | 130 | PPP Bundle<br>5 Funding<br>Approved | 30/06/2026 | 52 * 2 bed, 47 * 3 bed, 4 *<br>4 bed, 1 * 5 bed, 26 * 1<br>bed Apt |
| Mullagh Close,<br>Clogherhead                                  | 1/1 | 12  | On-site                             | 31/12/2024 | 12 * 3 bed   |
| Knockshee, Old<br>Golf Links Road,<br>Blackrock,<br>Dundalk    | 1/1 | 12  | On-site                             | 30/09/2024 | 12 * 2 bed Apt.  |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 1/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 31/07/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed   |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 2/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 31/07/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed   |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 3/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 30/09/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed   |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 4/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 30/09/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed   |
| Quarry Court,<br>John St. /<br>Stoneylane,<br>Ardee, Co. Louth | 1/1 | 20  | On-site                             | 31/12/2024 | 11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt,<br>6 * 2 bed Apt.                       |
| Derryveigh<br>House, Hoeyes<br>Lane, Dundalk                   | 1/1 | 2   | Funding<br>Approved                 | 31/03/2025 | 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed   |
| Clontygora,<br>Dundalk   | 1/1 | 2   | Funding<br>Approved                 | 01/03/2025 | 2 * 4 bed  |

|  |     |    |                  |          |                                 |
|--|-----|----|------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth  | 2/3 | 8  | On-site          | 30/09/24 | 7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed            |
| Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth  | 3/3 | 1  | Funding Approved | 30/06/25 | 1 * 2 bed                       |
| Ballymakenny Park, (Phase 1) Drogheda, Co. Louth | 1/1 | 10 | Completed        | 31/05/24 | 2 * 4 bed, 8 * 3 bed            |
| Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows                   | 1/3 | 3  | On-site          | 30/06/24 | 3 * 2 bed                       |
| Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows                   | 2/3 | 12 | On-site          | 30/09/24 | 6 * 2 bed Apt, 6 * 3 bed Duplex |
| Listoke Elms & Listoke Willows                   | 3/3 | 2  | Funding Approved | 31/03/25 | 1 * 2 bed Apt, 1 * 3 bed Duplex |

### 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          | 30/10/2024                            | Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit             |
| Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth        | Dublin Simon        | 30                                    | Stage 2 Approved | 15/03/2026                            | Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments<br>Three * accessible units<br>Eight * Studio apartments |
| Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth | Women's Aid Dundalk | 12                                    | Stage 2 approved | 02/03/2026                            | Five * 1 bed apartments<br>Seven * 2 bed apartments                                  |

## CALF Delivery

| Project Name   |     | Total Number of Social Units Expected | Non-Part V/ Part V | Project Status | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type   |
|--|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing             | 2/3 | 37                                    | 35/2               | On site        | 15/08/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 Three Bed Houses</li> <li>• 11 2 bed Houses</li> </ul>                    |
| Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing             | 3/3 | 56                                    | 51/6               | On Site        | 15/09/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Two Bed Houses</li> <li>• 40 Three Bed Houses</li> </ul>                  |
| Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing                             | 3/3 | 39                                    | 23/16              | On site        | 15/07/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Two Bed Apartments</li> <li>• 24 Three bed Apartment</li> </ul>           |
| Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath                              | 4/4 | 12                                    |                    | Complete       | 29/05/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 three bed houses</li> </ul>   |
| Dublin Road Dundalk Respond                                    | 3/3 | 40                                    | 38/2               | On Site        | 31/06/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 One bed Apt</li> <li>• 7 Two bed Apt</li> <li>•</li> </ul>                 |
| Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing                            | 6/6 | 36                                    |                    | Complete       | 14/06/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 2 bed apt</li> <li>• 18 3 bed apt</li> </ul>                              |
| An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East | 1/1 | 17                                    | 14/3               | On site        | 30/09/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 One bed apt</li> <li>• 7 Two bed apt</li> <li>• 3 Three bed apt</li> </ul> |
| Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath                         | 1/1 | 49                                    | 44/5               | On-Site        | 30/09/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 One bed Apts</li> <li>• 22 Two bed Apts</li> </ul>                        |

