



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

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

**Dated 7 January 2022  
7 Eanáir 2022**

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## Finance and Water Services

### Airgeadas agus Seirbhísí Uisce

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 Motor Tax and Water Services.

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

Ina chuid den freagrachtaí eile ná Mótarcháin agus Seirbhísí Uisce.

**Bernie Woods**  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## Finance

### Expenditure to 31st December 2021

<b>Section</b>	<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 31/12/21</b>	<b>BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2021</b>	<b>% SPENT TO 31/12/21</b>
Housing	34,539,726	39,706,362	87%
Road Transportation & Safety	25,564,919	26,232,178	97%
Water Services	6,865,785	7,854,289	87%
Development Management	15,909,023	17,057,986	93%
Environmental Services	17,134,695	18,475,519	93%
Recreation and Amenity	8,336,420	9,425,077	88%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,009,690	1,180,833	86%
Miscellaneous	17,891,039	10,604,375	169%
	<b>127,251,297</b>	<b>130,536,619</b>	<b>97%</b>

### Income to 31st December 2021

<b>Section</b>	<b>ACTUAL INCOME TO 31/12/21</b>	<b>BUDGET INCOME 2021</b>	<b>% INVOICED TO 31/12/21</b>
Housing	34,899,193	40,590,850	86%
Road Transportation & Safety	13,837,381	16,802,175	82%
Water Services	6,314,160	7,598,460	83%
Development Management	9,001,387	10,177,060	88%
Environmental Services	2,413,140	2,150,427	112%
Recreation and Amenity	1,060,823	962,409	110%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	463,272	455,146	102%
Miscellaneous	14,772,740	6,496,645	227%
Rates	35,387,113	35,437,249	100%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)	9,866,198	9,866,198	100%
	<b>128,015,407</b>	<b>130,536,619</b>	<b>98%</b>

The above is the current position as at the 31st December 2021. 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 2021 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as at 31st December 2021 are as follows:

### Debtors as at 31st December 2021

	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Invoices</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Write Offs</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
<b>Government Debtors</b>	<b>9,101,755</b>	120,704,673	(118,122,381)	(152)	<b>11,683,895</b>
<b>Other Local Authorities</b>	<b>111,441</b>	802,535	(860,542)	0	<b>53,434</b>
<b>Rates</b>	<b>11,030,292</b>	35,387,113	(24,288,464)	(11,735,448)	<b>10,393,493</b>
<b>Rents</b>	<b>2,968,564</b>	12,878,525	(13,033,510)	(77,480)	<b>2,736,099</b>
<b>Loans</b>	<b>283,360</b>	1,754,210	(1,781,752)	0	<b>255,818</b>
<b>Development Levies</b>	<b>10,622,066</b>	3,172,590	(3,224,799)	(598,534)	<b>9,971,323</b>
<b>Fire Charges</b>	<b>750,804</b>	440,961	(322,862)	(129,907)	<b>738,996</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>1,847,991</b>	10,391,811	(10,053,781)	(651,742)	<b>1,534,279</b>
<b>TOTAL DEBTORS</b>	<b>36,716,273</b>	<b>185,532,418</b>	<b>(171,688,091)</b>	<b>(13,193,263)</b>	<b>37,367,337</b>

Above is the debtor balances as at the 31st December 2021. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recoupments, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

### Annual Financial Statement

Work has commenced on the Annual Financial Statement and the above figures will change when year end accruals and claims are posted. Once completed the Annual Financial Statement will be presented to Council.

### Covid19 - Rates Waiver

The Government has announced the continuation of the Rates Waiver scheme for the first quarter of 2022 but the eligible businesses are severely restricted compared to the previous rates waiver schemes.

With regard to rate customers in arrears we continue to deal with these on a case by case basis and we urge rate payers that are experiencing difficulties at this time to contact the rates department without delay.

## Water Services

**Note - it is expected that progress of capital schemes and delivery of some services will experience further delays as result of restrictions due to Covid-19.**

### Water Quality

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

### Greenmount Public Water Supply

A Do Not Consume (DNC) Notice was issued to customers supplied by Greenmount Public Water Scheme on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The Do Not Consume Notice was placed as a precaution to protect the health of approximately 4,000 customers as elevated ammonia levels in the source water (River Dee) resulted in the plant being unable to treat water to the required standard. Areas affected included Castlebellingham, Dunleer, Annagassan and surrounding areas. Alternate water supply stations were provided at both Kilsarran and Dunleer whilst LCC in conjunction with IW worked to resolve issues at the Water Treatment Plant. Following on from works and consultations with the HSE, Irish Water and Louth County Council the DNC notice was lifted on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and the public advised that the water supply can be consumed as normal.

### Water Conservation

Water conservation is ongoing throughout the County.

### Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

### Capital Programmes

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

- Gate 1 - Concept Design
- Gate 2 - Detailed design, preparation of contract documents, planning approval and procurement

- Gate 3 - Construction stage
- Gate 4 - Snagging and project sign off.

### Tallanstown Rationalisation

Detailed Design is being progressed by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers. LCC are liaising with IW and Consultants to advance the project. Stage 4 workshop complete. LCC roads continue to engage with IW and design team to support project.

#### Expected target dates

Week 2 of 2022 tender out to market. Q4 2022 project completion date.

### Cavanhill WTW Upgrade

LCC and IW are currently negotiating the phased transition from the DBO contract to Operations control. LCC are currently recruiting additional staff to be trained by the DBO Contractor/IW in order to manage and operate Cavan Hill WTP once the facility is taken back in charge by the LA under the Service Level Agreement.

### Staleen WTW Upgrade

LCC and IW are currently negotiating the phased transition from the DBO contract to Operations control. LCC are currently recruiting additional staff to be trained by the DBO Contractor/IW in order to manage and operate Staleen WTP once the facility is taken back in charge by the LA under the Service Level Agreement.

### Omeath WWTW

Site mobilisation & setup of site compound commenced and to be completed in week 2 of January 2022. Road Opening T1 in place. Information letter for public due for circulation in January 2022. Programme due for completion January 2023.

### Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL)

Re-lining works commenced Dec 2021 and to be completed end of Jan 2022. IW to consider further surface water separation.

## **Regional Sewer Network Rehabilitation**

Programme for 2021 completed. Further network surveys to be reviewed under 2022 programme for Louth.

## **Dundalk Drainage Area Plan (DAP)**

DAP Workshop Stage 3 with Irish Water, Louth County Council and Arups Consulting Engineers was completed in September 2021 to review the progress on the survey and modelling project. LCC Operations staff continues to liaise with IW and Consultants with network verifications. Key risks identified from stage 3 to be taken forward to stage 4 and options identified to address risks. This project is progressing.

## **Dundalk East Strategy - In advance of completion of Dundalk DAP**

Consultants are currently progressing the design with IW in consultation with Louth County Council. The Invasive Site Investigation is now complete with the GPR survey ongoing, completed by end of 2021. The detailed design will be dependent on data provided by Dundalk DAP

## **Coe's Road Pumping Station**

Operational modifications to the Pumping Station were undertaken by EPS. Options for cleaning of existing large diameter sewer currently under review with IW.

## **Dundalk LNRP**

Strategic Review underway for Dundalk WWTP and Blackrock WWTP to facilitate the progressing of the Local Network Reinforcement Programme.

## **Drogheda LNRP**

Works at SWO including the provision of Non-Return Valves on the 3 no outfalls and an Event Duration Monitor are being progressed.

## **North Drogheda Wastewater Network Strategy**

Atkins Consulting Engineers are progressing the Detailed Design of the North Drogheda Strategic Wastewater Network. Workshop 4 completed 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. IW will liaise with Local Authority and

planners Jan 2022. Planning and procurement process to progress through 2022.

## **Quay St/St.Helena Rising Main, Dundalk**

Detailed Design is being advanced by the IW Consultants with the next Design Workshop due in January 2022. Detailed design will be dependent on data provided by Dundalk DAP. Procurement of Contractors is ongoing with commencement on site due in Q1 2022. This project is progressing.

## **Greenmount WTW Upgrade**

IW and LCC are currently developing a Water Needs Brief to initiate a project to upgrade the Greenmount Water Treatment Works. Project includes, new WTP alongside old WTP, new sludge treatment with full disinfection. Project handed over within IW to Asset Delivery.

## **Drogheda WWTP**

IW is continuing to carry out works at Drogheda wastewater treatment plant and is committed to resolving any potential odour issues arising from the wastewater plant or the network. IW continues to work closely with EPS Limited who operates the Plant on behalf of Irish Water and Louth County Council.

## **Water Networks**

### **Water Networks Programme**

### **Rehabilitation Programme**

Two rehabilitation schemes commenced under this program in November 2021

- Cast iron network replacement in Pearse Park Drogheda, works should be completed by mid February 2022.
- Slip lining of the water main through the Bridge of Peace. Investigation work undertaken and scope of works defined. Network replacement / upgrade due to commence in January 2022.
- **Irish Water announced on 25<sup>th</sup> November plans to replace old cast iron watermains in Tallanstown village to safeguard the water supply and reduce high levels of leakage for homes and businesses.** Works were rescheduled to commence in January 2022.

## **Find & Fix**

Louth County Council crews continue their Find and Fix program in various networks in December.

## **Water Scouring Programme 2021**

Program now complete.

## **Network Maintenance**

28 essential water tasks were carried out in December including 12 under the Find and Fix program (5 in Carlingford and 7 in Dundalk).

## **Planning & Water Connections**

The Networks Section processed 20 new connections, 14 pre connection enquiries and 18 planning applications in December.

## **Service Maps**

The Networks Section prepared 10 service maps in December.

## Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Development Pleanáil, Bonneagar agus Forbairt Eacnamaíoch

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

- Planning, the way in which we organise the built environment in our county
- Infrastructure, including our roads, bridges, and ports
- Economic Development, including the Local Enterprise Office, and work involving partners and funding outside the state

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

- Is é Pleanáil an slí a eagraímid an timpeallacht thógtha i gContae Lú
- Bonneagar, ár mbóithre, ár ndroichid, agus ár gcalaphoirt san áireamh
- Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil san áireamh, agus obair le comhpháirtithe agus foinsí maoinithe lasmuigh den Stát

Frank Pentony  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Development

### Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

### Economic Development

#### Louth Economic Forum

The next meeting of the Louth Economic Forum will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

#### Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2022

A budget has been allocated for the scheme for 2022. A review of the areas will take place in January, 2022. Applications can be made as and from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

### Tourism

#### 'sea louth'



sea louth bucket list - 22 things to do on the sea louth scenic seafood trail in 2022 will be published on the sea louth website in January, 2022 under the 'News' section.

The aim of this bucket list is to encourage tourists / outdoor enthusiasts to start their very own scenic seafood trail adventure and take off on an unforgettable journey along our 70+ km long scenic coast, breathing in fresh sea air and eating the finest, local seafood along the way.

#### Fáilte Ireland Funding

#### Urban Animation

Louth County Council were thrilled to be awarded €672,000 from Fáilte Ireland under the Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme.

This project will see the transformation of Drogheda with a number of new innovation experiences. These include:

- An urban art trail with an audio story attached,
- A new Augmented Reality Trail – the first of its kind in Ireland, and
- An animated lighting show which will run during festivals and other seasonal events.

