



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 7th March 2023
7^ú Márta 2023**

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 28th February 2023
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 28 Feabhra 2023

Contents / Clár Ábhar	
<u>Support Services / Seirbhísí Tacaíochta</u>	3
Financial Reports / Tuairiscí Airgeadais	
Water Services / Seirbhísí Uisce	
Information & Communication Technology / Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide	
<u>Strategic Economic Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach</u>	11
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 Shíbhialta	
Planning / Pleanáil	
Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha	
Planning Enforcement / Forfheidhmiúcháin	
Forward Planning / Pleanáil Chun Cinn	
<u>Placemaking and Physical Development / Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisticíúil</u>	22
Roads & Local Services / Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla	
Physical Development / Forbairt Fhisciciúil	
<u>Organisational Development / Forbairt na hEagraíochta</u>	58
Corporate Services / Seirbhísí Corporáideacha	
Community Support & Sport / Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spórt	
Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action / Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil & Aeráide	
Veterinary Services / Seirbhísí Tréidliachta	
Human Resources / Acmhainní Duine	
<u>Social Development / Forbairt Shóisialta</u>	78
Housing / Tithíocht	
Cultural Services / Seirbhísí Cultúrtha	
Archives / An Chartlann	
Libraries / Leabharlanna	
Arts / Na hEalaíona	
Museum / An Iarsmalann	

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, Water Services and Information & Communication Technology

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Seirbhísí Uisce, agus Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Finance

Expenditure to 28th February 2023 / Caiteachas go dtí 28 Feabhra 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 28/02/2023	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2023	% Spent to/ % Caite go 28/02/2023
Housing/Tithíocht	€5,956,458	€57,155,409	10%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€4,191,310	€27,351,782	15%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€1,583,003	€8,619,589	18%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€2,793,684	€23,666,110	12%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€2,648,983	€20,837,206	13%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€1,354,321	€10,361,634	13%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€156,753	€1,468,858	11%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáirí	€1,044,192	€9,018,942	12%
	€19,728,704	€158,479,531	12%

Income to 28th February 2023 / Ioncam go 28 Feabhra 2023

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 28/02/23	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2023	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 28/02/23
Housing/Tithíocht	€5,825,513	€58,718,513	10%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€301,886	€16,635,478	2%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€738,440	€8,303,355	9%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€1,233,601	€14,403,330	9%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€197,613	€2,295,719	9%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€109,828	€1,208,037	9%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€71,154	€543,472	13%
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáirí	€346,445	€11,296,768	3%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,558,169	€34,708,660	100%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€0	€9,866,198	0%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair	€0	€500,000	0%
	€43,382,649	€158,479,531	27%

The above is the current position as of the 28th of February 2023. 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 2023 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 28th February 2023 are as follows:

Debtors as of 28th February 2023/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 28 Feabhra 2023

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáltais	Write Offs/ Díscriobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€7,588,851	€4,314,569	(€2,097,685)	€15	€9,805,750
Other Local Authorities/Uadaráis Áitiúla Eile	€38,508	€183,628	(€33,266)	(€0)	€188,870
Rates/Rataí	€7,531,535	€34,558,169	(€4,189,716)	(€17,340)	€37,882,648
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,621,985	€2,164,109	(€2,225,683)	(€0)	€2,560,411
Loans/Iasachtal	€295,384	€322,841	(€385,485)	(€0)	€232,740
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€10,943,505	€148,831	(€191,875)	(€54,000)	€10,846,461
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€717,575	€94,001	(€56,467)	(€0)	€755,109
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€1,845,981	€1,885,902	(€416,184)	(€39,165)	€3,276,534
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€31,583,324	€43,672,050	(€9,596,361)	(€110,490)	€65,548,523

Above are the debtor balances as of 28th of February 2023. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Annual Financial Statement

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

Water Services

Uisce Éireann

Elected members/customers are reminded to contact Uisce Éireann directly to log a query or any issue with water supply or quality or wastewater issues. Customers should contact the Uisce Éireann customer care helpline, which is open 24/7, on 1800 278 278 or 1890 378 378 (For hearing impaired customers with minicom equipment) or via Twitter @UÉ Care or @IrishWater or go to www.water.ie.

Water Quality / Cáilíocht Uisce

Intensive monitoring of water supplies in the County is conducted continually by the EPA on behalf of Louth County Council.

Water Conservation / Caomhnú Uisce

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy / An Straitéis um Oiriúnú don Athrú Aeráide

Water Services continue to engage with Uisce Éireann and LCC Environment Section on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Capital Programmes/Cláir Chaipitiúla

Uisce Éireann refers to the different phases of a capital project as Gates 1, 2, 3 or 4.

- Gate 1 - Concept Design
- Gate 2 - Detailed design, preparation of contract documents, planning approval and procurement
- Gate 3 - Construction stage
- Gate 4 - Snagging and project sign off.

Tallanstown Rationalisation / Cuíchóiriú Bhaile an Tallúnaigh

Detailed Design is being progressed by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers. LCC are liaising with Uisce Éireann and their consultants to progress the project. The project will include works at Mullacrew Reservoir with proposed new Pumping Stations at

Allardstown and Bannons Cross. Planning permission has been granted for Bannons Cross PS while the planning application for Allardstown PS was submitted to Louth County Council on 16th February 2023.

Omeath WWTW / Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Ó Méith

The Construction Phase at both the Pumping Station and Wastewater Treatment plant is currently progressing. The associated rising main is substantially complete. The Project is programmed for completion in September 2023.

Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)

Uisce Éireann are to consider further surface water separation. Phase 1 of SWELL Project is complete.

Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation / Athshlánú an Líonra Séaraigh Aitiúil

The 2023 Programme has now commenced with works currently underway in the Drogheda Agglomeration.

Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP)/Plean Limistéar Draenála Dhún Dealgan

LCC continue to liaise with Uisce Éireann and their consultants on the Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP). The Project Consultants are currently progressing the Hydraulic Model for the agglomeration.

Dundalk East Strategy - In advance of completion of Dundalk DAP/ Straitéis Dhún Dealgan Thoir

UÉ Consultants are currently progressing the design with Uisce Éireann, in consultation with Louth County Council. The project is currently at Detailed Design stage.

Coe's Road Pumping Station / Staisiún Ceadéalacháin Bhóthair Uí Chofaigh

Operational modifications to the Pumping Station were undertaken by EPS. Options for cleaning of

existing large diameter sewer are being progressed within UÉ .

Dundalk LNRP / Clár um Atreisiúchan Líonra Áitiúil Dhún Dealgan

A Strategic Review is underway for Dundalk Wastewater Treatment Plant and Blackrock Wastewater Treatment Plant. LCC staff are assisting Uisce Éireann with this assessment. The Local Network Reinforcement Project (LNRP) will progress following the completion of the Blackrock/Dundalk Strategic Drainage Study.

North Drogheda Wastewater Network Strategy/Straitéis Líonra Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha Thuaidh

Atkins Consulting Engineers are progressing the detailed design of the North Drogheda Strategic Wastewater Network. The planning and procurement process continues to progress, including extensive engagement with developers and landowners' representatives. The Planning Submission for the proposed Pumping Station is being progressed with procurement to follow during early 2023.

Quay St. / St. Helena Rising Main, Dundalk/Príomhphíobán Aníos Shráid na Cé/Naomh Helena, Dún Dealgan

Construction works are substantially completed along the Inner Relief Road and Quay Street. Mains testing is currently progressing with permanent reinstatement to be undertaken upon completion.

Greenmount WTW Upgrade/Uasghrádú Ionad Cóireála Uisce Dhroim Chatha

Uisce Éireann are progressing the design of proposed Upgrade Works at Greenmount Water Treatment Works. LCC continues to engage with the design team on relevant data gathering and site visits. Planning application is programmed for Q2 2023 with procurement to follow in late 2023.

Drogheda WWTP/Córas Cóireála Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann is continuing to carry out works at Drogheda Wastewater Treatment Plant and is committed to resolving any potential odour issues arising from the wastewater plant or the network. Uisce Éireann continues to work closely with EPS Ltd who operate the plant on behalf of Uisce Éireann. Works have been undertaken within the Wastewater Treatment Plant and at both the East Meath Pumping Station and the Bryanstown Pumping Station. The next phase of the Capital Programme involves works to the anaerobic digesters within the plant and works to manhole covers at various locations within the network.

Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP)/Plean Limistéar Draenála Dhroichead Átha

Uisce Éireann have appointed consultants to undertake the Drogheda Drainage Area Plan (DAP). LCC staff are currently liaising with Uisce Éireann and the project consultants in various aspects of the project. The Catchment Planning Meeting was completed in January 2023 with the Stage 1 Data Collection and Scoping Report due for completion in early March 2023.

Cockle Hill PS Upgrade / Uasghrádú Stáisiún Ceadalacháin Chnoic na Ruachan

The Detailed Design Report and Workshop 4 were completed in January 2023. The date for commencement on site is to be confirmed but is programmed to be on site Q1 2023.

Greenhills Sewer Replacement Project/ Tionscadal an Áthsholáthair Séarachais na nGlaschnoc

UÉ contractors GMC commenced on site in February 2023. The project duration is programmed for completion within 8 months.

South Drogheda Wastewater Network Upgrade/ Uasghrádú ar Líonra Fuíolluisce Dhroichead Átha Theas

The site investigation for the South Drogheda Wastewater Network has been completed and the

draft design is progressing. Design Workshop 4 is scheduled for 7th March 2023.

Water Networks / Líonraí Uisce

Water Networks Programme/Clár Líonraí Uisce

Rehabilitation Programme/Clár Athshlánúcháin

No rehabilitation works undertaken by Uisce Éireann in February.

Lead replacement / Ionadú Luaidhe Back Yard Services / Seirbhísí Cúlchlóis

No replacement of back yard service undertaken by Uisce Éireann in February

First Fix / Chéad Shocrú.

2 first fix type repairs were undertaken by Uisce Éireann contractors in February.

Water Scouring Programme 2022 / Clar Sciúrtha Uisce 2022

Louth County Council crews undertook network flushing in the areas listed below in February

-Toberona
-Blackrock

Network Maintenance / Cothabháil Líonra

In February Louth County Council crews undertook 64 Find and Fix activities, of those 38 repairs were undertaken (2 in Castlebellingham, 4 in Carlingford, 12 in Drogheda, 3 in Termonfeckin, 13 in Dundalk, 3 in Blackrock, 1 in Hackballscross)

Planning & Water Connections / Pleanáil agus Ceangail Uisce

The Networks Section processed 0 new connections, 0 Pre-Connection Enquiries and 13 Planning Applications in February.

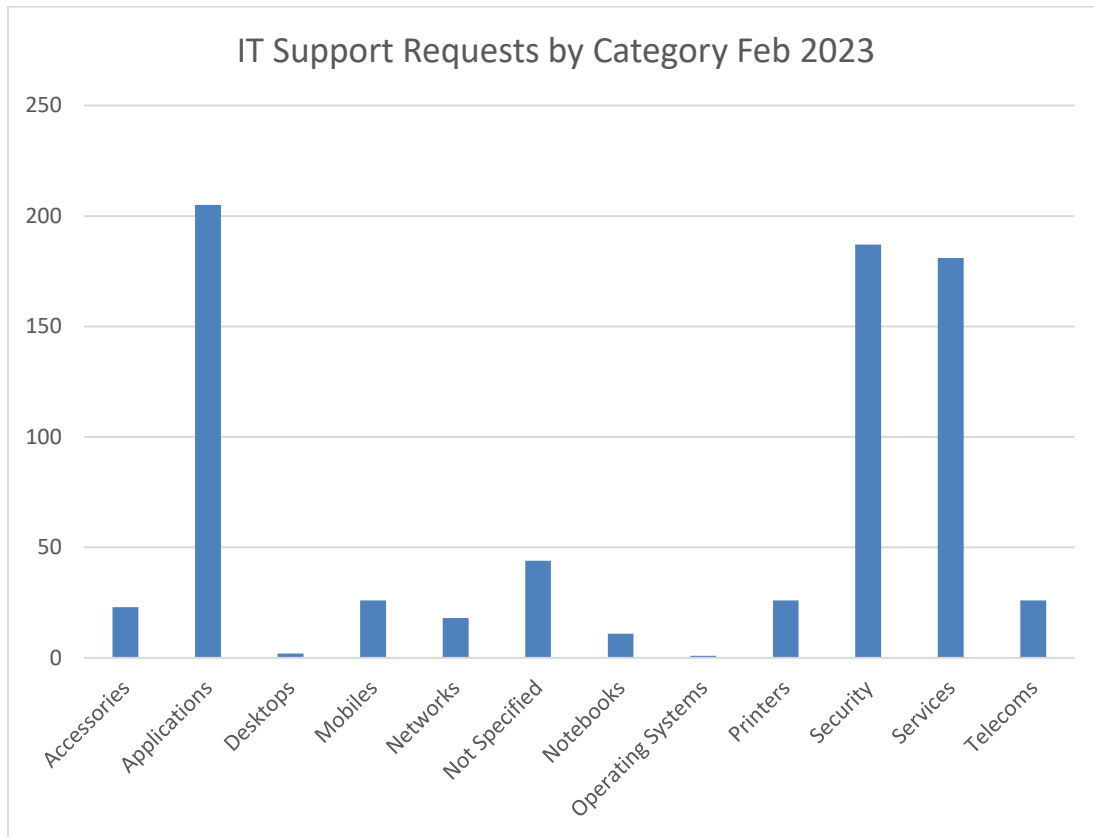
Service Maps / Léarscáileanna Seirbhíse

The Networks Section prepared 11 Service Maps in February.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/02/2023 and the 28/02/2023 there were 750 support calls logged in the IT support system.



E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. In February 36% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

 Inbound Emails

153,456

 Blocked Sender

817

 Blocked at gateway

25,991

 Blocked by spam /virus

27,785

 Blocked by content rules

350

 Potentially harmful emails

35.82%

Louth County Council Website

There were 16,653 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in February

The most visited sections of the website were for online planning and maps, dog pound, services, vacancies and library.

Page URL	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews
/en/	3,138	2,502
/en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/	1,033	812
/en/services/dog-pound/	977	687
/en/louth_county_council/vacancies/	794	597
/en/home/	656	481
/en/services/	580	451
/en/services/planning/	568	445
/en/services/library/	462	353
/en/services/library/online-services/	414	330
/en/contact/louth-county-council/	341	293

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 3,657 views in February, an average of 135 views a day.



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 / Stiúrtóir**



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

- A new support for micro and small businesses in Louth to assist them develop their green and sustainable agenda was launched in 2021. Further details are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/green>.

Louth Economic Forum

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022

24 applications were received by Louth County Council under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. Letters of offer are due to issue shortly following alignment with the Omeath Public Realm plan.

Business Improvement District Scheme (BIDS) - Dundalk

A proposal has been received by Louth County Council from Dundalk BIDS Company to extend the term of the Business Improvement District Scheme for a further period of five years from January 2024. It is expected to go on public display this month.

Tourism

Festival Funding

Applications for Festival Funding for small and large festivals are open from the 1st to 31st March, 2023.

There are two streams of funding open for applications:

1. Louth County Council Festival Grant Initiative 2023

Applications for funding are now being sought by Louth County Council under the Festival Grant Initiative 2023. This initiative is open to local and community festivals and / or events which will benefit the local economy and tourism in the county.

2. Louth County Council Large Festival / Participative Event Programme 2023

Applications for funding are now being sought by Louth County Council under the Large Festival / Participative Event Programme 2023. This is open to **large scale festivals / events**, which aim to draw tourists from outside the locality and will showcase Louth's culture, heritage and landscape.

Visit Louth and Sea Louth

A Request for Tender for a consultant to undertake the PR element for Louth Tourism / Sea Louth is being drafted and expected to be issued shortly.