|  |     |     |        |                  |            |  |
|--|-----|-----|--------|------------------|------------|--|
| Connolly's Field<br>Dundalk<br>Fold Housing              | 1/2 | 30  | 19/11  | On-Site          | 29/09/2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 One bed apt</li> <li>• 10 Two bed apt</li> </ul>                             |
| Connolly's Field<br>Dundalk<br>Fold Housing              | 2/2 | 40  |        | On-Site          | 29/03/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31 One bed apt</li> <li>• 9 Two bed apt</li> </ul>                              |
| Harbour View<br>Coulter Place<br>Dundalk<br>Cluid        | 1/1 | 18  |        | On-Site          | 14/03/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 One Bed Apt</li> <li>• 6 Two Bed Apt</li> </ul>                              |
| Gullion Park<br>Finnabair Dundalk<br>Co- Operative       | 1/1 | 142 | 128/14 | Funding Approved | 05/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48 One bed Apt</li> <li>• 70 Two bed Apt</li> <li>• 24 Three Bed Apt</li> </ul> |
| Avourwen<br>Meadows,<br>Drogheda, Co.<br>Louth<br>Oaklee | 1/1 | 50  | 45/5   | Funding Approved | 10/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 One Bed Apt</li> <li>• 32 Two Bed Apt</li> </ul>                             |

## Cultural Services

early draft stage, while Community, and Legal Services are being finalised.

## Archives



*Archives Entrance Gate Sign*

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

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

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

The Co Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions: Fire Services is at the

## Local Election Promotional Leaflets Wanted

The County Archives actively collects leaflets, flyers and posters of election candidates and their parties for its archive collection. Donations of this material are welcome from election candidates and members of the public. Three copies of leaflets are ideal if available. Leaflets can be placed in an envelope or bag and left into the County Archives at the Old Gaol, Ardee Road, Dundalk, A91PY17 during office hours or any Council office or library marked for the attention of the County Archives. This material contributes to a valuable research source. If you have any other archive collection that you would be willing to donate, or know of someone who would, please contact the County Archivist by email at [archive@louthcoco.ie](mailto:archive@louthcoco.ie) or by telephone at 042-9324358.



*Selection of election leaflets received to date*

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Irish Local Government

2024 is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Irish Local Government. The Local Government Act of 1898 abolished the Grand Jury system and established County Councils, Rural District Councils and Urban Councils and granted many Irish people the right to vote for the first time. The first local elections were held in January 1899 for urban districts and in April 1899 for county areas. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1899 many of the new Councils met for the first time, including Louth County Council. An online exhibition to mark

this anniversary of Louth County Council has been produced by Louth County Archives and will be available on [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie). It features copies of archives including the minutes of the first Louth County Council meeting. A small publication to mark the anniversary is currently being produced by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



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

## Decade of Centenaries

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

## Catalogue Upgrade

The service's cataloguing software is due to be upgraded as the current system is now end of life. It will be upgraded to a modern system with enhanced features and improved speed. It will be hosted on the Cloud. Testing work for the new upgrade has taken place.



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

## Research Enquiries

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

## Climate Action

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

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

## Libraries

### Dormant Accounts Funding 2024



On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, announced €550,000 in funding for library supports. The funding, under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan, will assist public libraries in supporting people with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Louth Library Service submitted a successful funding proposal to purchase the following:

- Assistive technology, including a further 20 C-Pen Readers and LED magnifiers to support those with literacy problems and visual impairment
- Armchairs to allow for a more comfortable reading experience for older customers and those with mobility issues while visiting the library
- A height adjustable desk, ergonomic chairs and large monitor to enable more accessibility to public PC's for users who may have difficulty using a regular desk, chair and monitor due to a disability.

The purchases under this funding will build on previous initiatives and enhance Louth Library Service's continued commitment to improving our spaces and to supporting adults and children with reading difficulties, visual impairments and mobility issues. The continued development of our physical spaces and services has contributed to and strengthened our commitment to ensuring that Louth libraries continue to be welcoming and inclusive spaces for all members of our communities, a key objective of the new library strategy 'The Library is the Place'.