These projects will enliven the senses through sight, sound and vision at strategic locations in Drogheda's Town Centre and will capture and portray a sense of place, linking Drogheda with its ancient past through audio and visual experiences that can be enjoyed both in day and evening time.

Work on the project has commenced with tenders due to be advertised early in 2022.

#### Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

The Destination Town Contractor is currently preparing Tender Documents for the Manufacture & Installation of the signage, with a view to having the Tender Documents finalised and issued in January 2022

Further works are ongoing on the project which is due to be completed in the summer of 2022.

The proposed signage will be focused on streets from Magdalene Tower to Millmount and from Westgate to St. Laurence's Gate in Drogheda town centre.

#### Boyne Valley Flavours

A review of the Food Strategy for 2022 is currently in the early planning stage.



*Boyne Valley Flavours Gift Box*

Boyne Valley Flavours finished the year by selling Boyne Valley Flavours gift boxes on their website. These gift boxes were once again very successful and included 35 food and drink producers from across Louth and Meath.

## **LEO Louth**

### **COVID-19 Business Supports**



Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at: [www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Response](http://www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Response).

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' Campaign**

A new shop local Christmas Campaign, 'Look for Local - Look for Louth' was launched which generated extensive coverage in local press, radio and social media in the weeks leading to Christmas. A video was created for the county featuring business owners and images of the major shopping areas which was very well received. Across the main social media channels of the LEO, the video was viewed in excess of 12,500 times. Part of the campaign included a competition offering 3 x €250 gift vouchers from Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee, and people had to share the video, use the hashtag #Look for Louth and mention a local business and mention why they liked shopping there. LMFM did a feature on the morning show which they extended into a second day running a smaller competition asking people to highlight local businesses they like to shop in and there was a fantastic response.

The Louth online shopping directory is available at: [www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal](http://www.louthcoco.ie/ShopLocal). The directory will remain on the Local Enterprise Office website all year.

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



**Cathaoirleach Pío Smith with Riona Mc Coy and Thomas Mc Evoy from LEO Louth at the launch of the 'Look for Local' campaign.**

### **Retail Powerhouse Forum**

LEO Louth is supporting 12 local retailers on the Retail Powerhouse Forum in 2021. This is a commercial retail forum that focuses on building trade with expert tips specifically for retailers.



### **Brexit Supports**

Notwithstanding the trade agreement negotiated between the EU and UK, Brexit is creating issues for businesses around VAT and Customs paperwork.



### Brexit Advisory Clinic:

Brexit Advisory Clinics, involving one to one meetings to help assess the impact of Brexit on Louth businesses, continue to be offered to local businesses. The aim of the clinic is to design a pathway to mitigate Brexit and access additional supports.

### Microfinance Ireland Loan:

Microfinance Ireland is offering a Brexit Business Loan, via LEO, in order to support businesses that will be directly impacted by Brexit. Loans up to €25,000 are available, and depending on the purpose the term can be between six months and three years.

A full range of Brexit supports to help small businesses is offered by LEO Louth, all information can be found at: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Brexit/>.

### **Border Stimulus Programmes to assist local businesses address Brexit and Covid challenges**



A suite of 5 business support programmes continued to be delivered.

The 5 programmes are:

- Export Development Programme
- Financial Management Programme for owner managers
- Green for Microenterprise
- Innovation Programme for small businesses in Co. Louth.
- Superior Retailing Programme

### **Export Development Programme**



The Export Development Programme commenced in January 2021 and is due to conclude in the New Year, with workshops and mentoring sessions being delivered and finalised throughout the Autumn / Winter. The final reports will be drafted post programme and LEO Louth expect to be in possession of them as soon as the programme is completed.

### **Financial Management Programme**



While the Financial Management workshops concluded in August, additional company 'one to one' mentoring took place during December.

The quality of the action plans developed by the businesses has been to a very high standard with scores ranging between 60% and 85%.

The programme has been very successful with high attendance and extremely positive feedback from participants and mentors.

### **Green for Micro**



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

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

20 Louth businesses have availed of the programme in 2021, with several businesses exploring the possibility of securing a grant from Phase II of the programme. The Grant covers 50% of eligible costs (net of vat) to a max of €2,500.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

### Innovation Programme



The Innovation Programme is designed for SME business leaders who have ambitions to embed innovation in their businesses. The programme which commenced in April is being delivered over a 7 month period.

The programme finished in December with a final workshop which included six external speakers from around the world. The feedback from the nine Louth participants has been extremely positive. Several of the businesses have exhibited potential and LEO Louth will continue to support them in 2022.

The final report is currently being drafted, with the completed document expected in January.

### Superior Retailing Development Programme



The Superior Retailing Development Programme was aimed at assisting Irish owned retail businesses cope with the challenges of Covid, Brexit and Online. Businesses will be able to plan their growth into the future.

Engagement and participation on the programme has been excellent. The end of programme evaluation showed e-Commerce as the top priority for participants and an additional, final Masterclass was delivered on the specific subject of “Free Google Tools to Improve your Online Presence”.

The third and final rounds of Mystery Shopping for the SME Retail clients who participated in the training earlier in the year, was completed. This part of the programme was late starting due to lockdowns, and the individual rounds needed to be spaced out, to maximise the benefit to the clients. The store owners have found this phase of the programme particularly beneficial and are delighted with the independent, anonymous shoppers’ feedback.

The Superior Retailing Development Programme is now fully completed.

### Business Training

During 2021 in excess of 1,200 people completed training courses. Training was varied with a myriad of options available to support the needs of local businesses.

A brief sample included the following varied courses;

- Successful Tenders
- Website Design using WordPress
- Accessing Finance
- Instagram for Beginners

- HACCP & Food Safety Training
- Marketing for Small Business
- Twitter for Business
- Advanced Facebook
- Start Your Own Business
- Social Media for Food Business
- Social Media for Small Business
- Prepare your Business for Customs
- Food labeling and packaging

Training courses for 2022 are available to view online and will continue to cater for entrepreneurs who have recently graduated from Start Your Own Business Programmes as well as more established businesses looking to refresh their skills. Interestingly one of the Start Your Own Business courses for January is already full.

All training courses are available to view and book online:

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

### LEO Louth Client Portfolio Review / Export Adviser Programme

Under this programme LEO appointed 3 no. consultants who continued to engage with our portfolio clients during December.

The programme provides support to LEO portfolio clients to develop their export and growth potential, working with businesses to identify and pursue export opportunities and to ensure maximum uptake of LEO supports.

### Trading Online Voucher Scheme

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



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

There were 4 applications in December.

### Business Advice Clinics

18 business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during December.

### 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.

8 businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of December.

### COVID-19 Microfinance Ireland Business Loan



LEO Louth offers full expert assistance to clients to assist the completion of Microfinance Loan Application, Business Plan and Cashflow Projections.

During the month of December, there was 1 application for support.

LEO mentors are continuing to assist applicants.

## Micro-Finance Ireland – New Electric Vehicle Taxi Loan



Microfinance Ireland have launched a new loan whereby Taxi owners who wish to buy an electric vehicle can now apply for loans of up to €25,000 from Microfinance Ireland.

Loans of between €5,000 and €25,000 will be available, with a 1% reduced Annual Percentage Rate if the application is made through the Local Enterprise Office. The loans will be up to 5 years.

LEO Louth is accepting applications.

## Innovate Accelerate Europe



The Innovate Accelerate Europe programme launched in October and continued during November, with **7** businesses from Louth participating. The cross-border programme is focused on small businesses as they will be among the most challenged by Brexit and Covid.

It is a 12 week programme with the primary features:

- Participating businesses get a free promotional video of their business which they can use for export campaigns.
- Each business will get to work with an international mentor and digital consultant to help improve their online enquiries / sales and export potential.
- A network of EU agents will set up meetings for each business with potential partners.

- The opportunity to attend a buyer's event and receive €400 towards the cost of attending or implementing a strategy adopted.

**3** training sessions have been completed to date. Next up for participants is a B2B meeting in January, 2022. All participants have been contacted by their mentor and videographer with some already having started their mentoring.

## Student Enterprise Programme



The Student Enterprise Programme for the 2021 - 2022 academic year continued during November.

LEO Louth is delivering this programme to students in all 19 no. post-primary schools throughout the county.

## LEAN for Micro Programme



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

Businesses with an interest in improving competitiveness should contact LEO Louth to discuss how both the LEAN Programme and the LEAN Network can be of assistance.

LEO approved **1** application in December.

## Co-Innovate Programme



Final clients on the Co-Innovate programme continue to engage with the programme to assist them embed innovation in their business. In total **73** Louth businesses participated under Co-Innovate.

Due to an extension of the programme into the early part of 2022 a further opportunity has arisen for additional clients to engage in the early stages of this programme and LEO continues to work on identifying suitable companies.

### **Craft Sector**

LEO Louth is working with the national LEO / Design and Craft Council Ireland Committee in the design and roll out of sectoral training and opportunities for the design and craft community.

Louth companies will be able to apply to engage in training programmes, an eCommerce bootcamp and an export focused programme over the next number of months.

### **Showcase 2022**

Showcase is the leading trade show for the craft and gift sector. LEO Louth will take **5** companies to the event to facilitate them connect with Irish and international buyers.

### **Regional Enterprise Plan – North East**

Following the approval of the North-East Regional Enterprise Plan in September, work has commenced on the implementation of the Plan, with the establishment of five working groups. These will each be responsible for supporting the implementation of the actions in the plan. The working groups comprise representation from the Enterprise Development Agencies, LEOs, Regional Skills Forum, DkIT as well as private sector representation from across the North-East region. To date **3** of the working groups have met (Regional Identity, Transition to Digitalisation and Climate Action). January 2022 will see the coming together of the working groups on the SME Ecosystem and Emerging Sectors. One of the main functions of the working groups is to identify opportunities to collaborate on projects on a regional basis and funding opportunities for same. The ongoing situation with regards to Covid-19 has delayed the intended launch of the Regional Enterprise Plans to early 2022.

### **Local Enterprise Week Louth 2022**



LEO Louth is in the planning stage for Local Enterprise Week which will run from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 with a range of national, regional and Louth based seminar and workshops on key areas of interest to businesses. It will be a celebration of enterprise across the country and will highlight the supports available through the Local Enterprise Office Network.

### **DKIT Connect DAC**

In December, LEO Louth participated in the development of the Connected Health project at DKIT (through DKIT Connect DAC),

### **DETE Retail Forum**

In December, LEO Louth represented the national LEO Network on the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment's Retail Forum chaired by Minister English.

### **Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency AGM**

In December, LEO Louth attended the Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency AGM.

### **Enterprise Fab-Lab Initial Meeting**

In December, LEO Louth attended the Creative Spark's Enterprise Fab-Lab initial meeting.

### **Downtown Co-Working Hub**

During December, LEO Louth assisted with the establishment of 'Downtown' enterprise hubs in Dundalk and Drogheda.

## Norwegian Ambassador visit to Louth

On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Mari Skåre visited Co. Louth.



*Cathaoirleach Pio Smith with Her Excellency, Norwegian Ambassador Mari Skåre in County Hall*

## European Relations

### Peace IV Programme



### Project Updates - Shared Spaces and Services

Work has commenced on two Louth PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services Projects: Peter's Hill, Drogheda and Dundalk World War 1 Memorial.

