



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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
7<sup>ú</sup> Bealtaine 2024**

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

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

A Chara,

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

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

- The achievement of the ISO45001 Health and Safety Standard for our fire service.
- The wonderful work that is being completed in the Fair Street Office redevelopment, which is captured in some lovely photographs this month,
- The variation published in relation to the County Development Plan.
- The concluding works on the Obelisk Bridge.

Finally, I want to remind the members that the only reporting of water matters is the Rural Water Programme which is included within the Organisation Development Directorate.

Is mise le meas.



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Joan Martin  
Chief Executive

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

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## Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

**Bernie Woods**  
Director / Stiúirthóir



## Financial Report

### Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 / Caiteachas go dtí 30<sup>ú</sup> Aibreán 2024

| <b>Section/Rannóg</b>  | <b>Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas larbhír go dtí 30/04/2024</b> | <b>Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024</b> | <b>% Spent to/ % Caite go 30/04/2024</b> |
|--|---|---|--|
| Housing/Tithíocht  | €15,855,516   | <b>€62,912,092</b>                                      | 25%                                      |
| Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht                     | €7,309,138  | <b>€27,583,468</b>                                      | 26%                                      |
| Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce   | €2,147,926  | <b>€8,804,737</b>                                       | 24%                                      |
| Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha                                      | €6,126,824  | <b>€27,259,532</b>                                      | 22%                                      |
| Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta                                     | €6,046,058  | <b>€23,558,956</b>                                      | 26%                                      |
| Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste                                       | €2,650,735  | <b>€11,234,063</b>                                      | 24%                                      |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas | €299,546  | <b>€1,491,272</b>                                       | 20%                                      |
| Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach  | €2,517,066  | <b>€8,839,470</b>                                       | 28%                                      |
|  | <b>€42,952,809</b>  | <b>€171,683,590</b>                                     | <b>25%</b>                               |

### Income to 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 / Ioncam go 30<sup>ú</sup> Aibreán 2024

| <b>Section/Rannóg</b>  | <b>Actual Income to/ioncam larbhír go dtí 30/04/24</b> | <b>Budget Income/ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024</b> | <b>% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 30/04/24</b> |
|--|--|---|---|
| Housing/Tithíocht  | €14,288,395  | <b>€64,380,831</b>                            | 22%   |
| Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht                     | €1,554,893   | <b>€16,558,010</b>                            | 9%  |
| Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce   | €1,505,991   | <b>€8,131,617</b>                             | 19%   |
| Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha                                      | €2,386,772   | <b>€17,277,072</b>                            | 14%   |
| Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta                                     | €678,930   | <b>€4,348,102</b>                             | 16%   |
| Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste                                       | €318,006   | <b>€1,683,163</b>                             | 19%   |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas | €181,356   | <b>€558,596</b>                               | 32%   |
| Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach  | €466,517   | <b>€11,372,937</b>                            | 4%  |
| Rates/Rátaí  | €34,675,424  | <b>€34,507,064</b>                            | 100%  |
| General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach                                  | €5,683,099   | <b>€11,366,198</b>                            | 50%   |
| Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi larmhéid Dochair                         | €0   | <b>€1,500,000</b>                             | 0%  |
|  | <b>€61,739,383</b>                                     | <b>€171,683,590</b>                           | <b>36%</b>  |

The above is the current position as of the 30th of April 2024. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2024 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 30th of April 2024 are as follows:

**Debtors as of 30th of April 2024/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 30<sup>ú</sup> Aibreán 2024**

|  | <b>Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh</b> | <b>Invoices/ Sonraisc</b> | <b>Receipts/ Fáltais</b> | <b>Write Offs/ Díscríobhanna</b> | <b>Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh</b> |
|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais</b> | <b>€28,733,539</b>                       | €38,434,131               | (€47,833,288)            | (€0)                             | <b>€19,334,382</b>                       |
| <b>Other Authorities/Uadaráis Eile</b>           | <b>€93,780</b>                           | €311,343                  | (€305,382)               | (€8,220)                         | <b>€91,521</b>                           |
| <b>Rates/Rataí</b>                               | <b>€5,352,580</b>                        | €34,675,424               | (€16,683,440)            | (€733,674)                       | <b>€22,610,890</b>                       |
| <b>Rents/Cíosanna</b>                            | <b>€2,913,161</b>                        | €5,133,858                | (€5,147,574)             | (€0)                             | <b>€2,899,445</b>                        |
| <b>Loans/Iasachtal</b>                           | <b>€297,248</b>                          | €716,877                  | (€674,784)               | (€0)                             | <b>€339,341</b>                          |
| <b>Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha</b>     | <b>€10,756,762</b>                       | €4,044,544                | (€1,474,407)             | (€0)                             | <b>€13,326,899</b>                       |
| <b>Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin</b>     | <b>€756,633</b>                          | €195,185                  | (€151,098)               | (€0)                             | <b>€800,720</b>                          |
| <b>Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach</b>               | <b>€2,345,328</b>                        | €4,264,738                | (€2,775,881)             | (€18,556)                        | <b>€3,815,629</b>                        |
| <b>Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána</b>     | <b>€51,249,031</b>                       | <b>€87,776,100</b>        | <b>(€75,045,854)</b>     | <b>(€760,450)</b>                | <b>€63,218,827</b>                       |
|  |  |                           |                          |                                  |  |

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

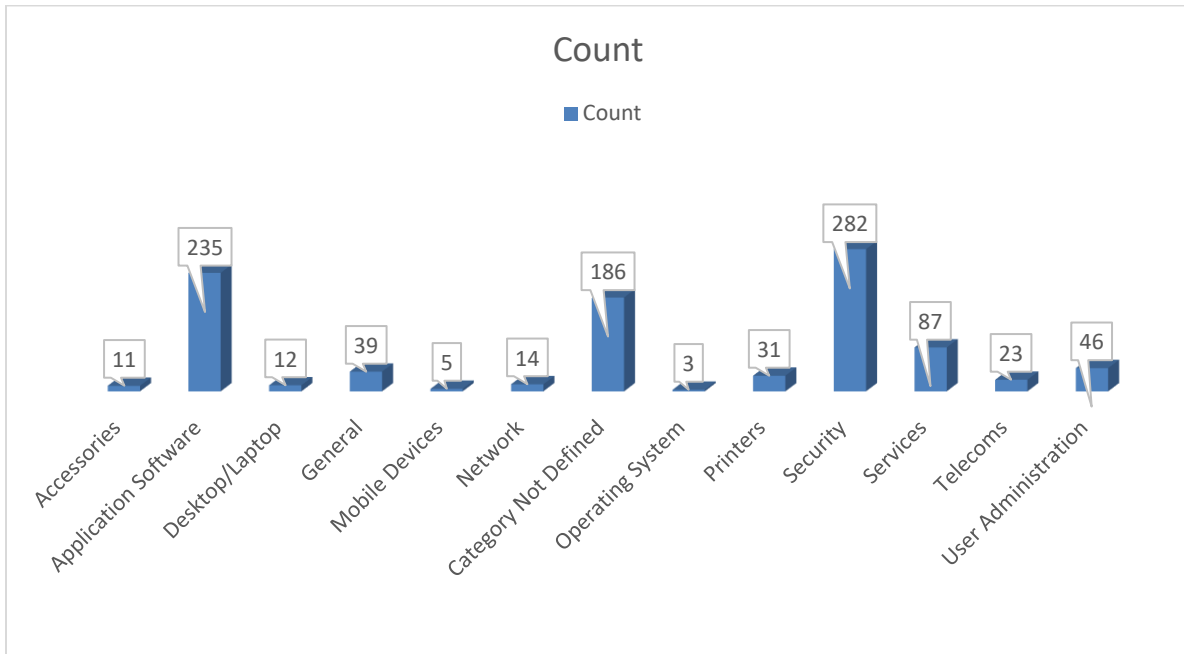
**Annual Financial Statement Audit**

The notice of commencement of the Audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was published in this week's newspapers. The Audit is due to commence on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.

# Information & Communication Technology

## Helpdesk

Between 01/04/2024 and the 30/04/2024 there were 974 support calls logged in the IT support system.



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

## 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 April 33% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

 Inbound Emails

173,150

 Blocked Sender


4,578

 Blocked at gateway


20,627

 Blocked by spam /virus

31,549

 Blocked by content rules

500

 Potentially harmful emails

33.07%

## Louth County Council Website

There were 16,680 unique page views of [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie) in April.

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

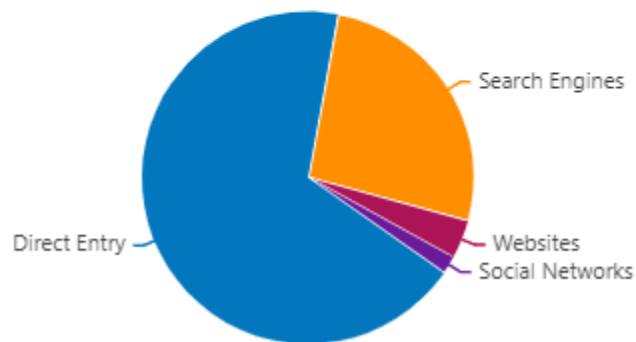
| Page URL  | Pageviews |
|---|-----------|
| /en/  | 3,960     |
| /en/louth_county_council/vacancies/             | 2,315     |
| /en/services/planning/online-planning-and-maps/ | 908       |
| /en/services/                                   | 683       |
| /en/home/                                       | 604       |
| /en/services/dog-pound/                         | 515       |
| /en/services/planning/                          | 423       |
| /en/services/library/                           | 462       |

The below chart indicates the channels people use to access [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie) in April.

The majority of visits, 68%, are via direct access to the website. The next highest is via Search Engines 26%.

### Channel Types

 — Visits

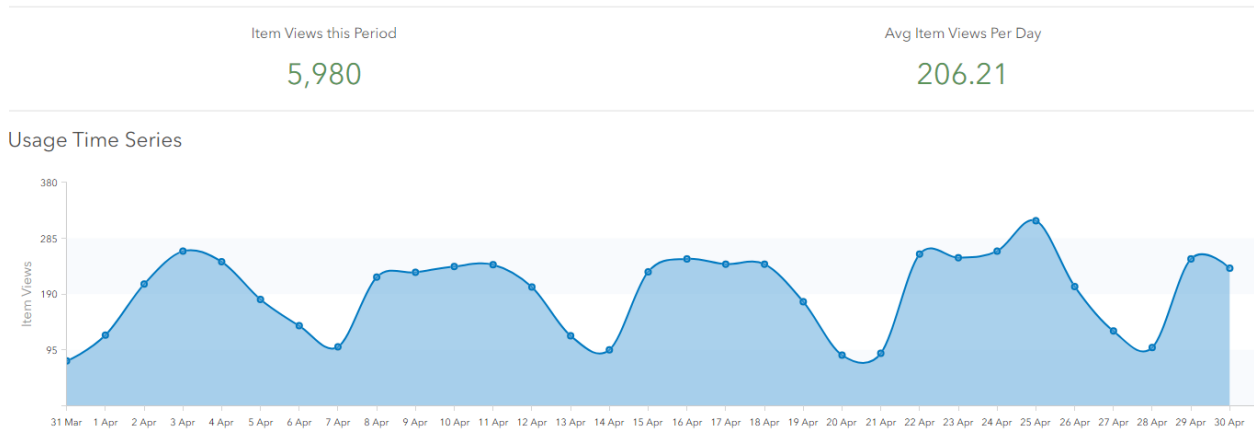


### Website Search Issue

The IT department are working on a resolution to an issue whereby invalid links are being listed when a search is undertaken on the LCC website.

## ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 5,980 views in April, an average of 206 views a day.



## Strategic Economic Development Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:

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

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

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

**Thomas McEvoy  
Director of Service / Stiúrtóir**



## **Economic Development**

### **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**

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

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

### **Louth Economic Forum**

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.

### **Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**

The next meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> May in Drogheda Civic Offices.

### **Age Friendly Business**

Two Age Friendly Business workshops took place on 24<sup>th</sup> April in Dundalk and Drogheda. The workshops were delivered by Orlaith Carmody, Business Advisor to Age Friendly Ireland and assisted by Susan L Murphy from the Economic Development office. The workshops were attended by a representative from twelve different businesses across the county who completed Stage One towards receiving Age Friendly Business Accreditation. These representatives will become the Age Friendly Champion for their business.



*Participants in the Dundalk Age Friendly Business Workshop*



*Participants in the Drogheda Age Friendly Business workshop*

## **Tourism**

### **sea louth**

Two sea louth workshops are arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> May in the Glyde Inn, Annagassan. The first workshop will be for restaurateurs and producers, the second for front of house staff.

Three new sea louth stamp collection points have been added to the trail – Omeath Post Office, ‘On Yer Bike’, Carlingford and Morgan’s Fine Fish, Omeath.

The Brasserie Restaurant in the Fairways Hotel have signed up as a participating restaurant on the trail.

### **Visit Louth**

As part of the ‘Reimagined Boyne Valley Destination’, Fáilte Ireland engaged a digital specialist to review the Council tourism websites in conjunction with the Tourism Section. This took place over an 18-month period. A meeting was held to review the findings and to discuss what options the future of digital platforms might hold for the destination. These will feed into the forthcoming Tourism Strategy being led by the Tourism Officer.

### **Cross-Border Tourism Conference**

The Annual Cross-Border Tourism Conference, hosted by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, took place on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Louth County Council were a key sponsor of the Conference and also had a stand at the event promoting Visit Louth and sea louth. Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, Tourism Officer, was among the speakers.



**Sabh Ní Mhaolagáin, Tourism Officer, speaking at the Cross-Border Tourism Conference**



**Visit Louth & sea louth stand at the Cross-Border Tourism Conference**

**LGMA National Tourism Conference**

Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development & Tourism was a speaker at the LGMA National Tourism Conference which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April in Kildare. The presentation was on the successful ‘Brigid 1500: Louth Birthplace of Brigid’ festival which took place from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> February.



**Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer, speaking at the LGMA National Tourism Conference**

**Táin Trail**

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling

experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the Táin Trail region on same.

**Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme**

The launch of the Drogheda Visitor Wayfinding & Orientation Project took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April in Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda.

This tourism investment displays historical information and maps of easily accessed locations within walking distance.



**Launch of the Drogheda Visitor Wayfinding & Orientation Project**



**Launch of the Drogheda Visitor Wayfinding & Orientation Project**

**Urban Animation – Lú Festival of Light**

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

**Boyne Valley Flavours (BVF)**

A request for quotes for a branding audit of Discover Boyne Valley Flavours has been issued. The audit will cover the brand and the website.

The updated 2024 Discover Boyne Valley Flavours brochure has been printed and is being distributed to tourist offices in County Louth and Meath.

Discover Boyne Valley Flavours 2024 window stickers are being distributed to all BVF members.

A meeting took place between Louth County Council, Meath County Council and Fáilte Ireland on 16<sup>th</sup> April with a view to signing off on the new 5-Year Food Strategy for the region. A follow up meeting will take place to discuss how to best oversee the activities of Boyne Valley Flavours and the Centre of Food Culture.

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

The Transition Year Young Cooks Regional Final took place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Boyne Valley region was represented by teams from Sacred Heart, Drogheda and Mercy, Navan. Ella Ryan, Development Manager of the Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture, visited and advised both schools in advance of the final. Sacred Heart School in Drogheda took second place on the day.

Development is underway for the first set of events and workshops for the Centre of Food Culture, as well as the website where future events will be advertised.

Scoping commenced for the library of heritage food and drink crafts and skills project.

### **Drogheda Night Time Economy**

#### **Cruinniú na nÓg – Drogheda 2024**



As a participant in the Night Time Economy Adviser pilot, the Council has been awarded additional Cruinniú na nÓg funding for a Night Time Economy related youth event in Drogheda. Working in partnership with Boomerang Youth Café and supported by Droichead Arts Centre, a festival style event and craft market is being developed for the early phase of the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> June. This will

incorporate live musical performances and busking, with the chance for some participating buskers to be involved in a Busk at Dusk event later in the summer. Further details will shortly be available over the official launch in the middle of May.

### **Busk at Dusk**

The call is now out for buskers interested in taking part in a series of busking events later this summer. This initiative will pilot enhancing the vibrancy of the Drogheda town centre over the first phase of the night time economy (6.00 – 9.00pm) in prime locations across the town centre. In addition, surveys will be carried out from all interested and participating musicians to ascertain how more organic busking and street performance can be encouraged in a suitable and sustainable way.

### **National Night Time Economy Workshops**

On 17<sup>th</sup> April all pilot Night Time Economy Adviser areas (including Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Longford, Kilkenny, Drogheda, Sligo and Buncrana) were represented for the first time at a workshop arranged by the government's Night Time Economy Unit in Athlone. Working within the department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the main aim of the Unit is to enhance the vibrancy and inclusivity of the night time economies for the pilot areas. With involvement from various key stake holders, the groups discussed best practice, areas for joint working and progress against target milestones.

### **LEO Louth**

#### **LEO Business Supports**

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

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

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

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

New businesses can be included on the Louth online directory by emailing: [lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie](mailto:lookforlocal@leo.louthcoco.ie).

## Green for Business



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

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

During April one business was approved for Green for Business.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications

## Business Training



During April LEO held four training courses including Start Your Own Business, Digital Marketing Strategy, Book-keeping for Small Business and Branding for Small Business.

All scheduled training courses are available to view and book online:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

## Trading Online Voucher Scheme



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

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

Three Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in April.

## Business Advice Clinics

Forty-one business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during April.

## LEO Louth Mentor Programme



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

Twenty-four businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of April.

## Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

Three MFI applications have been received in April.

## LEAN for Business Programme



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

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

Three LEAN for Business applications were received in April.

## Digital Start

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

## Drogheda Digital Hub

Drogheda is poised to become a vibrant hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, thanks to the

ambitious plans for the Drogheda Digital Hub, spearheaded by the Council's Local Enterprise Office. This cutting-edge initiative aims to cultivate the next wave of tech innovators.

Central to the Drogheda Digital Hub is the 'Boyne Innovate' pre-start-up training and support programme. Tailored to empower budding entrepreneurs, this programme provides them with the essential skills, knowledge, and backing to transform their groundbreaking ideas into thriving businesses. Leveraging globally recognised innovation methodologies, the programme will be facilitated by a seasoned team of certified development coaches from the Regional Development Centre at DKIT.

Participants will benefit from a comprehensive curriculum, mentorship opportunities, and direct access to industry experts. The inaugural programme will kick off at The Mill Enterprise Centre in May of this year. For those interested in registering please visit [www.droghedadigitalhub.ie](http://www.droghedadigitalhub.ie) to complete an expression of interest and be part of this initiative.



*Lavina McGahon, DKIT, Garrett Duffy, DKIT, Fionnuala Rogers, Drogheda Digital Hub Manager, Thomas McEvoy, DOS, Ronan Whitty, The Mill, Aoife Leddy, Enterprise Ireland*

## Energy Efficiency Grant



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

Eligible Costs include Meters (electricity, gas, diesel, oil, water, steam & loggers) and installation costs, Smart energy controls e.g., heating, cooling, lighting, automatic on/off systems, parasitic load controls, upgrade lighting to LED (only as part of a package of eligible cost measures) and more. Further information on this grant can be found here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Financial-Supports/Energy%20Efficiency%20Grant/>.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

### **Drogheda Chamber networking event - 5 AI Tools that will transform your Business in 2024**

LEO Louth sponsored an informative networking information seminar in collaboration with Drogheda Chamber of Commerce on 5 AI Tools that will transform your Business in 2024 which was held in the Mill Enterprise Centre Drogheda on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Sarah Mallon represented the LEO office at the event which was very well attended.



**Drogheda Chamber Networking Event**

### **Cross-Border Tourism Conference**

LEO Louth were delighted to be a sponsor yet again at the annual Cross-Border Tourism Conference,

hosted by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, held in Carlingford on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The theme of this year's event was Growing your visitors - Learning from the best. The audience heard from a wide range of speakers who encouraged the tourism businesses there to innovate, digitalise and co-operate with fellow tourist attractions to help multiply the attractiveness of their offering. Pamela Kerr and Sarah Mallon represented the LEO office at this event.



**Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Cross-Border Tourism Conference**



**Pamela Kerr speaking at the Cross-Border Tourism Conference**

## **European Relations**



### **PEACEPLUS**

The PEACEPLUS Action Plan was submitted for approval to the Special EU Programmes Body

(SEUPB), on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. It is expected that a decision should be made by 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

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

Please keep an eye on our website, via <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peaceplus/> and <https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>. Contact [peaceplus@louthcoco.ie](mailto:peaceplus@louthcoco.ie) for further information.

## **Heritage**

In April, the Council received confirmation that three of the five applications submitted by the Heritage Office to the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) had been successful. One of these was submitted on behalf of the private owners of Bellew's castle towerhouse in Castletown, near Dundalk (on the site of the Saint Louis Convent School in Dundalk). The other application that was submitted on behalf of a third party, for continuing works at Glaspistol towerhouse, near Clogherhead, was not successful. Two of the Council's own applications to the CMF were successful. These were for conservation works to Cappocksgate in Ardee and for a survey of the surviving stretches of Drogheda's town defences. Tenders for these works are being prepared.

The Council's application for funding for carrying out repairs to the boundary wall around the mound at Millmount was not successful. The Heritage Officer has applied for Ministerial Consent for the proposed conservation works at Millmount, a legal requirement as Millmount is a National Monument in the care of the local authority.

An application to the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) capital works fund for a detailed assessment of a long stretch of Drogheda's town wall was successful and awarded €30,000. The Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust also applied to this fund, for works on the Tholsel, which was awarded €65,000.

Applications were submitted to the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) for funding for interpretation and events by Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust, by Louth County Council Tourism Office for upgrades to smart lighting at Millmount and Laurence's Gate and by the Séan Corcoran Series for events.

A contractor was appointed to advise the Council on the potential of Monasterboice qualifying towards the Tentative List for World Heritage.

The Heritage Officer participated in and helped lead a visit to County Louth by the Irish Quaternary Association, specialists in geology and geomorphology from all across Ireland and overseas. An excellent Field Guide was produced for this visit, the association's first visit to Louth since 1976.

The Heritage Officer also attended and spoke at the annual Cross-Border Tourism Conference hosted by the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce.

## **Fire & Emergency Services**

### **Fire Service**

Louth County Council Fire Service received ISO 45001 accreditation from the National Standards Authority of Ireland for its Health and Safety Management System. ISO 45001 is the premier international standard for Health and Safety Management. To achieve accreditation, an organisation must have a very well-developed Health and Safety Management System.

The Fire Service was audited by the NSAI over a two-day period, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The two NSAI auditors examined all of Louth Fire Service's policies, procedures, audits, and records in relation to Health and Safety. This includes procedures and audits in fire stations, for incidents and in Dundalk Training centre. The auditors met with senior Fire Service staff and visited fulltime and retained stations where they met officers and fire fighters and discussed how policies and procedures were implemented on the ground.

ISO 45001 also requires systems for dealing with non-conformances, accidents, and incidents. The auditors were updated on the procedures and spreadsheets showing these how issues are responded to and closed off.

The auditors were given demonstrations of the FLEX software system by Fire Service staff. This is a powerful software system which is used for the management of Fire Service training, personal protective clothing and equipment, and fleet

maintenance. A report was completed by the NSAI auditors confirming the ISO 45001 accreditation.

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during April. Vacancies were publicised in the stations and recruitment videos were put up on social media. Six Louth Fire Fighters successfully completed a Module 1 Sub Officer's course and are being appointed as Acting Sub Officers by the HR Section. Once this is done, these personnel can begin managing crews and taking charge of incidents.

Other training courses during April were as follows:

- Breathing Apparatus Refreshers
- Manual and Person Handling
- One officer attended a Train the Trainer course in Newbridge.

There has been a continuation in requests to the Fire Prevention Section during April by Government Departments to inspect properties for the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees and International Protection applicants. There was a fire safety certificate application made in respect of a hotel proposed to be used to accommodate International Protection applicants.

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

Tender documents are currently being finalised for the purchase of 325 sets of fire gear for Louth Fire Service personnel, under a four-year framework. This also includes a Care and Maintenance system for the fire gear.

### **Major Emergency Management**

The Council continued to chair regional Major Emergency Management Steering and Working Group meetings during April. There was a national meeting about Storm Kathleen but this had minimal impact on Louth.

Following the update of the Major Emergency Plan, the appendices of the Plan are now being updated. This includes emergency rest centres for the county.

### **Climate Adaptation Strategy**

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

### **Civil Defence**

Training during April was as follows:

- Weekly Training
- Cardiac First Responder Advanced
- Emergency First Responder Exams
- Training day held for local Community First Responder groups
- Manual Handling

The following Duties were attended by volunteers during April:

- Monaghan Stages Rally
- Apple Blossom Walk

### **Building Control**

The Chief Fire Officer attended the most recent national Building Control Advisory Board meeting in Dublin. There was a discussion about the current national Building Control software system with a recommendation that the National Building Control Office procures a new national Building Control Management System.

The Building Control Section has continued to conduct on-site inspections across the county contributing to meeting the NOAC inspection requirements.

## Planning

### Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for the Council for the month of March 2024 are given below in tabular form. There were 81 planning applications received during the month of March of which 61 were valid. In addition, there were 34 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 27 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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

| (A)<br>Description / Cur Síos   | (B)<br>Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta | (C)<br>Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair | (D)<br>Other applications -not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT | (E)<br>Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth | (F)<br>Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| (i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh   | 3  | 7                                       | 41  | 0   | 51   |
| (ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais | 3  | 3                                       | 15  | 0   | 21   |
| (iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh                                  | 0.00% (0)  | 28.57% (2)                              | 17.07% (7)  | 0.00% (0)   | 17.65% (9)   |
| (iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh  | 2  | 1                                       | 7   | 0   | 10   |
| (v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc          | 0.00% (0)  | 0.00% (0)                               | 28.57% (2)  | 0.00% (0)   | 20.00% (2)   |

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

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

| Description / Cur Síos  | Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh |                                  | Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|   | March 2024 / Márta 2024   | Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo | March 2023 / Márta 2023   | Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo |
| Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh                               | 19  | 71                               | 18  | 46                               |
| Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise | 0   | 0                                | 0   | 0                                |
| Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht                                      | 21  | 47                               | 9   | 28                               |
| Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh  | 18  | 58                               | 16  | 46                               |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh   | 0   | 2                                | 0   | 3                                |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí   | 0   | 1                                | 0   | 4                                |
| 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 |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
|   | April 2024 /<br>Aibreán 2024                   | Year to Date /<br>Bliain go dtí seo |
| Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh                               | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht                                      | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair   | 19   | 19                                  |
| Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh  | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh   | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí   | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí  | 0  | 0                                   |
| Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh   | 0  | 0                                   |

## **Forward Planning**

### **RZLT Phase 2 Consultation Period (2<sup>nd</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024)**

The second phase of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Annual Draft Map 2024 consultation remains open for **Landowners Only “Seeking Land-Use Zoning Change”**.

Submissions can be made from 2<sup>nd</sup> April until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 (inclusive). All submissions for this phase will be published, on our consultation portal, not later than 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

**Please Note: After 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, any Submissions made that do not relate to “Landowners Seeking Land-Use Zoning Changes” cannot be considered and will be returned.**

### **Request to Vary the Zoning of Land**

Where land is identified on the annual draft map as being subject to the residential zoned land tax and where the land identified on the annual draft map is included in a development plan or local area plan in accordance with section 10(2)(a) or 19(2)(a) of the Act of 2000 zoned –

- (i) solely or primarily for residential use, or
- (ii) for a mixture of uses, including residential use,

a person may on or before **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**, in respect of land that such a person owns, make a submission to the local authority requesting a variation of the zoning of that land. Any such submission should include evidence of ownership, detailed reasons for any rezoning request, along with a map to a scale of 1:1,000 (urban) or 1:2,500 (rural) clearly identifying the relevant plot of land.

Any such written rezoning requests received by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 other than such elements of a submission which may constitute personal data, shall be published on the website maintained by the local authority concerned not later than 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

All rezoning requests made will be considered by the Local Authority having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. For details on how to make a submission, please refer to <https://consult.louthcoco.ie>.

### **Proposed Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 (as varied)**

Pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) Louth County Council proposes to make a Variation (Variation No. 2) of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 (as varied).

A copy of the proposed Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 (and associated SEA and AA Screening documents) was available for inspection from **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 until 4pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

The reason for this proposed Variation is:

1. To update the County Development Plan to take account of the Guidelines ‘Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024 and issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Section 28 provides that planning authorities shall have regard to Ministerial Guidelines and shall apply any specific planning policy requirements (SPPRs) of the Guidelines, within the meaning of Section 28 (1C) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), in the performance of their functions.

Full details of the proposed variation were on public display and available to view at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie> from **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 until 4pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**, during which time submissions could be made.

## Placemaking and Physical Development

### Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## **Roads and Local Services**

### **Municipal District of Dundalk**

#### **Dundalk and Cooley Area**

##### **Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair**

##### **Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí**

All areas on the list are done once a week and if needed spot picked.

Dublin Rd

Town Centre Containers

Market St

Demense

Pearse Pk

Ramparts

Bothar Na Feirme

Red Barns Rd

Point Rd

Barrack St

Inner Relief Rd

Old Coes Rd

Centenery Rd

Fairgreen Rd

Northgate St

Ecco Rd

Castletown Rd

John St

Philip St

Riverside Crescent

Riverside Walk

Laurels

Armagh Rd

Mooreland /Lennonmelia Crescent

Riverside Walk

Racecourse Rd

Mourne View Walkway

Ardee Rd

Carrick Rd

Under bridges at Fr Murray Pk

Ashling Pk Estate

River Grids checked weekly and any debris Lifted

Bottle Banks at Long Walk,

Harp Car Park,

Meadow Grove

Gateway at Hoeys Lane cleared every day and area litter picked.

Strimming around Verges and walls

Cleanup household dumped rubbish at Saltown.

Removing rubbish from Bottle Banks on a daily basis and cleaning around them

Grass cutting in areas but due to so much rain this month of April many areas are too wet to cut.

Still many areas very wet

Spring Bedding Plants and bulbs are giving good colour to the Town.

Parasols Moved to Side of Square, new Plant boxes planted

Cooley isolated locations, including Templetown, Gyles Quay, Greenore. R132 Carrickcarnan border.

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

**Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht**

Nightly By Contractor- 200 Bins  
All Tubs checked for rubbish.  
Cleaned Flower Towers  
Cleaned borders around Town.  
Trimmed areas at Jocelyn Drive  
Illegal dumping is ongoing at Williamsons Place,  
Illegal Burning of rubbish at Muirhevnamor on the Park  
Bin maintenance carried out by outdoor staff. Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore, Templetown, Gyles Quay

**Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre**

**Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain**

Contract Sweeper as per contract Nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract.  
St Helenas Rd  
Ardee Rd  
Carrick Rd  
Extra sweep when extra events on

**Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra**

**Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain**

200 Litter Bins throughout the town

Most dog waste bins are removed as dog waste is now deposited in general bins

By Contractor- Nightly as part of the street bin collections

- As per bin maintenance in Cooley

**Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála**

**Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain**

Ring Buoys checked Weekly. Report sent to Water Safety Officer for Dundalk

27 Checked Weekly

Lifebuoy issues this month of April included Ice House Hill, Toberona, Navy Bank and The Old Newry Rd- all replaced and new ropes added

Carried out by Water Safety Officer in Cooley

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

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

Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker.

Contractor is checking and replacing missing and damaged parts in Navy Park

Repairs completed at Stephenstown Pond

Litter Picked up in Parks

Regular checks by Cooley area staff

|   | Location / Suíomh  | Notes / Nótaí |
|---|--|---------------|
| <b>Road Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Bóithre</b>  | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b></p> <p>Isolated potholes, maintenance of roads that were damaged through recent storms, Deerpark L.P 30850. Annaverna L.T30906. Jenkinstown. L.T 30847.</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b><br/>N/A</p> |               |
| <b>Drainage Remediation /<br/>Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>                         | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b></p> <p>Major works been carried out at two locations, Upper Jenkinstown L.P 3084-44, Also Lugbriscan/Balleverty Riverstown L.S 70730. Mullatee R176</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b><br/>N/A</p>     |               |
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous<br/>Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b> | <p>N/A</p>   |               |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b>                               | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b></p> <p>Cleaning of footpaths in Carlingford. Omeath, Templetown carpark, Gyles Quay carpark</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b><br/>N/A</p>   |               |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráichta</b>                       | <p>On Going Repairs- Bulb Replacement at Vincent Ave, Castletown Rd, at Inner Relief Road, Bay Estate Roundabout</p> <p>Pedestrian lights in Carlingford village</p>   |               |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  |   |  |
| <b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b>               | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b><br/>N/A</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b><br/>N/A</p>  |  |
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>                      | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b><br/>N/A</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b><br/>Replaced damaged Road Signs and speed limit signs<br/>Replaced Directional Bollards at island junctions<br/>Replaced numerous faded Signage in areas around town</p>   |  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b> | <p><b><u>Cooley</u></b><br/>N/A</p> <p><b><u>Dundalk</u></b><br/>Dumping of Sofas and Mattresses in areas continues along Shuck at By Pass</p> <p>Entrance to Woodview Estate-Black bags being dumped weekly</p> <p>Mooreland Rd Fly Tipping</p> <p>Removed Sofa from Saltown</p> <p>Fire remnants at Muirhevnamor Park again this Month of April</p> <p>Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly</p> |  |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>           | Cleaned Graffiti at Chu Cuchulainn Increasing vandalism at this location  |  |

## Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>                             | <b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b><br><br>N/A   |
| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b>                | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blackrock – 6 days/week</li><li>• Knockbridge – once a week</li><li>• Dromiskin – once a week</li><li>• Tallanstown &amp; Louth Village – once a week</li></ul> |
| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>                              | <b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b><br><br>N/A  |
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b> | <b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b><br><br>N/A  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>   | <b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackrock (7No.) checked weekly</li> <li>• Annagassan (11No.) checked weekly</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b> | <b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Killanny, Louth Village, Castlebellingham – checked weekly</li> <li>• Blackrock – checked weekly</li> </ul> |

| Location / Suíomh                                   | Notes / Nótaí   |
|---|---|
| <b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b>                | <p>Tar patching on L-31671-0 Rathiddy Knockbridge, LS-7118 Bog road, LT-31041 Carrickedmond Kilcurry, LT-71081 Raskeagh Kilcurry, LS-7108 Marmions Cross Kilcurry, LS-7109 Scotch Green Kilcurry, R172 Blackrock, LS-7127 Kilkerry road Kilkerry, LP-3161 Marlbog road Haggardstown</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> |
| <b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b> | <p>LP-3161 Marlbog Road, LS-7162 Clermount Road, L-31671 Rathiddy Knockbridge</p> <p>Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets &amp; storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.</p>   |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b> | Mills of Louth – Killany, Mills of Louth – Louth Village, Arthurstown, Tallanstown, Monvallet, Drummenagh and the removal of lesser debris from various roads | Clearing fallen trees & debris.   |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b>                           |   | Footpath renewal  |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>                    | Xerox junction  | Major repair works completed  |
| <b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b>                                  | N/A<br><br>N/A  | Renewal of junction markings<br><br>Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings |
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>   | Louth Village and Annagassan  | Cleansing/repair/replacement<br><br>New signage   |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b>                    | LS-7103 Carn More Kilcurry, LS-7163 Chapel road Haggardstown, N52 Gibstown  | Collection of dumped waste for disposal.<br><br>Collection & disposal after community clean up    |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>                              | N/A   |   |

## Ardee Municipal District

### South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>  | <b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b>                           |
|   | All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)<br>Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins |
| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b>   | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b>  |
| Ardee Town<br>Dunleer town<br>Collon<br>Erecting of bin at Riverside walk<br>Erecting of bin at Link road | 37 Daily<br>20 Tuesday and Thursday<br>3 Tuesday and Thursday                              |
| <b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>   | <b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b>  |
|   | All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)   |
| <b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>                                      | <b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b>  |
|   | N/A  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>   | <b>Number checked weekly / Lón Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b>   |
| Ardee town River Dee  |   |
| Salterstown   |   |
| Port Beach  |   |
| <b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b> | <b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b>   |
|   | 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   |
|---|---|
| <b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b>                | LS 5210-0 Cookstown<br>LP 1297-0 Leaby cross<br>LP 2253-47 Philipstown<br>N52 Ardee Kells road<br>LS-5231-0 Boat Trench Ardee,<br>LP-1233-42 Mountrush,<br>LP2214-0 Stabannon,<br>R170 Dawsons Demesne Ardee,<br>R168 Collon Drogheda road,<br>LT-52305-0 De-La-Sal crescent, |
| <b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b> | LS-6329 castle lane<br>LP 1209-0 Cookstown<br>LP 1297-0 Leaby cross<br>LP 2239-0 Mountainstown road<br>R165 Ardee/Shanlis,  |

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| <b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b> | N/A |  |
| <b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b>                           | N/A |  |
| <b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>                    | N/A |  |
| <b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b>                                  | N/A |  |
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>   | N/A |  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b>                    | N/A |  |
| <b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b>                              | N/A |  |

## Borough District of Drogheda

### Drogheda Town Area

| <b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>              | <b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steps and lane ways weekly. 22 steps when resources allow and green areas.</li><li>• Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week.</li><li>• Preparation for Drogheda 10 K Run, road sweeping of route, West St, St Dominick's St, St Dominick's Bridge, St Dominick's Pk, Riverwalk &amp; Rathmullen Rd.</li><li>• Installation of drainage on slip way from St Dominick's Bridge to St Dominick's Pk.</li></ul> |
|---|---|
| <b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b> | <b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b>   |
| Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead                          | 7 Daily   |
| Clogherhead Beach                                     | 8 Daily   |
| Port Beach  | 6 Daily   |
| Termonfeckin  | 6 Daily   |
| Baltray   | 3 Daily   |
| Seapoint Carpark                                      | 3 Daily   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.</li></ul>  |

- 234 litter bins (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 & maintenance on-going throughout town.
- Replacement of bins at Magdalene St, Georges St & Dual Carriageway.
- Power washing of pavements at West St & Meatmarket Lane.
- Clean up after storm Kathleen, removal of trees , gully cleaning & road sweeping, erecting of flooding signs on Haymarket Bridge & Wellington Quay. (Tree felling at Boyne Rd, Slane Rd & Mell)

**Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre**

**Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain**

- Town centre daily. Approach roads fortnightly.
- Public Housing Estates swept every 2 months. Private Housing estates swept every 3 months.
- 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).
- Road sweepers on all main approach roads, town centre with particular attentions to

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>islands on Dublin Rd, Donore Rd &amp; Rathmullen Rd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graffiti removal at Ballsgrove gate &amp; Community House at Rathmullan Pk.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra</b></p>                                     | <p><b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empty about 35 no. once a week, washed and disinfected.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b></p>   | <p><b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday)</li> <li>• 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b></p> | <p><b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 4 &amp; 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.</li> </ul> |

| Location / Suíomh                           |  | Notes / Nótaí |
|---|--|---------------|
| <p><b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b></p> | <p>R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin<br/> LP-2299-17 New Line<br/> Monasterboice<br/> LS-6270-0 Castlolumney<br/> LP-6876-0 Baggotstown<br/> LP-2308-24 Cotlerstown<br/> Monasterboice<br/> LS-6302 Hamlinstown<br/> LS-6283 Callystown<br/> LS-6311 Kearney's Lane<br/> LS-6292 Red Gap</p> |               |

### Drainage Works

- Gully frame and cover repair at Moneymore Housing Estate.
- Gully maintenance, pipe jetting & cleaning at, Cherrymount, Ballsgrove, Silk Pk, Platin Rd, Brookville, Aston Village, Maple Drive & Blackbush Lane.