## Bloomsday at Áras an tUachtaráin

Several Louth Library Service staff recently attended the first of the President's summer afternoon garden parties. The Bloomsday Garden Party 2024 was celebrated on Sunday June 16th in Áras an tUachtaráin. Bloomsday, 16 June 1904, is the date immortalised in James Joyce's 1922 novel Ulysses and named after the book's protagonist Leopold Bloom. Each year, the President and Sabina commence their series of summer Garden Parties with a special event to celebrate the work of James Joyce.

The importance of libraries and promoting reading was a key theme of this year's event, and eight staff from each library authority were invited to attend.



*Louth Library staff at the garden party.*

It was a marvellous afternoon where staff had the opportunity to tour the Áras and gardens. Everyone was greeted personally by Mrs. Sabina Higgins, on arrival.

The President gave a rousing address stressing the importance of libraries in our community, the gift of reading and the importance of the work library staff do, sometimes in difficult situations.

## Right to Read



## Summer Stars

The annual Summer Stars Reading Programme was launched in June. Louth Library Service are inviting children to join in the national reading

programme encouraging children to read for enjoyment during the summer months.



**Summer Stars participants receiving their Summer Stars bags in Dundalk Library**

Participants receive a free Summer Stars bag and an activity booklet. Each branch of Louth Library Service will also run a Summer Stars competition to win an arts and craft hamper in each branch for readers who return their reading card to their local branch.

### **My Little Library Book Bag**

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

### **Nicola Cassidy Author Visit**

Drogheda library was delighted to welcome local author Nicola Cassidy and illustrator Sophie Coyle on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Nicola and Sophie presented a talk about Nicola’s new book “Sorcha Queen of the Castle” to 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils from Presentation Primary.



**Author Nicola Cassidy in Drogheda Library**

This book was commissioned by the Arts Office and funded by the Decade of Centenaries Programme as supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

### **FAI Activity Book**

Football Association of Ireland literacy activity booklets devised by Monaghan County Library Staff as part of Right to Read & Healthy Ireland are available free for children aged 10-14 in each library branch to celebrate the launch of Euros 2024.

### **Library Outreach**

Louth Library Service was delighted to provide an information and storytelling session in Ballsbridge for Drogheda Traveller Pride on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This event was led by Louth Local Development in collaboration with Minceir Traveller Youth group and Drogheda Implementation Board and was the first Traveller Pride Event in Drogheda.

Louth Library Service visited Drogheda Women’s Refuge for an information session and storytelling. Staff spoke to participants in the refuge about the library service and the Summer Stars programme while promoting the ongoing events and services available in Drogheda Library.

Louth Library staff visited Ukrainian residents in Drumcar to provide an e-services roadshow to promote Louth Library Service, provided library brochures in Ukrainian and the residents were welcome to register to become library members.

Library Staff visited Mosney with an e-services roadshow to promote library services in County Louth on the June 19<sup>th</sup>. Louth Library Service provided Summer Stars packs to run the Summer Stars programme in their Community Library. Library Staff provided My Little Library Book Bags to the graduates from the preschool who will be transitioning to junior infants.



***Siobhán McGuinness, Librarian, Storytime Session at Traveller Pride event in Drogheda***

Library staff in Drogheda attended one of the Louth ABC Baby & Me Cafés recently. This group is for parents and their babies under 12 months of age and provides an opportunity for parents to meet and chat in a casual setting. Library staff were invited to give a short presentation about the library services and the benefits of reading to your baby.



***Executive Librarian Theresa McNally & Suzie O'Connell with Summer Stars packs in the Community Library in Mosney***

Louth Library Staff attended a Louth ABC Programme Parent support forum with over 40 services in attendance in The Gateway Hotel, Dundalk on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. This was an opportunity for service staff delivering programmes to support families to come together to meet. The Louth Parent Hub website has lots of information on parenting programmes, a directory of services, what's on and resources for parents: <https://www.louthparenthub.ie/>

Library staff were invited to speak to a group of retired ladies in the Redeemer Resource Centre to on the range of services available in Louth Library Service on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.



**Executive Librarian Leona Burgess and Gavin McGee  
Louth ABC**



**Library staff at the Dundalk Fair, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

### Healthy Ireland at Your Library



### Marie Keating Foundation Mobile Unit

Louth Library Service hosted a hugely successful Healthy Ireland at your Library event on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May when the Marie Keating Foundation brought its mobile unit to Dundalk Library's car park.