### New Project

The final 'Building Positive Relations' project commenced in December, 2021: 'Community Capacity Building' and is aimed at adult participants (100) to include ex-prisoners and their families, displaced people, victims / survivors and those impacted by the conflict. The programme is being managed by Community Restorative Justice.

### Closing Events

Closing events for the following projects took place online in December, 2021.

- Good Relations Initiative (BPR): 6<sup>th</sup> December
- Small Grants Programme (BPR): 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Creative Interventions (BPR): 10<sup>th</sup> December
- Adapting Aftermath Archives (CYP): 16<sup>th</sup> December
- Cross Border Youth Networking: (CYP): 17<sup>th</sup> December
- Civic Leadership Project: (CYP): 17<sup>th</sup> December

## Infrastructure

### Roads Projects

#### Narrow Water Bridge

The council and designer continue to progress the collating of the numerous files together in relation to the project to ascertain a programme for the project and the services and approvals required to bring the scheme to construction stage.

A North South Ministerial Infrastructure Sub Group meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, with a further one to be held in January.

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

The CPO was published on [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie), for the scheme, on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, any objection to the Compulsory Purchase Order or to the extinguishment of the said public rights of way or private rights of way must state in writing, the grounds of objection and be sent to An Bord Pleanála, by 4.00 pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. The design team are engaging with the landowners throughout the process.





Draft CPO Drawings

## N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

A variety of surveys are ongoing with the information been gathered informing the ongoing design process. Topographical surveys are substantially complete. Ground Investigation (GI) are ongoing with the Contractor, their liaison officer and the project team have been working with landowners to arrange access to private lands and the N2 Project Team would like to thank landowners for their co-operation and for allowing access to the lands.

(GI) will also be required along the N2 mainline and adjoining sideroads – traffic management will be in operation, however, significant traffic disruption is not expected.

Noise monitoring is proposed at various locations in the study area, and the project team will soon be in contact with relevant landowners to request access for survey equipment. Noise monitoring is not required at every dwelling house - the selected locations will be representative of the wider area, the results of the noise surveys will be used in the development of a model, allowing noise impacts to be assessed at every dwelling in the study area. N2 Project Phoneline 087 340 3786, or email: [ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie](mailto:ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie), website: [www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie](http://www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie).

## N52 Ardee Bypass

The Part 8 for the scheme was published on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, with submission or objection by 4.00pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, see [www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie). However, a local environmental group have issued High Court Proceedings against An Bord Pleanála directions to Louth County Council, therefore Louth County Council is currently seeking legal advice concerning the Part 8 and the High Court Proceedings.

## Park and Share / Park and Ride Pilot Scheme

Works are now complete and the facility is open and in use. Works are completed on lining and hatching of the N53 (Castleblayney Road) to prevent parking at that location.

## TII HD 15 Safety Works: King Williams Glen Tullyallen, N51

Works to increase the stagger at the junction are now substantially completed. A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit has been carried out and works identified are to be carried out in due course. The works will proceed subject to TII funding.

## TII HD17 Schemes

Site inspections have been carried out at priority locations on National Roads including the N33 and the Funshog Junction on the N2, in conjunction with TII Safety Section.

**Funshog:** Feasibility & Options reports are currently being prepared and will be forwarded to the TII for their review and approval in due course.

**N33:** Road Markings and signage is now completed.

**N2:** Public Lighting Remedial Works for 3 no. locations on the N2: Contractor on site completing civil works, Mechanical and Electrical now complete at Tierney Street junction Ardee, Slieve Breagh / N2 junction, Main Street Collon - R188 / N2 junction. Awaiting on ESB to complete the connections

## Safety Barriers – N53 and N52

2 Locations identified on N53 and 3 locations on N52 have been surveyed for safety barrier requirements as per TII guidance to determine needs along both of these routes.

## N33 West Pavement Scheme

Works are complete on renewal of a 3km section of the N33. Resurfacing works and lining works with renewal of filter drains and provision of studs have been finalised. Bridge expansion joint replacement is being organised.

## **N2 Collon Pavement Scheme**

Kerbing and drainage works are now complete on the N2. The complete works entailed revised kerblines at junctions, additional footpath areas, drainage, selective reconstruction, surfacing, new traffic islands and tactile pavement. Lining and studs. Additional works are being planned to address collisions identified by TII. A design report has issued to TII for approval concerning these works.

## **N2 Short Term Safety Measures**

Short term safety measures have continued in 2021 on the N2 north of Ardee. Signage works and hedge clearance are now substantially complete.

## **Port Access Northern Cross Route**

Land Acquisition ongoing. Fencing completed at R132. Fill material being stockpiled, for embankment use. Existing ESB 38kv line has been diverted. Footpath and cycle path works to facilitate development on the Ballymakenny Road which is part of the PANCR scheme are ongoing. The purchase of land to facilitate the footpath and cycle path has commenced in line with the CPO procedure. Public lighting columns have been erected. Watermain, foul sewer and telecoms ducting are substantially complete. Kerbing work and footpath work is substantially complete. Cycle lane surfacing is due to commence shortly.



*Footpath & Cycle lane Construction progress*

## **Boyne Enterprise Link Road**

The project has approval for Part 8 planning which was presented at the Drogheda M.D. in September.

The consultant has now completed detailed design and tender documentation are being finalised to issue to eTenders in early December.

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

The project has been reactivated with Cavan County Council being the lead authority. Currently the consultants are reviewing the route using a RibGeom method of assessment. This type of assessment will identify sections of the route corridor where the greatest collision risk exists and these will form a basis of a phased improvement strategy for the route corridor. Currently the consultants are in the process of completing this process and it's envisaged a Risk Based Safety Improvement Measures Report will be completed early in the New Year which will give informed recommendations of the sections of the route corridor that improvements are warranted.

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

The consultant is progressing with detailed design for the project. Tender documents for the main contract are being drafted. The CPO submissions period ended on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Submissions received and Louth County Council will commence engagement with affected parties to resolve outstanding issues from submissions.

SEUPB have granted a 12 month extension to the project programme and have engaged a third party to independently assess the request for additional funding by the three Greenway projects with a decision expected in 2021.

It is anticipated that Planning Permission in N.I. will be decided upon in 2021 once DFI approval has been given.

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

## **Greenway - Carlingford to Templetown**

Consultants have been appointed to the project and have commenced the baseline data collection for the project which will go toward informing the route options for the scheme. Site walkover as part

of route option assessment carried out. Meetings are currently ongoing with consultants with initial draft Route Option assessment completed in November and being reviewed by Infrastructure and Stakeholder consultations will commence once completed. Wintering Bird survey to commence in December. Scope of Topographical Survey to be confirmed in early December and tender for survey services to be issued thereafter.

### **Dundalk Municipal Athletics Grass Track**

Earthworks, topsoiling, seeding, fencing, public lighting and drainage are substantially complete. Footpaths are substantially complete. A period of time will be needed in order for grass growth to take hold. This will be continually reviewed until such time that it can be opened to sports activities.

### **LIHAF Projects**

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

Engaging with Department and Developer. Contract documents are substantially complete and ready for tender, subject to the Departments approval. The developer has submitted a planning application for 67 units in order to bring the quota of housing up to 200 units.

#### **LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement**

An updated costing, programme for delivery of housing and programme for LIHAF infrastructure has been provided to the Department of Housing for agreement. The Department has verbally given the go ahead to tender the project, finalisation of tender documents are currently ongoing. Tender documents are currently being prepared for the engagement of a consultant for the supervision of the works.

### **Safety Improvement Works**

#### **Low Cost Safety Schemes**

- Anne Street Dundalk: Tenders have been returned and assessed. Tender prices received exceeded available funding under Low Cost Safety, Operations are seeking alternative funding route.
- Tullyallen National School: Tender prices received exceeded available funding under

Low Cost Safety, Operations are seeking alternative funding route

### **Ardee Pedestrian Crossing**

Feasibility & Options Report for the Refurbishment of the Pedestrian Lights on Castle Street, Ardee has been forwarded to the TII and approval has been received on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 for funding of €136,258 for these works. TII have instructed Louth County Council to retender for a design team to bring the project forward. Documentation for this process is underway.

### **Specific Bridge Improvement Grants**

#### **Obelisk Bridge**

Tender documents are complete. DTTAS have requested Louth County Council to complete a peer review on the tender documents prior to issuing to the Market. This is being progressed at present by appointed independent third party and expected to be completed by early December. Approval from DTTAS to release to the Market will be sought thereafter. It is envisaged, subject to DTTAS approval the tender will be issued in early 2022.

#### **St Dominick's Bridge, Drogheda**



*St Dominick's Bridge- Contractor setting up on site*

The Bridge closure has been in place from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 for a period of 6 months and the Council regrets any inconvenience that the bridge closure will cause. The contractor is progressing with site set-up and temporary traffic plan measures are in place. Scaffolding is being progressed in accordance with conditions as per Section 177AE as issued by ABP. The necessary statutory bodies have been consulted and

necessary supervision including environmental and archaeology are now in place.

## **Public Transport**

### **NTA Bus Shelter Installation Programme 2021 - 2022**

The NTA have, through discussions with Bus Operators, their bus shelter supplier, and Louth County Council, developed a list of 11 schemes detailed below. The NTA have approved an allocation of funding for 2021 of c. €13k, with a potential further €198k in 2022, for Louth County Council to bring the civil construction elements to site. Please note NTA will supply the actual shelters through their own contractor.

- Drogheda - Donore Road
- Dundalk - Red Barns Road opposite Lennonstown Entrance
- Termonfeckin - Big Street at Credit Union
- Ardee - N2 at Boys School
- Kilsaran - South of Standard Brands
- Drogheda - Rowen Heights, Marley's Lane - Southbound
- Ardee - N2 at Monastery Church
- Clogherhead - John Kirk Park / Chapel Road at Shop
- Clogherhead - Callystown Road
- Drogheda – at Newtown Abbey, Newfoundwell Road (R166)
- Dundalk - Rathmount Estate, Seafield Rd, Blackrock

## **Town & Village Renewal**

### **Blackrock Footpaths**

Additional speed humps have been provided adjacent to pedestrian crossing areas. EIR utilities are due to complete removal of infrastructure. Airtricity have now completed public lighting with ESB due to connect. Design works for the 2021 allocation are ongoing.

### **Dromiskin Footpaths**

Design works have been completed and Tender issued for construction of works with a tender return date of 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Tender have been received and assessed. The contractor has been

appointed in October. Works expected to commence in December. Infrastructure has been working closely with the Elected Representative / Community Group to secure the lands required to allow construction of the footpath proceed

### **Stabannon Footpaths**

The Contractor commenced works in early November on site and all civil works are completed on site. Public lighting is to be provided along the new footpath in the coming weeks.



*Stabannon Footpath- Works in Progress*

## **Corporate Projects**

### **Ardee Castle RRDF**

Engagement with key stakeholders is progressing and we are intending to proceed with an Amendment to the existing Part 8 in Q1 2022.



*Design impression of proposed works*

## **Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda**

Tenders were received on the 6<sup>th</sup> December and are currently being assessed in terms of quality and monies. It is envisaged that an approved tender report will be issued in mid-January, with a successful Tenderer being appointed by the end of February.