### LCC's crew

1. Pot hole repairs at Platin Rd, Twenties Lane, Mell, Ballsgrove, Clintons Lane & John St.
2. Sluice gate at Flaxmill Lane, wall & gate repairs – meeting with consultant Engineer this week to progress.
3. Preparation for Drogheda 10 K run 5th May, pothole repairs at St Dominick's Pk & Rathmullen Rd, road sweeping of route, removal of street bollards & railings at St Dominicks Bridge, Riverwalk and Rathmullen Rd.
4. Clean up after storm Kathleen, removal of trees , gully cleaning & road sweeping, erecting of flooding signs on Haymarket Bridge & Wellington Quay. (Tree felling at Boyne Rd, Slane Rd & Mell)

### Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2024

Survey of roads are complete – tender to issue first week in May.

1. Newfoundwell
2. Cord Rd
3. Platin Rd

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Dual Carriageway</li> <li>5. College Rise</li> <li>6. Rathmullen</li> <li>7. Bredin St</li> <li>8. Boyne Rd</li> <li>9. Westgate</li> <li>10. Crosslanes</li> <li>11. Bull Ring</li> <li>12. Duleek St</li> <li>13. Broadmeadows</li> <li>14. Trinity Gardens</li> <li>15. Patricks St / Bolton St</li> <li>16. Martello Village</li> </ol> <p>CIS Lanes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey of 2024 CIS lanes to commence mid April.</li> <li>2. Prepare tender documents, May.</li> </ol> <p>Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List of sites been surveyed by IWA for 2024 – LCC intend to issue to tender 3rd quarter 2024.</li> </ol> |  |
| <p><b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b></p> | <p>R166 Drogheda to Termonfeckin<br/> LS-6302 Hamlinstown<br/> LP-2299-17 New Line<br/> Monasterboice<br/> LS-6300-0 Coolefore</p> <p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gully frame and cover repair at Moneymore Housing Estate.</li> <li>• Gully maintenance, pipe jetting &amp; cleaning at, Cherrymount, Ballsgrove, Silk Pk, Platin Rd, Brookville, Aston Village, Maple Drive &amp; Blackbush Lane</li> </ul>  |  |

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| <p><b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees /<br/>Crainn Leagtha nó<br/>Chontúirteacha</b></p> | <p>Dysart LS-6241-0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fallen Trees at entrance to West Court housing estate, Meadowview, Donors Green, Townley Hall &amp; R166 removed by LCC.</li> <li>• Clean up after Storm Kathleen, removal of fallen trees at Boyne Rd, Slane Rd &amp; Mell.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>Footpath Maintenance/<br/>Cothabháil Cosán</b></p>                           | <p>Bollards to Termonfeckin School R167</p> <p>Currently preparing a list of locations for footpath repairs for commencing in May depending on weather conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bothar Brugha.</li> <li>• Bolton Sq.</li> <li>• Stameen.</li> <li>• Marian Pk.</li> <li>• William St.</li> <li>• Sandford Terrace.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>Traffic Light Repairs /<br/>Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b></p>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DR04 – R132 @ Bull Ring / North (Vehicle phase lamp A green)</li> <li>• DR06 – R132 @ Westgate / Fair St jct ( Vehicle phase lamp G Red)</li> <li>• DR34 – St Mary’s NS East ped (possible PBU fault)</li> <li>• DR35 – St Mary’s NS West ped ((possible PBU fault)</li> <li>• DR07 – R132 @ Cement Rd / Crosslanes (pedestrian lamp fail amber phase I)</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>Road Markings /<br/>Marcáil Bóithre</b></p>                                  | <p>Up-grade road markings at</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beechgrove Roundabout.</li> <li>2. Twenties / Moneymore.</li> <li>3. Shamrocks Villas.</li> <li>4. Crushrod Ave.</li> <li>5. Marsh Rd.</li> </ol>   |  |

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|---|--|--|
| <b>Signage /<br/>Comharthaíocht</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Stop Sign at Matthews Lane.</li> <li>2. New Junction Sign Collon Rd.</li> <li>3. Bollards reinstated at Windmill Rd / Crosslanes.</li> <li>4. New Stop Sign at Knockbrack Downs.</li> <li>5. Kings St / Windmill Rd – Poles &amp; sleeves up-graded.</li> <li>6. New Drogheda Welcome sign erected at Beamore Rd.</li> </ol>   |  |
| <b>Weed killing / Marú fiailí</b>   | N/A  |  |
| <b>Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair</b> | Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.   |  |
| <b>Illegal Dumping /<br/>Dumpáil<br/>Neamhdhleathach</b>                      | <p>Highfield: Contact with residents' groups regarding clean-up of area.</p> <p>Rathmullen: Dumping no evidence. Operations cleared same</p> <p>Ballsgrove: Dumping at clothes bank. Due to issues at this site, supplier has been requested to remove clothes banks.</p> <p>King Street: Dumping at clothes banks. This has led to communication with Suppliers regarding emptying process.</p> <p>Bryanstown cross route: Complaints from St Mary's parish primary school regarding dog fouling. Operations removed bin at the request of school and new site is to be identified.</p> <p>Ballymakenny road: Complaints from public regarding dog fouling. Areas has been identified as allocation for higher patrol area.</p> <p>Laurence street: Complaints regarding solar bin. Issues have been identified back to supplier.</p> |  |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | <p>Horse Lane: Caravan identified as been abandoned, Contractor removed same.</p> <p>Various locations: Illegal signage removed.</p> <p>Bolton Street: Dumping, FPN issued to potential offender.</p> <p>Cord terrace: Complaints regarding over growing hedging, Issue ongoing.</p> <p>Francis Street/Sienn apartment complex. Complaints regarding anti-social at location. Ongoing issue.</p> <p>The following areas are inspected on a daily basis.</p> <p>Marelys Lane area: Dumping removed no evidence.</p> <p>Ida road: Area checked no dumping.</p> <p>Bottle banks: South side and North side.</p> <p>Town area: Area Inspected early morning.</p> <p>Rathmullen: Anti-social graffiti removed from various locations within the estate.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Graffiti Removal /<br/>Glanadh Graifítí</b></p> | <p>Removal of Graffiti at Rathmullen Community House &amp; Ballsgrove Gate.</p>  |  |



*Bollards to Termonfeckin School R167*

## **Physical Development**

### **Roads Projects**

#### **Narrow Water Bridge**

Funding confirmed earlier this year from the Shared Ireland Fund for the construction stage of the project. The tender process for the construction phase is now complete and the successful tenderer designate is being appointed. Official contract signing event to be arranged in May, in conjunction with project funders.

The Marine Construction Licence was received from DEARA Northern Ireland, with several conditions contained within.

Site hedge clearance in Warrenpoint took place in Feb 2024.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services has been procured and they are liaising with the agents of landowners.

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

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

The hedge removal and fencing contract is now complete. The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders. Technical acceptance report has received its initial approval for structures. Archaeological test trenching and other services are due to commence on receipt of the test trenching licence from the Dept. Land valuers services have commenced and will be engaging with landowners. The Peer review of draft main works construction tender documents has commenced. A works order

has been made to ESB for relocation of 38kv overhead network.

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

2024 allocations were notified to Louth and Monaghan County Council on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. No allocation was provided for the major project, and the design work continues to be suspended.

Note - An allocation of €100,000 was provided to Monaghan County Council for a HD15 / HD17 Minor Works scheme called 'Ardee to Castleblaney Safety Improvements'. This funding is separate to the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme. Monaghan County Council engaged with TII who responded that they were not able to provide funding for the major project, however in the interim an allocation towards safety interventions have been provided.

The N2 Project Team can be contacted by landowners and members of the public via the N2 Project Phoneline 087 340 3786, or email: [ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie](mailto: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 High Court hearing regarding a Judicial Review concluded on Monday afternoon 15th April 2024.

A judgement is now awaited; however, no indication was given by Ms. Justice O'Regan as to when her judgement will issue. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

#### **Port Access Northern Cross Route Phase1.**

Clonmel Enterprises, employed by HISCO, have completed the section of road from the

R132 to Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane. This section of road was opened to traffic in early March. Snagging works are ongoing along all sections of the road.

Similarly, realignment of the Twenties Lane is complete in partnership with CFS Homes, which is now open to traffic. Louth County Council await completion of snagging and receipt of a safety file before taking the scheme over.

### **Boyne Enterprise Link Road**

The Council Section of road is now substantially complete, and snagging is ongoing. Ongoing consultations are taking place with stakeholders / landowners regarding Phase 2 and a valuation process has started. Other mechanisms for acquiring the land are also being explored.



*New carriageway with footpaths*

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

The Department of Transport allocated monies in 2024 towards progressing feasibility and options design. Tenders for consultants were issued to the DoT in late March and we await their approval to issue them to the Market.

### **Greenways**

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

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

Main civil works in Carlingford complete. Outstanding works to trailhead remaining along with streetlighting connection, (ESB depended).



*Pedestrian footpath at King Johns Castle along R173 Section 1 Carlingford*

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

The mainline route of greenway now complete. Works remaining include snagging and installation of directional signage and way-marker posts. Substantial completion due in April 2024





**Greenway view at Public Realm interface in Omeath**

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

Additional funding from the Dept of Transport capital grant will be made available to Louth County Council for an amount up to €2,961,413, this grant will be available to claim in the period ending 31st December 2024 for expenditure to complete the project.

### **Section 3 – Northern Ireland**

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



**Works Complete in Victoria Lock in NI**

Tender was received in March for the design and the construction of the greenway at Carlingford Lough connecting Victoria Lock

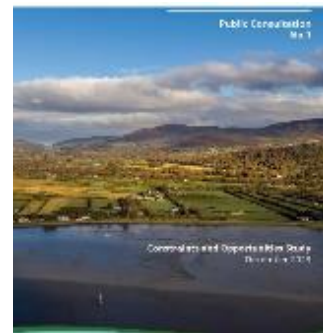
with NI/ROI Border. The proposed Greenway will consist of a 4m wide piled timber deck boardwalk (1025m in length) with associated works to tie into the levels of the adjacent unbound greenway sections. A preferred tender has been identified by Newry Mourne and Down.

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

### **TII Funded Greenways:**

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

Route corridor options are now being developed and assessed for their feasibility and commentary from submission made at Public Consultation No. 1. This long list of options will then be narrowed down to several options and an options report will be produced ahead of the Public Consultation No 2 which will be held in Q2 2024. Environmental assessments are ongoing including meetings with project ecologist.



**Public Consultation 1 in Heritage Centre, Carlingford**



**Study Area**

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

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

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

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

The Beach Accessibility Project relates to better accessibility to the beach areas at Templetown, Clogherhead and Port beaches. The Preliminary designs are now complete and issued to the Members for information purposes.

Applications under the ORIS Fund Measure 2 have been made for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown. A Further information request from ORIS for Templetown was received at the end of Feb and a response was issued to the Department of Rural & Community Development on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Funding for ORIS Measure 2 projects is yet to be announced.

### **Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda**

This scheme is developer led, assisted by an offset of development levies under agreement

with the Council. Main carriageway works are nearing completion. Safety files are being prepared and snagging ongoing in order for the completed project to be handed over to the Council.



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

### **LIHAF Project:**

Works are ongoing on the scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place.

Changes to traffic management have taken place from the 30<sup>th</sup> April with access to all houses from the Rise/Paddocks to the south via a newly realigned section of road with cycle lanes and footpaths. Kerbing, drainage, ducting, public lighting, footpath works, and road surfacing are also progressing on the off-line section north of Lis na Dara, and from the Castletown Rd junction. Works in relation to the new signalized junction on the Carrickmacross Rd are ongoing.

Works in relation to Uisce Éireann infrastructure at the Castleblaney Road Junctions are being programmed, this will require a road closure which will be advertised.



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



*Works north of Lis na Dara*



*Bridge Deck Steel Reinforcement*



*Bridge Deck Slab Pour 1*

### **Specific Bridge Improvement Grants**

#### **Obelisk Bridge**

Concrete Deck shuttered and poured and stripped. Painting touching up throughout Bridge. Bridge Abutment South East side dismantled and rebuilt.

Temporary Beam Gantry Support System has now been removed along with upper and side scaffolding to allow final painting touch on these sections of steel. Bridge Carriageway rubbing strips prepped and poured along with sleeves for replacement and new signage. Work programme on target for Bridge to reopen by the end of May.



*Shuttering to underside of Bridge Deck*

currently undergoing sanding down prior to varnishing. Granite Paving commenced and cladding to ramp now completed. Site Services and concrete sub-base for paving ongoing.



*Council Chamber fixed furniture installation*



*Bridge Final Steel Painting touching up and scaffolding stripped Bridge Northside*



*Block B Hardwood finished flooring*

## **Corporate Projects**

**Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda**

**Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building**

Hardwood flooring completed. Breakout Area Screen installed, and glazing commenced. Final Painting and fit out continuing.

Elec/Mech Testing and commissioning ongoing along with Finished Joinery, including Council Chamber Meeting Table. Cupola Works completed. Rainwater Gutters and downpipes installed. Ornate Stairs are



***Block B Cupola***



***Paving to Ramp at Block B Council Chamber***

**Block N: New Link Building:**

ESB Power on allowing Mechanical and Electrical Testing and Commissioning to progress throughout site. Customer Services Finished Joinery fit out commenced along with Stairs and Mezzanine Area leading to Council Chamber. Finer details of Feature Copper Façade ongoing. NW Staff entrance concrete slab poured.



***Block B and N (Main entrance) and ongoing external works.***



***Customer Services Motor Tax Fit out***



*View from Mezzanine Stairs to Customer Services*



*Block C Bicycle Stands to South elevation of Block  
(Area still to be paved)*



*Block N Secure Meeting Room (Glazed Table to  
Ceiling to be installed)*



*Block C Lift Testing and commissioning.*

### **Block C: Community Services Building**

Permanent Plywood flooring nearing completion. Decorative Molding installation completed. Mechanical and Electrical Testing and commissioning ongoing. Lift Car assembly completed with Testing ongoing. Alarm and CCTV final fix closing out for testing and linking back into Main Control Board. Southern Planter Area Paving and services continuing. Eastern Wall to adjoining Apartments plastered.

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

Plastering completed. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fix electrical ongoing. Painting first coat applied. External Planter Granite cladding commenced along with external services.



***Block N North Elevation Final Rendering application and trimming around shadow gaps on windows.***

### **Dunleer Fire Station**

Purchase of the lands process is in the latter stages of the purchase process.

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

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

Following Emergency Service Section receipt of confirmation of funding from the Dept., tender documents for the procurement of a competent designer are being prepared. These documents will be released to the market in early May.

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

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

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The final Hydraulic report has been delivered for review by the OPW / LCC. The JV are working on finalisation of the Wave overtopping assessment. Preliminary Flood Relief options identification & hydraulic modelling continues to be developed and assessed.

The proposed locations for accompanying ground investigation works have been confirmed along with associated environmental and archaeological assessments. The scope of Ground Investigation is extensive given the areas involved. Tendering will be carried out in the coming months. Additional Topographic Surveys are underway for preliminary developing option areas.

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

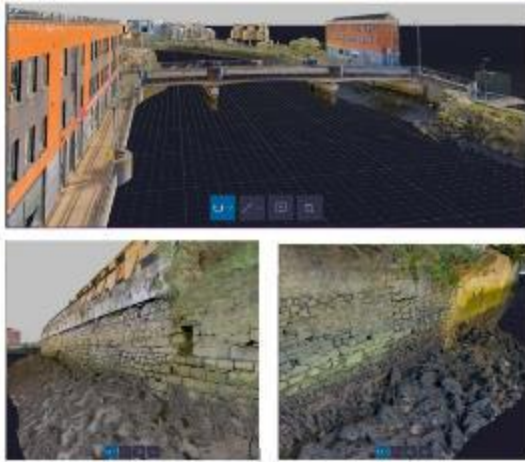
The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by LCC and OPW. Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at:

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

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

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. A drone survey, capturing both photogrammetry and detailed topographical information of the various structures along the banks of the River Boyne, was undertaken at the end of February 2024. This data has been used to create a photorealistic digital inspection model of the structures.

This is a new and emerging technology exploiting recent hardware advancements and will allow the project team to view, measure, and mark-up the model from a computer, reducing the number of site visits required – example extracts from the model shown below:



*Output from Photogrammetry*

The final photorealistic digital inspection model will inform the structural condition survey, cultural heritage assessments and support the identification and design of the preferred option for the flood relief scheme. Following a review of the draft final Hydraulic Analysis report by Louth County Council and the OPW, RPS are reviewing the comments received and are developing the final report.

RPS will also review the final flood extent maps to identify the flooding mechanisms within Drogheda and Baltray. This is required to support the identification of potential flood relief measures that could be constructed as part of the scheme. The specification for an underwater archaeology survey is being finalised prior to procurement of a specialist contractor.

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

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

Tendering of the CCTV and Topo surveys has been completed with the successful contractor being appointed.

## **Marine Projects**

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

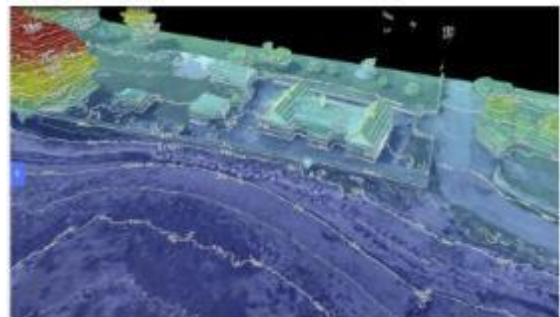
Louth County Council submitted 3 No. Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

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

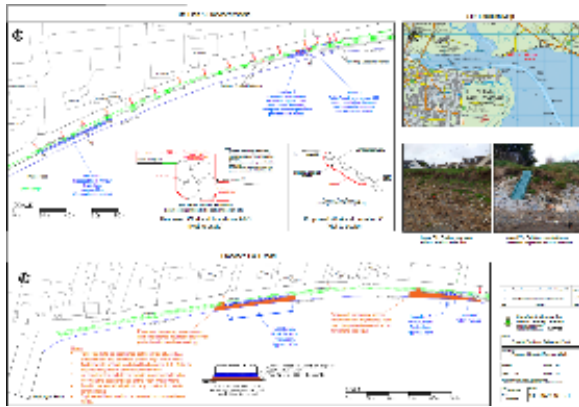
The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

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

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE consent and foreshore consent, tender documentation is being prepared and it is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q2 2024, with construction works anticipated to commence in Q2/Q3 2024.



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



**Typical works proposal Bellurgan site.**



### **Schools Programme Projects**

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

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

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

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

- Rising blockwork ongoing
- Ancon Windposts to SNU area in place
- SHS Windposts in place.
- Insulation to rising Blockwork in place.
- External Brickwork Plinth to SNU commenced.

Proposed Works Forecast:

- Continue with rising blockwork.
- Next Set of Windposts due on-site April 8<sup>th</sup> 2024.



**Insulation to Rising Blockwork in Place.  
External Brickwork Plinth to SNU Commenced**

#### **Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk**

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

### **Faster Project**

#### **Electrical Vehicles Charging Points**



Louth County Council have appointed Weev to install and operate 25 rapid electric vehicle

chargers at locations across the border region in the Republic of Ireland.

| SITE BUILD STATUS |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Site 14           | <b>NAVAN;</b><br>Site Live             |
| Site 7            | <b>VIRGINIA;</b><br>Sit Live           |
| Site 4            | <b>CARRICKMACROSS;</b><br>Site Live    |
| Site 8            | <b>BALLYBOFEY;</b><br>Site Live        |
| Site 3            | <b>DUNDALK;</b><br>Site Live           |
| Site 1            | <b>ARDEE;</b><br>Awaiting ESB.         |
| Site 2            | <b>DROGHEDA</b><br>Awaiting ESB.       |
| Site 12           | <b>SLIGO</b><br>Site Live              |
| Site 11           | <b>MANORHAMILTON</b><br>Awaiting ESB.  |
| Site 6            | <b>CAVAN</b><br>Site Live              |
| Site 10           | <b>Carrick-on-Shannon</b><br>Site Live |

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

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

Information is available at the following outlets:

| Channel          | URL   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Facebook</b>  | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge">https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge</a>                 |
| <b>Twitter</b>   | <a href="https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge">https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge</a>                           |
| <b>Instagram</b> | <a href="https://www.instagram.com/fasterevcharge/">https://www.instagram.com/fasterevcharge/</a>             |
| <b>Linkedin</b>  | <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project">https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project</a> |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>TikTok</b>  | <a href="https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterevcharge">https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterevcharge</a>                                     |
| <b>YouTube</b> | <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxddlpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxddlpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ</a> |

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

### Active Travel Investment Program

#### 2024 Budget Allocation

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation of €4.5 million to advance thirty-two (32) Nr Active Travel Projects.