**Marie Keating Foundation Mobile Unit Staff in Dundalk  
Library Car Park.**

### Refugee Week

To celebrate Refugee Week, Louth County Council Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) hosted coffee times in Dundalk, Ardee & Drogheda Libraries on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

### Dundalk Show

Louth Library Service attended the recent Dundalk Show held in Bellurgan Park. Library staff were on hand to talk to attendees about the services available at their local library.

The aim of the Marie Keating Foundation is to bring life-saving messages on cancer prevention and early detection to as many people as possible. A specialist nurse provided information in relation to cancer prevention, steps to take to help reduce risk, the signs and symptoms to look out for and the most common cancers in Ireland.

All attendees to the mobile unit were truly grateful and appreciative to the staff they spoke to and thankful for the information, advice and the wonderful work done by the Marie Keating Foundation.

### **Supporting Anxious Children with Dr. Mary O’Kane**

Louth Library Service were delighted to welcome back Dr. Mary O’Kane for an excellent talk on Supporting Anxious Children in Dundalk Library on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup> as part of our Healthy Ireland at your Library programme.



*Dr. Mary O’Kane delivering her “Supporting Anxious Children” Talk in Dundalk Library.*

There was a great attendance at the talk, as Dr. Mary O’Kane explained what anxiety is in children and offered parents practical advice on how to support their children during difficult times, helping them to manage their fears and to gain confidence.

### **Cruinniú na nÓg**

There was plenty of excitement in Drogheda and Dundalk libraries on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> as local children attended free workshops to celebrate the National Day of Creativity for children and young

people under 18 organised by Creative Ireland and the Cruinniú na nÓg team.

Thank you to Beyond the Bump for an excellent Messy Play workshop for very young children and babies in Dundalk Library followed by the fabulous The Brickx Club for facilitating their wonderful LEGO Car and LEGO Jewelry workshops in Drogheda and Dundalk.

A fun day was enjoyed by all who attended, and every child got to take home their creation. Drogheda finished the day with a kite making workshop which was facilitated by Go Fly Your Kite



*Children creating their LEGO Cars with The Brickx Club in Dundalk Library*



*Attendee with his creation from the LEGO Workshop in Drogheda*

## Adult Events

### Creative Writing

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

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

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

### Regular Events

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

### Baby Book Club

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

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

### Parent and Toddler Group

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

**Drogheda Library:** Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

**Dundalk Library:** Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

### Library Groups

Various groups meet monthly including Irish Conversation exchange, Bookclub and Knitting and Crochet groups. Details available from participating libraries.

### Film Screenings

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

### eServices

**e-Reading all in one place on BorrowBox!**



*BorrowBox is free to access as a library member*

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

library. The new 'ePress' section in the app is where you can locate your favourite magazines and newspapers. If you're not already using BorrowBox, don't worry! Simply download the app, and then use your library card and PIN to register, browse and read.

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

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

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

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

## Arts

### LCMS

Louth Contemporary Music Society was back with a bang this year with their "Lovely Music" festival. The eclectic mix of performances and styles left audiences enthralled, with Robert Ashleys 'Crash' event on opening night in An Táin receiving a 5-star review in the Irish Times. As always director Eamonn Quinn has delivered an amazing festival which has captured the imagination of many far and wide. To read the review in the Irish Times please see [here](#)



## Culture Night Call Out

Culture Night 2024 will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September and the arts office are seeking applications for arts organisations, community groups and artists to take part. Culture Night is about celebrating all cultures and diversities in Ireland and inviting people into cultural and heritage venues to take part in a night of celebration.

Application forms can be found on the Arts Services section of Louth County Council [here](#)

## Creative Ireland

Creative Climate – The Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary continued its work in June as the grower participants met at Drogheda Allotment to discuss the importance of Allotment Spaces, composting and how valuable it is, and they also shared produce with each other that has been growing and shared learning about what has been an issue for them.



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

For all details on the project and upcoming events please see the LUFS website <https://louthurbanfoodsanctuary.com/> It also contains some videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting Garlic. You can

also email [creativeireland@louthcoco.ie](mailto:creativeireland@louthcoco.ie) if you wish to find out more about the project.