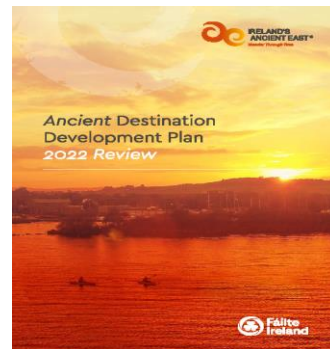
Brigid 1500

Plans are underway to arrange a series of promotional events leading up to February, 2024, St. Brigid's 1,500 year anniversary. 2 no. tenders were received for the 'Artist in the Community' and these are being evaluated at present.

Fáilte Ireland

Ancient Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)

The Louth and Meath DEDP Steering Committee met on the 8th February to review 2022 and agree priorities for 2023. The 2022 review was published and launched at an Ireland's Ancient East Regional Industry Day on the 22nd February which was held in The Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim.



Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland have engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to compile a report on the potential reimagining of the Táin Trail. They are engaging with Louth County Council and other Local

Authorities along the trail. The report is due to be published later this year.

Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

The contract has been awarded and preliminary works has commenced on the project.

Funding Opportunities

Night-Time Economy Adviser for Drogheda

Following a competitive process involving over 40 towns and cities in Ireland, Louth County Council's application to recruit a new Night-Time Economy Adviser was successful. The job specification has been agreed at a national level and approval has been sought from the Department to fill the position. Following receipt of this approval the recruitment process will continue.

Boyne Valley Flavours

Following an open competition an appointment is expected this month for a new Food Business Development Officer.

Work on revamping the website is ongoing at present. The calendar of events for 2023 is being prepared and will be finalised with the appointment of the new Food Business Development Officer.

LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at: www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Response. Businesses seeking support from LEO Louth should email: info@leo.louthcoco.ie or they can call to our office at Town Hall, Dundalk.

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

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

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

Green for Micro



The Green for Micro programme is a free programme which aims to help businesses identify cost savings and improve their green credentials.

Projects vary from assessing energy, water and waste costs, guidance with environmental management system, to the greening of the product or business to adapt to the changing market place.

1 no. Louth business was approved YTD.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

Under this Programme LEO has procured 3 no. consultants who will be engaging with our portfolio clients in 2023. The programme provides support to LEO portfolio clients to develop their export and growth potential, working with businesses to identify and pursue export opportunities and to ensure maximum uptake of LEO supports.

Business Training



February had 4 no. training courses delivered to 59 no. attendees. They included a Start Your Own Business course, Trading Online Voucher Workshop, Website Design and Bookkeeping for Small Business. In March, some of the business workshops on offer include; Food Starter Programme, TikTok training, Social Media for Small

Business, Start Your Own Business, Instagram for Beginners and Introduction to VAT.

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.

3 no. Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in February, 2023.

Business Advice Clinics

33 no. business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during February.

LEO Louth Mentor Programme

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

21 no. businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of February.

Microfinance Ireland Business Loan



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

3 no. applications were received YTD.

LEO mentors are continuing to assist applicants.

LEAN for Micro Programme



LEO Louth continues to offer the LEAN Programme to small businesses locally. The programme helps businesses to identify issues and potential improvement areas and provides support to implement these as well as achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver.

1 no. Louth business was approved YTD.

Student Enterprise Programme



The Student Enterprise Programme continues to run with 17 no. schools participating. The County Final will be held on 2nd March in The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk with representative teams from all schools in a variety of categories Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

Local Enterprise Week



Local Enterprise Week will run from 6th to 10th March with an exciting range of events running at a local, regional and national level. The programme of events will run in conjunction with our partners Drogheda and District Chamber, Dundalk Chamber and Network Ireland Louth. The week will culminate with the County National Enterprise Awards. For a full schedule of events see link: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/News/Images/Updated-LEW-Brochure.pdf>.

On 21st February, 2023, Sarah Mallon from LEO Louth and Lorna Cooney from LEO Meath did a radio interview on LMFM promoting the exciting range of events running during Local Enterprise Week 2023.

North East Regional Development Plan to 2024

The North East Regional Enterprise Plan working groups that have been set up in respect of four of the five strategic objectives continue to work together.

The Steering Committee of the North East Regional Enterprise Plan met in Drogheda on 2nd February, 2023 to review progress on the five strategic objectives. The meeting was also attended by Minister Neale Richmond T.D., Minister of State for Employment Affairs and Retail Business.

Cross-Border Trade Conference 2023

LEO Louth in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce Dundalk, Intertrade Ireland, Newry Chamber of Commerce, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are organising a virtual Cross-Border Trade Conference to be held on Wednesday, 8th March.

Two years after the end of the transition period, this Cross-Border Trade Conference will provide businesses with an update on the challenges, opportunities and support available.

Key government representatives, policy officials and business advisors will set out the shape of future cross-border co-operation and trade for businesses.

Brexit and Covid-19 have brought unprecedented change to the global trading environment. What help is available for businesses involved in North / South trade?

Case studies will demonstrate how businesses, both North and South, have overcome significant challenges, using the supports available to navigate the changes in trade flows and identify opportunities for growth.

Places are free and can be booked at: <https://dundalk.ie/news/09022023/major-cross-border-trade-conference-launches-2023>.



Paddy Malone, PRO of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, Deirdre Maguire, Manager, Brexit Advisory Service, InterTrade Ireland, Sarah Mallon, Project Officer, LEO Louth, Una McGoey, President of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, Edwina Flynn, Vice President, Newry Chamber of Commerce, Colin McCabrey, Director of Trade, InterTrade Ireland and Tony McKeown, CEO, Newry Chamber of Commerce

Minister Neale Richmond Visits Co. Louth

On 2nd February, 2023, as part of his first visit to Co. Louth since he was appointed, Minister Neale Richmond met the management and staff of LEO Louth. As part of his visit Minister Richmond met with 3 businesses who discussed their interaction with LEO Louth and how the supports they received from LEO Louth helped develop their business.



Senator John McGahon, Laura Keely LEO Louth, Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, Wayne Macken, LEO Louth, Gráinne McKeown, LEO Louth, Fergus O'Dowd TD, Councillor Conor Keelan, Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Minister Neale Richmond, Riona McCoy, A/Head of Enterprise and Niamh Dennehy, LEO Louth

PEACE Plus



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

The fifth Peace Plus Partnership meeting was held on 24th January, 2023 and the sixth is scheduled for 21st March, 2023.

Public Consultation

Further consultation sessions were held in Q1 2023 with statutory, voluntary groups and representatives of retired defence forces members.

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

The main themes of the action plan will be:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation
2. Thriving and peaceful communities
3. Celebrating cultures and diversity

There were 239 responses to the PEACE PLUS survey which gave the public an opportunity to express their views on the Peace Building needs for Louth - Contact 042 93 24240 or peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

European Relations

PEACE IV Programme



PEACE IV

A Zoom meeting of the PEACE IV Partnership was held on 30th January, 2023 to give an update on the capital projects below:

- Peter's Hill, Drogheda
- The Extension to the Muirhevnamór Community Centre.

Work continues at both sites.

Completion is due on both sites Q1 2023.



Sculpture "Inspired to meet" ready for shipping.

Heritage

The Heritage Officer submitted several applications to various national heritage funding schemes during February, as well as encouraging and supporting applications from third parties, including community groups.

An application was made to the **Historic Towns Initiative** for a study of the western end of Fair Street, Drogheda.

Ten applications were made to the **Community Monuments Fund 2023** (100% funded)

STREAM 1 - PRACTICAL CONSERVATION WORKS

Project	Applied for	Location	Proposer	Owner
Glaspistol towerhouse	€100,000	Clogherhead	Owner	Private
Taaffe's Castle	€100,000	Carlingford	Owner	Private
Millmount Fort	€30,000	Drogheda	LCC	LCC
Cappocksgate	€17,100	Ardee	LCC	LCC

STREAM 2 - STUDIES (to inform works in future years) €30,000 maximum

Project	Applied for	Location	Proposer	Owner
Geophysical research	€5,124.50	Castleroche	CLAHS	Private
Geophysical research	€6,838.80	Linn Duachaill	CLAHS	Private
Drogheda town walls	€30,000	Drogheda	LCC	Various, private
Cappocksgate	€17,100	Ardee	LCC	LCC
Cord Cemetery	€27,000	Drogheda	LCC	LCC
Mullagh		Clogherhead	LCC	LCC
Jumping Church		Ardee	LCC	LCC

STREAM 3 ACCESS & INTERPRETATION €30,000 maximum

Project	Applied for	Location	Proposer	Owner
The Tholsel	€30,000	Carlingford	Owner	CLHT

Eight applications were made to the **Biodiversity Action Plan Fund** (this is 85% funded, with 15% match funding from Louth County Council)

Project	Total cost	Application	Match
Little tern wardening	€43,000.00	€36,550.00	€6,450.00
Works at Clogherhead	€15,000.00	€12,750.00	€2,250.00
Swifts action plan	€20,000.00	€17,000.00	€3,000.00
Barn owl nest boxes	€7,625.00	€6,481.25	€1,143.75
Coastal dune study	€15,000.00	€12,750.00	€2,250.00
Hedgerow survey	€20,000.00	€17,000.00	€3,000.00
Interpretation panels	€4,239.81	€3,603.84	€ 635.97
Tidy Towns Biodiversity Enhancement Plans	€15,000.00	€12,750.00	€2,250.00
TOTALS	€139,864.81	€118,885.09	€20,979.72

Work also continued developing projects for funding under the 'Shared Island' and 'PeacePlus' funding streams. There was ongoing liaison in relation to the Flood Relief Schemes.

Contractors submitted the draft plan for the management of public access in relation to the need for cattle grazing on the Council's nature reserve at Clogherhead. This has now to be revised and finalised.

The Heritage Officer led students and staff from Queen's University, Belfast on a guided tour of sites in Drogheda, to prepare them for a study they are planning on the town centre.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

Louth County Council is in the process of purchasing the new site for Dunleer fire station and once this is completed, the design team will proceed with the design of the new station.

The Summary Cost Plan for Dundalk Training Centre extension and upgrade was received from the Quantity Surveyor. This indicates a cost of €2.9 million, which exceeds the DHLGH allocation of €1.145 million. The DHLGH has been requested to approve the increased project budget.

The delivery of Louth Fire Service's training plan continued during February. This included the following:

- Flood First Responder course
- Emergency Driving ESDS conversion course
- Hydra Effective Decision Making course (instructor and student)
- Course assistant training

Two Station Officers, two Sub Officers and two Fire Fighters commenced work with full-time crews in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Due to the long dry spell, the number of gorse fires in the Cooley Peninsula has increased and this is expected to continue.

The Fire Prevention Section has continued inspections of Ukrainian accommodation and is currently processing a Fire Safety Certificate application for a very large logistics hub building at the Business Park on the Armagh Road, Dundalk.

Major Emergency Management

There was a Cross-Border Major Emergency Management meeting on 22nd February. There is a new Cross Border major emergency activation protocol which is being added to Louth's Major Emergency Plan.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Work on the Climate Action Plan is continuing, to include Fire Service and Building Control requirements.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence activities during February included:

- Missing person search
- Weekly training
- Swiftwater practical class
- Manual Handling training
- Medical instructor recertification training
- Cross Country race
- Manual Handling Instructor training
- People Handling instructor training

Building Control

The Building Control Officer is continuing with inspections so as to meet with national targets.

There was a Continuous Professional Development day on the new Construction Products Regulations in the Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo on 23rd February. The regulation and checking of construction products will become a major new area of activity for the Building Control Section. The objective will be to ensure that all materials used in the construction of buildings satisfy a national standard.

Planning

Online Planning

The online e-planning system has gone live, allowing planning applications and submissions to be made online without the need for paper copies.

Customers who wish to lodge a planning application or make a submission to a particular application can use the e-planning portal and upload documents via this platform <https://planning.localgov.ie/en/local-government-ireland-planning-system>.

Once off registration on the portal is required for all users.

The system will greatly improve the online services available to agents, applicants and members of the public. It eliminates the need for printing paper copies and allows for the quicker publication of applications for public viewing.

The Council has worked with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) over the last year to

deliver this online platform and will be rolling out a training session for planning agents, consultants, architects, engineers and other users who interact with the Planning Department to promote and assist in the transition to the online system.

Details of this training will be made available in the coming weeks.

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of January, 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 57 planning applications received during the month of January of which 47 were valid. In addition there were 12 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 28 Pre-Planning Applications received.

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

(A) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae
(i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh	4	14	29	0	47
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	2	5	13	0	20
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	50.00% (2)	50.00% (7)	10.34% (3)	0.00% (0)	25.53% (12)

(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	0	0	1	1	2
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)

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

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh	
	January 2023 / Eanáir 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	January 2022 / Eanáir 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	13	13	19	19
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't 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	5	5	31	31
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	17	17	18	18
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	0	1	1
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0	1	1
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Lettings Enforcement

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Short Term Lettings	
	February 2023 / Feabhra 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	1	1
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't 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	1	3
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	20	23
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	1	1
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	4	5
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

Conservation Grant Schemes 2023

The closing date for applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund 2023 expired on Friday 27th January, 2023. A total of 33 applications were received under both schemes.

Applications have since been assessed and forwarded to the Department for consideration.

Full details available at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/planning/conservation/>

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

Catherine Duff
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair

Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí

Litter picking, R132 old Newry road also R173 Ballymascanlan roundabout to rathcor junction, also upper Jenkintown to long woman's grave also flagstaff. Lifting of bags after recent litter pick.

All Areas in Dundalk Town Centre

Ramparts

Armagh Rd ,

MOORELAND /Lennonmelia Crescent

Inner Relief Rd

Newry Rd

Racecourse Rd

By Pass

Centenery Rd

Dublin Rd

Mourne View Walkway

Ardee Rd

Carrick Rd

Castletown Rd,

Ecco Rd ,

Market Sq ,borders and Planters

Mount Ave

<p>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</p>	<p>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</p> <p>Emptying of bins in Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown car park, Gyles quay area.</p> <p>Nightly By Contractor 200 Bins</p> <p>Bins repaired at Market Sq</p>
<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <p>None at this stage</p> <p>Contract Sweeper as per contract and if there is a extra littering extra sweeps are carried out</p>
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</p> <p>By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> <p>200 BETWEEN DOG BINS AND Litter Bins throughout the town</p>
<p>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</p> <p>Some replacements in February 27 Checked Weekly</p>	<p>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</p> <p>Ring Buoys checked Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer For Dundalk.</p>
<p>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</p>	<p>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</p> <p>Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker</p>

	Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Ongoing patching of local roads, also repairing of edge of road R174 Ravensdale after recent diversion</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None This Month in Dundalk</p>	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Drainage at rockmarshall scraping edge of road to clear surface water of hard shoulder</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None This Month in Dundalk</p>	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>None at this time in Cooley & Dundalk.</p>	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Footpath Repairs Riverside Crescent, Tactile Paving</p>	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time.</p>	

	<p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>On Going Repairs Traffic lights faults at Vincent Ave, McSweeney St, Avenue Rd, Long Walk Bulb Replacements</p>	
<p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>None at this time.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None at this time.</p>	
<p>Signage / Comharthaíocht</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Ongoing road advanced signs been put up and also replaced in Omeath area</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Dundalk New Street Signage and Poles in THE Town Centre for Pay Parking Replaced Damaged Yield Signs Speed signs Replaced Replace some stop signs that were faded</p>	
<p>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Mast road , isolated dumping at rockmarshall also ballynamony</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Dundalk usual Areas Creative Spark Lands Hoeys Lane, Mooreland Rd Inner Relief Rd Mount Ave By Pass at Wuxi Roundabout St Old Coes Rd Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly</p>	
<p>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</p>	<p>Cleaned Graffiti of some Lifebuoy signs</p>	



Road resurfacing works at Bellurgan



Installation of Crash Barriers on N53

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí	Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackrock – 6 days/week • Knockbridge – once a week • Dromiskin – once a week • Tallanstown & Louth Village – once a week

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre	Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackrock (7No.) checked weekly • Annagassan (11No.) checked weekly
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly • Blackrock – checked weekly

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p>Rd180 Darver, Rd166 Station Rd Castlebellingham, Rd203 Flowery Cross – Meath Border. Rd179 Darver Castle Road. Rd196 Rosybrook, Rd210 Pepperstown Cross – N52 and a start was made on patching Rd178 Mansfieldtown Cross – Newtowndarver Cross. Rd178 Mansfieldtown – Newtowndarver and also patched at Rd199 Arthurstown and Rd151 Lannet Cross – Monaghan Border. Beech Park Blackrock, R178 Dundalk/ Carrick Road, LS-7109 Balregan Kilcurry, LS-7111 Tateetra Kilcurry, LS-7107 Falmore Kilcurry, LS-5137 Little Ash Knockbridge, LS-7128 Tankardsrock Kilkerley, LS-7127 Kilkerley Road Kilkerley.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p>Cleaning gullies and storm lines works carried on Rd171 Ardee – Tallanstown. Rd172 Hoarstown. Ls-7107 From Falmore to County Boundary, LS-7120 Shannmullagh Annaghvacky, LS-7121 Killclessy , LP-3122 From Maghereagh Cross to County Boundary, LS-7127 from Balrobin to Kilkerley Chapel</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>Rd152 Tully and Rd216 Williamstown</p>
	<p>Road repairs and patching & cleaning up</p> <p>Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming.</p> <p>Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)</p>
	<p>Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.</p>
	<p>Clearing fallen trees & debris.</p>

Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán		Footpath renewal
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	Xerox Junction	Major repair works completed.
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A N/A	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Signage / Comharthaíocht	N/A	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	Seabank ,Tallanstown and Louth Village. N53 Dundalk Castleblayney Road at Rothmore, R177 Armagh Road , LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry, LS-7100 White Mill Faughart.	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



Renewed footpath at Annagassan.

Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair		Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
		All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí		Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
Ardee Town		37 Daily
Dunleer town		20 Tuesday and Thursday
Collon		3 Tuesday and Thursday
Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre		Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain
		All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra		Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála		Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain
		Ardee town River Dee Salterstown Port Beach

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

Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground, & exercise equipment at both locations.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R170 Harristown • L-22531 Beachwood drive • L-1228-36 Richardstown road • LP 1228 Stickillin • LP 2214/30 Dromin • LS 6237/0 Cappoge • LP-5259-0 Stony Lane • LS- 62373 Cagney's Lane, • R170 at Dunleer ravel, • LP-1212-0 Stabannon road, • LS-6224-0 Castle lane Annagassan, • N33 junction with railway walk, • LP-2253-31 Philipstown engineering, • LP-2214-0 Braganstown road, • LS-6269-0 Knockaleva lane, • LP-2295-25 Boyd's Cross to Brannigan's Cross, • LP- L-2295-0 Brannigans cross to white river. 	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LS-5211-0 Lambtown, • LP-6238-0 Drumcar, • LP-2255-0 Stifyans cross, • LP-2225-20 Finvoy, • R170 Harristown water cuts, • LS-6224-0 Castle Lane, Annagassan, • Repairs to manhole cover at N52 	

Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha		
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán		
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá		
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre		
Signage / Comharthaíocht	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N2 VMS sign on Collon Road, • Old speed control signs removed from, Dillionstown school, • Slippery sign on the N52, • LS-5266-39 Chevron sign on the Oriel Road Collon, • LS-5266-0 Belpatrick junction sign, • Repairs to damaged railing Ardee Town, 	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach		
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí		



Completed works at new chamber over culvert



New Chamber joining existing culvert to existing 450mm diameter concrete pipe

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 22 steps when recourses allow and green areas.
- Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.
- Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m.
- Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week.
- Graffiti removal at O Reillys car park, Scholes Lane, Dublin Rd, Town Centre and Marsh Rd.
- Change bollards at St Peters Church to removable bollards.
- Marsh Rd, removal of existing concrete / wire fencing, verge reinstatement and tree pruning.

- Approach roads, road sweeping @ IDA Rd, Newfoundwell Rd, St Dominick's Pk, Church St & Ballyackenna Rd.
- Housing Estates, road sweeping @ Aston Villages, Rathmullen Pk, St Laurence Pk & Park view.

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

Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead	7 Daily
Clogherhead Beach	8 Daily
Port Beach	6 Daily
Termonfeckin	6 Daily
Baltray	3 Daily
Seapoint Carpark	3 Daily

- Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.
- 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.
- Dominic's Park & Mell river walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Portoriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.
- Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing + street furniture

Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain Bóithre

- Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates, swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months. When resources allow.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area. Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Teromenfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure. Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday). Sweeping of island on approach roads.
Emptying Receptacles / Salachar Madra Dog / FolmhúAraidí Waste / Araidí	Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.
Ring Buoy Checking / Baoithe Tarrthála Seiceál	Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday) New ring buoys at St Dominick’s Pk.
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Trealamh Áiteanna agus Corpacmhainne Seiceál / Sugartha	Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R166 Termonfeckin village • R165 Termonfeckin • R166 Termonfeckin to Drogheda • R167 to Baltray • LS-6280 Bellcotton • LP-2244-28 Port Road • LP-1002-44 Oldbridge • LS-6284-0 Blackhall • LS-6311-0 Killineer • LS-6302-0 Popes Cross, • LS-6322-0 Hill of Rath • LS-6315 Lynch's Cross Mellifont • LP-2278-32 Milltown Sandpit <p>Drainage Works</p> <p>LCC's crew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pot hole repairs at Slane Rd and Kearneys Lane. • New bollards at Slip Rd Johns St. • New directional signage at Beechgrove Roundabout. • Cleaning of signage on Dublin Rd and North Rd. • New bollards St Marys St. <p>Road Works Program – Resurfacing works at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Documents Complete, tender due 13/3/2023. • CIS – surveys of roads to commence 1st week March. 	<p>JCB Pro JCB Pro JCB Pro JCB Pro</p>

Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tinure village, flooding keeps re-occurring and following intensive investigations it was found that the existing drainage network which consists of culverts and connecting pipes was found to be blocked. • Extensive works were undertaken to unblock the culverts and pipes which also lead to additional works whereby we had to construct new chambers and gullies at constriction points on the existing drainage network • The culvert on the LP-2290-42 has multiple collapses and will require to be replaced with a new pipeline next year under drainage funding. • Works that were done this month will result in no further flooding in Tinure Village. <p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing. Tender documents to be advertised on supplygov.ie.</p>	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	Removal of tree at Tredagh View.	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Footpath maintenance to commence at Riverview housing estate.	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR27 – Bolton St Ped (green man not working) • Bothar Brugha Pedestrian Crossing (green man not working) 	

- DR38 – Rathmullen Rd / Marley's Lane(PED phase lamp fail, phase I Amber)
- DR29 – Platin Rd / Beymore Rd(Vehicle phase lamp fail, phase E Amber)
- DR04 – R132 @ Bull Ring / North (vehicle phase lamp fail phase A green)
- DR03 – R132 James St / Scotch Hall jct (vehicle phase lamp fail phase D Red) AND Possible PBU faulty at entrance to scotch hall car park
- DR29 – Platin Rd / Beymore Rd (Vehicle presence fail detector 21\DIN8 1I/O1)
- DRGPD07 Bryanstown East West Lamps out.
- DRGPD07 Bryanstown East West (PBU fault)
- DR26 – Dublin Rd @ FlogasPed (Red man lamp out)
- DR10 – R132 @ Dual Carriageway ped (Red man lamp out)
- DR27 – Bolton St Ped (Green light out)
- DR38 – Rathmullen Rd / Marley's Lane (Pedestrian phase lamp fail G phase Green) (Pedestrian phase lamp fail H phase Amber)

Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	New markings at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palace St • St Laurence St • Fair St • Church Lane 	Road marking survey in progress.
Signage / Comharthaíocht		
Weed killing / Marú fiailí		
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<p>Bags dumped beside the bin on the footpath between Laurence park and Moneymore</p> <p>The Twenties Lane</p> <p>Chord Road Neighbors issue</p> <p>Besssexwell lane Dumping OReilly Car park Patrick St/Parkview</p> <p>St Josephs school footpaths dirty from muck spread</p>	<p>Removed no evidence</p> <p>The area is undergoing major development and a result is exposing a volume of dumping.</p> <p>Checks have been carried out and no visible evidence.</p> <p>Enquires ongoing</p> <p>Removed - no evidence.</p> <p>Removed evidence found. Cleansing removed</p>

	<p>Old bins left behind following change over from public private Mellifont Park, Drogheda</p> <p>Weir Hope ongoing issue with 1ton bag obstructing neighbours</p>	<p>The waste removal contractor contacted removed.</p> <p>Removed</p>
<p>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</p>	<p>Dublin road</p>	<p>Assistance offered to resident's groupings</p>



Ongoing works at Hardiman's Gardens



New gully & manhole in Tinure



JCB Pro in Termonfeckin

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

The Suitability Assessment Documentation submissions, to prequalify a panel of Contractors capable of constructing the project, were received on the 23rd Nov.. These submissions are currently being assessed for their suitability and then will form a restricted panel of Contractors.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Wind tunnel modelling is nearing completion, and design updated accordingly.

Tender Packages are ongoing with a view to been released to the restricted panel early Q2. Tenders have been received for a Category 3 Bridge checker to be appointed pending completion of a tender assessment.



Event At Narrow Water Bridge

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

The Oral Hearing was held by An Bord Pleanála regarding the CPO process on the 10th of January. LCC now awaits the outcome of this hearing. The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents and other stakeholders. A technical acceptance report is being prepared for structures. GI

tender package is currently being prepared for field work and testing.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

An announcement was made on Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) 2023 funding allocations on the 16th February 2023. Monaghan County Council is the lead Local Authority for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme, and €600,000 was allocated to Monaghan for the project for 2023. In their grant allocation document, TII stated this allocation is to 'meet current project commitments'.

Due to ongoing changes in Government policy and design standards, additional design works are required and the Project Team has indicated that more funding will be required to close out and complete the current Phase 3 design process. Monaghan County Council has requested clarification from TII as to whether additional funding will be provided in this regard if required.

The latest update to the Design has been completed by Jacobs and was published on the Project Website Monday 27th February. The updated design follows from feedback provided from the public, safety issues identified as part of the Road Safety Audit and input provided by the environmental assessment team. An Elected Representative briefing on the design updates took place on Monday 27th Feb.

Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. is undertaking focussed geophysical surveys at target areas along the route, these are non-intrusive surveys.

Jacobs are due to complete the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and CPO documentation by mid-2023. A business case will also be developed for the project.

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.
N52 Ardee Bypass

A local environmental group were granted leave in the High Court for a Judicial Review against An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Boards directions to Louth County Council concerning the preparations of an EIAR and NIS. The matter came before the High Court on the 24th Jan. for mention and was adjourned to the next available date of 28th Feb. An Board Pleanála has filed its opposition papers on the 7th of Feb. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

N2 Collon Safety Scheme

Works on the pedestrian crossing are now completed. Additional road markings are expected to be complete at a later stage subject to weather and funding.

Port Access Northern Cross Route

A Notice to enter was issued by Louth Co. Council to the landowners affected by this phase of the project.

The consortium has appointed a contractor and works have commenced for the section of road R132 to the Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane. Stream works are now complete, and earthworks are ongoing. Works are scheduled to take 18 months.

A SOD turning event took place on the 23rd of February, attended by The Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, Minister of Housing, Darragh O'Brien and Louth Co. Council.



An Cathaoirleach speaking at the sod turning event on the 23rd February

Realignment of the Twenties Lane has commenced in partnership with CFS Homes. The first phase of realignment is open to traffic.



Twenties Lane realignment at DIFE

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

The Tender documents for construction of the works were received and have been assessed. Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners, a valuation process has started. Other mechanisms for acquiring the land have also been explored. A letter of acceptance has been issued to construct the section of road located in LCC owned lands.

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for DTTAs progress two of the schemes, namely D7 & D6 towards feasibility stage. A Letter of acceptance has been issued and the Consultants have begun preparation of SAR report. Draft Report programmed to be submitted by mid-March.

Greenways

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

The consultant is progressing with detailed design for the project for the southern section. Tender documents for the main contract are

being finalised for issue to the market in March.

The CPO was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála, with modifications on the 8th December 2022, and published by LCC on the 18th of Jan. Landowner engagement has commenced on the acquisition of the land parcel. LCC are in the process of appointing a land Valuer.

A revised major planning application was submitted in Feb 2023 with a decision expected in March 2023. The minor planning application for the route change will be submitted in March 2023 and it is anticipated that Planning Permission in N.I. will be decided upon in Q3 2023 and works commencing in Q4 2023.

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

TII Funded Greenways

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

This is an amalgamation of the Carlingford – Templetown Greenway with the Dundalk to Templetown Greenway projects. Draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) submitted to TII for comments. Tender documents for the environmental consultants are being prepared.

The 2023 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads, Active Travel and Greenways has allocated €700,000 to the scheme. The allocation allows for the procurement of consultants for environmental studies on the scheme. Tender documents have been drafted for publication on etenders which will take place in the coming weeks.

All background information and public consultation data gathered to date under the Carlingford Templetown will be utilised. It's envisaged that a Public Consultation event on the overall study area will be held in Q2. The delivery of this scheme going forward will be under the TII Project Management Guidelines.

ORIS Scheme

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

The Preliminary designs are now complete. The Consultant is making final amendments to the screening reports – all three schemes have been screened out and are now proceeding with the detailed design. The results of these screening reports would inform if the projects required a consent process.

LiHAF Projects

LIHAF Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

Following discussion with the developer and the Department of Housing this scheme will be progressed by the developer assisted by offset of development levies under agreement with LCC. Drawings for this scheme are currently being finalised along with a development agreement with LCC.

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Gibson Bros Ireland has been appointed and has commenced setting up a site compound. Hedge cutting and site clearance commenced in mid-February. Appointment of a consultant to supervise the works has progressed, tender assessment is now complete, and a letter of intent is to issue shortly. It is envisaged that the supervision team will be in place on the week commencing the 20th March.

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

Obelisk Bridge

Requested peer review by DTTAS has been completed. Final Tender documents and additional queries have been submitted to DTTAS. We are now waiting for their approval to go to tender in early 2023. Funding allocation has been received but waiting on DTTAS full approval to proceed to tender

stage which it is anticipated will be received shortly.

Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

Existing Building Block C:

East Room Floor slab Radon membrane installed and concrete floor poured. Conservation works internal Arch strengthening completed. Grit Plaster Paint and Scud coat applied.

Existing Building Block B:

Block B former Chamber, Steel primed and intumescent paint applied. Front elevation pier dismantled. Crack stitching installed at first floor level on chimneys. Scaffolding erection commenced for roof removal.

New Works and Link Building:

The ground beam poured to Eastside of New Link Building. Westside floor slab poured. Eastern Retaining Wall completed



Block C Community Services Building –Floor pour



Block N New Link Building Slab pour



Block N Eastside Ground Beams



Block C Arch reinforcing

Dunleer Fire Station

A re-tender Document for design consultants was received on the 28th of Nov. with 3 tenders been received. These tender submissions

have been assessed for SAQ. LCC progressing the assessment of the quality criteria of the submissions. Cost criteria to be assessed and tender report recommending winning Consultant to be finalised.

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Stage 1 of the Project is continuing, i.e. Options assessment, Scheme Development and Environmental Assessment. Hydraulic modelling is nearing completion in Dundalk in tandem with the processing of information from the recently completed CCTV and Topographical surveys. Preliminary Option Assessment to consider and assess a range of possible Flood Relief Measures has commenced and will continue throughout the next few months. Tender Documents for Dundalk Ground Investigation will commence this month with Locations being selected and assessed.

The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being reviewed. In Ardee the WFD, Geomorphology & Soils/Geology analysis is underway. Tender Documents for the Projects Site Investigation are nearing completion with the final locations being assessed.

Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home.

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project, i.e. Options Assessment and Scheme Development and work continues on this. Topographical Surveys have been completed on site and post-processing works continue. Hydrological Analysis report is continuing to be progressed. Calibration of the hydraulic model is progressing.