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

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

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

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

The seven different phases are as outlined below...

#### PHASE 1: Scope and Purpose

PHASE 2: Concept Development and Option Selection

PHASE 3: Preliminary Design

PHASE 4: Statutory Processes

PHASE 5: Detailed Design and Procurement


PHASE 6: Construction and Implementation



PHASE 7: Close-out and Review



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


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## Active Travel Projects

| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                 | May 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road) | €200,000        | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design  | <p>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023.</p> <p>The Design Team has now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>A Gateway 3 Report was completed in December 2023. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route and completing a Road Safety Audit.</p>  | Proposed Part 8 display late Q3 2024                                |
| Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.                                     | €100,000        | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>Consultants RPS Group has commenced design and are currently developing options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GPS surveys have all been completed.</li> <li>2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling &amp; Archaeologist assessment have all been completed.</li> </ol> <p>It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in April 2024 in advance of public consultations.</p>  | Proposed Part 8 display late Q3 2024                                |
| Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.                | €100,000        | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | <p>Gateway 2 Report completed in November 2023 and submitted to the NTA for approval.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. A further update was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</p>  | Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024                                     |

| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                | May 2024- Project update   | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
|   |                 |                                   |                              | <p>The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.</p>  <p><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></p>  <p><u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u></p> |   |
| Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project) | €150,000        | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design | <p>LCC received Gateway 2 Report from Design Consultants at start of October and report was submitted to the NTA on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants, have commenced to assess some elements in Phase 3 Preliminary Design.</p> <p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p>  | Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024                                     |

| Project Name                             | Allocation 2024 | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                       | May 2024- Project update   | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways  |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|  |                 |                                   |                                     |  <p data-bbox="877 607 1461 634">View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</p>   |  |
| Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design. | €100,000        | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 2 -<br>Concept and<br>Options | <p data-bbox="795 639 1545 691">An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p data-bbox="795 721 1545 802">The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project.</p> <p data-bbox="795 831 1545 938">The Active Travel Team held a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official were invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.</p>  <p data-bbox="919 1237 1419 1261">View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</p> | <p data-bbox="1566 639 1923 691">North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display late Q2 2024</p> <p data-bbox="1566 691 1923 773">Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display depending on dialogue with NTA / Irish Rail.</p> |

| Project Name   | Allocation 2024 | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                 | May 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)  | €250,000        | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 4<br>Preliminary Design | <p>Gateway 3 Report (Preliminary Design) was approved by the NTA on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and LCC Active Travel Team are presently preparing Part 8 Planning documents.</p> <p>At this juncture it is envisaged that the project will go on Public Display on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 with submissions invited up to the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.</p> <p>Advertisement of the Part 8 Public Display will be notified via the appropriate channels, i.e. Paper Advert, Consult Louth website, twitter etc.</p> <p><u><a href="#">View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoeys Lane Roundabout</a></u></p> | Proposed Part 8 display 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024.                  |
| Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge | €150,000        | Band 2<br>€5 -<br>€20M            | Phase 3<br>Preliminary Design | <p>LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.</p> <p>Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The NTA have given approval in principle to the "Draft GW 3 Report and the Design Team are commencing to prepare Part 8 documents.</p>  <p><u><a href="#">View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</a></u></p>   | Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024                                     |

| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                                     | May 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.              | €150,000        |                                   | Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process | <p>Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023.</p> <p>Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 "Statutory Process". DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package. Towards the end of 2023 we held a number of meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route. The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process. The Active Travel Team met five key residents' groups, to discuss key areas of contention i.e. parking etc, in order to amend some proposals in advance of Part 8 publication.</p>  <p><u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u></p> | Proposed Part 8 Late Q2 2024  |
| Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham | €450,000        | Band 1 €0 - €5M                   | Phase 2 - Concept and Options                     | <p>Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)<br/>Drogheda Online survey completed and synopsized. 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.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)<br/>Consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with Part 1 and Part 2 completed, i.e. baseline information &amp; estimated Forecast Transport Demand.</p>  | N/A   |

| Project Name  | Allocation 2024 | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                   | May 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
|   |                 |                                   |                                 | Option development is underway, and we are now assessing these options against the Transport Appraisal Framework<br>This ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.  |   |
| Hoey's Lane, Dundalk                                  | €165,000        | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 1 -<br>Scope and Purpose  | Gateway 2 approval received from the NTA on 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.<br>The Design Team have commenced Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.  | 2024  |
| Mill Street, Dundalk                                  | €145,000        | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 1 -<br>Scope and Purpose  | Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.<br>LCC Active Travel Team submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.  | 2024  |
| Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk          | €235,000        | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 1 -<br>Scope and Purpose  | Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.<br>LCC Active Travel Team received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. The Active Travel Team are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections. | 2024  |
| R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates) | €160,000        | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 1 -<br>Scope and Purpose  | Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.<br>LCC Active Travel Team have submitted Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) to the NTA on 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 and we are currently awaiting approval.   | 2024  |
| Moneymore, Active Travel elements                     | €100,000        | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 5 –<br>Concept Proposals  | Design Consultants (RPS Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have LCC design completed for the proposals. We are liaising with relevant landowners on a preferred route.   | N/A   |
| Drogheda improvement of accessibility                 | €50,000         | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary Design | Various locations in the town of Drogheda-<br><br>All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.   | N/A   |
| Dundalk improvement of accessibility                  | €50,000         | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 –<br>Preliminary Design | Various locations in the town of Dundalk<br>All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.   | N/A   |

| Project Name   | Allocation 2024 | Project Band (updated March 2024) | Current Phase                 | May 2024- Project update  | Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Ardee improvement of accessibility   | €40,000         | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design  | Various locations in the town of Ardee<br>All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.   | N/A   |
| Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1)<br>1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk<br>2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk<br>3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda<br>4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda | €930,000        | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 3 – Preliminary Design  | All four projects reviewed.<br>St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off.<br>Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above.<br><br>Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed.<br><br>Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023.<br>Preliminary design commenced.<br>Traffic, Drone & Topographical Surveys to be completed Nov 2023. | No part 8's but possible Section 38's                               |
| Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2)<br>1. Bellurgan National School<br>2. Callystown National School<br>3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge<br>4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk                                     | €125,000        | Band 1<br>€0 - €5M                | Phase 2 - Concept and Options | The Design Team was appointed in March 2024 and have commenced Option Development and Preliminary Design.<br>It is anticipated that all design and public liaison will be completed in 2024 for Round 2 schools and all infrastructure delivered in 2025.   | No part 8's but possible Seion 38's                                 |

## **Place Making**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

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



*Artist impressions of Westgate project*

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

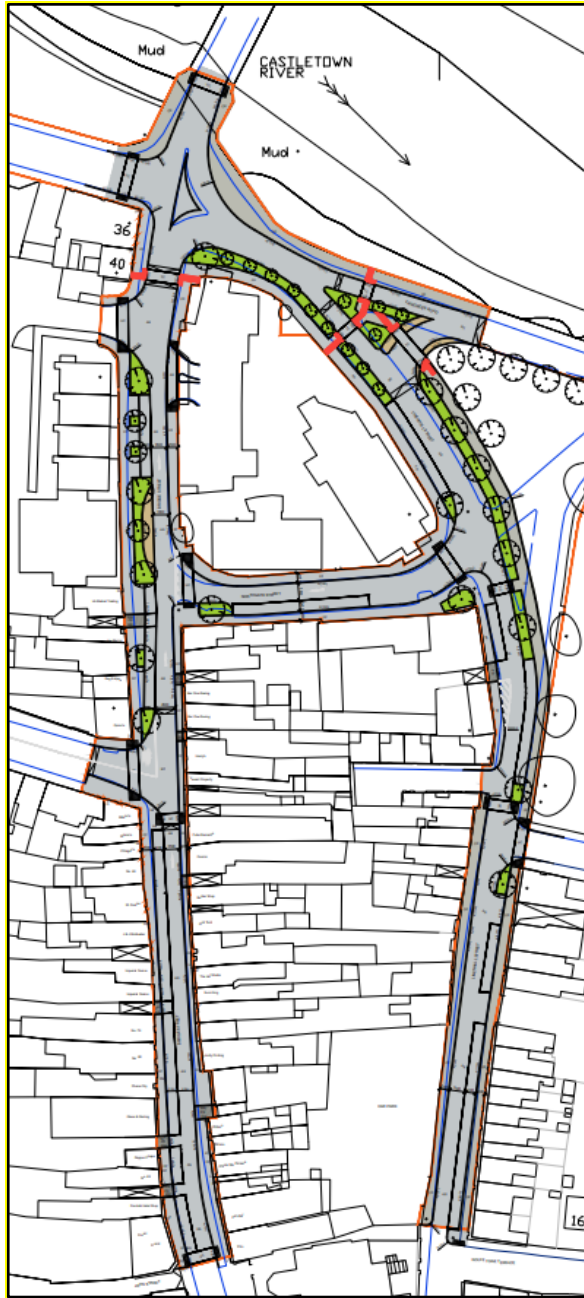
##### **Phase 1**

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

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

It is anticipated that works will commence on-site in Q2 2024. A public engagement day was held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November in Dundalk

Town Hall where residents and stakeholders had a chance to review drawings and information on the delivery of this project. It was a well-attended event with positive feedback received on the project.



## Phase 2

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project involves initial feasibility, analysis, and

preparation of a design concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. The accepted concept will then be developed to Part 8 planning with full public consultation. BDP Ltd are the appointed consultant team, following the tender process for design stage.

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Ardee Castle**

The new Part 8 application for the Ardee Castle Refurbishment works is before the Ardee MD members for consideration at their May meeting.

In tandem with the Part 8 planning process, the tender documentation to appoint a contractor is being finalised.

## Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8 process at the July 2023 Dundalk Municipal District meeting. The Council have met with the RRDF section in the Department and discussed the next steps for the project. An application for Category 1 funding for the project was submitted to the RRDF section in February 2024 and a decision is waited.

## Omeath Placemaking Scheme

The Placemaking project at Omeath is progressing on site. GLAS Civil Engineering are continuing with preparation and installation of kerbs, paving and green spaces. Most of the utility work has been completed. The works will continue on an agreed phased basis and with ongoing public engagement with local stakeholders to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum.

The proposed works are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths and linkages to the Omeath Greenway.



*Preparation for installation of footpaths*

## Ardee 2040

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

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

streets and associated services, junction upgrades, cycleways, walkways and sports recreational areas.

### **Additional Projects**

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

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



### **Cross Departmental Projects**

#### **Play Spaces**

The Part 8 planning process for the new play space at Termonfeckin was approved at the December meeting of Drogheda Municipal District. Work on the project is progressing.

The site of the play space is being prepared and the former water tower and associated pipework has been removed.

LCC has issued the Letter of Acceptance to Kompan Ireland Ltd for the contract to Design & Build the new play space, and a detailed programme of works has been requested.

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

### **Town Centre First Projects**

#### **Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer**

Environmental reports carried out on the completed plan are in the process of being added to the Town Centre First document. A launch event to promote the TCF Plan will be held in the Market House Dunleer and is proposed to take place in May.

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

Clogherhead was officially announced as County Louth's second town/village to receive Town Centre First funding by Ministers Humphreys and O'Donnell on 29 February as part of a national launch day.

A public consultation event will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May to obtain the views of the local community and key stakeholders.

## Organisational Development

### Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

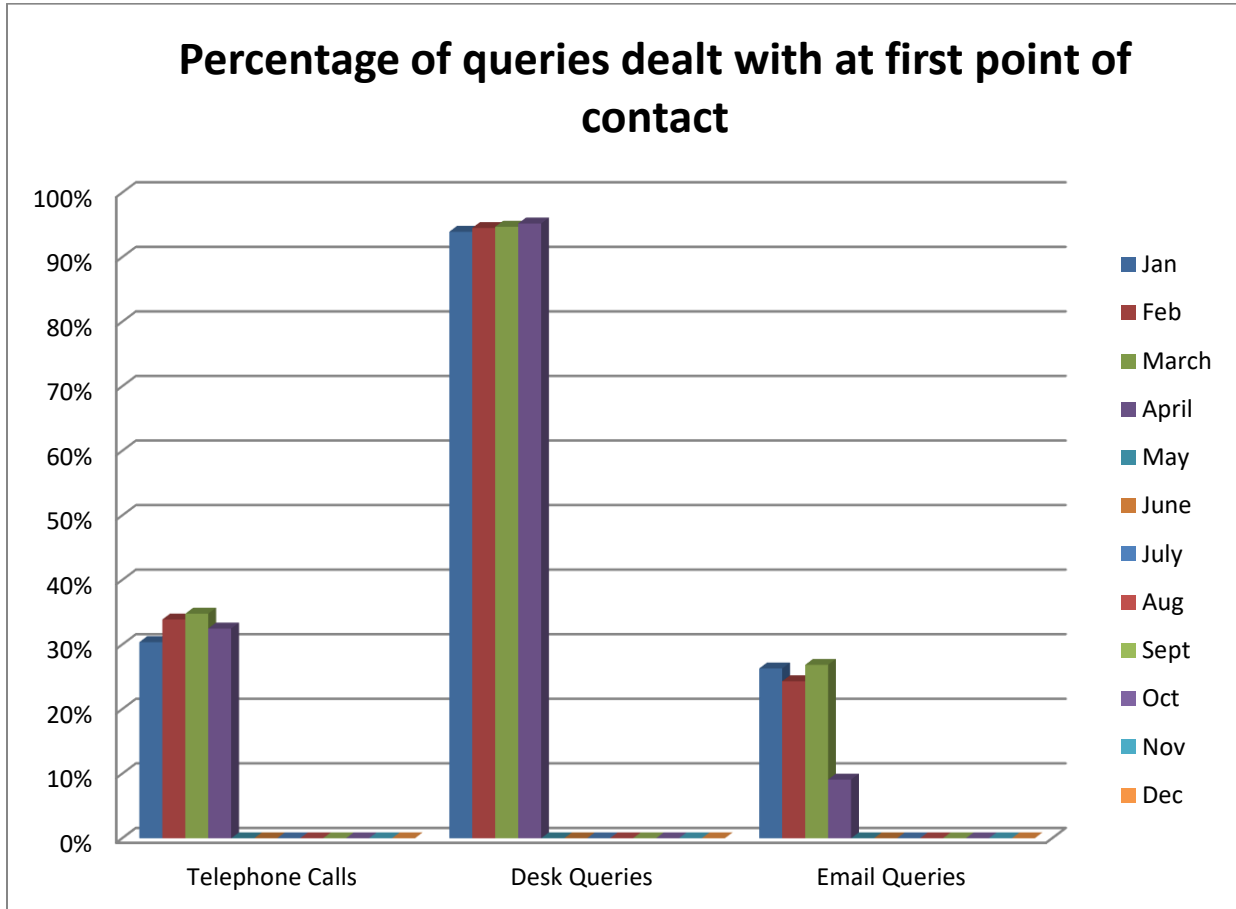
- Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
- Tacaíocht Pobail agus Spóirt
- Bainistíocht Dramháil, Gníomh Comhshaoil, Uisce Tuaithe & Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide
- Seirbhísí Tréidliachta
- Acmhainní Duine



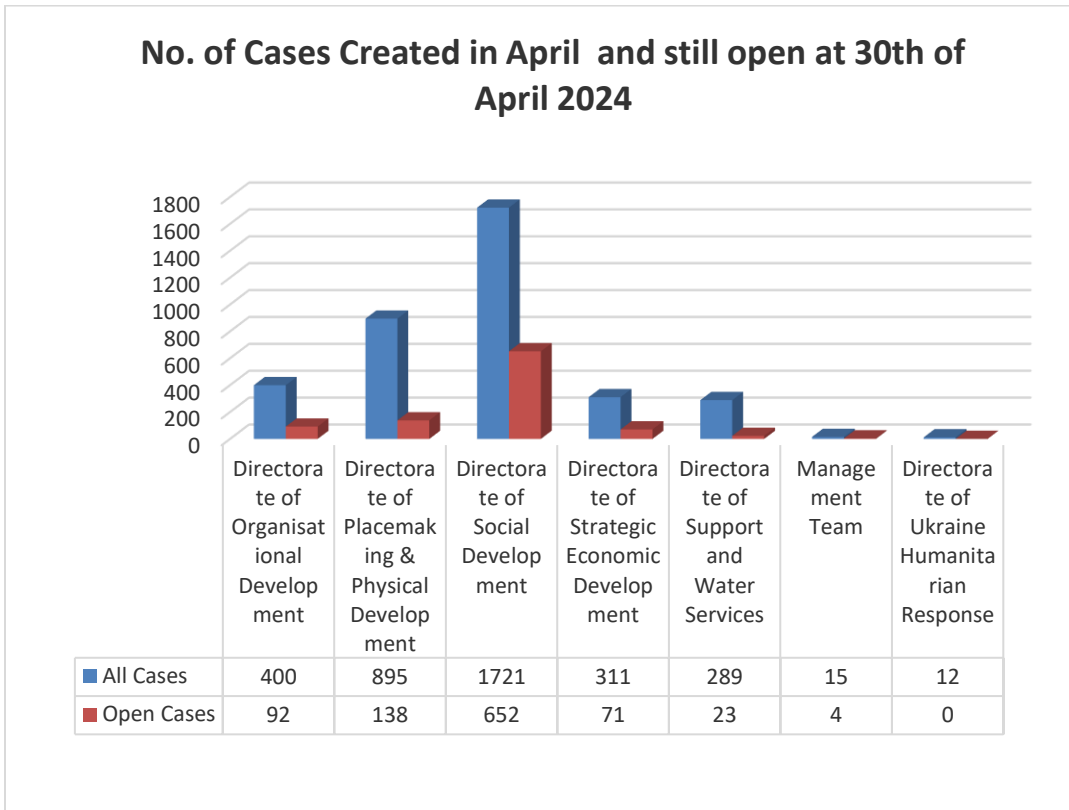
# Corporate Services

## Customer Services Report

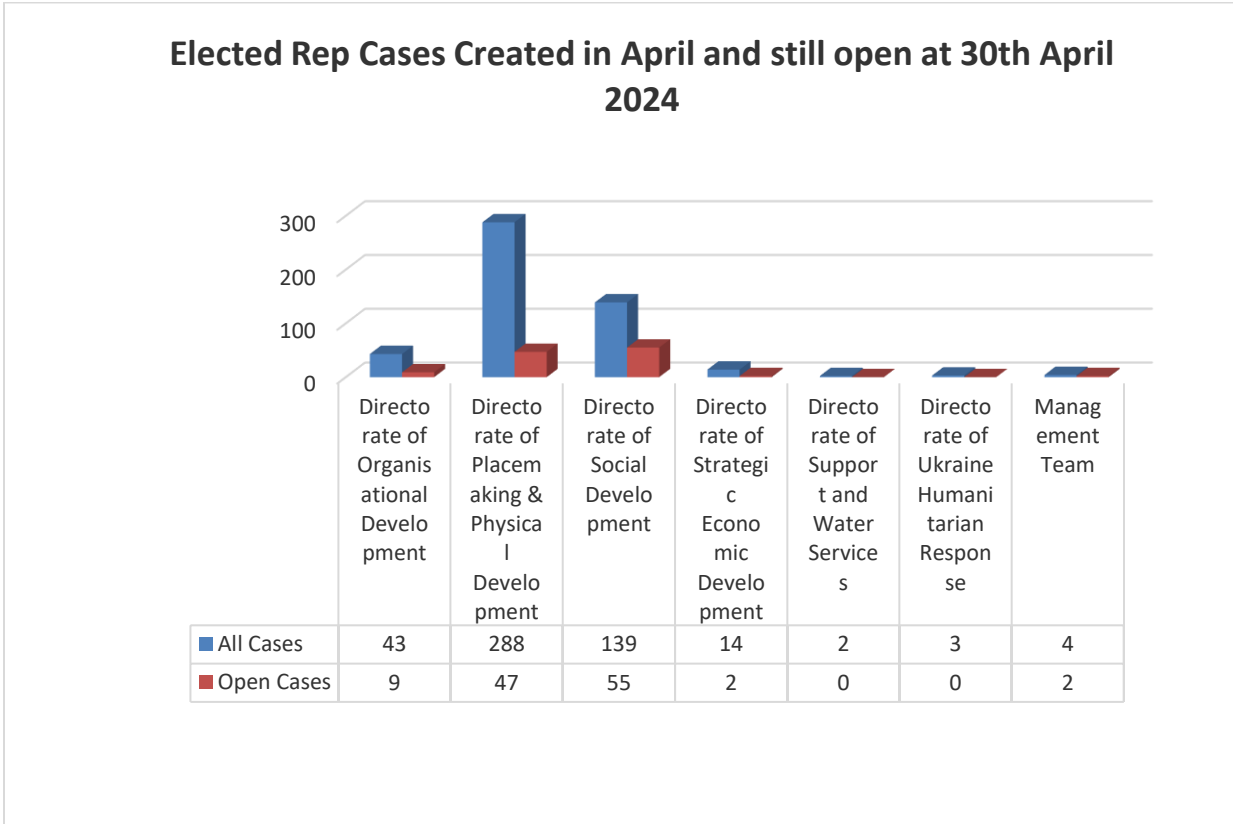
During the month of April 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries – 6924 calls, 1386 e-mails and 4759 counter queries. (We dealt with 886 emails in new CRM email system and 434 reps in new CRM email system.)