## **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund**

### **Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford**

The first stage of the non-statutory public consultation has taken place with the online portal for submission of opinions open from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November. A walk-in event was held in the Four Seasons Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> November from noon to 8.00 pm that was attended by almost 100 people.

Assessment of the submissions through the public consultation is ongoing and will go into informing the option for public realm and traffic management arrangements.



*Public Consultation*

### **Omeath Public Realm**

Tenders for the engagement of consultants have been received on the 26<sup>th</sup> November. These will now be assessed and reviewed in the coming week with a view to appointment of a consultant early in 2022.

### **Ardee 2040**

Ardee 2040 project is progressing with agreed planning strategy for EIAR and AA Screening for Development consent application to ABP based on the emerging option design. A briefing for the Ardee MD was given at the December meeting.

## **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects**

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

Westgate Vision Project is progressing with agreed planning strategy for EIAR and AA Stage 2 reports for Development consent application to ABP based on the emerging option design. A briefing for the Drogheda MD Members was given at the December MD meeting.

### **Long Walk (Dundalk)**

Engagement with the third party stakeholder to progress the appointment of a multi-disciplinary design team is ongoing.

### **St. Nicholas Quarter & Backlands Regeneration**

All documentation required by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage has been completed and submitted for their review.

## **Active Travel Investment Program**

### **2021 NTA Allocation**

Under this current heading allocation there is 14 number projects. These projects range from new footpath, design and construction of new footpath / cycle lanes, transport studies and active travel studies, current status is as follows:

- St. Dominick's Bridge, Drogheda: as reported above.
- Drogheda R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road): Contract awarded to Engineering Consultants, Barry Transportation Ltd. with an initial meeting and project initiation to commence by the end of November, with concept development and options assessment progressed over the coming months.
- Ballymakenny Road Drogheda: works ongoing (see PANCR above).
- Drogheda: Twenties Lane and R166 Termonfeckin Road: Tender for consultants was received on 16<sup>th</sup> December and are currently being assessed.
- R168 Collon Road, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB: Tender for consultants was

received on 16<sup>th</sup> December and are currently being assessed.

- Rathmullan Road from Marley's Lane junction, design: Tender for consultants was received on 16<sup>th</sup> December and are currently being assessed.
- Drogheda: Boyne Business Park Link Road: reported as above.
- Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design: Tender for consultants was received on 16<sup>th</sup> December and are currently being assessed.
- Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Road: Contract awarded to Engineering Consultants, Barry Transportation Ltd. Initial meeting and project initiation to commence in late November, with concept development and options assessment progressed over the coming months.
- Inner Relief Road to Riverside Walk Dublin Road R215: Consultants (OCSC) are progressing with the development of the design. Traffic counts to be undertaken in December. Road Safety Audit, Screening for Environmental Assessments to be prepared following acceptance of design.
- Ard Easmuinn Road to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk and Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station: Tender Assessment complete and Letter of Intent issued to the most economically advantageous tenderer.
- Transport / Mobility Plans:
  - Drogheda & East Meath ABTA (Area Based Transport Assessment). Work on the Baseline Assessment and Data Gathering progressing in conjunction with Meath County Council. Traffic counts to be undertaken in Drogheda in key locations and junctions.
  - Currently awaiting NTA National Walking and Cycling Strategy which will inform the walking and cycling strategies towns in County Louth, i.e. Collon, Clogherhead, Ardee and Termonfeckin.
- Footpath Extensions / Links Package A: Works complete on Seapoint Road (See operations Report).

R166 Termonfeckin footpath tenders received and currently being assessed.

- Footpath Extensions / Links Package B: See Operations Report on Annagassan. Cheerybrook and Knockbridge, tenders have been assessed and a Letter of Intent issued. Stabannon and Dromiskin Approval sought and received from NTA for additional funding for upgrade to footpaths. Design works completed, tender issued for construction and contracts

## **Flooding General**

### **Louth Flood Relief Projects**

#### **Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects**

Stage 1 of the Project is continuing, i.e. Options assessment, Scheme Development. Hydrological and Hydraulic modelling method statements have been approved and hydraulic modelling is now ongoing for both Ardee and Dundalk in tandem with the processing of information from the recently completed CCTV & Topographical surveys. Further tender documentation for necessary environmental, ecological, noise and landscape assessments has been issued and Contractors will be appointed to carry out these works later in December and into January and February, 2022. Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The first Project Briefing Session for the Ardee and Dundalk Members was held in September and the first Project Consultation Day was held virtually in mid-September and again in early October. The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and 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**

RPS have commenced works on Stage 1 of the Project, i.e. Options assessment & Scheme Development. Following a Project Surveys Workshop, RPS are now progressing preparation of the Topographical and CCTV Surveys required to assist preparation of the hydraulic models for the Project. Preparation of Tender Documents has also begun for the necessary environmental and ecological Surveys on the Project.

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

OPW have commenced a data review of the Carlingford and Greenore Flood Defence Project to reappraise the Options identified in the Flood Risk Management Plan. The data review will include additional rainfall data collection and modelling. A temporary rain gauge at Carlingford Fire Station for rainfall data collection is now operational, providing additional data to inform project design and development. OPW are now progressing installation of a second rain gauge at the rear of Carlingford Library. Investigations are underway to identify a suitable site for a river level gauge in Carlingford.

## **Balmers Bog Surface Water Pipe**

Works on pipe laying are now complete and reinstatement works along the pipeline are now progressing. Landscaping Works will be finalised in Spring 2022. Manhole Construction and concrete works on the inlet chamber are also essentially complete. Installation of M&E screens, adjustable weir and Penstock are continuing along with Electrical Control Cabinets and Infrastructure. Final Commissioning of the Works is intended in January, 2022.



***Backfilling of Pipeline***



***Inlet Screen***

## **Marine Projects**

### **Coastal Protection Works**

Applications for the 2021 OPW Minor Works Funding have now been submitted for Coastal Protection Projects in 3 separate locations, Omeath, Bellurgan and Ballagan.

### **Schools Programme Projects**

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

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

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

Approval to go to tender has issued by Department of Education. Tender documents have issued to the shortlisted contractors. The date for the return of tenders is the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

Part 8 for the proposed alterations to the SEN units was published on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Submission to the amendments to be received by Louth County Council before 5.00pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

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

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

### **Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)**

A Section 85 agreement between Kilkenny County Council and Louth County Council has been agreed. Tender for the proposed works have now been received and will be assessed by Kilkenny County Council as lead for the region. A final cost estimate for the element of works in Co. Louth will be carried out during the design process.

## Planning

### Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of November, 2021 are given below in tabular form. There were 104 planning applications received during the month of November of which 90 were valid. In addition there were 37 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 19 Pre-Planning Applications received.

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

(A) Description / Cur Síos	(B) Housing Developments / Forbairtí Tithíochta	(C) Individual Houses / Tithe Aonair	(D) Other applications-not requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile – ní gá MTT	(E) Other applications-requiring EIA / Iarratais Eile - MTT de dhíth	(F) Total for all categories of development in County Area / Iomlán na bhforbairtí sa chontae
(i) Number of applications determined / Líon na n-iarratas a cinneadh	6	59	43	1	109
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	4	21	20	1	46
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	0% (0)	55.93% (33)	4.65% (2)	0% (0)	32.11% (35)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	0	0	1	2	3
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)

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

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

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh		Enforcement in relation to unauthorised development / Forfheidhmiú maidir le forbairt nár údaraíodh	
	November 2021 / Samhain 2021	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	November 2020 / Samhain 2020	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	19	295	26	256
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	55	314	26	217
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	14	230	24	152
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	4	14	0	12
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	5	1	6
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	1	1

## **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	
	December 2021 / Nollaig 2021	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	0	62
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which didn't require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	12
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	7	17
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	9	59
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	2	17
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	0
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

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

The Planning Indicators listed below are in relation to Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 for the period October to December, 2021.

Tá na Táscairí Pleanála thíos liostaithe bainteach le Fógraí a eisíodh faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Seirbhísí Sláintíochta) 1964 sa tréimhse Deireadh Fomhár go Nollaig, 2021

Description / Cur Síos	Enforcement in relation to Dangerous Structures/ Forfheidmiú maidir le Déanmhais Contúirteacha	
	October - December Deireadh Fomhár go Nollaig 2021	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Dangerous Structures files opened / Líon na gcomhad Déanmhais Contúirteach a osclaíodh	19	48
Number of Section 3 (1)(a) Notices – Directing Owner to carry out work / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (1)(a) – Ag Tabhairt ordú d’úinéir obair a dhéanamh	13	42
Number of Section 3 (2)(b) Notices – LCC carry out works / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 3 (2)(b) – Obair le déanamh ag CCL	0	0
Number of Section 2 Notices – Dangerous Place / Líon na bhFógraí Alt 2 – Áit Chontúirteach	1	2
Number of cases closed / Líon na gcásanna a dúnadh	3	31
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na gcásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	2	7
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

### **Forward Planning**

#### **Conservation Grants Schemes 2021**

A total of €110,400 has been recouped from the Department in respect of the Historic Structures Fund 2021, for the following projects:

- Louth County Archives, Dundalk €30,000
- St. Malachy’s Church, Dundalk €17,400

- Redeemed Christian Church of God, Drogheda €28,000
- Collon Parish Church €35,000 (50% of grant awarded – Year 1 of 2)

#### **Conservation Grant Schemes 2022**

The closing date for applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic

Structures Fund 2022 is 5.00pm on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

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

### **Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs)**

- **Stage 3** – Application re: Lands at Old Slane Road, Drogheda
- CE Report issued to ABP for decision.

## Operations and Waste Management

### Oibríochtaí agus Bainistíocht Dramháil

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:

- Road Maintenance, Wardens Service, Waste Management, Water Quality, and Climate Action

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:

- Cothabháil Bóithre, an tSeirbhís Maorachta, Bainistíocht Dramháil, Cáilíocht Uisce, agus Gníomh Aeráide

Catherine Duff  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## Municipal District of Dundalk

### Dundalk and Cooley Area

<b>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</b>	<b>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</b>
	<p>Litter picks Dundalk Town wide including all approach Roads:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dublin Road</li><li>• Inner Relief Road</li><li>• Ramparts</li><li>• Centenary Road</li><li>• Avenue Road</li><li>• Hoey's Lane</li><li>• Tom Bellew Avenue</li><li>• Fairgreen Road</li><li>• Old Newry Road</li><li>• Racecours Road</li><li>• Armagh Road</li><li>• Castletown Road Etc.</li></ul>
	<p>Cooley Isolated locations including:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carrickcarnan</li><li>• Templetown</li><li>• Rockmarshall</li><li>• Gyles Quay</li><li>• Shillinghill</li><li>• Whitestown</li></ul>
<b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b>	<b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contract works Dundalk</li></ul>
	<p>Frequency of Bins: There are approximately 200 bins in Dundalk. These bins are checked nightly with approximately 150 emptied nightly, if bins are less than half full they can be left for a second night.</p>