Tender Documents for the Project Site Investigations are being finalized. The overwintering bird surveys are continuing. Works are underway on the EIA Scoping consultation and Scoping Report. Appropriate Assessment and Archaeological Impact Assessment have commenced.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie. A brief note has also been circulated to the elected representatives

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

The OPW have commenced a data review of the Carlingford and Greenore Flood Defence Project to reappraise the Options identified in the Flood Risk Management Plan. The data review will include additional rainfall data collection and modelling. Two temporary rain gauges are now operational, installed at Carlingford Fire Station and at the rear of Carlingford Library for rainfall data collection, providing additional data to inform project design and development

Marine Projects

Coastal Protection Works

Applications for the 2021 OPW Minor Works funding were submitted for Coastal Protection Projects in 3 separate locations, Omeath, Bellurgan and Ballagan.

OPW have confirmed Funding Approval of €62k for Omeath and an Ecologist will now be procured to prepare an AA Screening Report for this Project.

On the 3rd of February the OPW approved funding to the Tune of €135k for proposed works at Bellurgan. Works on procuring environmental studies will take place. OPW have requested further comments from LCC on the Ballagan applications, LCC has issued a response to these queries.

Schools Programme Projects

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

Site acquired. Department of Education to submit a planning application.

Ardee E.T.N.S.

A tender assessment has been completed and a recommendation to award has been issued to the Dept of Education. A Supplementary report on including the extension for the SEN units has been issued to the Dept. for their consideration. Contractor insurances are currently been assessed.

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

Progress has been made in relation to snagging. As constructed drawings of the completed emergency lighting has been issued by the PSDP. Additional snagging items to be completed also.

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council and other associate partners have completed preliminary assessments of sites to generate an approved site list of 25 EV Rapid Chargers across the border counties, which has now been released. 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/>.

The Louth sites are as follows:

No.	Sites	
	County	Location
1	Louth	Ardee river car park
2	Louth	Drogheda, Donore Road
3	Louth	Dundalk, Tennis Club car park

Louth County Council has appointed the Multidisciplinary Consultant - RPS and Legal Team of Philip Lee LLP to the FASTER project, which Louth County Council will be working closely with in preparation of the final tender documents and service level agreement.

Information is available at the following outlets:

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



Louth County Council is currently assessing sites for installation of 20no. EV charging points, as funded through SEAI. The goal of this funding stream is to support people who cannot easily provide their own EV charger at home, such as terraced housing or apartments. <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/>

Active Travel Investment Program

2023 Budget Allocation

On the 1st of February 2023 the National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €5.3 million. This budget is to proceed with the design, planning and detailed design of

twenty-four (24) number Active Travel Projects.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Awareness Campaigns

The Marchathon Step Challenge will run from Wednesday March 1st to Friday March 31st. Organisations are encouraged to register and

sign up for an information webinar via this link
<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/Marchathon23>

Marchathon is an opportunity for staff and students to get into the habit of walking more and connecting with their teammates. There will be many opportunities to engage staff and students during Marchathon and these will be explored during the information webinars, so the earlier you can get promoting the better!

National Bike Week 2023

Louth County Council have received notification that we were awarded ≈ €16,000 to promote Cycling Activities during National Bike Week which will take place between 13th May 2023 – 21st May 2023. The Active Travel Section along with Louth Local Sports Partnership will be promoting a number of activities during this week, in particular with the four schools included in our Safer Routes to School Infrastructure Programme, namely, Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk, St Louis Secondary School, Dundalk, St Brigid's and St Patrick's School, Bothar Bruga, Drogheda and Scoil Aonghusa, Sundays Gate, Drogheda.

Active Travel Projects

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: St. Dominick's Bridge.	€111,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Works are 100% completed. The Bridge is open to pedestrian and cycle traffic. LCC have requested attendee / invite list for an official opening i.e. Minister of Transport and/or NTA personnel.	Substantially completed in November 2022
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€415,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Revised Gateway 2 Report submitted to the NTA in Feb 2023. Junction modelling currently on-going	Proposed Part 8 display towards end of Q2 2023
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS have commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed.	Proposed Part 8 display in Q2 2023
Drogheda: R168 Collon rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS have commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed.	Proposed Part 8 display in Q2 2023
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS have commenced design and are currently developing options. 1. GPS surveys have all been completed 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed in Nov 2022. Further GPS surveys, Traffic surveys & junction modelling	This received Pathfinder status approval on the 14 th Oct 2022

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				of Marley's Lane / Donore Road Junction undertaken in February 2023.	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€200,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	RPS has commenced design and are currently developing options. As above	Proposed Part 8 display in Q2 2023
Drogheda: Boyne Business Park Link Road.	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Please refer to relevant update in this report.	Part 8 Completed
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€550,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Revised Gateway 2 Report submitted to the NTA in Feb 2023. Junction modelling currently on-going.	Proposed Part 8 display early Q3 2023
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€464,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	LCC have received comments on Phase 2 Report from the NTA. The design consultants are currently developing option proposals for this busy route.	Proposed Part 8 display in Mid Q2 2023
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus	€400,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Received Phase 2 Gateway status approval from the NTA in early August 2022. This projected quickly commenced Phase 3 Preliminary Design in August 2022. Phase 3 Preliminary Design is now completed and Gateway 3 report is expected to be submitted to the NTA on the 28 th Feb 2023.	Proposed Part 8 display early Q2 2023

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2023- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Station to Rail Station.					
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€250,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	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. Tender for Dundalk Transport Study to be issued in March 2023	N/A
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024
Mill Street, Dundalk	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2023- Project update	Anticipated Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways	Part 8 of
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Procurement competition for design consultants for Dundalk Active Travel Projects completed. Approval received from the NTA on the 1 st February to appoint the Preferred tender.	2024	
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	Consultants are preparing options and preliminary design proposals.	N/A	
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda	N/A	
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk	N/A	
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee	N/A	
Termonfeckin Active Travel elements	€165,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Procurement	Project to be issued to tender in March 2023		
Safe Routes to Schools 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk	€600,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan in draft format. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into LHCC/22/0003 above Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's	

Project Name	Allocation 2023	Project Band	Current Phase	March 2023- Project update	Anticipated Completions, subject to NTA approval of Part 8 Gateways
2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda					

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate project planning pack (comprising design proposal and statutory EIAR and AA Stage 2 Reports) for the consent process to An Bord Pleanála is being received this month from the appointed design team consultants Turley's. The internal review process has commenced <https://www.westgatevision.ie/>

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Tenders have been received for consultancy works for Phase 1 of the project, which involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. The appointment of the Urban Design Team is currently being finalised.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

Detailed design is complete and the bill of quantities is being drafted which will form part of the tender package. 3D views of Ardee Castle are being procured. The 3D views will form part of the Ministerial Consent application. Work is ongoing on a detailed report by the G1 Conservation Architects, Archaeologists and LCC which will form the main part of the Ministerial Consent application.

Omeath Public Realm

The detailed design and tender documents for contractor appointment are being finalised and will be advertised on eTenders in April. The final concept for the scheme has been agreed

and stakeholder engagement has continued with local community groups and businesses.

Ardee 2040

The Ardee 2040 proposals, as presented to the Ardee Municipal Meeting by the appointed design team consultants Turley Planning in December 2022, is under review internally this month prior to the planning pack going forward for the consent process to An Bord Pleanála. The report into the Public Engagement Process to date is uploaded on the website here: www.ardee2040.ie.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford

Louth County Council was awarded Category 2 funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) in June 2020 to provide for the development of a project 'Living in Carlingford – Visiting Carlingford'.

This Project is designed to address improved placemaking in Carlingford, a unique townscape dating back to a medieval walled town of the 12th century. The proposals have developed design solutions for enhancing the quality of the village for residents and promoting economic and employment opportunities commensurate with sustainable tourism.

The main objectives are:

- Improving the key area of arrival in Carlingford
- Public realm improvements to streets and spaces within the historic wall townscape
- The development of a traffic management plan
- Development of a cohesive signage and orientation plan

RPS were appointed as consultants in 2021 to lead a multi-disciplinary design team through stages 1 and 2. A public consultation day was held in November 2021 to gather information to inform the project.

Initial findings

- Market square acts as an important node or meeting point for social interaction
- The public tennis courts/ carpark /open space are opportunity sites with potential for redevelopment.
- The main road (R173) disconnects the town from the harbour and acts as a movement barrier
- The town would benefit from a gateway or landing space so that visitors can orientate themselves
- The town is lacking a multi-use recreation space that could be used for events large and small
- The village core is very car dominated.
- There is limited car parking in the town and surrounding area.

Three-character areas were selected to look at in more detail:

- Gateway
- Town square
- Recreation zone



Car usage and car parking have been identified by both the public and consultants as a problem for Carlingford. A traffic management strategy has been drawn up which includes additional parking at an alternative site. A preferred site has been selected for a new car park and the relocation of the public tennis courts.

The consultant has completed all required surveys for this project including AA screening, EIA Screening report, Natura Impact Statement and Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment.

This project will now seek planning permission through the Part 8 procedure with the intention of being on public display and available for public consultation in April 2023.

Louth County Council intend to apply for further funding to assist with the delivery of the Living in Carlingford, Visiting Carlingford project.

Additional projects

Town Centre First - Dunleer Town Masterplan

The targeted community/business stakeholder engagements have been completed. The consultants are now in the process of identifying and developing the key masterplan themes/interventions. A stage 2 report presenting these key themes/interventions is scheduled to be concluded in April.

Clogherhead Regeneration Masterplan

Louth County Council intends to prepare a new masterplan for Clogherhead in line the Government's Town Centre First policy which aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into our town centres. The process to appoint urban design consultants is due to commence in March with the uploading of tender documents to the eTenders website.

Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining (Failte Ireland) - The Green, Carlingford

Groundwork for the new outdoor dining facility is complete on site. The new tensile fabric canopy was installed in December 2022 with the new resin bound gravel finish completed in January 2023. Minor snags are ongoing and being completed by the contractor.



St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Draft reports for the Part 8 Planning process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza have been received by the Consulting Archaeologists and Conservation Architects Grade 1 ahead of Pre planning departmental consultation in the coming weeks. The AA Screening Assessment report has also been received for St Laurence's Gate plaza



Destination Town, Drogheda - LCC/ Failte Ireland

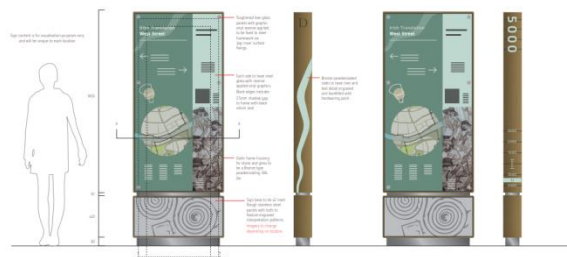
The Signage, Wayfinding and public realm works contract has commenced on site. The manufacture of the bespoke signage and wayfinding features also commenced with agreed historic and heritage information for individual signs and locations.



Cross Departmental Projects

St Peter's Hill PEACE IV

The Place Making team have been supporting the Economic Development Department with the delivery of Peace IV projects. A new meeting and assembly space has been designed for St Peters Hill. The project is nearing completion with the installation of the selected sculptures to be completed in the coming weeks.



Play Spaces

Tender documents for three play space sites in the villages of Collon, Termonfeckin and upgrade of the playground in St Dominic's Park, Drogheda were published on eTenders/OJEU in February 2023. Tender responses are due back late March 2023.

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

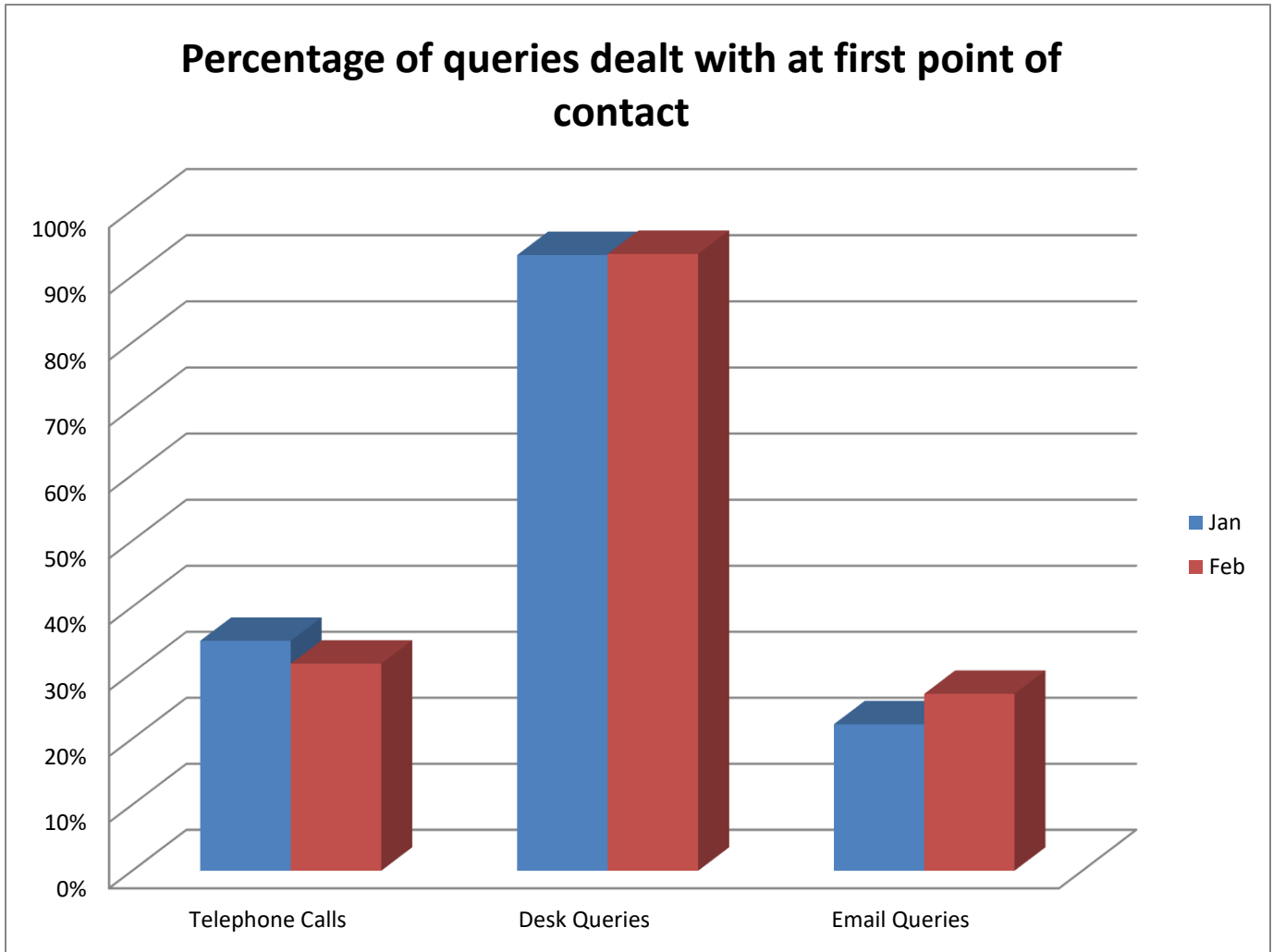


Joe McGuinness
Director / Stiúrthóir

Corporate Services

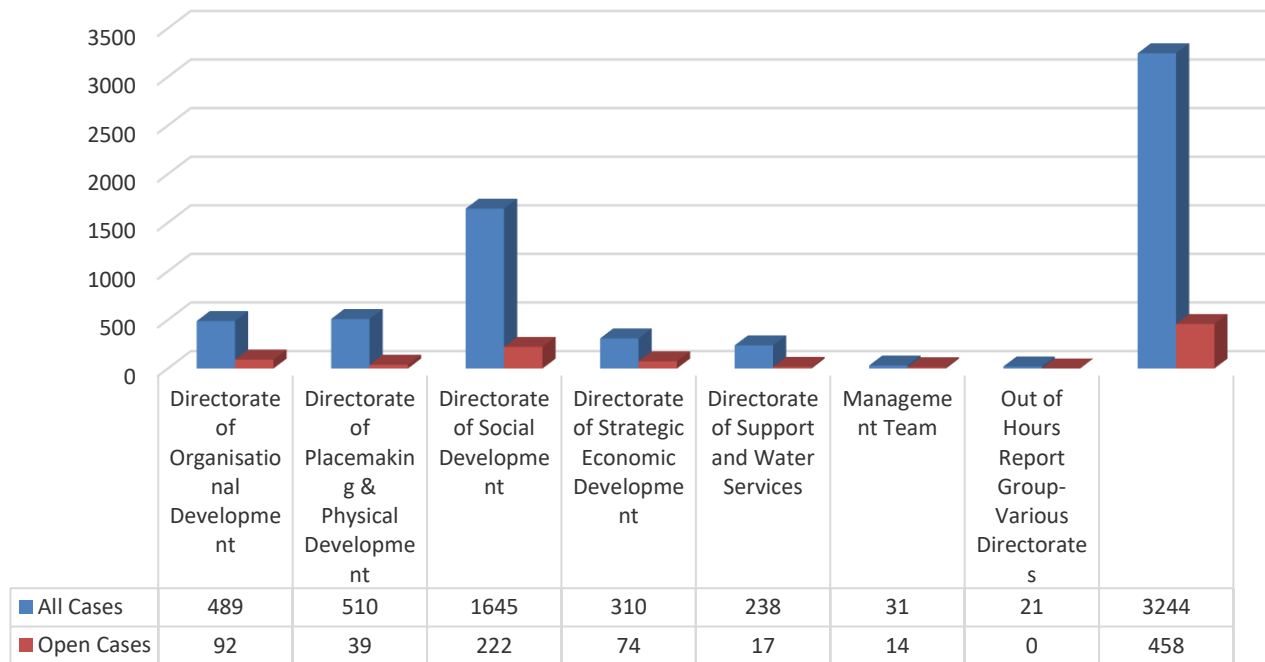
Customer Services Report February 2023

During the month of February 2023 Customer Services dealt with queries 7386 calls, 1418 e-mails and 4542 counter queries.