There were 3,643 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during April of which 980 (27%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During April 2024, 493 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 115 (23. %) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

| Request Received        | 2023 Total Jan-Apr | 2024 Total Jan – Apr | 2024 Apr ONLY |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| FOI                     | 38                 | 52                   | 9             |
| DSAR                    | 1                  | 8                    | 5             |
| Data Protection Request | 5                  | 7                    | 0             |
| AIE Requests            | 6                  | 4                    | 1             |
| Ombudsman               | 5                  | 5                    | 0             |
| Complaints              | 15                 | 21                   | 4             |

## Electoral Register

Local & European Elections will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The following are the significant dates:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2024                        | Latest date for receipt of Postal Applications                                     |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2024                        | Nomination of candidates (10am to 12noon)  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> May – 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 | Nomination of candidates (10am to 4pm daily)                                       |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2024                        | Nomination of candidates (10am to 12noon). The process will conclude on this date. |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024                        | Latest date for receipt of amendments/additions to the Register of Electors.       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024                         | Polling will open (7am to 10pm)  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2024                         | Counting of ballot papers will commence  |

Please refer to the Local Elections 2024 page on the website for further information which will be updated regularly: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/local-elections-2024/>

Since the beginning of the year a total of 2,968 constituents have been deleted from the register for numerous reasons (moved out of the area, amendments, deaths etc.). Therefore, it is very important that constituents are encouraged to ensure they check the register on or before 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to ensure their details are correct and up to date. Please note, the Franchise Section cannot assist constituents on polling day should their details not be on the register nor accurate.

The Franchise Section is happy to now report that 97% of properties are now recorded with a valid Eircode, which again strengthens the accuracy of the register, however, constituents are encouraged to check their polling station prior to polling day. This information will be reflected on the polling cards and can be viewed via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

Finally, elector control totals for each area currently stand at:

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Ardee                   | 19,684        |
| Drogheda Rural          | 13,863        |
| Drogheda Urban          | 19,475        |
| Dundalk Carlingford     | 19,775        |
| Dundalk South           | 25,348        |
| <b>Total Electorate</b> | <b>98,145</b> |



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

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

[checktheregister.ie](http://checktheregister.ie)

Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## **Community Support**

### **Africa Day 2024**

A number of community-based migrant and cultural groups have submitted an expression of interest in running an event to Celebrate Africa Day 2024.

Africa Day 2024 will be celebrated on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May and events and activities will run over the entire weekend.

This year migrant led community groups will be running events in all 3 municipal districts.

### **Dundalk/North Louth Municipal District**

African Cultural Centre Ireland: Africa Day 2024 Carnival of events to celebrate African culture including dancing, poetry, masquerades and refreshments.

### **Ardee/Mid Louth Municipal District**

Culture Connect CLG : Africa Awareness Day to highlight Ireland /Africa relationship as well as the contributions and challenges of Africans in Diaspora through storytelling circle where participants can share their experiences. African music, cultural dances and food. Promotional stalls for local African traders.

### **Drogheda/South Louth Municipal District**

Culture Connect CLG Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Family Fun Day 3.00pm -6.00pm. There will be a mixture of entertainment, attractions including an area for performances and demonstrations, a stage for local African bands, dancers. Singers, fashion show, and well-known local dance and singing groups.

### **SEE Something SAY Something Campaign**

The Community Team were at the launch of the SEE something SAY something campaign in Drogheda recently.

This is a community engagement project supported by An Garda Síochána and Drogheda Implementation Board.

The initiative provides a free and confidential text service to report anti-social behaviour in Drogheda.

TEXT DROGHEDA with incident location and details to 50555 (Free & Confidential)



*Launch of the SEE something SAY something campaign*



### **Older People's Council**

The Louth Older People's Council held a meeting in Drogheda on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

There was a packed Agenda of items for consideration and discussion.

OPC Chairperson Joe Grogan welcomed Bernie McConnell from Alone as the newest member of the OPC and thanked Karen Coan Alone for her valuable contributions to the OPC.

The Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager gave the members an update on the many events and activities the programme has delivered so far in 2024 including an accessibility audit, a presentation on Assisted Decision Making, a workshop on Challenging Ageism and updates on the Age Friendly Business Training Programme and updates on the Age Friendly Climate Action Workshop.

OPC Members agreed that three OPC members will attend the Age Friendly Conference in Kilkenny in May 2024.

Members also discussed potential themes and ideas for the Age Friendly Expo scheduled to take place in early October 2024.

AF Programme Manager also informed the OPC that Age Friendly Louth successfully secured funding under Creative Ireland to partner with An Tain Theatre to deliver a challenging ageism drama project. Older people across the county will be invited to work with a drama tutor who will be engaged to provide a safe space to explore and challenge age related stereotypes and challenges. The drama tutor and group will then work with a writer to write a comedic and humorous drama piece which the group will perform.

The drama piece will be performed by the group and recorded by a videographer.

Age Friendly Louth will use the video recording as part of a wider Age Friendly campaign to celebrate Positive Ageing Week 2024, Link with UN day of the Older Person October 1, 2024, and UN Decade of Healthy Ageing.

The video recording will be used as part of a wider campaign to highlight issues of ageism and challenge ageism in Co Louth.

<https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/event/age-friendly-ageism-drama-project/>



**Members of Louth OPC at meeting in Drogheda on 17th April 2024 Left to Right : Iain, Paulette, Joe, Bernie , Jackie & Harry**



## Age Friendly Business Training Programme

A number of traders and business owners across Co Louth attended Age Friendly Business Training workshops in Drogheda & Dundalk on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

The workshops were facilitated by Orlaith Carmody Business Consultant with Age Friendly Ireland. The purpose of the workshops was to assist businesses in Co Louth to achieve their Age Friendly Business Charter with a number of low-cost interventions to make their business more Age Friendly for older customers and shoppers.

Economic Development, in LCC will be working to assist the businesses and traders including local hotels, leisure services, banks, community-based businesses, small local businesses, service providers and wellness retailers over the next number of months to achieve their accreditation.





**Age Friendly Business Training workshops in Drogheda & Dundalk**



**Sophie Campbell of Louth Comhairle na nOg with An Taoiseach, Simon Harris TD**

**Louth Comhairle na nOg Update**

**Dail na nOg**

Four members of Louth Comhairle na nOg attended the Dail na nOg which was held in Leinster House. The event included debates and gave the young people an opportunity to raise issues that were important to them. The young people got to meet local and national political representatives including Louth TDs and Senators.

**Cross Border Events**

Louth Comhairle na nOg hosted a cross border event in Redeemer Family Resource Centre on the 4th April on the topic of young people’s Mental Health. The event included guest speakers from Shine and workshops on minding your mental health and developing resilience. 25 young people took part from all over Louth and the Newry and Mourne Area and is a continuation of the cross-border partnership between the youth councils that has been in operation since 2009. More events are planned to include a trip to Stormont in late June.



**Members of Louth Comhairle na nOg at Leinster House**

**Dail na nOg National Executive**

Sophie Campbell from Mid Louth has been selected as the new National Executive representative for Louth. Sophie will attend her first meeting on the 25th May and the issue for the incoming National Executive 2024-2026 will be School Stress.



**Louth Comhairle na nOg hosted a cross border event in Redeemer Family Resource Centre**

## Louth Comhairle na nOg Information Project

The members of Louth Comhairle na nOg will this year develop an information initiative in cooperation with Louth PPN and Youth Services from all over the county. Work is underway to gather relevant information on events, clubs, issues, and services that are of interest to young people. The members will then work with a design and marketing team to ensure the service is connected to young people. This pilot project will be online and interactive and aims to connect young people with services that will improve their experience of growing up in Louth.

## PPN

### Memorandum of Understanding

Louth PPN and Louth County Council have co-signed their Memorandum of Understanding for the 12 months ahead. This document details the relationship and understanding between the two parties and is reviewed on an annual basis.

### Thematic Projects

The thematic Projects for 2024 are as follows:

- **Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring**  
This project is an extension of 2023's mentoring project, aiming to share the vast wealth of knowledge and experience which currently exists across the community and voluntary sector of County Louth with other community groups within Louth PPN's membership.
- **Intercultural Sports:** A community sporting event will be held in Drogheda later this year.
- **Youth:** The Youth Thematic Project in 2024 will be to develop an information service for Youth members across the County. This information service will be accessed online and contain information on resources and events available for youths to access, such as sports, music, arts, etc alongside information videos and forms.
- **Environment:** It was agreed to build on the success of last year's environmental project at Rathescar Lake for 2024, with a particular emphasis on biodiversity.

- **Accessible Art:** Two of our member groups, Art As Exchange and Dundalk Arches Club, have collaborated on delivering a 10 week course in art using different mediums to members of Dundalk Arches Club. This Project is in its 6<sup>th</sup> week and due to be completed towards the end of May.

### Training

Louth PPN offered the following training in April:

- **Canva** – took place online on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April
- **Social media** - due to take place online on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April

### Nominations for boards and committees

Nominations opened on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to find PPN representatives to fill the following vacancies:

- Louth LCDC – Environmental
- Louth PPN Secretariat – 3 x Environmental

Nominations are due to close on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

### Healthy Louth

#### CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath

Healthy Louth and Healthy Meath asked groups registered with the Public Participation Network to vote between two options for a new Community Positive Mental Health Initiative.

The two options were:

- **CommUnity Connect**
- **Resilience Road**

All community groups that participated were entered into a draw for a **'one for all' voucher worth €100**. The Louth winners were St Fechin's GAA



*James Treanor, Community Section with Aidan Greene, St Fechin's GAA*

## **Louth Comhairle Cross Border Dialogue**

Healthy Louth attended the Louth Comhairle Cross Border Dialogue event with Newry Mourne and Down Youth Council at the Redeemer Family Resource Centre in Dundalk on the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> April. The theme was Mental Health, the young people participated in a variety of workshops and heard insightful talks from guest speakers from both Shine and the MYT. This event was planned and delivered by young people and funded through the International Fund For Ireland.



*Louth Comhairle Cross Border Dialogue event with Newry Mourne and Down Youth Council at the Redeemer Family Resource Centre in Dundalk*

## **Healthy Louth Newsletter**

The April/May Healthy Louth Newsletter is now available here:

[Healthy Louth Newsletter 9th Edition - Louth County Council \(louthcoco.ie\)](http://louthcoco.ie)

## **Sports**

### **Louth Sports Unit**

#### **Easter Multi-Sport Camp**

Dundalk Sports Centre was busy this Easter with over 40 children attending our 3 days Easter Multi-Sport camp. The camp was held from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of April. Over the 3 days the children had tons of fun playing a variety of games such as Doctor Dodgeball and Space Invaders. All the games are designed to get children running around whilst having a ton of fun at the same time. The children can't wait for Summer Camps to start!



*Easter Multi-Sport camp at Dundalk Sports Centre*

## New Zumba Class



Dundalk Sports Centre held a new Zumba Class. Due to demand and increasing attendance, a new Saturday morning class will be held from 11 – 11:45am, costing €5.

The first class was held on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. The first class was a hit, with 15 attendees! Zumba is also held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 -7pm, costing €5.

## New Chair Yoga Class



April was the month of new classes with an additional chair yoga class also being offered for

adults with an intellectual disability. The first class was held on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April.

Classes will be held every Thursday from 11:45am to 12:45pm, costing €2.

## Launch of New Programme



Every Wednesday morning Dundalk Sports Centre has over 70 Older Adults attending the 'Strength & Balance' Programme developed by the Sports Unit Operatives, Tiernan & Pairic. However, plenty have been asking for more classes, especially in the evening time.

Louth LSP launched a new programme 'Age-Well'. This class will be a step up in terms of difficulty to the other Older Adult Classes. The classes will be a circuit style class targeting whole body strength.

## Lourdes Stadium

### Lourdes Stadium Bootcamp

April saw the completion of the second LAS bootcamp of 2024 which began on the 12th of March with 15+ participants beginning the six-week programme.



**Lourdes Stadium Bootcamp**

### Casual Users

April has seen another growth in the use of our casual user slots with new members coming to use the facility. Our casual user slots are open for track use, shotput, long jump, javelin and much more. Casual User slots priced at €4 can be found on our social media and are available Monday to Saturday.

### Capital Works Progression

There has been steady progress regarding the improvement works at Lourdes Stadium during the month of April with the outdoor Muga and storage shed area completed and plans for the work on the main building due to commence shortly. Upgrades to the reception area along with a new indoor room will be the next steps of the works.



**Capital works continuing at Lourdes Stadium**

### Nordic walking

Boyne Nordic Walkers continued using the facility this month, braving the ever-changing weather conditions.

**Nordic walking in Lourdes Stadium**



### Louth Local Sports Partnership

#### Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

Louth Local Sports Partnership facilitated the following coach education programmes during March and April 2024.

#### Safeguarding

| Activity             | Date                        | Venue  |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Safeguarding Level 1 | April 11 <sup>th</sup> 2024 | Online |

#### Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership

| Activity                  | Date   | Venue          |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| Level 1 Sports Leadership | April 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024 | DIFE, Drogheda |

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

#### Daily Mile Lú – Active Schools Week

Active School Week (ASW) in Ireland is a significant event in the school calendar that encourages physical activity and well-being among students.

between April 29 to May 3. Active Schools Week aims to get more schools, more active, more often. It's a whole-school initiative that encourages physical activity across all subjects.

As part of Active Schools Week Louth LSP launched their Daily Mile Lú 8 week Challenge. Every Primary School in Louth who signs up to the challenge get entered into a draw for €500 Sport Equipment Voucher for their School.

Daily Mile Lú encourages children to be active during the school day supported by their teachers and parents. Our resource is available to schools in both English and Irish languages in every classroom in every primary school in Louth.

The children were encouraged to take part in 15 minutes of exercise every day by simply jogging, walking, hopping, pushing or just simply moving, they then record their activity on their Daily Mile Lú wall chart in their classroom.

To learn more about the Daily Mile Lú resource please see the video link below [https://loom.ly/\\_OMn7Kk](https://loom.ly/_OMn7Kk)



### **New Community Activator Walking Programme with Dundalk Library**

Louth Local Sports Partnership is delighted to partner with Dundalk Library to deliver a 6-week Activator pole walking programme to support people to be physically active. The programme is delivered by an experienced instructor who leads the group on a routed walk around St Helena's Park in Dundalk.

Following the programme the poles are available for the public to hire from the library using their library card.



***Community Activator Walking Programme with Dundalk Library***

### **TY Sports Leadership Programme**

Congratulations to the TY students from Ardee Community School, De La Salle College, Dundalk & Scoil Ui Mhuiri, Dunleer who completed our Try Sports Leadership programme in April.

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



***TY students from Ardee, Dundalk & Dunleer attended the Try Sports Leadership Programme***

## Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership

Louth Local Sports Partnership was delighted to deliver a hugely successful Level 1 Sports Leaders Award to thirty-one young people in April in DIFE, Drogheda.

The programme is designed to develop the leadership skills and confidence of teenagers aged 13-17 years within communities in Louth who will be future leaders and coaches within their sports clubs and groups within the county. The teenagers upon completion of the programme will receive a Sport Ireland recognised Level 1 Qualification in Sports Leadership.

Three more Level 1 Sports Leader courses will take place over the summer in Dundalk, Drogheda and Dunleer.



*Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership*

## Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

### Summary of Complaints

A total of 37 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in April 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

| Complaint Type | Received in April 2024 | Total Received in 2024 |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Air & Noise    | 9                      | 30                     |
| Farm           | 10                     | 16                     |
| Waste/C&D      | 13                     | 66                     |
| Water Quality  | 5                      | 14                     |

### Anti-dumping Initiative

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications announced that funding is available through the WERLA's to support Local Authorities in 2024 Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI).

The 2024 ADI aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping by identifying and delivering projects aimed at tackling illegal dumping 'black spots' throughout the County and adhere to key measures of prevention, abatement, education & awareness and enforcement.

The Department continues to strongly encourage innovative projects, which recognise waste as a resource that can be repurposed for use in a Circular Economy.

The closing date for submission was the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the following projects were submitted for approval:

- Project 1: Mattress and Sofa Amnesty – Dundalk
- Project 2: Mattress and Sofa Amnesty – Drogheda
- Project 3: Mattress and Sofa Amnesty – Ardee
- Project 4: Solar Powered CCTV – Williamsons Place
- Project 5: Moneymore Clean Up

### Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

The Deposit Return Scheme aims to address the environmental challenges posed by single-use bottles & containers. The Deposit Return Scheme aims to boost the recycling rate for these drinks containers by charging a small, refundable deposit for each plastic bottle or can. The Scheme includes PET plastic bottles and aluminium and steel cans between 150ml and 3 litres.

In April 2024, the WERLAs facilitated a webinar with guest speakers from both the DECC and Re-turn to provide information on the implementation of the scheme, the Regulations, Guidance documents and an introduction to the newly developed enforcement portal which will be open to all LA's to carry out an enforcement role under the Regulations.



### Waste Facility Permits & Certificate of Registration

Currently there are 26 Waste Facility Permits and 3 Certificates of Registration (COR) in operation in Co. Louth. There are two Waste Facility Transfer applications in place, one new waste facility permit application and one review waste facility application currently being assessed.

### Article 27 By-Products

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

Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section carry out site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria.

Louth County Council were notified of 9 A27 notifications in 2024 so far.

In April 2024, a total of 2 notifications were investigated by Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section either a site of origin or a site of destination. All notifications inspected were for soil and stone materials and met the requirements of the notifications.



### Extended Producer Responsibility Initiatives

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

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

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

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



public, in control of dogs, to properly remove dog waste.

Also, the Patrol Vans were located at various positions with attached 'Anti Dog Fouling' signs on full view for public attention.

Below are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in April by our wardens' following complaints from the public and from the five hour foot patrol in conducted in Dundalk. All waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found. All the waste has been subsequently removed.

### Annual Return Validations

All Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (CoR) holders were required to submit their Annual Returns (AR) to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) via the online Eden Portal which opened to all Local Authorities for Annual Return Validation from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

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

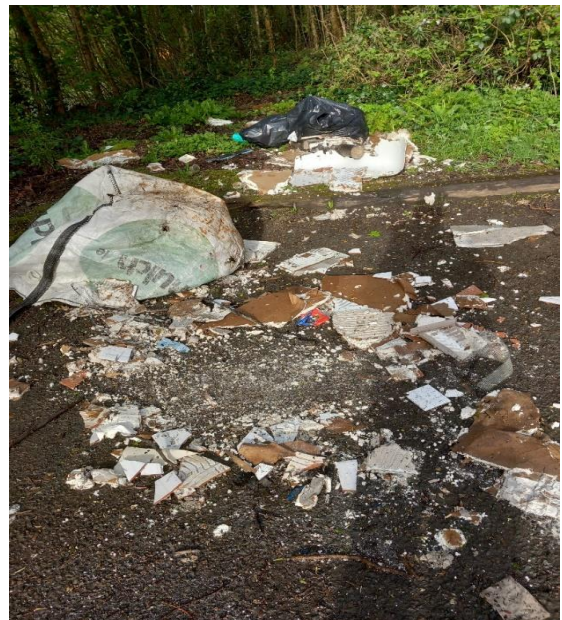
### Litter Enforcement & Investigations

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

In April our wardens completed 88 investigations. Where evidence was found, fixed penalty notices were issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 17 fixed penalty notices have been issued this month.