	<p><b>Cooley</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carlingford</li> <li>• Omeath</li> <li>• Gyles Quay</li> <li>• Templetown</li> <li>• Faughart</li> <li>• Greenore and Lordship.</li> </ul>
<b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>	<p><b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract works Dundalk Town Centre is swept Nightly. Pedestrian centre footpaths including Market Square, Court House Square are swept nightly. Approach Roads are swept every 3 weeks. Estates are swept every 4 weeks</li> <li>• Cooley rural village sweep programming</li> </ul>
<b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>	<p><b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract works Dundalk</li> <li>• Dog waste goes into normal bins as numbered above</li> <li>• Cooley as per bin emptying above</li> </ul>
<b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrthála</b>	<p><b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly by Park Operative in Dundalk</li> <li>• Carried out by Water Safety Officer in Cooley</li> </ul>
<b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sagartha agus Corpacmhainne</b>	<p><b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 no. of playgrounds (not including exercise equipment/outdoor gym or Multi use games areas)</li> <li>• Daily by Parks Operative, repairs in house or contractor.</li> </ul>

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
<b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-3056-0 Knocknagoran</li> <li>• L-7055-0 Chapel Hill</li> <li>• R173 Omeath</li> <li>• L-7059-0 Rooskey</li> <li>• L-3061-27 Willville</li> <li>• L-7071-17 Ballug</li> <li>• L-7079-0 Gyles Quay</li> </ul> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-21110-123 Hyde Park</li> <li>• L-20014-2 Grange Close</li> <li>• R215-27 Newry Road</li> <li>• L-20049-1 Vincent Avenue</li> <li>• L-20010-5/52 Aisling Park</li> <li>• L-2000-540 Ecco Road</li> </ul> <p><i>Community Involvement Scheme CIS:</i> <u>North Louth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LT-71352 Dunbin road resurfaced</li> </ul>
<b>Drainage Remediation/ Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain Park</li> <li>• Carlingford</li> <li>• Greenore</li> </ul> <p>• L-3081-5 Riverstown</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardee Road</li> <li>• Ramparts River</li> <li>• Blackwater River</li> </ul> <p>Ongoing maintenance to Storm sewer network Town Wide</p>
<b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddock Wood Driving Range</li> <li>• Mountbagnal Cooley</li> <li>• L3095 Ballymascanlon &amp; Thistlecross</li> </ul>
<p>Surface Dressing works. Aftercare works continue</p> <p>Works have been completed on the 2021 RWP Roads Resurfacing</p> <p>Community Involvement Scheme</p>	<p>Jet Vac Works</p> <p>Soak Away Enhancement/Drainage pipework</p> <p>Open Drainage Channel Clearance</p> <p>Essential Maintenance</p>
<p>Storm Barra</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L8081 Piedmount Mountbagnal</li> </ul>	
<b>Footpath Maintenance / Cothabháil Cosán</b>	<p><u>Cooley</u> None this month</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> Pearse Park</p>	<p>Essential maintenance</p> <p>IPB Footpath Repairs</p>
<b>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>	<p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly maintenance of all Traffic Lights replacement bulbs (replacement LEDs), vandalism repairs, Etc.</li> <li>Carrickmacross Road</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing essential maintenance</p> <p>Vandalism Repair</p>
<b>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</b>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R173</li> </ul>	<p>Cat Eye Installation</p>
<b>Signage / Comharthaíocht</b>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Repairs and Cleaning</li> </ul> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Repairs and Cleaning</li> </ul>	<p>Essential Maintenance</p> <p>Essential Maintenance</p>
<b>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</b>	<p><u>Cooley</u> Numerous small amounts removed:</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hoey's Lane</li> <li>Rockfeild Manor</li> <li>Castleross</li> <li>Salttown</li> <li>Toberona</li> <li>Inner Relief Road</li> <li>Creative Spark</li> <li>Doolargy</li> <li>Muirhevnamore</li> <li>Hardy's Lane</li> <li>Rampart River</li> <li>Lady Well</li> <li>Moorland Road</li> <li>General Blackspots</li> </ul>	<p>Domestic Waste</p>

**Graffiti Removal /  
Glanadh Graifítí**

None this month



**Solar Compactor Bin recently installed in Dundalk**



**Spring Bulb and Wildflower Planting**



**CIS Lane Dunbin Before and After**

## 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>
<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 and Louth Village - once a week</li> </ul>
<b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>	<b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b>
<b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>	<b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b>
<b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála</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>



<b>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R172 Blackrock (The Square to The Crescent)</li> </ul>	Footpath renewal by contract.
<b>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R215 at Haynestown</li> <li>R215/R132 Xerox (Carroll's) junction</li> </ul>	Significant repairs and replacement of hardware due to knockdowns.
<b>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</b>		
<b>Signage / Comharthaíocht</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going</li> </ul>	Cleansing / repair / replacement
<b>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L7184 Green Road</li> <li>L7185 Seabank</li> </ul>	Collection of dumped waste for disposal
<b>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</b>		

### 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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)</li> <li>Clogherhead Car Park daily clean-up around bins</li> </ul>	

<b>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardee Town</li> <li>• Dunleer town</li> </ul>	<b>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 Daily</li> <li>• 20 Tuesday and Thursday</li> </ul>
<b>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</b>	
<b>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day)</li> </ul>	
<b>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</b>	<b>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</b>
<b>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardee Town River Dee</li> <li>• Salterstown</li> <li>• Port Beach</li> </ul>	<b>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</b>
<b>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</b> <p>Maintenance and cleaning of Fairgreen and Dunleer parks and playgrounds complete with daily checks of the playground and exercise equipment at both locations.</p>	<b>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</b>

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
<b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church View Dunleer</li> <li>• LP 2253-47 Philipstown</li> <li>• LP1264-12 White Mountain</li> <li>• LP 2226-44 Charville</li> <li>• LP 2239-0 Mountain Town</li> <li>• Patching in Stony Lane Ardee</li> <li>• LS 5265-0 Hogshill Smarmore</li> <li>• LT 5211-0 Philibenstown</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP 2214-0 Braganstown</li> <li>• R165 at Shanlis</li> <li>• R132 Edge reclamation,</li> <li>• Preparation works for Storm Barra</li> </ul>	
<b>Drainage Remediation/ Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP 1264-12 White Mountain</li> <li>• LS-5235-0 Harristown and Richardstown road</li> <li>• R132 from Burren to R169</li> <li>• LP 2253-47 Philipstown road</li> <li>• LS-5265-0 Hogshill Bridge Belpatrick</li> </ul>	
<b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP2226 Drumcar</li> <li>• N52 Kells Road</li> <li>• LP2220 Dunany</li> </ul>	Storm Barra Storm Barra Storm Barra
<b>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</b>		
<b>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>		
<b>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</b>		
<b>Signage / Comharthaíocht</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed signs LS 6239-0 Coneyburrow</li> <li>• Bike racks in Collon and Dunleer</li> <li>• Sign on main street Ardee for Kells Road</li> <li>• Repairs to Directional sign on Castle Street Ardee</li> </ul>	
<b>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</b>		
<b>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</b>		



*Port Oriel Car Park resurfaced and LS-6277-0 Priorstown Road 300m resurfaced as part of the RWP 2021*

**Borough District of Drogheda**

**Drogheda Town Area**

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair	
<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 recourses 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> </ul>

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

**Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht**

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

- 5 Daily
- 8 Daily
- 5 Daily
- 5 Daily
- 3 Daily
- 3 Daily
- Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.
- Installed 6 Number solar powered Compactor Bins around town; 2 West Street, 1 Laurence's street, 1 Mell river walk, 1 Ramparts walk Meath end, 1 at river walk at Dominic's Park near bridge of Peace end
- New bins installed at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital exit and the Twenties lane along footpath abutting football pitch
- About 250 litter bin are emptied weekly in town.
- Dominic's Park and Mell river walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Borough district rural areas, public Litter bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Port Oriel/ Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.
- All Litterbins washed and disinfected in town centre.
- Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing and street furniture.

**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.

	<p>When resources allow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.</li> <li>Villages are swept once per month i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen and Tinure.</li> <li>Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)</li> <li>Town centre weeds removal. Contractor completed weed killing list for town main roads, some housing estates and tourist’s locations including steps.</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> <li>No issues with ringbouys checked</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 and 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate Park, Adult Exercise equipment).</li> </ul>

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
<b>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</b>	<p><b>Drainage Works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Gibney's Lane – road gullies installed awaiting resurfacing early 2022.</li> <li>• Pot hole repairs around Drogheda</li> </ul> <p>Road repairs at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R132 Old Coach Road Dunleer</li> <li>• LP-2321-0 King Williams Glen</li> <li>• LS-6251-0 Gallagher Road</li> <li>• LS-6274-0 Gallstown Road</li> <li>• LS-6252-0 Trean Road</li> <li>• Preparation works for Storm Barra</li> <li>• LS-6277-0 Priorstown</li> <li>• Port Oriel Car Park</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicycle rack installation complete</li> </ul>	<p>Road repairs to pot holes</p> <p>Road Work Programme 2021 Road Work Programme 2021</p> <p>Drogheda Town</p>
<b>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R166 Ganderstown,</li> <li>• R166 Galspistol Clogherhead</li> <li>• R170 Walshestown,</li> <li>• LS-6245-0 Cruisetown Clogherhead</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending to Road gullies</li> <li>• Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program commenced and is on-going</li> </ul>	
<b>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP-2308-24 Cockle Road</li> <li>• LP-2240-26 Togher</li> <li>• LP-2299-17 New Line Road</li> <li>• Poorhouse Lane</li> <li>• Trees Branches in Drogheda town district as a result of the storm.</li> </ul>	<p>Storm Barra Storm Barra Storm Barra Storm Barra Storm Barra</p>

<b>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footpath repairs at the Glen, Yellowbatter are now complete.</li> </ul>	Works complete
<b>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old N1 at The Bull Ring</li> <li>Byranstown town cross route / R132</li> <li>Collon Pedestrian Crossing</li> <li>Termonfeckin Bridge –</li> <li>Byranstown town cross route</li> <li>Lourdes Church at Hardman Gardens Pedestrian Crossing</li> <li>Town centre Zebra Crossings</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fail to schedule event</li> <li>Push Button Unit (PBU) calling in green man constantly</li> <li>Vehicle phase lamp fail.</li> <li>Controller.</li> <li>PBU faulty.</li> <li>Check timings.</li> <li>Replace lamps where necessary.</li> </ol>
<b>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</b>	Ongoing throughout town  Approach roads Yellow Boxes	Complete
<b>Signage / Comharthaíocht</b>	Ongoing throughout district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installing Children at Play signs at Stameen Residential Housing estate</li> <li>Installing signs to advertise reduction in Pay Parking fees and Shop Local signs for festive season along Drogheda town's approach roads</li> <li>Installing signs to increase awareness of new touch less pedestrian control buttons at certain traffic light locations</li> <li>No Dumping signs</li> </ul>	
<b>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</b>	<b>November 2021: <u>List sent to wardens</u></b>  <u>Bring Banks,</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bolton Square</li> <li>King Street</li> <li>Mell Car Park</li> <li>Wheaton Hall</li> </ul>	This is an ongoing issue where Supervisors and Litter Wardens check on daily basis; arrange for inspecting illegal waste disposal for evidence and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Hill</li> <li>• Ballsgrove</li> <li>• IDA Road</li> </ul> <p><u>Dumping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cement Road at Old Halting Site</li> <li>• Laurence’s Street</li> <li>• Bexwell Lane</li> <li>• Northstrand</li> <li>• O’Reilly’s Car Park</li> <li>• King Street and the Dale – Removed trollies</li> <li>• Dublin Road</li> <li>• Marsh Road</li> <li>• Rathmullen Park at Centra</li> <li>• Rathmullen Park</li> <li>• Finians Park</li> <li>• Bryanstown Cross rout</li> <li>• Scotch Hall</li> <li>• Willow Grove Scarlet Crescent</li> <li>• Marleys Lane</li> <li>• Ballsgrove</li> <li>• Rathmullen Park</li> <li>• Cromwell Lane</li> <li>• Walkway on Dominic’s Park</li> <li>• Dominic’s Park area</li> </ul> <p>Cleaning of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominic’s Park</li> <li>• Ramparts walk</li> <li>• Mell river walk</li> <li>• Town centre Steps to North and South sides of river</li> </ul> <p>Litter picking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trinity Street</li> <li>• Mell</li> <li>• Link Road</li> <li>• North Road</li> </ul> <p>Burnt wheelie bins at West Street, Scholes’s Lane, and Meat Market lane</p>	<p>issuing fines and clearance of area. St. Laurence’s street litter in basements abutting public footpaths are being followed up with property owners.</p> <p>Public complaints are also checked and followed up as above.</p> <p>Illegal waste tonnage disposed and removed by LCC – 250kg</p>
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	<p>Leaves removal throughout town and main approach roads</p> <p>Installed 6 Number solar powered Compactor Bins around town;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 in West Street</li> <li>• 1 in Laurence's Street</li> <li>• 1 at Mell River Walk</li> <li>• 1 at Ramparts Walk Meath end</li> <li>• 1 at River Walk in Dominic's Park near bridge of Peace end</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking prices to remove from public spaces</li> </ul>	<p>Updated survey of Graffiti in town completed. Removal of same on public buildings to be progressed. Graffiti on private properties to be followed up - ongoing</p>