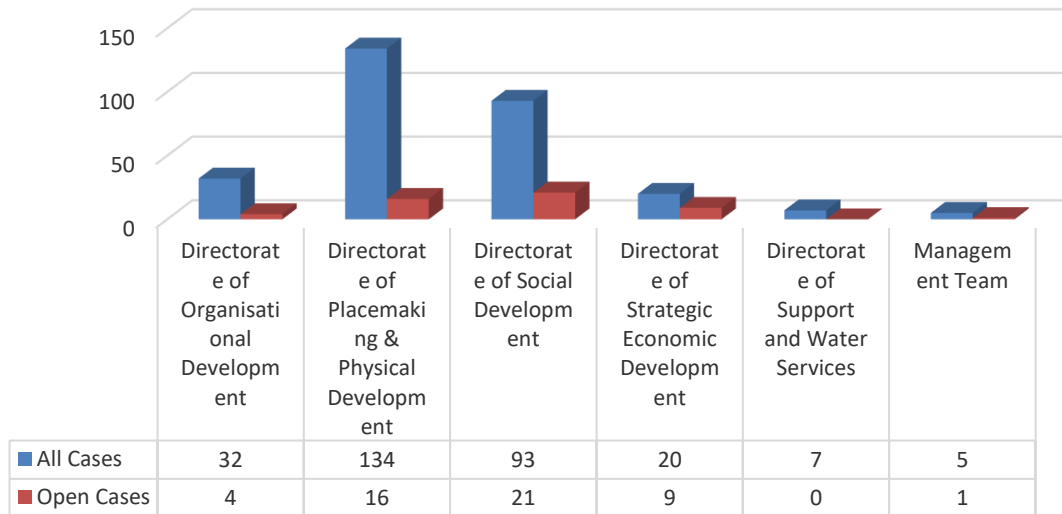
There were 3244 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during February of which 458 (14%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:

No. of Cases Created in February and still open at 26th of February 2023



During February 2023 291 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 51 (17%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:

Elected Rep Cases Created in February and still open at 26th February 2023



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Requests Received	Same period 2022 (JAN-FEB 2022)	2023 Total (JAN-FEB)	FEB 2023 (Month of FEB only)
Freedom of Information	23	17	6
Data Protection Request	1	0	1
Data Subject Access Request	1	1	0
Access to Information on Environment	1	3	2
Ombudsman Complaints	2	3	2
LCC Complaints Policy	8	8	3

Electoral Register

The Franchise Section sent out over 5,300 letters to electors in February looking for their details, including eircodes, dates of birth and PPSNs. We have had a good response to this mailout and the Franchise Section is currently inputting all the information from the letters. This information helps us to increase the accuracy of the electoral register for County Louth. Another smaller mailout will take place later this month.

We are encouraging all electors to log on to www.checktheregister.ie to ensure their details are correct. Electors can update and amend their details via the website.

Copies of the application forms can also be downloaded from www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/electoral-register/ and sent to: Franchise Section, Louth County Council, County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth. A91 KFW6 or emailed to register@louthcoco.ie

Community Support

LEADER

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

Promoter	Amount
Louth Local Development CLG: Community Energy Audits Ref: 112487	€7,527.60
Paul O'Neill t/a The Glyde Inn Annagassan Viking Virtual Reality Experience Ref: 109271	€2,893.00
Louth Village Community Centre Louth Village Community Development Plan Ref:117066	€7,749.00
Ardee Traders & Business Assoc. EURI- Ardee Illumination Project Ref: 117255	€97,258.50
Carlingford Community Development CLG: Foy Centre Youth Café Ref: 116565	€13,082.93
Louth Local Development CLG Regional Tour Guide Training Ref: 111392	€18,409.70
An Tain Arts Centre CLG What's the Story? Ref: 116977	€26,959.50
Mark Keenan t/a MK Tyres New Equipment for Garage Expansion Ref: 117208	€49,162.50
ECC Design & Engineering Ltd Autonomous Construction Data Collection System Ref: 117008	€99,766.80
Ionad na NDaoine an tShlanaitheora Teoranta Fitness & Well being Pitch Ref: 115181	€56,322.03
Total	€379,131.56

Comhairle na Nóg



Louth Comhairle na Nóg made a presentation to the full council on Monday 20th February 2023. Members from the Dundalk and Ardee Comhairle provided information on the many projects and events Comhairle members across all of Co Louth were involved with during 2023. Members also provided a presentation on the Comhairle na nOg annual conference which took place in October 2022. Comhairle members presented their work plan for 2023 and advised of the topics they will cover in 2023 which will include:

- Inclusion and Engagement
- Civic Leadership Cross Border
- Active and Healthy
- Comhairle Gaeltacht Project

Joint Policing Committee

A copy of the draft JPC Annual Report was presented to the elected members at full council on Monday 20th February for approval. Following approval a copy of the JPC Annual Report was sent to the Policing Authority.

Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Strategy/Forum

The Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Strategy Forum held a meeting on 19th January 2023 to discuss and agree the annual report. A draft copy of the annual report was presented to the members for approval and noting.

Forum members considered and agreed in principle to extend the lifespan of the current Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Strategy 2019-2022, with agreement that a review will be carried out at end of 12 months and a new strategy will be prepared thereafter. This proposal will be presented to the LCDC in March for approval.

The next meeting of the Louth Meath Joint Migrant Integration Strategy forum will be held in Ardee Civic Offices on 30th March 2023.



Older People's Council

The Older Peoples Council (OPC) provides a platform for older people to actively participate in their community. Louth Older People's Council held a meeting in the D Hotel Drogheda on 14th February 2023. OPC members were treated to a wonderful classical concert by The Ukrainian Chamber Salon Ensemble. This is a family of Ukrainian musicians who moved to Ireland last year after the start of the war. They performed a selection of musical pieces for the assembled members of the OPC.



Members of The Ukrainian Chamber Salon Ensemble who performed for the members of the Older People's Council at their latest meeting.

After the concert Miriam McKenna from Flexibus gave a presentation on Flexibus Services in Co Louth to the OPC members. Following the presentation members of the OPC were asked for their views and opinions on transport for older people in Co Louth and what services they felt were further required.

Louise Edmonds Regional Age Friendly Programme Manager in the Eastern Region provided the OPC members with further information on the purpose and role of the executive committee and the roles of the executive committee members. Members of the wider OPC were invited to join the executive committee and it was agreed that positions on the executive committee will be filled at the next OPC meeting scheduled for 7th March 2023.



Members of the wider Older People's Council at latest OPC meeting in Drogheda on 14.02.2023

Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2022 and preparation of New Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2029

The review process of the 2016-2022 plan has commenced. The LECP Advisory Committee has been established and consultants have been engaged to assist with the delivery of the new plan. The Advisory Committee and the consultants are due to meet and agree the high-level goals based on socio economic analysis for the LECP. This is due to take place on 6th March 2023. Once high-level goals are provisionally agreed there will be a presentation made to a joint LCDC / Economic Support SPC. The LCDC sign off on the community element of the high-level goals and the Economic Support SPC sign off on the economic element of the high-level goals. This joint meeting is scheduled

for Monday 20th March 2023. When sign off is agreed a comprehensive public consultation process will commence on the high-level goals for the new LECP. Details of this consultation process will be circulated once agreed.

Green Schools Assessments 2023

The community support team is out and about visiting green schools throughout February and March, carrying out assessments with green schools' committees and their teachers/coordinators, so schools can be awarded their green flag.

70 schools were contacted advising them of the green schools' programme and offering them an assessment visit. 27 schools responded with 12 schools deferring till 2024.



St. Mary's Parish Primary School's Green School Notice board in Drogheda



Rampart National School's, Lordship Green School Committee

Primary school supplies surveys

The Community Support team has created a survey to assess the needs and requirements of Louth's primary schools in support of creating a greener, more sustainably aware Louth when looking for supplies.

All primary schools have been sent the survey to complete and we look forward to getting their responses. Some of the supplies available to schools this year to kick start the initiative will be insect houses, open fronted nest boxes, bat boxes, bird feeder houses, pollinator garden gift sets and some wildflower seed mixtures.



A selection of Supplies for Primary Schools

Amenity Grants Scheme 2023

The amenity grant scheme for 2023, opened on Monday 6th February. The scheme was advertised in all local papers, on our website, through the Friday Communiqué, social media, News on Page and in recent news. In addition, groups that we had a working email address for were contacted directly about the scheme.

Groups are being encouraged to apply through the online portal on Louth County Council's website which went live on the 6th February. However, the usual traditional methods are also open to applicants. The scheme closes on **Monday 6th March**; no late applications will be accepted this year.

PPN

Secretariat Meeting

Louth PPN held its second Secretariat Meeting of 2023 on February 15th in Drogheda.

Training

Registration is currently open for PPN members to participate in the following training offered by Louth

- Writing Effective Funding Applications – March 14th
- Charities Governance Compliance Training – March 29th, April 12th, April 26th, May 10th, May 24th, June 7th

Community Well-Being Statement

Further to the Public Consultations / Workshops run across the 3 Municipal Districts of County Louth last November, Louth PPN has issued a draft of the Community Well-Being Statement online for comment. This document is available to view on Louth PPN's website, Facebook page and Friday Communique for a period of 6 weeks. All comments received in this period will be reviewed and the document adjusted accordingly before being ratified at the next Plenary Meeting due to take place in March 2023 (exact date to be confirmed).

National PPN Awareness Campaign

Louth PPN is currently participating in a national awareness campaign aimed at raising the profile of the PPNs across the Country.

Louth EU_SHAFE Report

We closed our survey on Ageing and ageism in County Louth in mid-January 2023.

We had a total of 712 submissions to our survey which we are delighted with. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

The Final Event of the project will be held in March in Bilbao in Spain with three members of our

stakeholder group attending. We will make a presentation of our Action Plan at the Final Event and hope to include some of our preliminary data. The data is currently being analysed by TU Dublin and preliminary data should be available soon.

Sport

Dundalk Sports Centre

Development Basketball Friendly

DSC Development Basketball, a collaboration project between the sports centre and the Dundalk Ravens, held its first friendly game against 'Drogheda Wolves' on Saturday the 11th of February. The u16 and u18 boys both had a match, for many it was their first ever competitive game of basketball, whilst for some, it was a chance to get more game time and display their skills.

Development basketball training sessions are held on Saturdays from 12-3pm for ages 13-17.



Drogheda Wolves & Dundalk Ravens Basketball Teams

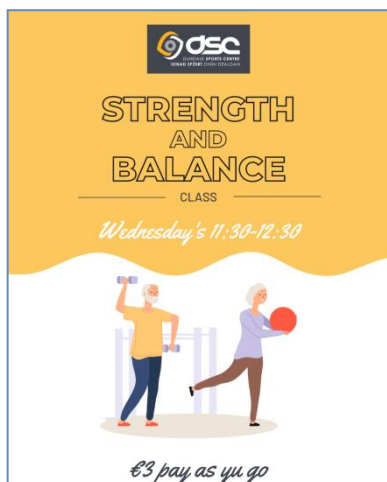
Active Dance

On Monday the 13th of February, the centre introduced a new dance class for older adults. The classes are being held for 4 weeks on a trial basis. Classes are on Mondays from 10:30 – 11:30am, with tea & coffee afterwards.



Strength & Balance

It has been fantastic to see the participation levels in the 'Strength & Balance' class continue to grow. The class is designed to increase older adults muscle strength, balance and confidence. Classes are held on Wednesday mornings from 11:30 -12:30.



Women's Basketball vs. Development Basketball

The Centre has organised an exciting friendly match between the 'Women's Basketball' and 'Development Basketball' participants. The match will be a great opportunity for many to compete in their first ever basketball match. Two matches will be played on the day, one for those who have previous club experience and a second for those who are new to the sport.



Lourdes Stadium

Bootcamp

Lourdes Stadium first Outdoor Bootcamp for 2023 commenced on Tuesday 10th January 2023 and finished up on Thursday 16th February. With 14 participants enrolled, the boot camp was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The bootcamp, which consisted of both strength and cardio based sessions, took place every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-6pm. The bootcamp was tailored to all fitness levels, fun, and a great way to make friends, enjoyable means of getting back to fitness and helped the participants feel healthier.

The next bootcamp is starting Tuesday 7th March and will be running until Thursday 13th April.



Lourdes Stadium 6 Weeks Outdoor Bootcamp

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2023

Louth Local Sports Partnership will be facilitating the following Volunteer & Coach Education workshops in the coming months for volunteers and sports coaches in Louth

Safeguarding

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	March 9 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	March 23 rd 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	April 13 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	April 27 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	May 11 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	May 25 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Safeguarding Level 1	June 8 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Disability Inclusion

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Autism in Sport	February 22 nd 2023 6:30pm	Online
Autism in Sport	October 18 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

First Aid

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
First Aid Online	February 7 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
First Aid Online	May 16 th 2023 6:30pm	Online

Volunteer Support Workshops

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Volunteer Support, Supervision & Recognition	March 23 rd , 2023 6:30pm	Online
Dealing with Difficult Behaviour	May 25 th 2023 6:30pm	Online
Involving & Managing volunteers with additional support needs	October 19 th , 2023 6:30pm	Online
Social Media for Community Groups	November 23 rd , 2023 6:30pm	Online

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

Coaching Teenage Girls

Louth Local Sports Partnership is delighted to facilitate the Sport Ireland Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport Workshop, designed specifically to support coaches of girls aged 12-17 years on March 8th 2023.

The workshop will provide a wealth of knowledge with realistic outcomes that promotes positive working relationships with young female player/athletes. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- The needs of Teenage Girls
- Retention Rates
- Positive Coaching Environments
- Communication & Relationships
- Maturation/Body Image & Sport

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



TrY Sports leadership programme in De La Salle College, Dundalk



TrY Sports leadership programme in Dundalk Grammar School

TrY Sports Leadership

Louth LSP launched its new TrY Sports leadership programme in January 2023. The programme was aimed at Transition Year students in Secondary Schools in Louth. The workshop encourages the students to explore their leadership skills through Sport & Physical Activity and discover more about the critical skills and behaviours of leaders.