A five-hour foot patrol was conducted in Dundalk this month. All areas of the town were patrolled, notably the litter 'Hot Spots' such as Clanbrassil St, Park St, Avenue Rd, Dublin Rd, Carrick Rd, Ardee Rd, St Marys Rd, Muirhevnamor, Castletown Rd, Bridge Street, and several parks such as St Helena's, Ice House Hill and Aisling Park were patrolled. Some items of scattered waste and some bags of waste were removed from these locations during the patrols. No evidence was found.

There was an emphasis on Dog Fouling especially in the park areas, where stickers were placed on public bins highlighting the need for members of the





## **Diesel Laundering Waste**

There were 4 IBC's dumped in April 2024 with an associated clean-up cost of €4,992.40. The total cost for clean-up of diesel laundering waste so far in 2024 is €19,970.60.

## **Environmental Regulation**

### **Bathing Water**

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

All information on beaches and water quality can be found on the EPA hosted website – [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie)



## **Rural Water Programme**

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

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

The overall purpose of the MARWP and other grants is to provide the necessary funding to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of the water services relied upon by rural dwellers, where no public water services are available.

## **Individual Domestic Water Supplies Grant**

26 grants were issued in relation to Individual Domestic Water Supplies (more commonly called private wells) in the total amount of €66,950.55 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2024.

## **Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant**

There were no Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (more commonly called septic tanks) grants issued in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2024.

## **Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme**

There were no Domestic Lead Remediation grants issued in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2024.

## **Climate Action**

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

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

The Climate Action coordinator and Climate Action Officer attended a CARO-organised networking event for all LA climate staff in Ennis. At this event, Minister Ryan launched all the LA Climate Action plans nationally. This was a two-day event with a visit to exemplary climate action projects in the area.



All LA CAPs. Image from Minister Ryan press.

**EU MISSIONS**  
ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

**TRAINING PROGRAMME**  
How to carry out stakeholder and citizen engagement in practice.

Eight sessions from February to June 2024

**PROGRAMME**

- Session #1: Designing an engagement strategy - 6 Feb (repeated 29 Feb)
- Session #2: Climate citizens' assemblies - 14 Feb (repeated 4 Mar)
- Session #3: Climate adaptation workshops - 22 Feb (repeated 12 Mar)
- Session #4: Awareness raising campaigns - 19 Mar (repeated 9 Apr)
- Session #5: Communities of Practice - 2 Apr (repeated 7 May)
- Session #6: Green Participatory Budgets - 23 Apr (repeated 14 May)
- Session #7: Creative citizens' engagement - 21 May (repeated 18 June)
- Session #8: Citizen Science - 11 June (repeated 2 July)

**JOIN US ONLINE**

Elevate Your Engagement Skills: Join MIP4Adapt's Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement Training Programme!

Unlock the power of community collaboration with MIP4Adapt's dynamic two-hour online training events. Our exclusive programme is tailored for Charter Signatories, guiding you through the essential aspects and proven methods for effective stakeholder and citizen engagement in climate adaptation.

Attend all eight sessions to feel the full benefit of the training programme and receive a certificate of completion. Alternatively, as sessions are fully independent, you can attend the individual sessions that best suit your needs.

No jargon - our training is presented in a clear and straightforward manner. It is designed to be informative and engaging, so you can expect hands-on exercises that provide clear and practical insights.

For further enquiries, please contact our Helpdesk or Ms. Glora Saimorai at [gsaimorai@lccatad.eu](mailto:gsaimorai@lccatad.eu)

Visit the Mission Portal for more information on the [EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#).

**REGISTER HERE**

**Climate Adaptation Training Programme 2024**

The Climate Action Coordinator gave a presentation to the Blackrock Community Gardens as part of the project. A “Gardening for Climate Change”. The presentation was an interactive tour of current climate data. A feedback session was also held with important climate-related impacts to community gardens ranked by the participants. This feedback will be incorporated into the learnings from the project.

The climate action team attended a number of events organised by other sections, including an Age Friendly Workshop.

The “Climate Heroes” carbon challenge ran nationally in April. This initiative was supported by the Climate Action Officer in LCC. A number of teams from across the county and within LCC competed to record the largest carbon reduction over the two weeks.

**EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change**

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

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

The Climate Action Team has now completed a review of the LCC climate action plan drafting process with external consultants provided by the EU Mission.

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

**Community Climate Action**

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

Action Coordinator and Community Climate Action Officer.

The Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1) and Shared Island Fund (Strand 1a) have now closed as of 5pm on the 6th of March 2024. In total Louth received 48 applications under the Community Climate Action Fund, which totalled €1.596,625.

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

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

Eligible projects have been reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team.

### **Biodiversity Action**



Planning for Biodiversity Week has a large component of the work of the biodiversity officer during April. This involved contacting local biodiversity groups and organising events with them for the public. This series of events will run from May the 17th to the 26th and will be advertised across Louth County Council media platforms.

The new biodiversity section on the Louth County Council website was launched. This is a repository of biodiversity information and useful links for the county.

Training for organising events during National Heritage Week was held in April. As the biodiversity officer programme is supported by the heritage council, a number of events will be hosted by the biodiversity officer.

A series of PeacePlus planning meetings were held by a range of partner agencies across The North of Ireland and the border counties. The Biodiversity Officer attended these meetings in relation to a potential coastal habitat restoration project.

Training for biodiversity officers on the installation of Swift Boxes was attended.

A cross-border meeting between the Louth County Biodiversity officer and Newry, Mourne & Down District Council equivalent was held to discuss possible cooperation in the future.

The biodiversity officer attended a number of Louth County Council organised Blue Flag beach meetings.

Contact between the Department of Housing and Local Government in relation to the Local Area Biodiversity Action Fund applications continued.

### **ENERGY TEAM SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

#### **Louth County Council Energy Management Success ISO:5001:2018**

Louth County Council (LCC) has now received the new certificate of certification to I.S. EN ISO 50001:2018 from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). This certification is the third cycle of such certification by this Council and demonstrates our excellence in energy management. It also promotes energy efficiency in the county generally through leadership by example.

Louth County Council will be prominently featured on the NSAI website within the Certified Company Search function, showcasing our compliance with international standards of quality and efficiency. Additionally, Louth County Council has the option to display the NSAI certification mark logo, to further enhance its reputation and promote energy efficiency. Well done to all – it is only by your participation and support that this is achieved and maintained!



**Graphic: The new ISO 50001 Certificate Displayed in our Council Buildings**

### Energy Management System Deliverables 2024

On the 27th of March, Louth County Council (LCC) and the Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU) co-signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA). That involves a regional approach to progressing the high number of energy improvement works required to comply with the 2030 efficiency and emissions targets. The signing of this SLA signifies a proactive step towards fostering a more sustainable future, as it provides a structured framework for joint action and cooperation between LCC and MEEU.



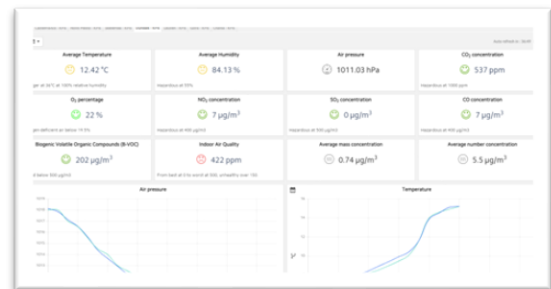
**Photo: Signing the SLA - Emer O’Gorman (front left), Chief Executive Wicklow County Council, Joan Martin (front right), Chief Executive, Louth County Council and (Back L-R) Joe Hayden, Executive Manager, Codema, Declan Keogh, Regional Engineering Manager Mid-East Energy Unit, Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Service, Wicklow County Council, David Hanratty, Senior Engineer, Louth County Council, Joe McGuinness, Director of Service, Louth County Council and Padraig Brehony, SEAI**

### Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update

The EPA air quality monitoring unit has been relocated from Dundalk Fire Station to the car park at the rear of Dundalk Library. This unit is part of EPA’S National Air Quality Monitoring Programme and provides real time air quality data. Arising from support by EPA for the Varcities Project, that data is now linked into the Varcities Health and Well-Being Platform which was officially launched on the 4th April 2024. The VARCITIES H&WB Platform seamlessly integrates data from of each VARCITIES pilot site and relays time-series environmental data and user feedback through interactive dashboards and insightful 3D renders.

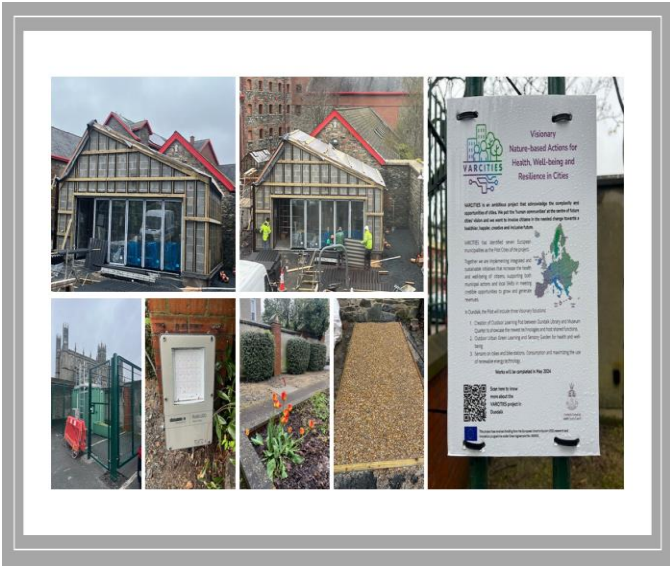
Check out the health and well-being platform Varcities has developed for Dundalk, we would love your feed back.

<https://dashboards.iesve.com/dashboard/1453/Dundalk%20Overview/Varcities>



**Image showing real time Air Quality data from Dundalk’s Pilot site linked into the newly launched Health & Well Being Platform.**

Construction activities at the Varcities site are progressing steadily. LED up-lights are installed, new signage is provided at the entry points to the pilot site, enabling works to have been put in place to accommodate the new digital touchscreen which will display green learnings, along with the newly launched Varcities health and well-being platform. Additionally, glazing has been installed in the learning pod, and work on external finishes is currently at an advanced stage. Despite occasional weather challenges, the works are proceeding according to schedule, with an anticipated completion date in early May 2024.



**Progress works at Varcities Pilot site during April 2024**

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

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

<https://twitter.com/VARCITIES1>

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

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2oqZP3ne\\_Tbl\\_xwf1-5jQ/videos?view=0](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2oqZP3ne_Tbl_xwf1-5jQ/videos?view=0)

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

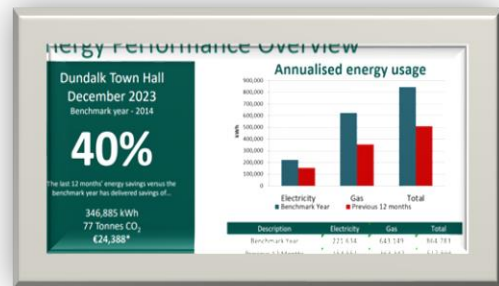
**Optimising Power@ Work Campaign and Louth County Council’s 2030 GAP to Target**

Significant Energy Savings continue to be made in Council buildings. The two largest energy user buildings, County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall participate in the Office of Public Work’s (OPW’s) Optimising Power @Work Programme. County Hall is continuing to demonstrate significant energy savings since joining the OP@W programme in 2016. Energy use at County Hall has now reduced by 26%. Tangible initiatives, such as the installation of a heat pump and staff training in Building Management Systems (BMSs), have played a crucial role in bridging the 2030 gap to our target towards the 50% savings milestone.



**Graphic shows the energy savings in equivalent terms.**

Dundalk Town Hall - Compared to energy use in 2014, the combined savings achieved for Dundalk Town Hall signify a significant reduction in energy consumption by 40%. This decrease underscores the successful implementation of substantial energy-efficient measures and practices within the building, leading to enhanced sustainability and cost-effectiveness.



The achievements can be predominantly attributed to transformations in staff behaviour, fostered by the consistent organization of energy awareness events aimed at increasing consciousness about energy consumption. Additionally, the establishment of individual Energy Advice clinics has provided personalised guidance to staff members, further empowering them to make informed decisions regarding energy efficiency. Regular dissemination of energy-related information through weekly messages, newsletters, and podcasts has also played a pivotal role in keeping staff informed and engaged. Consequently, the proactive involvement of staff in embracing these initiatives underscores their commitment to driving positive change and achieving energy-saving goals.

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

In support of the government's, Reduce Your Use campaign, the Council's Energy Team held a comprehensive and engaging energy awareness initiative during the St. Patrick's Day bank holiday weekend. This initiative aimed to inform and inspire participation in energy conservation efforts.

Central to the initiative was a thoughtfully designed quiz, featuring 10 carefully crafted questions exploring various facets of energy usage, sustainability practices, and our Council's progress towards the national 2030 targets for public sector bodies. This quiz was not only an educational tool but also inspired meaningful conversations and reflections on individual and collective responsibilities in reducing energy consumption.

Complementing the quiz were informative podcasts, weekly messages, and a tailored poster campaign, all designed to reinforce key messages consistently communicated to our staff in the preceding months. These messages ranged from simple daily habits fostering energy efficiency to strategic initiatives and policies implemented by Louth County Council to champion sustainability across our functions.

This initiative resulted in an overwhelming response from staff, with 120 individuals actively participating in the event.

Congratulations to our winners Emily Norton and Anna Nowacka who collected their prizes - LED Spotlight Bulbs and Hot Cup Water Dispenser respectively. Thank you all for your participation in this event.



*Council staff member Anna Nowacka presented with first prize by Ursula Conlon of the Energy Team.*



*Emily Norton receiving 2nd prize from Ian Halpin, of the Energy Team*

## Energy Efficiency Performance

### SEAI Reporting Obligations New M&R-2030

SEAI's 2024 Monitoring & Reporting Cycle is open for public bodies to report their energy data for 2023. Louth County Council has submitted its data in

accordance with the key milestones as required. The next important date is the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 when a provisional scorecard will be available for all Local Authorities.

### SEAI Annual Report 2023

The SEAI Annual Report 2023 on Public Sector Energy Performance is now available: [Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2023.pdf](#)

Minister of State Ossian Smyth has issued correspondence to the Chief Executives of all public bodies, providing them with detailed insights into their energy efficiency and decarbonization performance for the year 2022. Notably, Louth County Council has demonstrated significant progress, achieving an impressive 46% enhancement in energy efficiency since it's base year period (2006-2008).

| Public Body  | ENERGY PERFORMANCE      |             |             |                   |                        | GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS        |                                |                                |                              |                   |         |       |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|
|  | 2022 energy consumption |             |             |                   |                        | Energy performance indicator    |                                |                                |                              |                   |         |       |
|  | Total kWh               | Primary kWh | 2018 target | Change since 2018 | Change since 2006-2008 | GHG Absolute tCO <sub>2</sub> e | GHG Scope 1 tCO <sub>2</sub> e | GHG Scope 2 tCO <sub>2</sub> e | Total GHG tCO <sub>2</sub> e | Change since 2018 |         |       |
| Loughs - The Exchange Bureau                           | <0.1                    | <0.1        | 0.0%        | -60%              | 15.4                   | 9.4                             | 7.5                            | -39%                           | 19.0                         | 15.5              | 8.3     | -46%  |
| Legal Aid Board  | 1.7                     | 1.0         | 0.0%        | -38%              | 56.6                   | 58.0                            | 27.7                           | +2%                            | 732.4                        | 512.2             | 112.8   | -35%  |
| Legal Services Regulatory Authority                    | <0.1                    | <0.1        | 0.0%        | -73%              | 3.7                    | 0.0                             | 1.8                            | -100%                          | 4.5                          | 9.7               | 2.0     | +113% |
| Louth County Council                                   | 9.1                     | 13.7        | 0.0%        | +49%              | 792.2                  | 918.0                           | 368.1                          | +23%                           | 2,452.4                      | 2,276.4           | 776.9   | -16%  |
| Loughlinstown Park Hospital                            | 2.8                     | 3.7         | 0.0%        | +34%              | 451.7                  | 486.5                           | 221.3                          | -5%                            | 862.0                        | 656.8             | 296.4   | -16%  |
| Louth & Sligo Education & Training Board               | 12.2                    | 17.8        | 0.0%        | +46%              | 1,565.7                | 1,619.8                         | 707.2                          | +3%                            | 3,888.0                      | 3,276.6           | 1,289.2 | -14%  |
| Louth City & County Council                            | 22.3                    | 34.2        | 0.0%        | +53%              | 2,079.9                | 2,477.4                         | 1,209.7                        | +4%                            | 9,778.8                      | 8,786.3           | 2,762.6 | -10%  |
| Louth Education Centre                                 | 0.1                     | 6.3         | 0.0%        | +10%              | 29.1                   | 2.1                             | 14.4                           | +9%                            | 92.0                         | 42.7              | 27.7    | -42%  |
| Louth Institute of Technology                          | 9.9                     | 14.1        | 0.0%        | +41%              | 924.8                  | 1,382.9                         | 611.2                          | +36%                           | 2,819.1                      | 2,279.5           | 888.6   | -16%  |
| Local Government Management Agency                     | 0.8                     | 1.2         | 0.0%        | +49%              | 96.6                   | 97.7                            | 44.4                           | -1%                            | 382.8                        | 216.9             | 166.7   | -45%  |
| Loughlinstown Park Hospital Education & Training Board | 1.8                     | 5.7         | 0.0%        | +21%              | 68.3                   | 115.8                           | 312.8                          | +19%                           | 1,427.1                      | 1,802.2           | 481.9   | +34%  |
| Louth County Council                                   | 7.3                     | 10.5        | 0.0%        | +44%              | 788.8                  | 817.8                           | 382.6                          | +3%                            | 2,882.2                      | 1,988.5           | 788.5   | -23%  |
| Louth & Sligo Education & Training Board               | 14.2                    | 20.7        | 0.0%        | +46%              | 1,611.1                | 1,584.4                         | 799.2                          | +8%                            | 3,765.9                      | 3,791.1           | 1,258.9 | -1%   |
| Louth County Council                                   | 16.4                    | 23.0        | 0.0%        | +40%              | 1,987.5                | 1,771.8                         | 918.8                          | -11%                           | 4,381.9                      | 4,498.8           | 1,881.7 | +3%   |
| Water Institute  | 23.2                    | 26.4        | 0.0%        | +14%              | 1,686.0                | 1,233.2                         | 2,791.1                        | -26%                           | 4,857.2                      | 3,916.4           | 1,891.2 | -15%  |

**SEAI's scorecard indicates 46% reduction in energy use & 26% reduction in Total CO2 emissions**

### Council Buildings Maintenance (Facilities)

#### Former Bank of Ireland Dunleer – Conversion to Dunleer Library – Main St. Dunleer

A contractor has been engaged and has commenced works to convert the former bank on Main St. into a library. The works will enable a replacement for the existing library at the Old Railway Station in Dunleer.

It is hoped to complete the works by end July to enable the library service to relocate to this premises as soon as possible.



**Construction Works Progressing at Former Bank for relocation of Dunleer Library**

### Roof Repairs at Drogheda Library and Droichead Arts Centre

The works involve replacement of the roof at Droichead Arts Centre and Drogheda Library on Stockwell Lane, Drogheda. It includes temporary relocation of mechanical and electrical equipment and provision of a new glazed roof area. Tender documents have been prepared and put on the OGP's e-tenders website seeking tenders for the works. It is hoped to commence construction during the summer to complete this work as soon as possible.

### Veterinary Services

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

As of the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 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 thirty-eight inspections in the year to date, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in the abattoir.