***Sarah Gibney's Lane Drogheda Drainage work in progress***



**New Solar Compactor Bins installed at Clogherhead Car Park, Termonfeckin and Port Beach Car Park.**



**King William's Glen edge warning bollards LP-2321-0**



**Footpath repairs Glenmore Drive, Drogheda**



*Green Flag Award - Flag Raising Ceremony at St Dominic's Park*

## Litter and Dog Fouling Foot Patrols 2021

### COUNTY 2 & 5 HOUR FOOT PATROL - RECORD SHEET

Litter Warden, County Louth.					2 hrs Foot Patrol (Level 5 restrictions)	5 hrs Foot Patrol
Date	Area	Start	Finish	Total	Warden	
01.03.2021	Drogheda	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
08.03.2021	Dundalk	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
15.03.2021	Knockbridge/ Louth/ Tallanstown	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
22.03.2021	Carlingford-Omeath Greenway	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
29.03.2021	Ardee/ Collon/ Dunleer	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
06.04.2021	Clogherhead/Termonfeckin/Baltray	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
12.04.2021	Blackrock/ Dromiskin/ Castlebellingham	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
19.04.2021	Drogheda	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
26.04.2021	Lordship/ Templetown/ Greenore	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
04.05.2021	Dundalk	10.00	12.00	2.00	All Wardens	
12.05.2021	Drogheda	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
26.05.2021	Dundalk	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
08.06.2021	Blackrock/ Dromiskin/ Castlebellingham	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
23.06.2021	Ardee/ Collon/ Dunleer	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
30.06.2021	Carlingford/ Gyles Quay	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
07.07.2021	Drogheda	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
15.09.2021	Carlingford/Cooley Beach	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
03.11.2021	Blackrock/ Dromiskin/ Castlebellingham	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	
17.11.2021	Ardee Main Street and Parks	10.00	15.00	5.00	All Wardens	

# Waste Management and Environment Report

## Waste Management

### Waste Enforcement

Cases continue to proceed through the courts. There has been a delay in getting cases heard due to the ongoing pandemic.

### Litter Enforcement

A total of 19 fines were issued in the month of December. Of these fines, 2 were issued in the Dundalk urban area, 16 in Drogheda urban area and 1 in the remaining County wide area.

There were 0 fines issued for dog fouling in December.

**There have been 2,040 investigations in the year to date with 111 carried out in the month of December. There have been 410 fines issued in the year to date, 3 of which were for Dog Fouling.**

### Diesel Laundering Waste

A total of 2 IBC's of Diesel Sludge were recovered in December 2021 so far (at this time). The approximate cost of clean-up and disposal of the material is €2,496.65. So far in 2021 a total of 181 IBC's at a cost of €225,947.43 approx.



### MyWaste



A total of 778 reminder letters have been issued to householders in the 3 urban areas of Ardee, Dundalk and Drogheda to date. A total of 401 replies have been received to date from the reminder letters.

Area	Ardee	Dundalk	Drogheda	Total
Estates surveyed	8	196	49	253
Houses	539	5031	4223	9793
houses not presenting a bin	108	1866	1432	3406
Houses not presenting a bin %	20	37	34	91
Letters sent out to date	108	921	544	1573
Reminders letter sent out	92	289	397	778
No. of Replies	56	159	186	401

Under current Covid conditions it is proving difficult to progress this project to enforcement action, as we need to know the name of the home occupier in order to issue a fine for non-compliance with the Waste Segregation and Presentation bye-laws. The primary way of doing this would involve calling to homes and asking for the required information. This is a higher risk activity under prevailing public health conditions.

### Air / Water / Noise Pollution

There were four water pollution complaints received in December with one open and three closed. One legal case under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 is on-going in the district court. Three Air Pollution complaints and two Noise Pollution complaints were received during December 2021.

### Bathing Water

Since the 1970s, the EU has rules in place to safeguard clean bathing waters. These rules were updated and simplified through the 2006 Bathing Water Directive. Experience from best practices in

some Member States, as well as latest scientific and technological developments point to some areas for possible improvement. Also in light of the European Green Deal, the Directive needs to align with new environmental and climate ambitions.

A public consultation has begun to hear your opinions on the Directive, notably concerning possible shortcomings and issues of emerging concerns both for citizens, health and the environment. Public views will feed into the evaluation and impact assessment that will constitute the evidence base for a possible revision of the Directive. The online public consultation on the review of the Bathing Water Directive has been launched 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**The online survey is open from now until 20 January 2022 at:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12658-Bathing-water-quality-review-of-EU-rules/public-consultation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12658-Bathing-water-quality-review-of-EU-rules/public-consultation_en)

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



### Air Monitor for Drogheda

The EPA in cooperation with Louth County Council has installed a permanent air quality monitor in Drogheda. The station became operational in the week starting 25<sup>th</sup> April and data is available to view at: <https://www.airquality.ie/station/EPA-84>



## Water Framework /River Basin Management Plans

The Local Authority catchment assessments being carried out by the LAWPRO inspection teams with the assistance of Louth County Council where required are on-going in the Castletown catchment. Initial desktop studies have commenced in the Glyde catchment.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, has published the draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 for public consultation. The Minister now invites submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan.



A key commitment in the Programme for Government, launching a new strengthened River Basin Management Plan will help Ireland protect, improve and sustainably manage our water environment to 2027. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for protecting Ireland's drinking water sources, environment and people's quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

All relevant documentation is available from the gov.ie website. **The public consultation period will conclude on 31st March 2022.**

## Domestic Wastewater

The new Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤ 10) was published on 24th March 2021 and has come into effect since 7th June 2021.

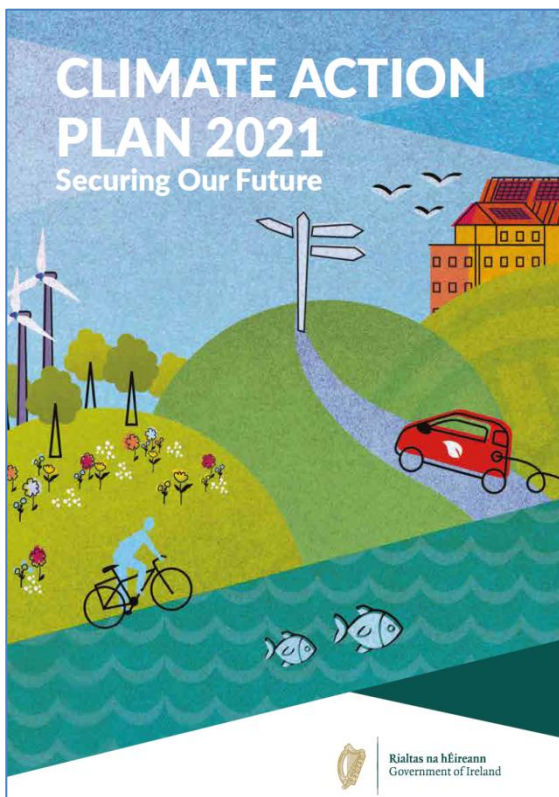
Link to code of practice is at - <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/water/wastewater/code%20of%20practice%20for%20single%20house%20/>

The EPA released the 2020 annual report on Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems inspections on Wednesday 30th June 2021. You can access the press release and the report at the following links:

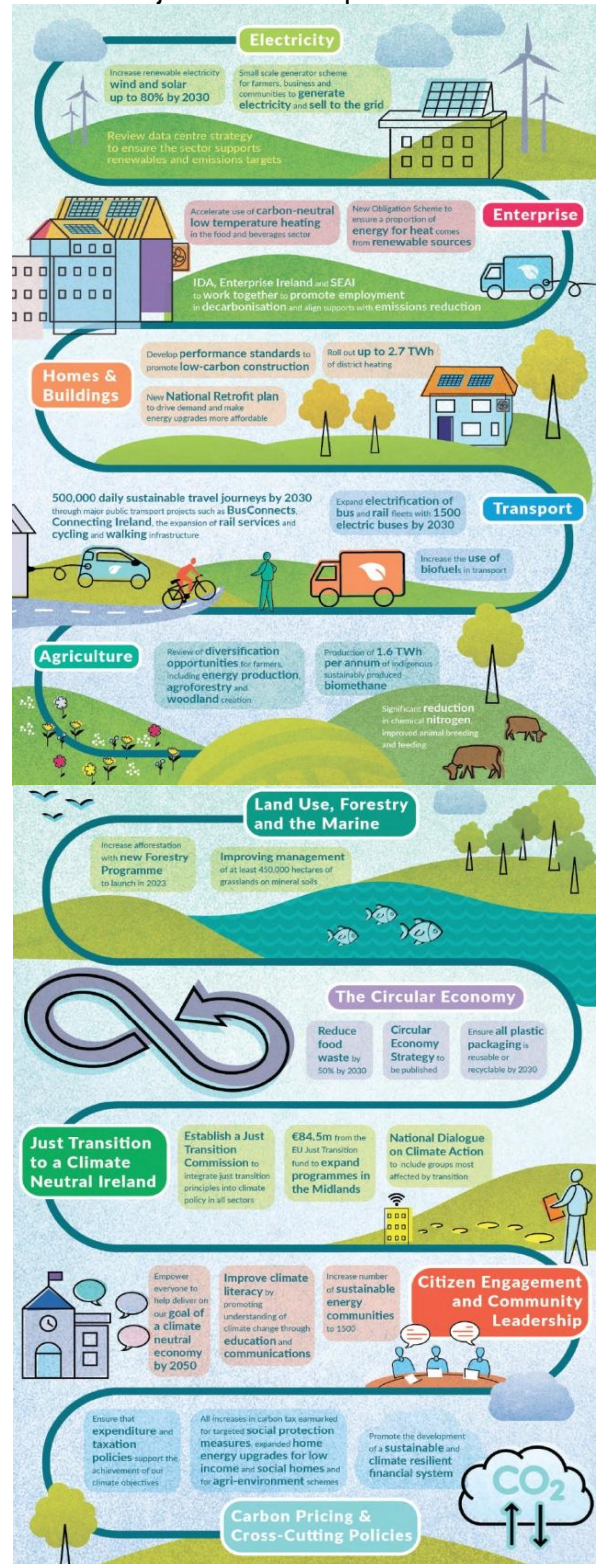
<https://www.epa.ie/news-releases/news-releases-2021/fixing-septic-tanks-that-fail-inspection-is-a-priority-says-epa.php>

## Climate Action

The Climate Action Plan 2021 was published in November 2021 and a subsequent annex of actions was published on 17<sup>th</sup> December. This provides a detailed plan, with 493 actions for achieving a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as set out in the Climate Act 2021.