The workshop led by Louth LSP Tutors is a mix of theory, group work and a practical session that will create an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for TY students. Students are given an opportunity to lead a short activity session to their peers in the practical element of the workshop. Upon completion, all students will receive a Louth LSP branded TrY Sports Leadership certificate of completion.

Thus far Louth LSP has delivered this programme successfully in Dundalk Grammar School and De La Salle College in Dundalk.

Drogheda Schools Basketball Programme

Louth LSP is currently delivering a hugely successful schools Basketball coaching programme in the Drogheda area in partnership with Drogheda Wolves Basketball Club. The programme which began in September 2022 has provided weekly Basketball sessions in 12 primary schools and over 550 pupils in the county. The aim of the programme is to introduce the children to Basketball and to give them an opportunity to enjoy the sport and create a pathway link between the schools and the club to increase sustainable participation.



Schools Basketball coaching programme in the Drogheda area

Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness Workshop in DKIT

Louth LSP was delighted to recently provide a Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness Workshop to 3rd year students from the BA (Hons) Sport, Exercise & Enterprise Degree course in DKIT. The workshop covers a range of topics in relation to Disability Inclusion in Sport & Physical Activity including; Communication, Inclusion Models, Disability Groupings and strategies for inclusion.

Following their training the students will now provide an 8-week programme of activities for service users from the National Learning Network in Dundalk.



Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness Workshop in DKIT

Men on the Move Programmes – Cooley & Termonfeckin

Louth Local Sports Partnership successfully delivered two new Men on the Move Programmes in January 2023 in Cooley Kickhams GAA Club, and St Fechins GAA Club Termonfeckin with over 70 men aged 35 and older taking part.

Men on the Move is a wellness programme with a primary focus on physical activity. The purpose of the programme is to use Physical Activity as a ‘hook’ to engage men in their health with a view to improving their overall health and wellbeing.

It consists of structured group exercise twice a week, two facilitated experiential workshops, a twenty-four-page health information booklet, and a pedometer for independent sessions, weekly phone contact, a customised wallet card to record measures taken and a 5 km celebration event at the end.

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



Men on the Move Programmes in Termonfeckin



PALs training for older adults Termonfeckin

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

Summary of Complaints

A total of 31 complaints were received by the Environmental Compliance team in February 2023 of which 14 complaints have been resolved and 17 remain open, pending further investigations. A total number of 54 complaints have been received in 2023 to date and these are further detailed as follows:

Complaint Type	Received in Feb 2023	Total Received in 2023
Air & Noise	10	20
Farm	0	0
Waste/C&D	12	21
Water Quality	9	13

PALs Training for older adults in Termonfeckin

Louth LSP successfully delivered a 12-week Physical Activity leaders (PALs) programme in Termonfeckin in partnership with Age & Opportunity and Termonfeckin Community centre.

The programme which finished at the end of January is an initiative which trains older people how to lead sport and activity sessions in their local groups and communities.

The leaders supported by Louth LSP will now develop a range of physical activity sessions for older adults within communities across Louth.



Amendments were made to the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 which came into operation on 1st January 2023. The amended Regulations have removed the option for major packaging producers self-complying with local authorities. From January 2023, major producers must now register with Repak.

Litter Enforcement

A total of 39 litter fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were issued in the month of February. Of these FPNs, 8 were issued in the Dundalk urban area, 16 in Drogheda urban area and 15 in the remaining County wide area.

There was 1 FPN issued for dog fouling in February. There have been 232 litter investigations completed to date in 2023 with 142 carried out in the month of February. There have been 70 litter FPNs issued in the year to date.

Diesel Laundering Waste

6 IBC's (integrated bulk containers) containing laundered diesel sludge were dumped at various locations in the county during the month of February 2023 with an associated removal cost of €7,488.92. So far in 2023 there have been 9 IBC's dumped within Co. Louth with an associated removal cost of €11,233.38.

Waste Management

A total of 12 complaints were received in February 2023 relating to Waste and Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste. All complaints relating to waste were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions.

Waste Facility Permits & Certificate of Registration

One transfer Waste Facility Permit application along with one technical amendment is being reviewed by the Waste Team in February 2023. Currently there are 25 Waste Facility Permits and there are 4 Certificates of Registration (COR) in operation in Co. Louth.

Producer Responsibility Initiatives

Producer Responsibility Initiatives have been introduced based on the producer pays principle. Under these initiatives producers are given significant responsibilities. Approved bodies have been set up to assist producers with compliance:



IBC's located by Louth County Council

Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning

The Waste Management Act (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 allows farmers as a last resort, to dispose of green waste by burning i.e. untreated/uncontaminated wood, trees, tree trimmings, leaves and brush or other similar waste generated by agricultural practices.

On 27th January 2023, regulations were signed to provide for an extension to the exemption which expired on 1 January 2023, until 28th February 2023. The exemption will then be reopened for a final three-month period from 1st September 2023 to 30th November 2023 to allow the agricultural sector deal with untreated/uncontaminated waste accumulated in the interim.

In February 2023, we have received and processed 59 applications to dispose of green waste by burning.

Air / Water / Noise Pollution

There were 9 water quality complaints received in February which were investigated and followed up with appropriate actions. There were 6 Air Pollution complaints and 4 Noise Pollution complaints received and investigated during February 2023.

The [Solid Fuel Regulations for Ireland \(S.I. 529 of 2022\)](#) , came into effect on 31 October 2022 and the primary focus of these regulations is on improving air quality and improving people's health chances and outcomes, by restricting the retail, online and

commercial sale of smoky fuels, including smoky coal, turf and wet wood. These fuels are proven to be a major contributor to air pollution in Ireland. FAQs about the new regulations for retailers/ producers / haulage companies/ households are located: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e3da2-air-quality/>



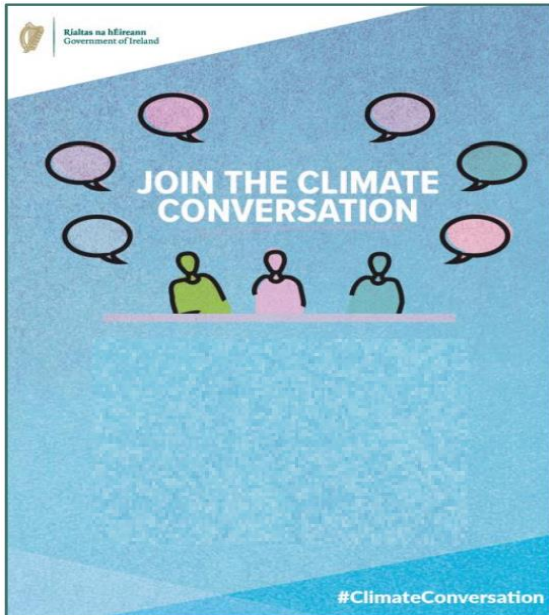
Bathing Water

Results for all the monitoring samples taken at the four designated beaches in 2022 are available on www.beaches.ie. The sampling programme for 2023 at these beaches will be undertaken between the 1st June and 15th September.



RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) Plan 2023

The RMCEI plan outlines all objectives for 2023 in areas relating to waste, air, noise, water, landfills and litter. Louth County Council is required to submit this plan by the end of February 2023 to the EPA. In addition, the annual statistical return which details the number of inspections completed by the Environmental Compliance team in 2022 is required to be submitted to the EPA by the end of February 2023.



Climate Action

Preparation of a Baseline Emissions Inventory for County Louth has been ongoing. The Climate Action Team has been collecting information on how much CO₂ is emitted by all business, buildings, houses, industry, transport / travel and agriculture in the county. This information will form the base for decision making when the preparation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan for Louth commences later this year.

As a requirement of the National Climate Action Plan, 2021, all Local Authorities are required to produce a County-level Climate Action plan. Louth County Council has begun preparation for this process which will formally start in Q1 of 2023.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

We continue to work with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) to work towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 to 2024 Action.

A review of the current goals and objectives of the CCAS has commenced and this will form the basis for the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Louth, to be developed over the next 18 months (timelines not yet fixed nationally).

Draft Guidance documents were issued to help Local Authorities prepare for the development of Climate Action Plans which will incorporate all the relevant National Climate Action targets at a local level.

Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

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

The Climate Action Team has completed a Tier 2 emissions baseline for the entire county. This evidence base will be used to develop actions to allow the county to decarbonise in accordance with the 2030 national target of a 51% reduction in CO₂ and to achieve net zero by 2050.

A meeting of the Louth County Council climate action team was held. This was attended by representatives from across the LCC sections. Presentations were given on the climate action plan process and the baseline emissions inventory for County Louth.

Louth County Council have signed up as signatories to the EU Mission on Adaptation, this was announced on the 29th September at the R&I Research Days online webinar.



Climate Adapt 2022

The Louth Climate and Energy SPC took place in person in Dunleer in January. It was hosted by the Dunleer Energy team. Presentations were given on draft litter management plan, climate adaptation and climate action plan process.

The Community Climate Action fund was launched by Minister Ryan. Training around state and administering this fund was attended by the climate coordinator. A recruitment competition was held to bring on board a climate specialist to administer and assist the communities in drawing down this funding.

V&W Circular Economy Project

V&W operate the Civic Amenity Site on behalf of Louth County Council. Part of their contract stipulates that they must carry out initiatives to foster the Circular Economy.

After the success of the “African Bicycle Appeal”, V & W officially launched the “**Ukraine Appeal**”. V&W have joined forces with a local bike repair business which fix and donate used bicycles for refugees from Ukraine, around the Dundalk area. V&W have allocated an area at the recycling centre to accept suitable bicycles from the public. They grade, sort and organise delivery of these bikes to the local bike repair business. Repaired bicycles are then distributed to Ukraine refugees in the area.



Ukraine Appeal, V&W Centre Dundalk

V & W also continue to supply the men’s sheds with organic compost and garden tools for their work projects.

Education and Awareness Initiatives

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

V & W’s Education Officers continue to work with Tidy Towns groups and Community groups promoting the benefits of recycling.

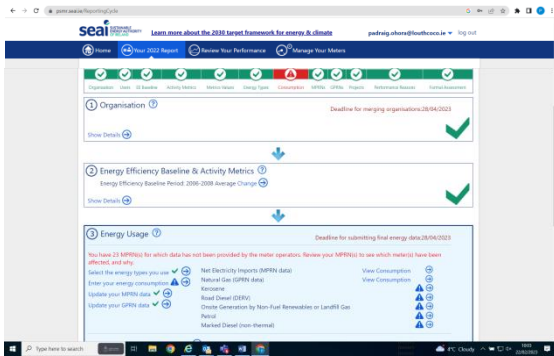
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

The Council’s energy efficiency at the end of 2021 was 47.84%, according to SEAI’s Annual Report for Public Sector Bodies for 2021.

The energy reporting process for energy consumption for 2022 is now in progress. The final deadline for uploading data is Fri 28th April. Council staff have submitted the list of energy meters attributable to Council consumption for submission to SEAI.

The SEAI Community Grant supports energy efficiency community projects through capital funding, partnerships, and technical support.



Community Grant Overview

Learn about the community grant, who it benefits, the different projects supported, how it works and who to contact if you wish to get involved.

Project Co-ordinators

Key information for project co-ordinators who manage the Community Grant projects and application process.

Grant Tracker

Track the community grant funding available, under evaluation and committed for the current year.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 28th February 2023, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and thirteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County. Louth County Council has carried out twenty-four inspections in the year to date.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs Impounded. February 2023	
Total dogs impounded	21
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	11
Surrendered by owners	10
No dogs reclaimed by owners	3
No of dogs rehomed direct	12
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	9
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 28/02/2023	8

Gap-To-Target Plan to 2030

Council staff are progressing energy works as part of the Council's Energy Action Plan for 2022. In addition, Council staff are undertaking energy audits to identify suitable energy projects for the Council's 2023 Energy Action plan. Those works form part of the Gap to Target Plan to 2030. That plan involves the identification of multi-annual energy efficiency works to achieve 51% reduction in Carbon emissions by 2030. The improvements will focus on our highest energy users, and be determined by energy emission savings, and project return period for capital investment. The Council uses SEAI's Gap to Target online tool to assist in that work, supported by the SEAI-appointed Partnership Support Manager.

Varcities H2020 Funded Project

Dundalk is a pilot city for this project. 3 Visionary Solutions are proposed as part of the EU Horizon 2020 Funded varcities project at the outdoor space at the County Library and Museum, Dundalk, known as 'The Dundalk Pilot'. Louth County Council manages the project for the 'Dundalk Pilot'.

At present the project is approaching construction stage. It is now expected that the works (other than the Learning Pod construction) will be constructed in Q2 of 2023. The provision of the Learning Pod is now likely in Q4 of 2023. Further liaison with landowners and tenants adjacent to the site is planned to update them on the next stage of the project and to minimise any disruption for tenants of adjacent properties who have right-of-access through the site.

Dog Licences February 2023

No of Licences sold	656
Licence Checks:	
House calls	350
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	88
Fixed Penalty Notices	34

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996
Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses Impounded. February 2023

Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 28/02/2023	0

Dog Breeding Establishments

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments(DBEs) February 2023

Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 28/02/2023)	6
Hunt	2
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	1



Dogs impounded during February 2023



Pip enjoying life and getting to know her new family after being re-homed from the pound in February 2023

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

**Paddy Donnelly
Director / Stiúrthóir**



Housing

Addressing Homelessness

As the Responsible Housing Authority for the North East Region, Louth County Council continues to manage this area and achieve the goals set out in the North East Homelessness Strategy 2021-2024. The following work done within County Louth in the period 20th January – 19th February 2023 can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 January – 19 February 2023	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless	1	95	77	173
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	1	68	55	124
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	19	19	38
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	7	3	10
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	1	0	1

Tables 2 - 4 below reflect details of the adults who were in emergency accommodation in County Louth on 19th February 2023. Also included at Table 6 is the breakdown of families in emergency accommodation at that date.

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	78
Female	47
Total	125

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	22
25-44	64
45-64	33
65+	6
Total	125

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	52
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	73
Total unique individuals	125

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children in Louth	13	16	25
Total	13	16	25
Couples with dependent children in Louth	11	25	26
Total	11	25	26

Table 6 - Housing First

	County Louth
Number of tenancies established.	33
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	27

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,085**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
307	1157	1621	3085

Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 -2027

Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 -2027 aims to facilitate disabled people to live independently and further enable equal access for

disabled people to housing with integrated services. The Strategy includes targets for social housing provision to disabled people, measures for strengthening inter-agency collaboration to facilitate provision of housing and related supports in an aligned manner, actions to facilitate disabled people to continue living in their own homes and communities.

Two collaboration meetings with have been held with the HSE; Adult Mental Health Services and Adult Disability Services, to facilitate provision of housing and related supports to disabled people. Both agencies find the meetings beneficial

Housing Allocations up to 24th February, 2023

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	2	4	0	0
Drogheda	8	7	1	0
Dundalk	15	3	8	1
Total	25	14	9	1

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	0
Dundalk	4
Drogheda	1
Total	5

Housing List

February 2023	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	380	601	820	1801
HAP Transfer List	307	1157	1621	3085
Total Housing List	687	1758	2441	4886

There are **272** applications on the transfer list (Non HAP) within Social Housing including **38** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is 931.

Current Rents Arrears as at 24 th February 2023	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	177	€67,812
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	166	€111,479
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	766	€2,695,989
TOTAL	1109	€2,875,280

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 24 th February 2023	Total
Ardee Municipal District	5
Dundalk Municipal District	10
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	27
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	42
Vacant Properties (CPO units not yet ready for occupation) (All County)	4
Total Number of Properties (Relets & CPO)	46

Currently 16 number social units are being used as temporary accommodation for homeless or emergency, and are not included in the above figures.