There were seventy-one valid Sugar CRM cases assigned to Veterinary Services during April 2024, with nine still in progress

## Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

| <b>Dogs through the pound<br/>April 2024</b> |    |
|--|----|
| Total dogs through the pound                 | 17 |
| Seized under Section 16                      | 0  |
| Strays                                       | 9  |
| Surrendered by owners                        | 8  |
| No dogs reclaimed by owners                  | 2  |
| No of dogs rehomed direct                    | 6  |
| No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups         | 10 |
| No of dogs on hand in Pound at 30/04/2024    | 2  |

| <b>Dog Licences<br/>April 2024</b>                                    |     |
|---|-----|
| No of Licences sold   | 545 |
| Licence Checks:   |     |
| House calls   | 383 |
| Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days) | 262 |
| Fixed Penalty Notices   | 28  |

## Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

| <b>Horses through the pound<br/>April 2024</b> |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Horses seized, and reason for seizure:         | 1 – straying on public road |
| Horses reclaimed by owner                      | 0                           |
| Horses rehomed                                 | 1                           |
| Horses disposed of                             | 0                           |
| No of horses on hand in Pound on 30/04/2024    | 0                           |

## Dog Breeding Establishments

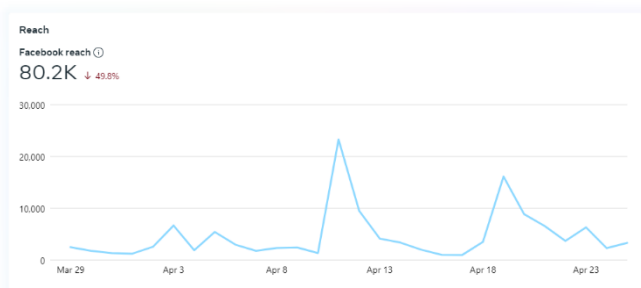
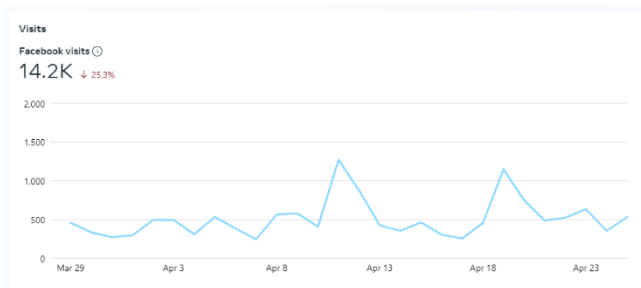
Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

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



***Underweight horse impounded from Drogheda, straying on public road.***

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



## Social Development Forbairt Shóisialta

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

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

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

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

**Ger Murphy**  
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir



## Housing

### Addressing Homelessness

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

**Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services**

| <b>20<sup>th</sup> March – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>                              | <b>Ardee MD</b> | <b>Dundalk MD</b> | <b>Drogheda MD</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility) | 2               | 90                | 60                 | <b>152</b>   |
| Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation  | 0               | 29                | 15                 | <b>44</b>    |
| Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation                                     | 0               | 7                 | 5                  | <b>12</b>    |
| Not eligible from outside county or non HRC  | 0               | 0                 | 0                  | <b>0</b>     |
| Total number of Person who presented as Homeless                                       | <b>2</b>        | <b>126</b>        | <b>80</b>          | <b>208</b>   |

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

**Table 2: Gender**

| <b>Gender</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|--------------|
| Male          | 93           |
| Female        | 102          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>195</b>   |

**Table 3: Age Groups**

| <b>Age Group</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------|--------------|
| 18-24            | 40           |
| 25-44            | 97           |
| 45-64            | 55           |
| 65+              | 3            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>195</b>   |

**Table 4: Accommodation Type**

| <b>Accommodation Type</b>               | <b>Total</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)   | 119          |
| Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) | 76           |
| <b>Total unique individuals</b>         | <b>195</b>   |

**Table 5 - Families with dependent children**

|                                     | No. of families with dependent children | No. of Individual Adults | No. of Dependents |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Individuals with dependent children | 33                                      | 39                       | 60                |
| Couples with dependent children     | 14                                      | 30                       | 42                |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>47</b>                               | <b>69</b>                | <b>102</b>        |

**Table 6 - Housing First**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of tenancies established.           | 43 |
| Number of individuals currently in tenancy | 32 |

**Housing Allocations, Up to 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024**

| District     | LA         | LA Refusal | AHB        | AHB Refusal |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Ardee        | 16         | 2          | 0          | 0           |
| Drogheda     | 60         | 3          | 86         | 5           |
| Dundalk      | 47         | 2          | 35         | 2           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>123</b> | <b>7</b>   | <b>121</b> | <b>7</b>    |

**Transfers**

| District     | Number    |
|--------------|-----------|
| Ardee        | 1         |
| Dundalk      | 5         |
| Drogheda     | 10        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>16</b> |

**Housing List**

| April 2024                | Ardee      | Drogheda    | Dundalk     | Total       |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Housing List              | 394        | 646         | 1089        | 2129        |
| HAP Transfer List         | 292        | 1069        | 1640        | 3001        |
| <b>Total Housing List</b> | <b>686</b> | <b>1715</b> | <b>2729</b> | <b>5130</b> |

There are **301** applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including **51** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

**Housing Assistance Payment**

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,001**.

| Ardee Municipal District | Drogheda Borough District | Dundalk Municipal District | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| 292                      | 1069                      | 1640                       | 3001  |

**Rent Management**

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is 922.

| Current Rents Arrears at 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024 | No of Accounts | Value             |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Rents between 4-6 weeks old                          | 247            | €94,701           |
| Rents between 7-12 weeks old                         | 173            | €122,089          |
| Rents greater than 12 weeks old                      | 925            | €3,122,889        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>1345</b>    | <b>€3,339,679</b> |

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

tenancy warning. The following correspondence was issued in April 2024:

| Letter Type              | Month/Year | Number Issued |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1st Reminder             | April 2024 | 1             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reminder | April 2024 | 2             |
| Final Reminder           | April 2024 | 0             |
| <b>Total issued</b>      |            | <b>3</b>      |

Customers that fall into arrears may enter into a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **15** new payment plans commenced in April 2024 (up to and including 22<sup>nd</sup> April).

### Vacant Properties

| Vacant Properties on 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2024     | Total     |
|--|-----------|
| Ardee Municipal District                             | 14        |
| Dundalk Municipal District                           | 13        |
| Drogheda Borough District                            | 30        |
| <b>Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties</b>          | <b>57</b> |
| CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)  | 3         |
| <b>Total Number of Properties (Relets &amp; CPO)</b> | <b>60</b> |

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

### Maintenance Calls

| Maintenance                             | 22 <sup>nd</sup> March – 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 |       |
|---|--|-------|
| No. of Maintenance Requests Received    | 467  | 1,923 |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Completed   | 356  | 1,546 |
| No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress | 89   | N/A   |
| No. of Maintenance Requests Refused     | 22   | 79    |

### Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP)

The 2024 EERP allocation for Louth, as confirmed by the DHLGH, is 140 units. We are currently finalising the details of our Programme in line with the confirmed allocation and the Programme criteria. Works on site will commence in the coming weeks.

### Private Rental Inspections

|                              | 22 <sup>nd</sup> March – 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 | Total (YTD) |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Properties inspected monthly | 164  | 519         |
| Advisory Letters issued      | 110  | 305         |
| Improvement Notices issued   | 0  | 5           |
| Private Inspections          | 0  | 3           |
| HAP Inspections              | 73   | 310         |
| RAS Inspections              | 0  | 0           |
| AHB Inspections              | 81   | 170         |
| Private Re-Inspections       | 0  | 0           |
| HAP Re-Inspections           | 8  | 26          |
| RAS Re-Inspections           | 0  | 0           |
| AHB Re-Inspections           | 0  | 0           |

|                             |   |    |
|-----------------------------|---|----|
| Inspections from Complaints | 2 | 11 |
| Properties made Compliant   | 7 | 8  |

### Tenancy Engagement

| 1st April 2024 to 24th April, 2024            | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly Total | Yearly Total |
|---|----------|-------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training | 9        | 3     | 14      | 26            | 124          |
| Post-tenancy inspections                      | 3        | 2     | 7       | 12            | 83           |
| Tenancy Investigation Visits                  | 11       | 6     | 21      | 38            | 128          |

### Anti-Social Behaviour

| 1st April 2024 to 24th April, 2024 | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly | Yearly |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| ASB Cases* Received                | 8        | 3     | 7       | 18      | 75     |
| ASB cases Ongoing                  | 4        | 1     | 13      | 18      | -      |
| ASB cases complete                 | 10       | 3     | 6       | 19      | 54     |

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

### Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

| 1st April 2024 to 24th April 2024  | Drogheda | Ardee | Dundalk | Monthly | Yearly |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| Verbal Warnings                    | 4        | 1     | 5       | 10      | 20     |
| Written Warnings                   | 0        | 1     | 0       | 0       | 2      |
| Tenancy Notifications              | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0       | 4      |
| Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014 | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0       | 2      |

### Repair and Lease

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

| Units | Address | Beds | Notes   |
|-------|---------|------|---|
| 1     | Dundalk | 2    | Finished & inspected. Completing final legal steps. |
| 1     | Dundalk | 2    | Finished & inspected. Completing final legal steps. |

### Affordable Housing

The Council, in partnership with Westdalk Group and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, launched the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme for 10 properties at Cois Ferraige, Blackrock. The closing date of the scheme was extended to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. There were 26 fully submitted applications and 5 applicants have been offered a home with conveyancing ongoing. Discussions are ongoing with other developers for Affordable units in Dundalk and Drogheda.

## Mortgage to Rent

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Active MTR Applications Total      | 23 |
| AHB MTR Applications Active        | 16 |
| AHB MTR completed 2024             | 0  |
| Private MTR Applications Active    | 5  |
| Private MTR completed 2024         | 4  |
| MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser | 2  |

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

## Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Applications Submitted:                     | 161 |
| Approved:                                   | 99  |
| Rejected:                                   | 12  |
| Withdrawn                                   | 8   |
| Other (FI Requests, First Site Inspections) | 42  |
| Funding Issued to Applicant                 | 5   |
| Rental Applications                         | 44  |
| Principal Private Residence                 | 117 |

## Local Authority Home Loans

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>2024 Budget Allocation</b>  | <b>€7,230,000</b> |
| LAHL Approvals at 23/04/2024   | €1,016,430        |
| <b>Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024</b> |                   |
| Total Number of Applications at 23/04/2024   | 16                |
| LAHL carried over from 2023  | 6                 |
| Invalid/Returned   | 2                 |
| Approved   | 7                 |
| Declined   | 5                 |
| For Review   | 1                 |
| Outstanding – waiting on further information                                       | 7                 |

## Acquisitions

The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. The Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and/or have a disability. In April, the Council purchased 4 properties.





*Recently acquired properties in Dundalk and Drogheda*



*Handrail installed in April in Dundalk with assistance of a Housing Adaptation Grant*

**Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled**

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



*Bathroom Adaptation completed in in April in Dundalk with assistance of a Housing Adaptation Grant*

| Status                                   | HAG | MAG | HOP | Month | YTD |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Grants Approved 2023                     | 159 | 27  | 117 | -     | 303 |
| Applications on Hand 22/04/2024          | 201 | 22  | 369 | -     | 592 |
| Grants Approved 23/03/2024 to 22/04/2024 | 6   | 2   | 16  | 24    | 59  |

## Capital Housing Delivery

### SHIP Delivery

| Project Name                          | Project Phase | Total Number of Social Units Expected | Project Status                              | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Muirhevnamor, (Infill) Dundalk        | 1/1           | 11                                    | On Site                                     | 31/03/2025                            | 3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed  |
| Boice Court, Mell, Drogheda (Phase 2) | 1/1           | 72                                    | On Site                                     | 19/02/2025                            | 27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt             |
| Mount Avenue, Dundalk                 | 1/1           | 93                                    | On Site                                     | 31/05/2025                            | 29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt |
| Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill      | 1/1           | 6                                     | Stage 2 Approved                            | 27/05/2026                            | 2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed  |
| Point Road, Dundalk                   | 1/1           | 44                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | To be confirmed  |
| Dunleer (Ravel Grange)                | 1/1           | 70                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | To be confirmed  |
| Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West    | 1/1           | 97                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | To be confirmed  |
| Mullavalley, Louth Village            | 1/1           | 58                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | To be confirmed  |
| Greenhills, Drogheda                  | 1/1           | 46                                    | SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 2 Approved | 31/12/2026                            | To be confirmed  |

|  |     |     |                                     |            |  |
|--|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Anne St.<br>Dundalk  | 1/1 | 16  | Stage 1<br>Approved                 | 31/12/2026 | 8 * 2 bed Apt, 8 * 3 bed Apt.                |
| Gort Uaine,<br>Clogherhead -<br>Infill                         | 1/1 | 1   | On-site                             | 31/05/2024 | 1 * 4 bed                                    |
| School Lane,<br>Dunleer - Infill                               | 1/1 | 1   | On-site                             | 31/05/2024 | 1 * 3 bed                                    |
| Ballymakenny<br>Road - East Site,<br>Drogheda                  | 1/1 | 100 | PPP Bundle<br>5 Funding<br>Approved | 30/06/2026 | To be confirmed                              |
| Mullagh Close,<br>Clogherhead                                  | 1/1 | 12  | On-site                             | 31/12/2024 | 12 * 3 bed                                   |
| Knockshee, Old<br>Golf Links Road,<br>Blackrock,<br>Dundalk    | 1/1 | 12  | On-site                             | 30/06/2024 | 12 * 2 bed Apt.                              |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 1/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 30/06/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed                         |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 2/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 30/06/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed                         |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 3/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 30/09/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed                         |
| Ferrard Park,<br>The Twenties,<br>Drogheda                     | 4/4 | 7   | On-site                             | 30/09/2024 | 2 * 3 bed, 5 * 2 bed                         |
| Quarry Court,<br>John St. /<br>Stoneylane,<br>Ardee, Co. Louth | 1/1 | 20  | On-site                             | 31/12/2024 | 11 * 3 bed, 3 * 3 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed<br>Apt. |
| Derryveigh<br>House, Hoeys<br>Lane, Dundalk                    | 1/1 | 2   | Funding<br>Approved                 | 31/03/2025 | 1 * 3 bed, 1 * 4 bed                         |
| Clontygora,<br>Dundalk   | 1/1 | 2   | Funding<br>Approved                 | 01/03/2025 | 2 * 4 bed                                    |

|  |     |    |                  |            |                      |
|--|-----|----|------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Newtown Wood, Drogheda                           | 5/5 | 5  | Completed        | 09/04/2024 | 1 * 3 bed, 4 * 2 bed |
| Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth  | 2/3 | 8  | On-site          | 30/09/24   | 7 * 3 bed, 1 * 2 bed |
| Potters Field, Cappocks Green, Ardee, Co. Louth  | 3/3 | 1  | Funding Approved | 30/06/25   | 1 * 2 bed            |
| Ballymakenny Park, (Phase 1) Drogheda, Co. Louth | 1/1 | 10 | On-site          | 31/05/24   | 2 * 4 bed, 8 * 3 bed |

### CAS Delivery

| Project Name                             | AHB                 | Total Number of Social Units Expected | Project Status   | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type  |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Coulter Park, Dundalk,                   | Tuath               | 10                                    | On Site          | 30/10/2024                            | Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit             |
| Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth        | Dublin Simon        | 30                                    | Stage 2 Approved | 15/03/2026                            | Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments<br>Three * accessible units<br>Eight * Studio apartments |
| Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth | Women's Aid Dundalk | 12                                    | Stage 1 approved | 02/03/2026                            | Five * 1 bed apartments<br>Seven * 2 bed apartments                                  |

## CALF Delivery

| Project Name  |     | Total Number of Social Units Expected | Non Part V/<br>Part V | Project Status | Projected Substantial Completion Date | Unit Type   |
|---|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda<br>Respond Housing             | 2/3 | 37                                    | 35/2                  | On site        | 30/04/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 Three Bed Houses</li> <li>• 11 2 bed Houses</li> </ul>                      |
| Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda<br>Respond Housing             | 3/4 | 21                                    | 19/2                  | On site        | 31/05/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 Three Bed Houses</li> <li>• 16 Two Bed Houses</li> </ul>                    |
| Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda<br>Respond Housing             | 4/4 | 56                                    | 51/6                  | On Site        | 30/06/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Two Bed Houses</li> <li>• 40 Three Bed Houses</li> </ul>                    |
| Tullybrook, Drogheda<br>Cluid Housing                             | 3/3 | 39                                    | 23/16                 | On site        | 30/04/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Two Bed Apartments</li> <li>• 24 Three bed Apartment</li> </ul>             |
| Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk<br>Tuath                              | 4/4 | 12                                    |                       | On Site        | 30/04/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 three bed houses</li> </ul>   |
| Dublin Road Dundalk<br>Respond                                    | 2/3 | 25                                    |                       | On site        | 31/05/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 One bed Apt</li> <li>• 11 Two bed Apt</li> <li>• 2 Three bed apt</li> </ul> |
| Dublin Road Dundalk<br>Respond                                    | 3/3 | 40                                    | 38/2                  | On Site        | 31/05/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 One bed Apt</li> <li>• 7 Two bed Apt</li> </ul>                              |
| Duiche Roden, Dundalk<br>Cluid Housing                            | 6/6 | 36                                    |                       | On-site        | 31/06/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 2 bed apt</li> <li>• 18 3 bed apt</li> </ul>                                |
| An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda<br>North & East | 1/1 | 17                                    | 14/3                  | On site        | 30/09/2024                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 One bed apt</li> <li>• 7 Two bed apt</li> <li>• 3 Three bed apt</li> </ul>   |

|  |     |     |        |                  |            |  |
|--|-----|-----|--------|------------------|------------|--|
| Friary Place,<br>Mill Lane<br>Drogheda<br>Tuath    | 1/1 | 49  | 44/5   | On-Site          | 19/07/2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 One bed Apts</li> <li>• 22 Two bed Apts</li> </ul>                           |
| Connolly's Field<br>Dundalk<br>Fold Housing        | 1/2 | 30  | 19/11  | On- Site         | 29/09/2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 One bed apt</li> <li>• 10 Two bed apt</li> </ul>                             |
| Connolly's Field<br>Dundalk<br>Fold Housing        | 2/2 | 40  |        | On- Site         | 29/03/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31 One bed apt</li> <li>• 9 Two bed apt</li> </ul>                              |
| Harbour View Coulter Place<br>Dundalk<br>Cluid     | 1/1 | 18  |        | On-Site          | 14/03/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 One Bed Apt</li> <li>• 6 Two Bed Apt</li> </ul>                              |
| Gullion Park Finnabair<br>Dundalk<br>Co- Operative | 1/1 | 142 | 128/14 | Funding Approved | 05/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48 One bed Apt</li> <li>• 70 Two bed Apt</li> <li>• 24 Three Bed Apt</li> </ul> |
| Avourwen Meadows,<br>Drogheda, Co. Louth<br>Oaklee | 1/1 | 50  | 45/5   | Funding Approved | 10/11/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 One Bed Apt</li> <li>• 32 Two Bed Apt</li> </ul>                             |

## **Cultural Services**

### **Archives**



*Archives Entrance Gate Sign*

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

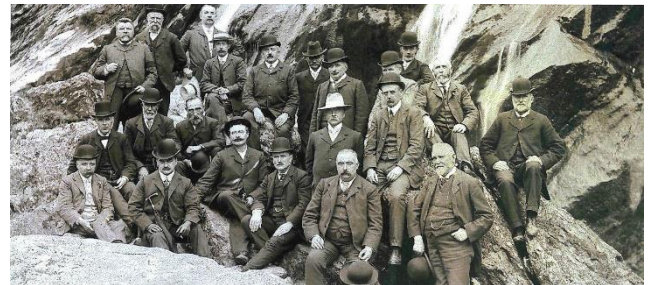
The County Archivist is assisting with the draft records retention schedule revisions. Fire Services is at the early draft stage, while Community and Legal Services are in the process of being finalised. To date, revised records retention schedules for Health and Safety, Planning and Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water, Transport and Infrastructure, Corporate, Environment, Enterprise and Economic Development and IT have been completed, approved and issued out to local authorities.