The info-graphic below gives an outline of the main actions and objectives of the plan.



## Climate Change Team

A 25 strong team of staff from across all sections of Louth County Council have been nominated and trained to participate on the Climate Action Team.

This ensures that the climate action message spreads throughout the organisation and is considered in all the work we do.

A recruitment campaign will take place early in 2022 for the position of Climate Action Co-ordinator, which will be a 5 year post at Senior Executive level. It is expected that this position will accelerate our activity in this area and further improve our work towards targets. This person will become the main point of contact for public representatives on the topic of climate action.

### Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 & Climate Action Plan

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

Work continues on the progress report for Louth County Council on the above strategy for the CARO office which was submitted in early October. This was the second progress report for the strategy.

This plan will form the basis for the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Louth, to be developed over the next 18 months (timelines not yet fixed nationally).

### Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council and other associate partners are carrying out preliminary assessments of sites to short list for final selection for the 25 EV Rapid Chargers across the border counties

Information is available at the following outlets:

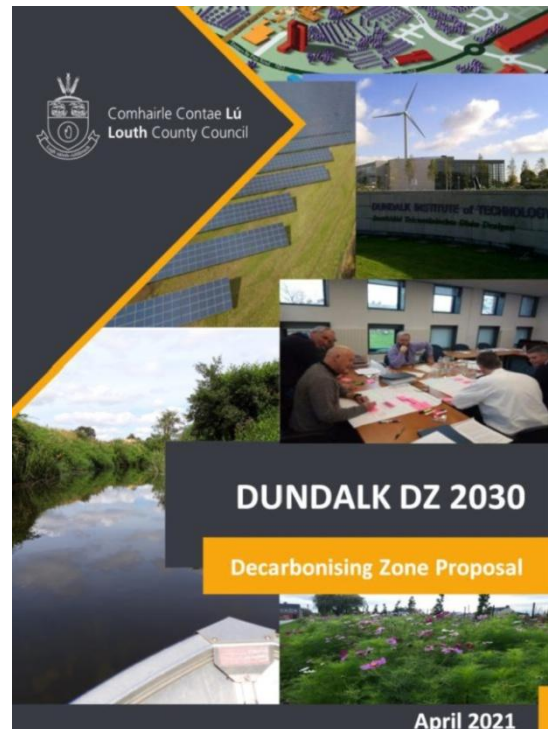
Channel	URL
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge">https://www.facebook.com/FasterEVCharge</a>
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge">https://twitter.com/FasterEVCharge</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/fasterEVcharge/">https://www.instagram.com/fasterEVcharge/</a>

LinkedIn	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project">https://www.linkedin.com/company/faster-project</a>
TikTok	<a href="https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterEVCharge">https://www.tiktok.com/@fasterEVCharge</a>
YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxddlpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FqxddlpA7WXJr9ShzUaxQ</a>



Louth County Council are currently assessing sites for installation of 20no. EV charging points, as funded through SEAI. The goal of this funding stream is to support people who cannot easily provide their own EV charger at home, such as terraced housing or apartments.

### Dundalk Decarbonising Zone



The Dundalk Decarbonising Zone project, in common will all such projects around the country, awaits guidance from CARO (Climate Action Regional Office) in order to progress.

This is to ensure a common approach with comparable outcomes across the country. Preparatory work is ongoing, in anticipation of guidance early in the New Year.

## Veterinary Services / Seirbhísí Tréidliachta

### Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) / Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann (USBÉ)

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on two abattoirs and fifteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County, including one new meat processing plant in Dundalk that commenced production in September 2021.

Amhail ar an 31ú Nollaig 2021, cuireann Rannóg Tréidliachta Chomhairle Contae Lú caighdeáin sábháilteachta bia i bhfeidhm, faoi Chomhaontú Leibhéal Seirbhíse leis an USBÉ, ar dhá sheamlas agus ar cúig cinn déag de mhonarchana próiseála feola atá faoi mhaoirseacht aige sa chontae, n-áirítear gléasra nua próiseála feola i nDún Dealgan a thosaigh táirgeadh Meán Fómhair 2021.

### Control of Dogs / Rialú Madraí

*Control of Dogs Act 1986 / An tAcht um Rialú Madraí, 1986*

Dogs impounded December 2021 / Madraí curtha i bpóna, Nollaig 2021	
Total dogs impounded / Líon madraí curtha i bpóna	11
Strays / Ar seachrán	7
Surrendered by owners / Tugtha suas ag úinéirí	2
No dogs reclaimed by owners / Líon madraí tógtha ar ais ag úinéirí	5
No of dogs rehomed direct / Líon madraí a bhfuarthas úinéirí nua dóibh go díreach	3
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups / Líon madraí a aistríodh go grúpaí leasa ainmhithe	1
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/12/2021 / Líon madraí faoi chúram sa phóna 31/12/2021	2

Dog Licences December 2021 / Ceadúnais Madraí, Nollaig 2021	
No of Licences sold / Líon ceadúnas díolta	239
Licence Checks / Ceadúnais scrúdaithe:	
House calls / Seiceálacha baile	202
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days) / Fógraí Alt 16 eisithe (iarratas ar ceadúnas a thaispeáint roimh deich lá)	62
Fixed Penalty Notices / Fógraí Pionós Socraithe	1

### Control of Horses / Rialú Capall

*Control of Horses Act 1996 / An tAcht um Rialú Capall, 1996*

*Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003 / Fodhlíthe um Rialú Capall, 2003*

Horses impounded December 2021 / Capaill curtha i bpóna, Nollaig 2021	
Horses seized / Capaill gafa	0
Reason for seizure: / Cúis na gabhála	0
Horses reclaimed by owner / Líon capaill tógtha ar ais ag úinéirí	0
Horses rehomed / Líon capaill a bhfuarthas úinéirí nua dóibh	0
Horses disposed of / Capaill curtha de lámh	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/10/2021 / Líon capaill faoi chúram sa phóna, 30/10/21	0

**Dog Breeding Establishments (DBE) /  
Bunachais Pórucháin Madraí (BPM)**

*Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 / An tAcht  
um Bunachais Pórucháin Madraí, 2010*

**Dog Breeding Establishments December  
2021 / Bunachais pórucháin madraí,  
Nollaig 2021**

<b>Total no of registered DBE's in Louth, 30/11/2021 / Líon BPM i gContae Lú, 31/12/2021</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Hunt / Conchróite Seilge</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Boarding Kennels / Conchróite Cinneála</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Training Kennels / Conchróite Oiliúna</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Welfare / Leas Ainmhithe</b>	<b>1</b>



***Dogs impounded during December 2021 /  
Madraí curtha i bpóna i mí Nollaig 2021***

## Corporate and Emergency Services

### Seirbhísí Corparáideacha agus Éigeandála

This Directorate has two key areas of responsibility:

- **Corporate Services** – the maintenance and development of systems which facilitate the effective running of our Council, including Human Resources, and Information and Communications Technology.
- **Emergency Services** – including the Fire Service, Civil Defence, Water Safety, and the planning and implementation of strategies which help to keep our citizens safe.
- Other responsibilities include Sustainable Energy.

Tá dhá eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúthóireacht seo:

- **Seirbhísí Corparáideacha** – ag cothabháil agus forbairt chórais atá baint leis an reachtáil éifeachtach na Comhairle, agus Acmhainní Daonna, agus Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide san áireamh
- **Seirbhísí Éigeandála** – Seirbhís Dóiteáin, Cosaint Shíbhialta, Sábháilteacht Uisce san áireamh, agus ag pleanáil agus ag cur i bhfeidhm straitéisí chun chabhrú le muintir Chontae Lú a bheith slán sábháilte
- Freagracht eile ag an Stiúthóireacht seo ná Fuinneamh Inbhunaithe.

Joe McGuinness  
Director / Stiúthóir



## Corporate and Emergency Services

### Climate Change Adaption Strategy

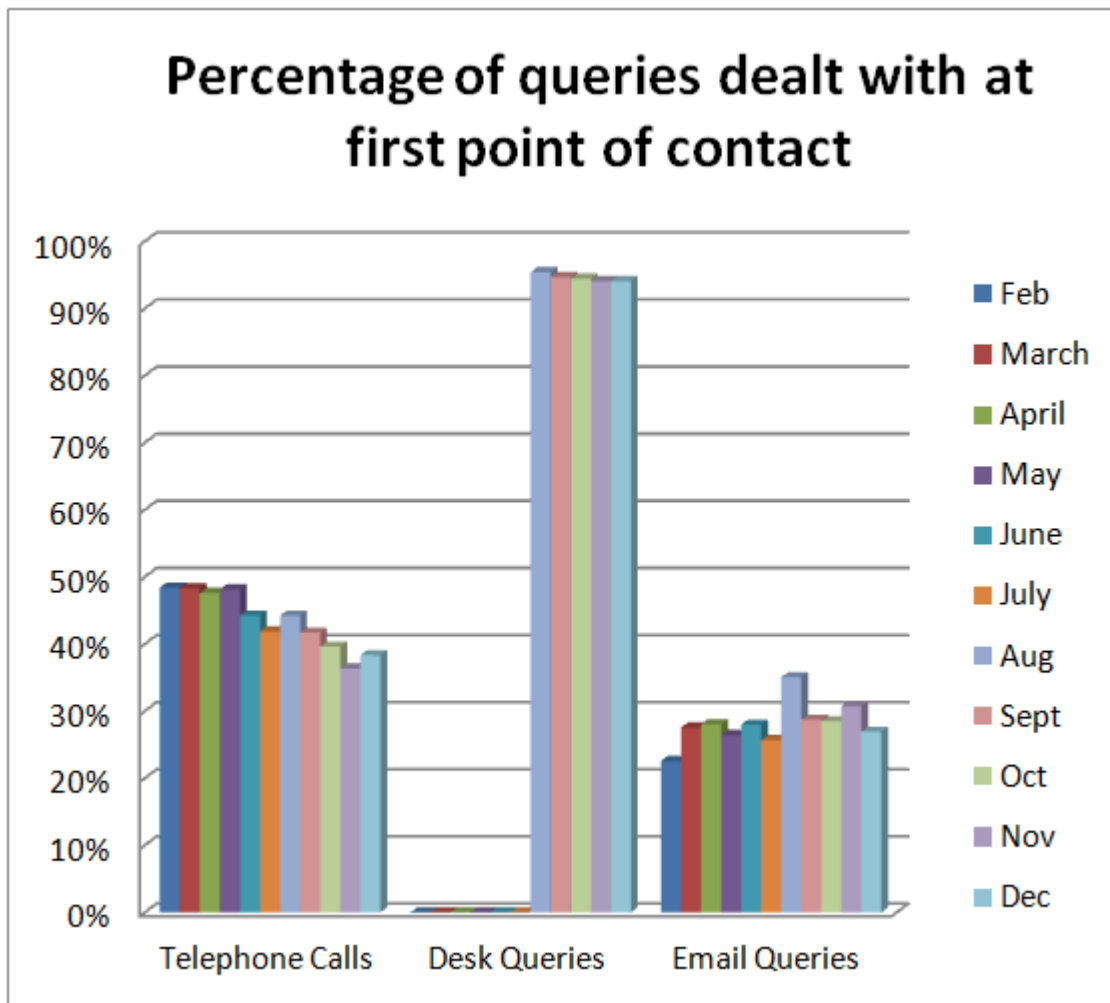
As part of the Council's Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-24, the following mitigations were undertaken in the last month in this Directorate

- Completion of Installation of Air Sourced heat pump at County Archive Building and further installation of additional energy loggers.