Maintenance Calls

Maintenance	1 st -24 th Feb 2023	Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	444	1205
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	329	958
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	79	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	36	72

Tenancy Engagement

1 st February to 24 th February, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	8	2	12	22	35
Post-tenancy inspections	13	3	12	28	46
Tenancy Investigation Visits	21	5	19	45	105
Tenancy Investigations Remote	0	0	7	7	11

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st February to 24 th February, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases received	7	2	5	14	27
ASB cases Ongoing	9	2	8	19	23
ASB cases complete	6	1	0	7	12

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st February to 24 th February, 2023	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	2	0	1	3	6
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	0
Tenancy Notifications	2	0	1	3	3

Local Authority Home Loans

2023 Budget Allocation (20% of 2022 allocation until 2023 approval is received from the Department)	€1,084,000
LAHL Approvals at 31/01/2023	€380,000

Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at 31st January, 2023.	
Total number of Applications at 31/01/2023	9
LAHL carried over from 2022	5
Invalid/Returned	3
Approved	2
Declined	5
For review	2
Outstanding – waiting on further information	2

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

The following grants are available:

- Housing Adaptation Grants – to assist with carrying out work for the purpose of rendering a home more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability.
- Mobility Aids Grants – to assist with carrying out work for persons with mobility problems

in the home.

- Housing for Older People – to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.

The Council is currently waiting for confirmation from the Department on Louth County Council's 2023 funding allocation for Private House Grants.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Monthly Total
Applications completed 2022	42	17	175	234
Applications Received 01/02/2023 to 24/02/2023	16	4	23	43

Climate Action

The newly revised **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme** is now in the third year of a ten-year programme which is expected to grow to meet the Programme for Government retrofit commitment. The new programme sees a significant up scaling (from 'shallow' to 'deep retrofit') on what has been completed by local authorities to date.

The Council has not received notification on the 2023 allocation for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme.

Housing Acquisitions

Louth County Council has received approval from the Department for targeted acquisitions for applicants who are homeless and or have a disability. Under this 2023 programme Louth County Council acquired 4 properties in February



Affordable Housing

Louth County Council adopted a Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements on 19th September, 2022.

Notwithstanding the eligibility criteria that is set down by regulations for Affordable Housing schemes the Council wishes to establish the level of interest for affordable housing in County Louth.

Louth County Council conducted an online survey to determine the level of interest in Affordable Housing in County Louth. The survey closed on the **10th February 2023**.

Over **70** applicants expressed an interest in the scheme. Louth County Council are currently in discussions with developers about potential properties in Drogheda.

Vacant Homes

A survey of vacant homes in the county in February resulted in 83 properties been inspected. 71 property owners were contacted and 7 property owners have made contact with the council with their proposals for each property



Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Capital Housing Delivery

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	Stage Approved 3	16/07/2024	3no. * 2 bed & 8no. * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2 - 4)	1/1	72	Stage Approved 4	15/11/2024	27no. * 3 bed, 4no. * 4 bed, 8no. * 1 bed Apt, 25no. * 2 bed Apt & 8no. * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	Stage Approved 4	15/11/2024	29no. * 2 bed, 23no. * 3 bed, 9no. * 4 bed, 10no. * 1 bed Apt, 6no. * 2 bed Apt, 16no. * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage Approved 1	02/09/2024	2no. * 2 bed Apt, 2no. * 2 bed, 2no. * 3 bed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	80	PPP Bundle 5 Funding Approved	30/06/2026	To be confirmed
Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	31/12/2023	1no. * 3 bed
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	29/09/2023	1no. * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	On-site	29/09/2023	1no. * 3 bed
Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth - Infill	1/1	6	On-site	24/11/2023	6no. * 3 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/4	6	On-site	31/03/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt. (1no. Part V of 6)
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/4	6	On-site	31/03/2023	3no. * 2 bed Apt, 3no. * 3 bed Apt. (1no. Part V of 6)

Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/4	22	On-site	31/05/2023	11no. * 2 bed, 5no. * 2 bed Apt, 6no. * 3 bed Apt. (5no. Part V of 22)
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	2/5	1	On-site	31/03/2023	1no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	3/5	1	On-site	30/09/2023	1no. * 3 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	4/5	9	Funding Approved	30/06/2024	4no. * 3 bed, 5no. * 2 bed
Newtown Wood, Drogheda	5/5	8	Funding Approved	31/12/2024	6no. * 3 bed, 2no. * 1 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accl Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	72	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	105	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	43	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	20	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, MMC Proposal	31/12/2026	To be confirmed

CALF Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	1/2	5	On site	31/3/2023	2no. *2 bed Bungalow, 1no. * 3 bed Bungalow, 2no. *3 bed semi detached
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	2/2	6	On site	31/12/2023	2no. *3 bed Bungalow, 1no. *3 bed semi detached & 3no. *2 bed terraced houses
Newfoundwell Road, Drogheda Cluid Housing	2/2	39	On site	31/3/2023	12no.*1 bed apt & 27no.*2 bed apt
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	1/3	40	On site	30/6/2023	1no.*3 bed detached, 10no.*2 bed terraced, 14no.*3 bed semi detached & 15no.*3 bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	46	On site	30/9/2023	13no.*2 bed terraced, 18no.*3 bed semi detached & 15no.*3 bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	47	On site	31/12/2023	2no.*4 bed detached, 11no.*2 bed terraced, 1no.*3 bed detached, 22no.*3 bed semi detached & 11 no.*3 bed terraced
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	85	On site	31/5/2023	8no.*2 bed apt, 7no.*2 bed duplex, 24no.*3 bed duplex, 22no.*3 bed terraced, 22no.*2 bed terraced & 2no*4 bed terraced
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12	Funding approved	31/12/2023	12no.*3 bed house
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	1/2	49	On site	30/6/2023	18no.*1 bed apt, 7no.*3 bed duplex, 5no.*3 bed terraced, 5no.*2 bed apt & 14.no*2 bed duplex
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	2/3	24	On site	30/1/2023	6no.*1 bed apt, 8no.*2 bed apt, 6no.*2 bed terraced & 4no.*3 bed terraced

Donore Road Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	66	On site	30/9/2023	4 no.*1 bed apt, 54no.*2 bed apt & 8 no.*3 bed apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	3/3	59	On site	1/8/2023	30no.*1 bed apt, 11no.*2 bed apt & 18no.*3 bed duplex
Drybridge, Drogheda North & East Housing	1/1	16	On site	31/3/2023	2no.*3 bed apt, 10no.*2 bed apt & 4 no.*1 bed apt
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	2/2	16	On site	30/9/2023	9no.*1 bed apt, 2no.*3 bed apt, 1no.*2 bed duplex & 4no.1*bed semi

CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk,	Tuath	10	Stage 3 Approved	03/03/2024	5no.* 2 Bed house, 1no.* 2 Bed ambulant unit, 1no.* 4 Bed Communal unit
10-16 The Alleys, St Peters Place, Drogheda	P McVerry	14	Stage 2 Approved	30/07/2024	14no.* Studio apartments
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/01/2025	19no.*1 Bed apartments 3no.* accessible units 8no.* Studio apartments
St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/09/2024	4no.* 1 Bed units
Kincora House, 1-2 Seatown	P McVerry	8	Stage 1 approved	30/07/2024	8no.* 1 Bed apartments
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Womens Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	02/06/2024	5no.* 1 bed apartments 7no.* 2 bed apartments
3 Paradise Place	P McVerry	4	Stage 1 approved	01/03/2024	4no.* 1 Bed apartments

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The Co Archivist is assisting with the draft revisions for Community, Library, and Legal Services which are currently in progress and is working with staff in relation to same. The environment area has now been approved by the LGMA Board and issued out while IT is out for comment with local authorities. To date, Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment and Enterprise & Economic Development have been completed, approved and issued 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.

Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme

This Scheme is operated by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and is part of the Government's Action Plan for

survivors and former residents. The scheme is due to open in June 2023 and central to it is a National Centre for Research and Remembrance (NCRR) which will form part of the National Archives. It will be a centre with a space for survivors to research. The Co Archivist completed an audit for the National Archives' NCRR Archives sub-group in October and continues to receive updates from the sub-group and provide feedback as requested.

Research Enquiries

The Archivist has been busy this past month with a high volume of enquiries on archives. Research enquiries include those from private individuals, academics, professionals and state agencies. The Archivist also receives many internal enquiries from staff in various sections.

Donating Archives

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

Climate Action

The Co Archives supports corporate Climate Action Goals. Environmental conditions in the Co Archives building are being monitored and reviewed by Facilities staff.

Libraries

Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024

A Climate Action champion for each library branch has been appointed.



The My Open Library service has seen an incredible uptake since its reintroduction following the pandemic in Ardee and its launch in Drogheda late last year. Community Garda Mellisop and Garda Fox of the Drogheda Community Policing Unit are regular visitors to Drogheda Library and were recently inducted by Branch Manager Aoife Carberry as members of My Open Library.

The My Open Library service is available from 8am – 10pm, 7 days per week, 365 days a year and provides access to the library outside of staffed hours for browsing, borrowing, studying, using IT equipment or having a meeting. For further details or to sign up for My Open Library, contact Ardee Library on 041 6859023 or Drogheda Library on 041 9876162



Branch Manager Aoife Carberry inducting Garda Mellisop and Garda Fox to My Open Library in Drogheda

New library and community space for Dunleer.

Louth County Council has recently purchased the former Bank of Ireland building in Dunleer for the provision of a new Council library and community space. The purchase was funded under the Building Acquisition Measure of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

As highlighted by Louth County Council Chief Executive Joan Martin, Louth County Council is committed to the development of its library service, evidenced by recent, considerable investments to ensure the library service meets the strategic objectives as per the Louth Library Service Development Programme 2020-2025, a key focus of which is

‘Improving access, use and visibility of the public library and establishing it as the go-to place for a range of sustainable, integrated public services’.

Louth County Council recognises the need to develop the public library service in Dunleer to meet the needs of the growing community. The acquisition of this building on the main street allows for the placing of a public facility in the heart of the community. At the recent February council meeting councillors approved the CE’s recommendation of €250,000 spent to upgrade the building.

This works in tangent with the Dunleer Masterplan, which is currently being developed under the Town Centre First Policy, which promotes re-using existing town assets, tackling vacancies and dereliction, breathing new life into Dunleer town centre.

A new and improved library space will offer better access to digital hardware and software and support increased community engagement with more space and opportunities for school visits, story time, talks, book clubs and the many other services offered by Louth Library Service.

Louth Library Service has recently been awarded Library of Sanctuary status and this new community space will contribute to libraries continuing to strengthen and support communities by providing dynamic, inclusive and responsive library services.



CE Joan Martin, Senior Executive Librarian Linda Larrigan, Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly, Dunleer Branch Librarian Muriel Sheils, and Acting Co. Librarian Amanda Branigan



Library of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

Louth Library Service will be marking our award as a Library Service of Sanctuary with a celebration on Tuesday 7th March at 12.30pm in Dundalk Library. Representatives from Places of Sanctuary Ireland will present the award, with Sanctuary Ambassadors speaking at the event. This award recognises the good practice that takes place in Louth Library Service and the contribution libraries make to build a community of welcome and sanctuary across County Louth, welcoming people seeking sanctuary and all new arrivals in the community. Welcome and inclusion are core principles of Louth Library Service and the vision going forward is to ensure that Louth libraries continue to be safe and nurturing spaces for all and to support other local organisations such as schools to gain Sanctuary status.

Into Europe – EU 50 Exhibition



To mark the 50th anniversary of Ireland joining the EU, the Department of Foreign Affairs commissioned the Royal Irish Academy to produce an exhibition to show the impacts of EU membership over these 50 years. Following the launch of the exhibition on the 24th January by the Tánaiste Micheál Martin, the Dept. asked libraries to host it. Louth Library Service is delighted to be one of the 1st in the country to host the exhibition. It will be in Dundalk Library until the 13th of March and then moves on to Drogheda and Ardee Libraries.



Former Fianna Fáil politician Séamus Kirk and Joe Carroll pictured at the exhibition in Dundalk Library

Communicating Europe Initiative

Following on from this the Department of Foreign Affairs put out a funding call for initiatives aimed at promoting the benefits of the European Union in day-to-day life. Louth Library Service and Rory Sheehan, the Climate Action Officer, have been successful in securing funding of €4,000 for a project

promoting EU environmental legislation, specifically the water framework directive. 5 primary school classes from Dunleer, Ardee, Carlingford, Dundalk and Drogheda will take part with an initial talk in their local library on water quality and appropriate level information on the water framework directive, followed by a visit to a local waterbody to learn about kick sampling and the waterbody. In the days after the schools will then create a place-based poster artwork with what their local water body means to them and how the water framework directive is helping it. A representative from LAWPRO will facilitate the workshops and site visits.

Creative Ireland



Fighting Words

Phase 2 of the Fighting Words project, funded by Creative Ireland’s Legacy Grants, continues in Drogheda Library.

This project is in partnership with Garda Anita O’Shea (Juvenile Liaison Officer, Drogheda), youth leaders and facilitators from Fighting Words.

Women In Wellness Programme

Louth Library Service is continuing to host the Women In Wellness program with facilitator Tracey O’ Brien. Tracey has been providing tools through tai chi, breathing exercises, journaling, and mindfulness.

These tools will allow participants to build their healing process and promote a way to live in wellness in the midst of the challenges life brings.



Women in Wellness facilitators Tracey O'Brien and Breda Marron

eServices



The wide range of services include:

- Borrow Box for free eBooks & eAudiobooks, Press Reader offers for newspapers & Libby for magazines.
- Transparent Language Online with over 100 languages to choose from.
- Universal Class for various courses.

eServices information sessions are held every month in:

Dundalk library on the last Friday of every month from 11am - 12pm,

Drogheda Library on the last Thursday of every month from 2.30pm-3.30pm

Ardee Library on the last Friday of every month 10.30am-11.30am

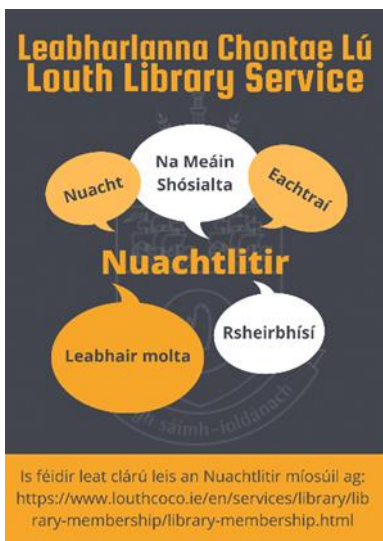
For more information on the above please email Libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie or the library website <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/online-services/>



For all events and bookings please follow us on Facebook & Instagram by searching Louth Library Service. You will also find our events on Twitter under Louth County Council.

Follow us on Tik Tok for all content regarding our collection and tutorials on how to access Borrow Box or the online catalogue.

Library Newsletter



Sign up here to receive our monthly newsletter: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/library-membership/louth-library-newsletter-emailing-list-registration.html>

Click here to read this month's newsletter <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/blog-and-newsletter/>

Louth Library Primary Schools Service

The schools mobile is continuing to visit schools. Class sets/novels are available to borrow throughout the school year. Teachers can book a visit to the HQ Store in Dundalk from 3:30pm – 5pm Tuesday – Friday to view our full schools collection.

For more information contact Orla on orla.muckian@louthcoco.ie

Sensory Library Service

Magic Table

Available in Ardee, Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries this facility is ideal for those with sensory difficulties, on the Autism Spectrum, and for people with Dementia. Family/Group bookings to use the Magic Table can be made by emailing libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie or contacting your local branch.



Quiet time in Drogheda and Dundalk Libraries Monday 6pm – 7pm, Ardee Library Saturday 10am – 11am



Sensory area with dimmed lights



Healthy Ireland at your Library

Healthy Ireland Events

Mindful Colouring Group for Adults – Wednesday at 3pm in Dundalk Library throughout the month of February. Colouring is a simple activity that has a myriad of benefits – relaxation, clarity, focus etc. No booking required.



Ireland Reads 2023



Ella in Drogheda Library Squeezing in a Read

Louth Library Service delivered a successful Ireland Reads Campaign in February.