### **Cruinniú na nÓg**

This year's Cruinniú na nÓg was a great success with workshops taking place throughout the day from Dundalk to Dunleer, Drogheda to Carlingford and everywhere in between. Here is just a selection of photos from the day. Thanks to all who came and enjoyed the events and to the facilitators for making it all happen.



*Spray painting workshops at Market Square*



*Lego Make Your Own Jewellery workshops in Libraries.*



*Lego Build a Car workshops in Libraries*

### **Highlane's Gallery**



*Portrait of artist Aleana Egan by Isabel Nolans in Venice.*

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

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

## **Droichead Arts Centre**

**Droichead Youth Theatre's** Summer term started at the end of June and will run until the end of August with a fantastic showcase event. Workshops take place every Saturday from 10.30 till 12pm. For details see [here](#)

**Boyne Midsummer Festival** – this inaugural river festival took place from June 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. The 3-day event featured a day-to-night programme with something to suit all audiences. Events included the Night Moves Trad Trail, The Stowaway Sessions and for the kids there was fairground rides, a petting zoo and a riverside market. Mosney

**Outdoor Theatre at Oldbridge** was back for 2024. On June 28<sup>th</sup> Chapterhouse Theatre brought a fantastic adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women' to life to a delighted audience.

For information on all other events and projects in Droichead Arts Centre. See <https://www.droichead.com/>

## **An Táin Arts Centre**

**Exhibition – Secret Language of Intimacy** – opened on June 27<sup>th</sup> in the Basement Gallery. Irish American Poet Kevin Mooney and Indian Fibre artist Saumitra Chandratreya have collaborated to create an innovative Reverse Ekphrastic Art Installation. Chandratreya has taken Mooney's insightful poetry to inspire abstract images which were overlaid on large scale fabric banners. The exhibition is open daily from Tues to Sat from 10am to 4pm. For more details see [here](#)

**The Bród, The Bold and The Beautiful** – Quintessence theatre company & Outcomers LGBT Support Services brought their new play to An Táin at the end of June. Inspired by true stories it is an original, raucous new comedy drama spanning 30 years of the Irish LGBTQ experience. It explores the challenges faced by 3 different generations, each navigating issues of old and new.

For information on all other events coming up in An Táin see their website <https://www.antain.ie/>

## **Museum**

### **Museum News**

Over the past month the Museum has organised a variety of events and activities. In addition to opening on Mondays from now until the end of September it has commenced its summer schedule of activities for schools and the general public.



*Visiting school group at the Museum for International Museums' Day*

This includes the resumption of walking tours of Dundalk for schools, bespoke tours of the Museum, and a series of workshops explaining the work of the Museum to mark International Museum's Day.



**Museum walking tour of Dundalk at St. Leonard's Gardens**



**The Behind-the-scenes tour at the County Museum**

The Museum also participated in the Cruinniú na nÓg event as one of the major venues for the Maritime Mystery event organised by the Creative Ireland office.

A display from the collection of former Bagatelle front man Liam Reilly at County Museum recently completed a short run.



**Liam Reilly's Bagatelle jacket**

## County Quiz

As part of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations the Museum has introduced what is hoped to be an annual quiz for Primary Schools. The first winner of this competition was Kilcurley National School.



**County Museum Quiz winners - Kilcurley NS**

## National interest

The Museum received a hugely positive review in The Irish Star – describing it as a "Fantastic experience with such wonderful staff, who are extremely passionate and knowledgeable."

In addition, the Irish Arts Review featured an article in its column Curator's Choice on one of the Museum's exhibited items – the Cuchulainn Shield, whilst the first edition of Louth Life included an item on Museum staff's favourite artefacts from the Collection.



### OPINION Free museum in tiny Irish county is a perfect hidden gem to discover

The County Museum in Dundalk is a gem that not many tourists and even Irish people know about



NAN:NAN ET, UNDEFINED NAN NAN

By [Brian Dillon](#) What's On and Travel Reporter [Bookmark](#)



*Museum review from the Irish Star*

## Recent acquisitions

The Museum recently acquired a particularly interesting item – a 7<sup>th</sup> Carroll GAA Allstar gear bag. Given the continued importance of the Allstars it is a fascinating piece of social and sporting history and is a welcome addition to the Collection.