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

### **125th Anniversary of Irish Local Government**

2024 is the 125th anniversary of Irish Local Government. The Local Government Act of 1898 abolished the Grand Jury system and established County Councils, Rural District Councils and Urban Councils and granted many Irish people the right to vote for the first time. The first local elections were

held in January 1899 for urban districts and in April 1899 for county areas. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1899, many of the new Councils met for the first time, including Louth County Council. To mark the anniversary of Louth County Council, Louth County Archives have produced an online exhibition, which will be available on [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie). Amongst other features, it includes the minutes of the first Louth County Council meeting. Additionally, a small publication to mark the anniversary is currently being produced by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

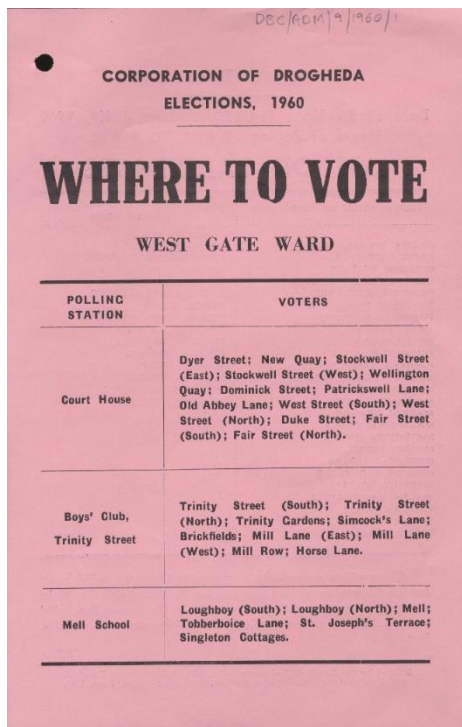


*An early photograph of Louth County Council with guests at Powerscourt on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1906*

### **Local Election Promotional Leaflets Wanted**

The County Archives actively collects leaflets, flyers and posters of election candidates and their parties for its archive collection. Donations of this material is welcomed from both election candidates and members of the public, and the County Archives are seeking three copies of each leaflet where possible. Leaflets can be placed in an envelope or bag and left into the County Archives at the Old Gaol, Ardee Road, Dundalk, A91PY17 during office hours or to any Council office or library marked for the attention of the County Archives. This material contributes to a valuable research source.

If you have any other archive collection that you would be willing to donate, or know of someone who would, please contact the County Archivist by email at [archive@louthcoco.ie](mailto:archive@louthcoco.ie) or by telephone at 042-9324358.



***'Where to Vote': A leaflet of Drogheda Corporation for Local Elections, 1960***

## Catalogue Upgrade

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

## Research Enquiries

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

## Climate Action

The County Archives supports corporate Climate Action Goals. Environmental conditions in the County Archives building are being monitored and adjustments to the new BMS settings made by the Archivist with support from Facilities staff.

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

## Libraries

### Programmes and Initiatives

#### Library Capital Funding Announcement

On April 24th, The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced a major investment of over €25 million in our Public Library Service.

Among the funded projects is €3 million toward a new Library on the site of the old Dominican Church in Drogheda. Louth County Council were also successful in securing funding towards a new mobile Library vehicle.



***The Dominican Church in Drogheda***

## LAI/CILIP Joint Annual Conference 2024

The LAI (Library Association of Ireland)/CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) joint annual conference took place in The Canal Court Hotel in Newry on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The theme of the conference was 'Building for the Future', and Louth Library Service was represented by Executive Librarian Leona Burgess, who delivered a plenary lecture with HSE Executive Librarian Ruth O'Rourke on the 'Baby Talk' Neonatal Intensive Care Reading Project. This reading project caters to babies in neonatal intensive care and their families. It is a collaboration between Louth Library Service and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda and has been nominated in two categories in the Irish Healthcare Awards 2024 under 'Healthcare Initiative – Child Health and Wellbeing' and 'Large/Teaching Hospital'.

Several library staff also attended the conference, taking in keynote presentations, lectures and participative learning sessions.



***Executive Librarian Leona Burgess presenting at the LAI/CILIP joint annual conference with HSE Executive Librarian Ruth O'Rourke***

## Anniversary Celebrations

Dundalk Library took a walk down memory lane with a Panel Talk on April 11<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Dundalk Library in Roden Place. A culmination of a specially-curated programme, including the well-loved library quiz, historical displays and love letters to the library, the panel featured former and current staff members as well as long-standing borrowers. It was an evening of laughter, stories and reminiscences of events and characters in the library's history.



***Louth Library Service staff attending the LAI/CILIP joint annual conference in Newry: Senior Executive Librarian Linda Larrigan, Acting County Librarian Amanda Branigan, Executive Librarian Leona Burgess and Library Assistant's Ciara Brodigan and Ciara Stewart***



**Dundalk Library welcomed a large crowd on April 11<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the library on Roden Place**

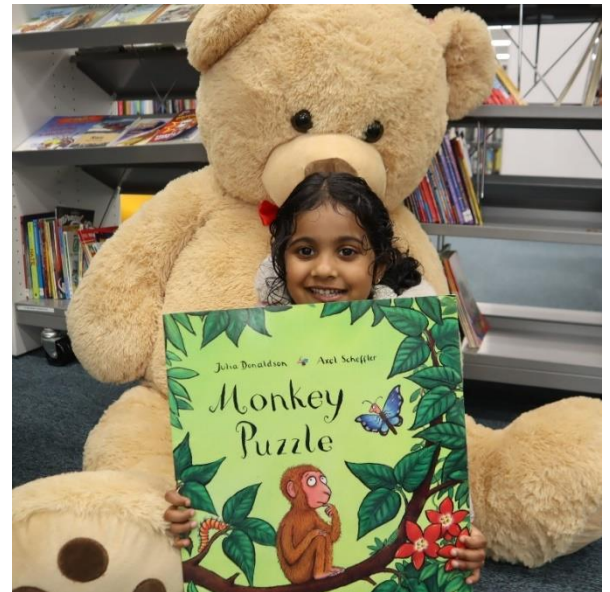
- Louth Library Service took part in the Readathon held by Little Rascals Creche in Tullyallen. Almost 100 children enjoyed storytime with the Primary Schools team, before stepping on board the Schools van to browse through the collection.
- An interactive storytime event was held in Mosney Village on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- In Dundalk Library, the Magic Table was transformed into a Magic Carpet for babies to enjoy a soothing sensory storytime.

### Recruitment Fair



**Executive Librarian Yvonne Duggan pictured at the Recruitment Fair in the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk**

Louth Library Service attended the recent INTREO Work and Skills 2024 Recruitment Fair in the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Library staff were on hand to talk about the services and facilities available to jobseekers at their local library.



**A young borrower enjoying a Spring into Storytime event in Drogheda Library**

### Right to Read



### Spring into Storytime

A very successful Spring into Storytime programme was delivered by Louth Library Service in April. Children enjoyed over twenty Storytime and Arts and Craft sessions in each of our five library branches. Spring into Storytime also included the following:



**Some of the Spring wreaths that were created during Spring into Storytime Crafts in Ardee Library**

## Poetry Day Ireland

Drogheda Creative Writers and the Just Write! Group marked Poetry Day Ireland in Drogheda Library on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> with a poetry recital on the theme of 'Good Sports'.



*Marian Clarke from Drogheda Creative Writers giving a recitation at the Poetry Day Ireland celebrations in Drogheda Library*

## eServices Roadshow

As part of an action under the Drogheda Implementation Plan, Louth Library Service is collaborating with Meath Library Service on a joint literacy initiative for residents of Mosney Village.

On Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, staff visited Mosney Village to deliver an eServices roadshow, providing information on our range of online services and facilities, as well as details about My Open Library Drogheda. Library staff also attended a Friends of Mosney meeting for local stakeholders and community groups in April, sharing information on services and events taking place in Drogheda Library.

## Healthy Ireland at Your Library



## Hello, How Are You?

Louth Library Service is once again supporting the 'Hello How Are You?' Campaign for Mental Health

Ireland. The campaign aims to tackle the lack of connection or belonging that people experience by starting a conversation and encouraging action by signposting to local support and services. Dundalk, Drogheda, and Ardee Libraries will act as distribution hubs for these supporting materials, so feel free to drop in and pick up your bookmarks, keyrings and conversation cards ahead of May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Alzheimer's Café

The April meeting of Drogheda Library's Alzheimer's Memory Café saw guest speaker Maeve Montgomery, Dementia Advisor, speak about nutrition and eating well, before taking questions from attendees. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am. All are welcome.



*Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery pictured with Helen Barron from Tredagh Lodge Drogheda Day Care Centre*

At Dundalk Library's Alzheimer's Café, Jacinta Kennedy Mulligan from Family Carers Ireland provided advice and information on the various services available to individuals and families living with memory loss and Dementia. Dementia Advisor Maeve Montgomery was also on hand to offer expert advice.

The next Alzheimer's Café in Dundalk Library takes place on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am. All are welcome to attend.



**Maeve Montgomery and Jacinta Kennedy Mulligan from Family Carer's Ireland**



**Dr Barry Fitzgerald, the Superhero Scientist in Drogheda Library for Technology Week**

## Adult Events

### Creative Writing

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

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

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

### Age Action Computer Classes

New computer classes, facilitated by Age Action, have commenced 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](mailto:gettingstarted@ageaction.ie).

## Children's and Family Events

### Technology Week

We marked Technology Week in Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> with a visit from the Superhero Scientist, Dr Barry Fitzgerald.

An educational and enjoyable day was spent learning the intricacies of modern engineering.

## Regular Events

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

### Baby Book Club

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

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

### Parent and Toddler Group

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

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

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

### Film Screenings

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

## eServices

### Newspaper and Magazines move to BorrowBox!



***BorrowBox is free to access as a library member***

If you're a fan of the online newspapers, ebooks and magazines available through your library, we have some great news – from May 1<sup>st</sup>, it will all be available on BorrowBox!

The Libby and PressReader apps will no longer be available, but BorrowBox has you covered. If you're already a BorrowBox user, you'll see a new 'ePress' section in the app, which is where you can locate your favourite magazines and newspapers.

If you're not already using BorrowBox, don't worry! Simply download the app, and then use your library card and PIN to register, browse and read. To help you get set up, speak with a member of staff or visit our regular eService information sessions:

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

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

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

## Arts

### Creative Ireland

#### Creative Climate

The Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary, held a 'Gardening for Climate Change' event at Blackrock Community Gardens on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>. Artist and Garden Designer Pamela Whittaker spoke about the importance of garden design in combating climate issues while Rory Sheehan, Louth County Council's Climate Action Co-Ordinator, spoke about the effects of climate on gardening and farming in Louth.

The Louth Urban Food Sanctuary now has over 60 participants, with key community gardens in Blackrock, Tallanstown, Drogheda Allotment and the Dundalk Inclusive Gardens all getting involved. During March seed day, Ginger, Turmeric and Heritage Peas were planted, and despite the increasingly wet weather in March and April, we are hoping that the crop will come to fruition!



***Gardening for Climate Change, a part of the 'Louth Urban Food Sanctuary' project, took place on April 27<sup>th</sup>***

There will be more participation events occurring in June and again in August as part of Heritage Week. Further crops and seeds will also be available for planting in May/June including Sweet Potato. For details of all produce and how to get in touch or take part you can email [creativeireland@louthcoco.ie](mailto:creativeireland@louthcoco.ie) or visit [the website](http://www.louthurbanfoodsanctuary.com)

[www.louthurbanfoodsantuary.com](http://www.louthurbanfoodsantuary.com), which also contains videos on our key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting garlic.

## Cruinniú na nÓg

Planning is well underway for this year's Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. At the end of April, the Creative Ireland team announced a Louth Art Competition 'WOWTH!' for school children as part of our 2024 programme. Entries from children and young adults up to the age of 18 are sought.



*The 'WOWTH!' Art Competition is now open for entries*

Applicants can submit a piece based on any theme they wish, but a special category is also open to all ages on the theme of "Louth's Brilliant Biodiversity". Application forms can be picked up at any of the Louth branch libraries or downloaded from the Louth County Council website, and the deadline for submissions is 5pm on June 4<sup>th</sup>. An exhibition of all winning entries will be hosted in the libraries on Cruinniú day. For full details visit <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/arts/cruinni%C3%BA%20na%20n%C3%B3g%202024/'wowth!%20art%20competition%20/>

## Highlanes Gallery

### Mindfulness at Highlanes Gallery

On April 30<sup>th</sup> Fiona McShane, Mindfulness Coach, began a series of six weekly sessions of relaxation in the contemplative environment of the gallery space. The series will run every Tuesday from 10am – 10:50am until June 4<sup>th</sup>. For details visit <https://highlanes.ie/all-events/>

### Drogheda Creative Writers

Poetry Day's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in style by Drogheda Creative Writers. With the theme of 'Good Sport', the afternoon celebrated the good sport in all of us and the drive to 'give it a go'.

### Ursula Burke's 'Siren'

'Siren' is an expansive exhibition that incorporates Sculpture, Ceramics, Textile works and Mosaic Sculptures. Ursula Burke creates a major new monumental work with Grecian Terracotta Sculpture and Mosaic in this Highlanes National Tour with partners The Butler Gallery and Wexford Arts Centre. The exhibition launched on April 27<sup>th</sup> and runs until June 15<sup>th</sup> before moving to the next tour venue. For full details visit <https://highlanes.ie/exhibition/ursula-burke-siren/?back=ago>

## Droichead Arts Centre

### Night Moves

Funded by the Night Time Economy Fund, the Night Moves series continued in April with a sold out event featuring The Cacks with SIVE on April 19<sup>th</sup>. On April 26<sup>th</sup> TradTrail featured the finest in local and national traditional acts including Drogheda's own fiddle player Síle Ryan, and renowned guitar player Ian Kinsella.

## 'Port' by SJ McArdle

SJ McArdle continued his 'Port' tour in Droichead Arts Centre on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Born out of a year-long research and writing project focused on the history of Drogheda's ancient port, it was part-funded by the Arts Office through their annual grant scheme. SJ was also supported during his tenure as Artist in Association with Droichead Arts Centre in 2019.



*SJ McArdle's cover of his album 'PORT'*

## An Táin Arts Centre

### Dundalk Photographic Society

Dundalk Photographic Society opened their annual exhibition in the Basement Gallery on April 20<sup>th</sup>. This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society, and the exhibition will run until May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Bó Studios Open Call

An Táin Arts Centre are seeking applications from professional Visual Artists to become members of Bó Studios. Established artists must be from or based in the Louth area.



*Bó Studios are seeking new members*

Established in 2020, Bó Studios boast seven separate artist studios and a shed workspace area on Jocelyn Street, just 200 meters away from An Táin Arts Centre. For details on how to apply see <https://www.antain.ie/bo-studios-open-call-visual-artist-studio-space/>

## Other news

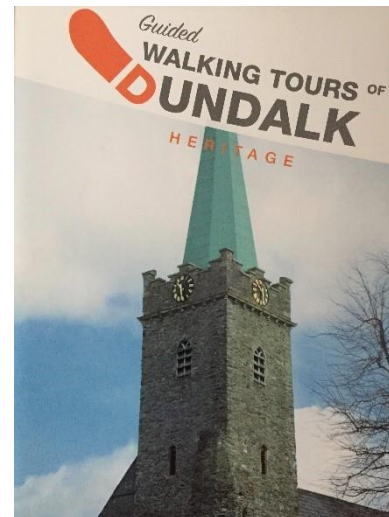
### Funding Opportunities

Other funding opportunities from the Arts Council can be found on their funding page at: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

## Museum

### Museum News

After an extended run the exhibition on St Brigid has ended. The exhibition featured a selection of crosses from the Museum collection as well as a 'dress' specially created for the February festival.



*The Museum is planning to re-introduce its walking tours of Dundalk for the summer*

The Museum is presently preparing a summer schedule of activities for schools and the general public which will include the resumption of walking tours of Dundalk; bespoke tours of the Museum as well as events to mark International Museum's Day.

## 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Museum continues to mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Roden Place, most recently with a lecture by singer/songwriter Duke Special. Duke spoke to a spellbound audience, offering an inside look into some of the songs from his latest album 'Blood from Ghosts'.



*A truly unique night: Duke Special at the County Museum, Dundalk*

## Forthcoming talk



*'Old Dundalk: The Origins and Evolution of St Patrick's Parish Church, Dundalk'*

On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> the Museum hosted a lecture on 'Old Dundalk: The Origin and Evolution of St Patrick's Parish Church, Dundalk'. The lecture was held in the Museum's AV Theatre.

## Tourism Conference

In April, the Museum attended the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Tourism Conference held at the Carlingford Four Seasons Hotel. The event provided an opportunity to establish and re-establish links to service providers in the county prior to the commencement of the summer season.



*The County Museum at the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Tourism Conference*

## Ukraine Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

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

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

Yvonne O'Brien  
Acting Director / Stiúrtóir Gníomhach



## Ukraine Humanitarian Response

### Property Figures as at 29/04/2024

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Property offers recorded to date     | 65  |
| Owners successfully contacted        | 65  |
| Properties allocated to date         | 36  |
| Beneficiaries assigned to date       | 118 |
| Assessments                          | 50  |
| Assessments currently underway       | 1   |
| Properties assessed as suitable      | 36  |
| Properties with minor works required | 0   |
| Properties withdrawn                 | 15  |
| Properties not viable                | 13  |

One family was housed in April under the Offer a Home Programme. The family moved from another Offer a Home property where the licence agreement wasn't renewed. Two properties were offered in April, one was unsuitable as it was a shared property, and the other property is currently being assessed. Four owners were advised their properties were unsuitable for the scheme as they had been recently rented.

### Refurbishment Programme

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

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

## Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Programme ERUP to date

|   |                        |                                 |                                  |                                   |                          |                      |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Cumulative Offers of properties to ERUP | Unsuitable / withdrawn | Under evaluation in April. 2024 | DC EDI Y Letter of Intent issued | No. of beds combined for delivery | DCE DIY contracts issued | No of beds delivered |
| 37                                      | 25                     | 2                               | 10                               | 608                               | 3                        | 91                   |

A contract was issued at the end of April for a property in Clogherhead with 45 beds. It is expected that Ukrainian families will move in within the next two weeks.

### The Community Integration Forum

The Community Integration forum meeting was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. A discussion took place on how best to support migrants. Many of the stakeholders provided updates on their services and raised queries in relation to issues on the ground. The next CIF meeting is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

### Local Authority Integration Team

Over the Easter period a donation of Easter eggs was provided by the Lions club in Dundalk to the children in Carroll Village and the Gateway hotel. The children were delighted with the eggs and parents appreciated the gesture made.

In April, the LGMA hosted the first national conference for the LAIT teams that are in post. The event was held in Tullamore and the Louth LAIT team were in attendance.

The team continues to hold clinics each week throughout the county. International Protection applicants are attending with different issues which are being handled by the Integration Support Workers. There were seven clinics held in April.

The council website has a specific Integration section which has received 65 unique hits in April. It provides information on several topics including employment, health and child support.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the LAIT attended a Food Cuisine Festival hosted by Hands4Unity in the community centre in Ballsgrove, Drogheda. Residents from the D hotel attended and were appreciative of the welcome they received from all at the event. Many different groups provided flavours from all over the world.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the LAIT attended an Anit-Racism training session hosted by Fingal County Council in Dublin. The Irish Network Against Racism and the SALAAM project developed this training session in conjunction with the University of Limerick. The event was also attended by the LAIT teams from Wicklow County Council and Meath County Council. The training was very informative and thought provoking.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Louth Local Partnership in partnership with the HSE held a World Café networking event which was held in The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. The purpose of the event was to share experiences, share ideas and work collaboratively going forward. The event was attended by the HSE, Louth Local Development and Louth County Council.

The Dept of Social Protection hosted a Work and Skills fair with a focus on migrants in partnership with the LAIT in the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The turnout was exceptional and the feedback from employers was positive. Over 300 vacancies were on offer on the day, and many were taken up on the day. LAIT were present to assist new arrivals with any queries.



***Easter Egg donation***



***Anti-Racism Training***