Ireland Reads is a Healthy Ireland initiative and aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment.

A huge thank you to our reading ambassadors Mayor/Cathaoirleach of Drogheda Councillor Michelle Hall, Nicola Pierce, Barry Landy, Nicola Cassidy, Sinead Brassil, Garda O’Shea, Garda Mellsop and Garda Fox, Page Turners’ featured author Florence Gillan.

With over 40 events and 1,200 participants, our branches saw lots of parents and families for Storytime, Parent & Toddler and Art & Crafts.

We invited Barry Landy and Alan Nolan to our branches in Dundalk, Drogheda & Ardee. Barry spoke about his new book which appealed to all football fanatics. Alan inspired young readers to learn about his adventures of the creepiest crypts.

Louth Library service welcomed over 20 school visits, students borrowed their books from the library and pledged their time to read as a class. Our school’s van was very busy pledging their time to read on the reading tree, and adding your favourite book on the bookshelf in Dundalk Library.



Mayor of Drogheda Councillor Michelle Hall is one of Louth Library Service Reading Ambassadors for Ireland Reads 2023



Alan Nolan in Drogheda Library on Ireland Reads Day



Bookshelf for squeeze in a read in Dundalk Library

During the final week of Ireland Reads Louth Library Service held information stands in County Hall Dundalk and Drogheda and Ardee Civic Offices.



Eugene Kavanagh and Lisa Doyle from Drogheda Library at the stand in Drogheda Civic Offices

Louth Library Service took part in a Tik Tok challenge with other public libraries across the country to get staff and borrowers to pledge their time to read. Ireland pledged 226,870 minutes to read on Saturday, February 25th, Ireland Reads Day 2023.

World Book Day



Louth Library branches will facilitate class visits from local primary schools for library tours and storytime during World Book Day.

Library staff will attend a Dragon's Den Event to mark World Book Day in the De La Salle Secondary School in Dundalk with students from St. Louis Secondary School attending also.

Adult Events

Dundalk Library

Poetry Reading Group

Do you have an interest in reading, listening to, or discussing poetry? Come along to our new poetry reading group and meet some fellow poetry enthusiasts. The next meeting will be on Friday 03rd March at 11am. Everyone welcome.

Children's Events

Dundalk Library

- Crafts with Amy Saturday 11th March at 3pm.

Drogheda Library

- Storytime with Annemarie Saturday 04th March at 11.30am
- St Patrick's Day Crafts with Eileen & Eilish Saturday 11th March at 11.30am

Parent & Toddler Mornings

- Every Thursday 10am-12pm in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries
- Every Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm in Ardee Library

Baby Book Club

Explore the benefits of reading to your baby from an early age during Baby Book Club, first Wednesday of each month in Dundalk Library and the first Tuesday of each month in Drogheda Library.



Baby Book Club in Drogheda Library

Ciorcal Cómhrá / Irish Conversation first Tuesday of every month at 4pm in Dundalk

Ar mhaith leat do chuid Gaeilge a úsáid nó a chleachtadh? Tá an Ciorcal Cómhrá i leabharlann Dhún Dealgan ar ais! Beidh sé ar siúl ar an gcéad

Máirt chuile mhí ag 4 sa leabharlann. Tá sé dírithe ar dhaoine fásta ar mhaith leo an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim nó a úsáid.

Would you like to use or practice your Irish skills? The group is aimed at adults who would like to learn or practice Irish. For more information, contact Dundalk Library on 042 9353190

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022



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

Creative Spark Decade of Centenaries Artist Book Launch

Fifteen local artists have each created a unique handmade artist book in response to the collection at the Louth Archives under the theme of the "Decade of Centenaries". The artists, who are members of the Creative Spark Print Studio and the group Art as Exchange, have utilised a variety of techniques such as sculptural forms, folded pages, drawings, and collages to create these one-of-a-kind works of art.

The project will be displayed on a large bookshelf shaped like a book, and visitors will have the opportunity to browse through each artist's book. The launch will take place on 02nd March at 6pm.

Other Events

Engineers Week
4th – 10th March 2023

Dundalk Library

Library staff in Dundalk library will facilitate 3D printing demonstrations for invited primary schools.

Mark Johnson Senior Engineer with LCC will give a talk to students from St. Nicholas' School on Tuesday 07th March.

Drogheda Library

Tom King, An Gobha Blacksmith will visit Drogheda Library on Friday 10th March. Tom will facilitate two sessions for invited primary schools. He will talk about engineering and how it fits in to his own work as a blacksmith, and he'll also show some examples of his work.

International Women's Day



Dundalk Library

To celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March, Dr. Ciara Stewart from Louth Libraries will give a talk at 6.30pm in Dundalk library. The talk, 'The Women's Mission': An Examination of Irish Women's Political Movements in the 19th Century and their Role in the Fight for Women's Franchise' will also be available to view online via Crowdcast. <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/the-womens-mission-an>



Let's Get Louth: The Louth Library Service Podcast will interview Grainne Berrill for International Women's Day 2023.

Grainne is the Coordinator of the Drogheda Implementation Board which was established

following the publication of the report by Vivien Geiran called Drogheda: Building a Bridge to a Better Future.

Library staff will sit down with Grainne to talk about her role in the community, what the International Women's Day theme #EmbraceEquity means to her, and how the library always features in her everyday life.

To listen to this episode and more click here <https://anchor.fm/louth-libraries-podcast>
Dundalk Library 042 9353190

Age Action Computer Classes

A six week course will commence on Wednesday 01st March in Dundalk Library.

The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience

To book email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie
Drogheda Library 041 9876162

Free Courses with The Innovation Recovery Project



Course Timetable (Jan/Feb/Mar 2023)

Drogheda Area

Course	Day	Date	Time
Getting a Good Night's Sleep	Wednesday	25 th Jan 2023	10:30am – 12:30pm
Introduction to the Menopause	Wednesday	15 th Feb 2023	10:30am – 12:30pm
Top Tips for Anxiety	Wednesday	22 nd Feb 2023	10:30am – 12:30pm
Men's Health & Wellbeing	Wednesday	1 st Mar 2023	10:30am – 12:30pm
Practicing Self-Care	Wednesday	8 th Mar 2023	10:30am – 12:30pm

Venue: Drogheda Library
Stockwell Lane, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Interested in a course? Get in touch and register today:

NI: (048) 3025 7012

ROI: 086 031 8919

recoverycollege.east@southerntrust.hscni.net

The Innovation Recovery Project aims to build mental health resilience among our population within the cross border region, through provision of education and training. The ethos of recovery education is based on the principles of optimism, hope, opportunity and control, aiming to change the narrative of our mental health to one of strength and resilience.

All courses are co-designed and co-delivered by people with lived experience of mental health difficulties alongside those with professional experience and knowledge, aiming to helping people to tap into their own personal resilience and resourcefulness, become experts in their own self-care and work toward achieving their goals and ambitions.

A number of free courses were delivered by the Innovation Recovery Project throughout the month of January and February. The final courses are scheduled for Wednesday 01st March and Wednesday 08th March in Drogheda Library.

To register
telephone: 086 031 8919 or email
recoverycollege.east@southerntrust.hscni.net

Orchard Fostering Information Session

A representative from Orchard Fostering will host an information session on Wednesday 08th March from 6pm-7pm in Drogheda Library. All welcome to attend.

Age Action Computer Classes

A five week course will commence on Friday 24th March at 10.30am in Drogheda Library.

The course offers free one-to-one tuition for people over the age of 55 who have little or no computer experience

To book email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie

Drogheda Women's Refuge Information Stand

Drogheda Women's Refuge Outreach Service will have an information stand in Drogheda Library on

Wednesday 29th March from 10.30am-1pm. The service offers practical and emotional support and options to those experiencing domestic violence.

Ardee Library 041 6859023 History of Nettuno

Italian historian Silvano Casaldi will be presenting an evening in Ardee Library discussing his new book A History of Nettuno, as Ardee and Nettuno are twinned towns, Silvano will launch the English language publication of his book in Ardee Library the evening of Thursday 16th March at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

Cultúr Drop In Clinic

Deirdre from Cultúr will have a monthly drop-in clinic in Ardee Library for those seeking to improve their job seeking confidence and skills, advising on CV and interview preparation.

Cultúr is a community working with ethnic minorities including immigrants, migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees. The drop in clinic takes place on the first Thursday of every month.

Audiobook Club

The first meeting of the Ardee library audiobook club will be on Thursday 16th March at 6pm, and every third Thursday of the month at 6pm going forward. All are welcome to join.

'Vere Foster' Writers Group

Every Friday from 10.30am-12.30pm. All writing abilities welcome.

English Language Learning

Conversational English classes for migrants and refugees continues every Tuesday between 6pm and 8pm. Classes are organised by Cultúr Migrants Centre. Please contact Angel at angel@cultur.ie or 0873315169 for further information.

Migrant Women's Group Meetings

A women's group for migrant and refugee women meets every Tuesday morning from 11am to 1pm in Ardee Library. This is facilitated by Cultúr Migrants Centre. If you are interested, please contact Viktoriia or Angel at angel@cultur.ie or 0873315169. All welcome.

Knitting & Crochet Group

Every Thursday at 2:30pm
No booking required, just pop along.

Other News

Mosney

Louth Library Service continued on the joint literacy initiative with Meath Library Service aimed at those living in Mosney, as one of the actions under the Drogheda Implementation Plan. Louth and Meath Library Services are supporting the resourcing of the library in the community room in Mosney. Louth Library Service delivered a fantastic range of new stock recently to support the library.



Drogheda Library Branch Manager Aoife, Carberry, Leona Burgess Executive Librarian and Suzie O'Connell Community Room, Mosney.

Arts

Creative Ireland

Following the announcement of the extension of the Creative Ireland programme until 2027, the new Louth Culture and Creativity Strategy launched on the 23rd of February at a special gathering in Dublin with all 31 local authority plans being launched together. The event was attended by the Director of Services Paddy Donnelly and the Creative Ireland Louth Co-Ordinator Moya Rodgers. The strategy aims to continue the work of the Creative Ireland programme in Louth over the past 5 years with a particular focus this time on embedding culture and creativity into the work of the local authority, thus strengthening the engagement with the public.



Cover of the new Louth Culture and Creativity Strategy which launched in Dublin on 23rd February.

The Creative Ireland Community Grants for Louth also opened for application in February and closed on 2nd March. Assessment on the grant applications will be done during March with awards being announced before the end of the month.

The new Louth Culture and Creativity Team are busy putting together proposals for other projects which will receive funding under the Creative Ireland

strand this year. All projects when approved and agreed will be available on the Louth page of the Creative Ireland website [here](#)

Brigid1500

As part of the councils Brigid1500 program to commemorate the anniversary of her passing in 2024, Louth County Council announced the competition on E-Tenders for our Artist in the Community project. The national competition closed on 23rd February and the contract is expected to be awarded by the end of March. Work will then begin with the successful artists group on identifying the various community groups and schools which will take part in the project throughout 2023. This project is part funded by the Louth Creative Ireland Programme.

CreateLouth Arts Grants

The arts service of Louth County Council will open their annual arts grants for application on 13th March 2023. The grant awards have been split this year to include a range of bursaries for emerging and established artists, as well as the usual arts grants for creative projects, Tyrone Guthrie bursary, School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme and Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary. Details of all grants available will be available [here](#)

Highlanes Gallery

Highlanes Gallery had a range of artistic events to suit all ages during the February mid-term thanks to their 'Tyranny of Ambition' exhibition. This exhibition which has been running since the end of November has posed the question "What do I like (or not) about art?" With this question in mind the gallery team curated several workshops for young and old. These included the 'Sketchy People' of Drogheda meeting up indoors in the gallery for the winter months where they sketched what they saw. The children's mid-term workshop saw Julie Duhay taking anything that was destined for recycling and turning it into art. In this case, with St Brigid in mind, the little ones created their own shrines! The shrines were about a person, a place or a thing, and everything was made

using recycled materials either from their own homes, or provided by the gallery.

An Táin Arts Centre

Unguarded – a new play by local actor Anthony Kinahan was performed in the studio theatre on Saturday 4th February. Supported by CreateLouth, the arts service of Louth County Council, the play tells the story of a fathers struggle to retain custody of his child following the death of his partner. This is Anthony's first solo play, which he also wrote, and which highlighted a very topical issue in today's legal system around the rights of parents in a same sex relationship.

Basement Gallery – 'Stagnant' is the new exhibition from Cathy McKeown and Polly Maher which opened in the basement gallery in An Táin Arts Centre on 16th February. The exhibition features a collection of drawings, objects and paintings which explore the casual attachment to our way of life living on the border and rural Ireland. The exhibition runs until 11th March.

Droichead Arts Centre

Myths & Legends Programme – Droichead launched their new outreach programme on 20th February which will see 5 artists facilitate a workshop programme with 4 local schools and 1 community group in Drogheda. Inspired by the mythology of the DRAWDA Urban Art Trail, the artists will work with the local youth to create the mythical river Boyne featuring the Salmon of Knowledge and other river creatures which will all come together for the St Patricks Day parade in Drogheda.

17 Ways to a Better You – the current exhibition by artists Adrian and Shane will come to a close in early March. The artists held an in person Q & A to a packed gallery on 11th February and had a great time showcasing their work in this impressive pop art exhibition which focused on the impact of self-help books, click bait and social media in today's world.



Artists Adrian and Shane at their Q & A in Droichead Arts Centres Gallery



Display on St. Brigid of Ireland

Museum

To mark the new Public Holiday the Museum organised a number of activities to mark St. Brigid's life and enduring legacy.



Display on St. Brigid of Ireland

This display features several of the Museum's collection of Brigid's Crosses, as well as a number of sketches of her shrine at Faughart, as well as promotional material for the early pilgrimages there. One highlight of the display is the manner in which the Cross has been used and re-interpreted by organizations as diverse as the GAA, RTÉ, the Department of Health (in the 1950s) and the Nursing and Midwife Board.

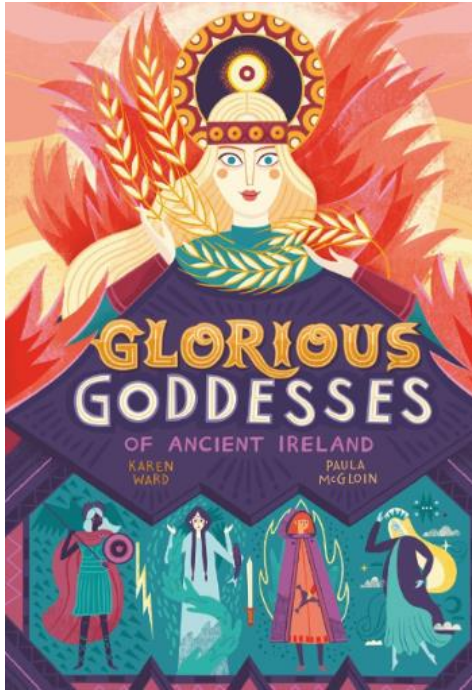
Workshops



Kite-making workshops

The Museum also organised a number of kite-making workshops based on and inspired by St. Brigid. Aimed at a National School audience, the workshops combined elements of song, folklore and kite design. The workshops were well received by all and were fully booked out.

Lecture



Dr. Karen Ward author of *Goddesses of Ireland: ancient wisdom for modern women* and the recently released children's book *Glorious Goddesses of Ancient Ireland* (presented a lecture on St. Brigid. The talk highlighted both the pagan and Christian elements surrounding Brigid's life and career. The talk also gave an overview of Brigid's life and how it continues to have relevance today.

Old Dundalk Society Lecture

The Museum hosted a lecture by the Old Dundalk Society on the history of the 27 Infantry Battalion in Dundalk. The talk was given by Sgt. Riccardo Luchessi

Recent Acquisitions



Seaman's Kitbag

The Museum continues to add to its collection. Amongst its recent acquisitions include a seaman's kitbag dating from the late 19th and early 20th Century and a First World War service medal usually worn by soldiers home on leave.



First World War Service Medal