*The recently acquired Carroll's Allstar gear bag.*

## 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

## European Migration Network

Representatives of the Ukraine response/LAIT attended the European Migration Network conference on Governing Accommodation and Housing in the context of International Protection Applicants in Dublin. The conference focused on access to autonomous housing for beneficiaries of international protection and governing the accommodation of international protection applicants.

European Migration Network conference June 11<sup>th</sup>



## Offer A Home Programme

### Property Figures as at 30/06/2024

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Property offers recorded to date     | 75  |
| Owners successfully contacted        | 74  |
| Properties allocated to date         | 37  |
| Beneficiaries assigned to date       | 125 |
| Assessments currently underway       | 0   |
| Properties assessed as suitable      | 36  |
| Properties with minor works required | 1   |
| Properties withdrawn                 | 23  |
| Properties not viable                | 15  |

Three properties were offered in June. Two were unsuitable as they had been recently rented. The home deemed acceptable was inspected and was deemed suitable. A family of 5, living in communal accommodation in Dundalk have been allocated the property, minimizing any disruption for the three children in school in the area.

A family of 4 who were living in Kerry were allocated to an Offer A Home property outside of Dundalk in early June. Since then, they have secured employment nearby.

53 new expressions of interest in being accommodated under the Offer A Home program were received from Ukrainian families and processed during June.

## Healthy Ireland Funded Programme

The Ukrainian Response Team organized a further 8-week programme of Exercise Classes for Adults due to high demand. They are being held in the Redeemer Centre in Dundalk, every Friday until mid-August. The ladies are enjoying activities and being social.



## Refurbishment Programme

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

**Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP to date**

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

\*224 beds delivered by LCC pre ERUP

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

The LOI for Building 3, St Mary's Drumcar is with Louth County Council. The refurbished building was handed over week ending 20<sup>th</sup> June. It is expected that DCEDIY will enter a contract with the Council in July to provide accommodation for 63 Ukrainian beneficiaries in the newly refurbished B3 until 2026. This brings the capacity at Drumcar campus to 188.

Seatown Partnerships received an LOI for the refurbishment of the former St. Joseph's female orphanage and Industrial School and St. Malachy's Convent, at Seatown Place, Castle Street, Dundalk to accommodate up to 260 displaced Ukrainians by the end of 2024.

**Local Authority Integration Team**

The team continue to hold clinics each week throughout the county. International Protection applicants are attending with different issues which are being handled by the Integration Support

Workers. There were ten clinics held in May with 63 residents assessed.

The LAIT team visited Matthew McGeehan's social farm on June 6th. Social Farming offers people who are socially, physically, mentally or intellectually disadvantaged the opportunity to spend time on a family farm in a healthy, supportive and inclusive environment. The LAIT team are working in partnership with Louth Local Development Company by providing referrals to the social farm to give International Protection residents an opportunity to work on an Irish farm.



**Social Farm Visit**

The LAIT are promoting Louth Local Development Company's suite of programmes to support residents living in international protection centers while they are awaiting their work visa. The programme will prepare the residents before they enter the labour market with a focus on creating CV's, interview preparation and other skills. Referrals are provided to LLDC by the LAIT team when they assess residents at their weekly clinics.





*International Protection Residents and Ukrainian beneficiaries attending Louth Local Development Company Programmes*

### **EU INTERREG INVOLVIM Trip**

Members of the LAIT team attended the first meeting of the EU Interreg Involvim Project in Finland. The Finnish team are the lead partner in this project. The EU funded project aim is to support the provision of informal and voluntary immigration services targeting those who will not receive support due to their status, e.g. work-based migrants and their spouses. The purpose of the visit was to share ideas and experiences in developing informal and voluntary services for work-based immigrants. Along with Irish representatives, there were representatives from Poland, Portugal and Slovenia at the meeting in Finland.



seeking sanctuary. Established in 1998 in the UK, this annual festival aligns with World Refugee Day, celebrated globally on June 20<sup>th</sup>. As part of Refugee Week, The LAIT team hosted coffee mornings in the three main libraries. It gave refugees living in Co Louth the opportunity to meet with other refugees and the local community to have a chat, share their experiences and the services available in the libraries.



### **Refugee Week**

Refugee Week took place from June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Refugee Week is the world's largest arts & culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people