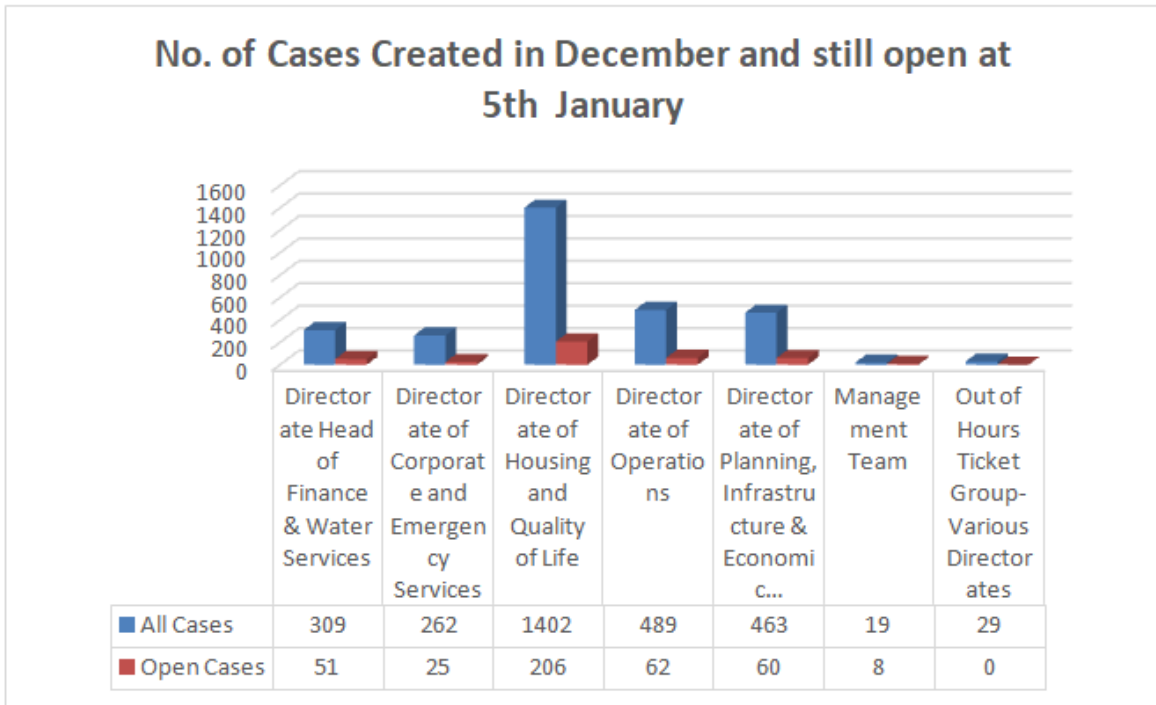
## Customer Services Report

### December 2021

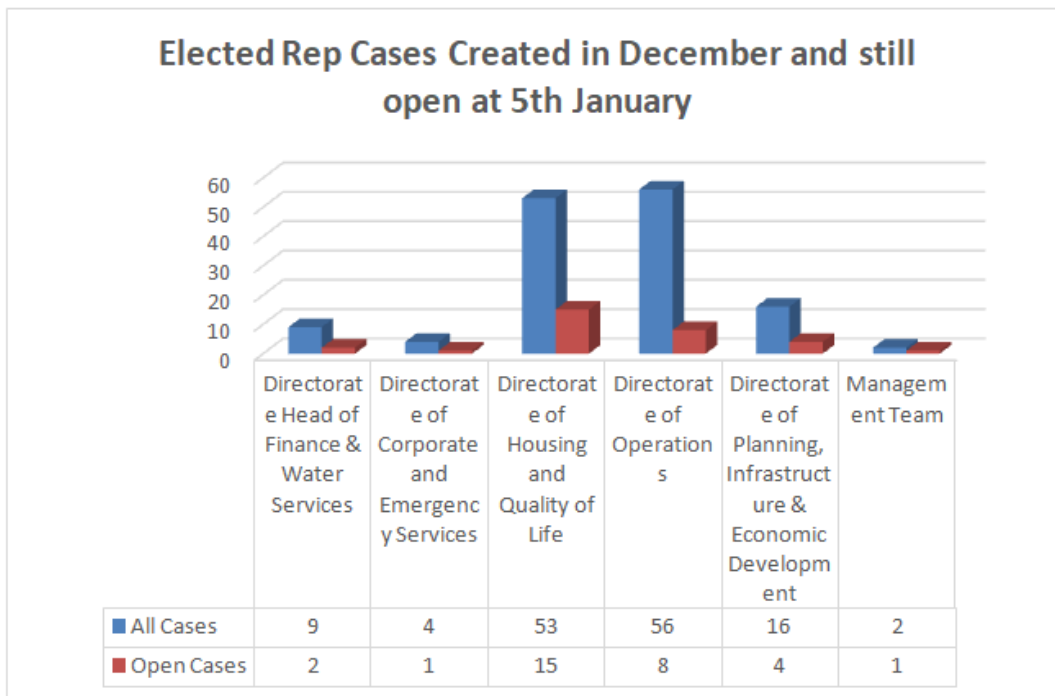
During the month of December Customer Services dealt with 8,476 queries – 4,586 calls, 1,411 e-mails and 2,479 counter queries.



There were 2,973 valid SugarCRM cases recorded during December of which 412 (14%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During December 140 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 31 (22%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

	Same period 2020	2021 Total	December 2021
Freedom of Information	102	126	2
Data Protection	10	2	0
Access to Information on Environment	5	5	0
Ombudsman	10	14	1
Complaints Policy	20	31	0

## Electoral Register

The closing date for amendments to the Draft Register of Electors, 2022-2023 was 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. All claims have now been ruled on. Any electors affected will receive a letter from the Council advising them of this and can submit their observations/objections. All approved amendments will be applied to the Draft Register of Electors before the Live is published on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

## Sustainable Energy

### Energy Management System



Following a lot of work and a three day audit Louth County Council was granted a three year Certification of Registration for our Energy Management System (EnMS) by the NSAI under ISO50001.2018 in March 2021 for *'the management of the electrical energy, thermal energy and other fuels usage within public*

*buildings, public lighting and transportation under the direct control of the authority.'*

ISO50001.2018 is an international standard which specifies requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an energy management system (EnMS). The intended outcome is to enable an organisation to follow a systematic approach in achieving continual improvement of energy performance and the EnMS.

As part of the accreditation process a surveillance audit is carried out within 12 months from the date of certification to check that continual improvement is indeed happening.

Louth County Council was delighted to get positive feedback following the surveillance audit by the NSAI on the 15<sup>th</sup> December on our ISO50001.2018 Energy Management System Accreditation. The Energy Team in Louth County Council worked hard despite challenges presented by COVID to not only maintain the energy work done in previous years but to improve on it.

When issuing the report on the surveillance audit, NSAI Auditor Donal Harlow complimenting Staff and Management of Louth County Council commented: *"The result is positive with no findings, and evidence of a lot of positive work done by the energy team, a lot of positive planning and action by the council management team"*

A copy of the report can be found on our press release page [here](#)

Energy works completed in 2021 under our Energy Action Plan 2021 were as follows:

- County Hall - Air Sourced heat Pump and new energy loggers to monitor gas and electricity use and a new Electric Vehicle for caretakers.
- Dundalk Town Hall and Civil Defence Building Dundalk - new Solar Photo Voltaic Units and new energy loggers to monitor gas and electricity use.
- Archives Building - new Air Sourced Heat Pump and low energy lighting and energy improvements to windows.
- New energy loggers to monitor gas and electricity use have already been installed at Dundalk and Drogheda Fire Stations.

### Better Energy Communities Grant, 2021

The Council partnered with Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community for their grant application for funding for energy projects in 2021. That application resulted in an offer of funding for Council energy projects of €78,282, for a total maximum expenditure cost of €260,939.

All works are now completed and grant claims submitted. We look forward to expanding our links with Community Groups in 2022 to encourage and advance better energy communities.

### GenComm Interreg Energy Storage Project

Members are encouraged to review the project website for an up-date on progress and in particular for more detail from the project on the potential for hydrogen use as a Sustainable Energy source. The project partners consider how hydrogen offers the opportunity to make energy production a primary driver of the economy rather than responding to the needs of the economy as at present.

The Gencomm Project Team presented on the project at the December meeting of the Climate Change and Energy SPC which was very well received.

### Varcities H2020 Funded Project

Varcities is a H2020 Research Funding stream and the consortium is made up of 25 Partners, largely academia throughout Europe. The theme of the project is centered around Urban Regeneration; Impacts on Quality of Life and Health and Well Being.

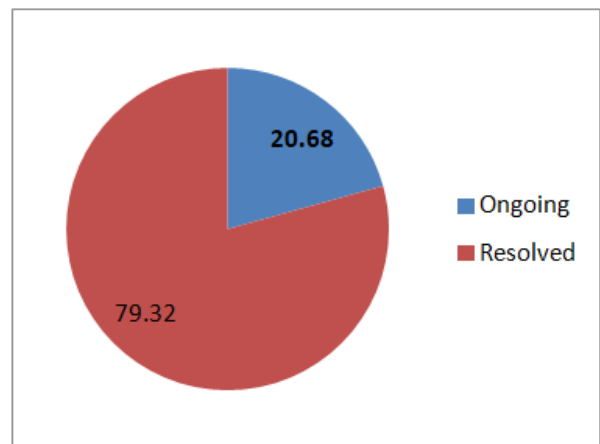
Funding has been approved for €10million, with €422,500 allocated to Louth County Council. The project officially commenced on September 1st 2020. The project duration is the 54 months from that starting date.

Two Stakeholder meetings were held in 2021 with stakeholders providing excellent ideas and feedback to the Varcities team on Visionary Solutions for the project. We look forward to completion of the conceptual design for the project which is due by end of February 2022.

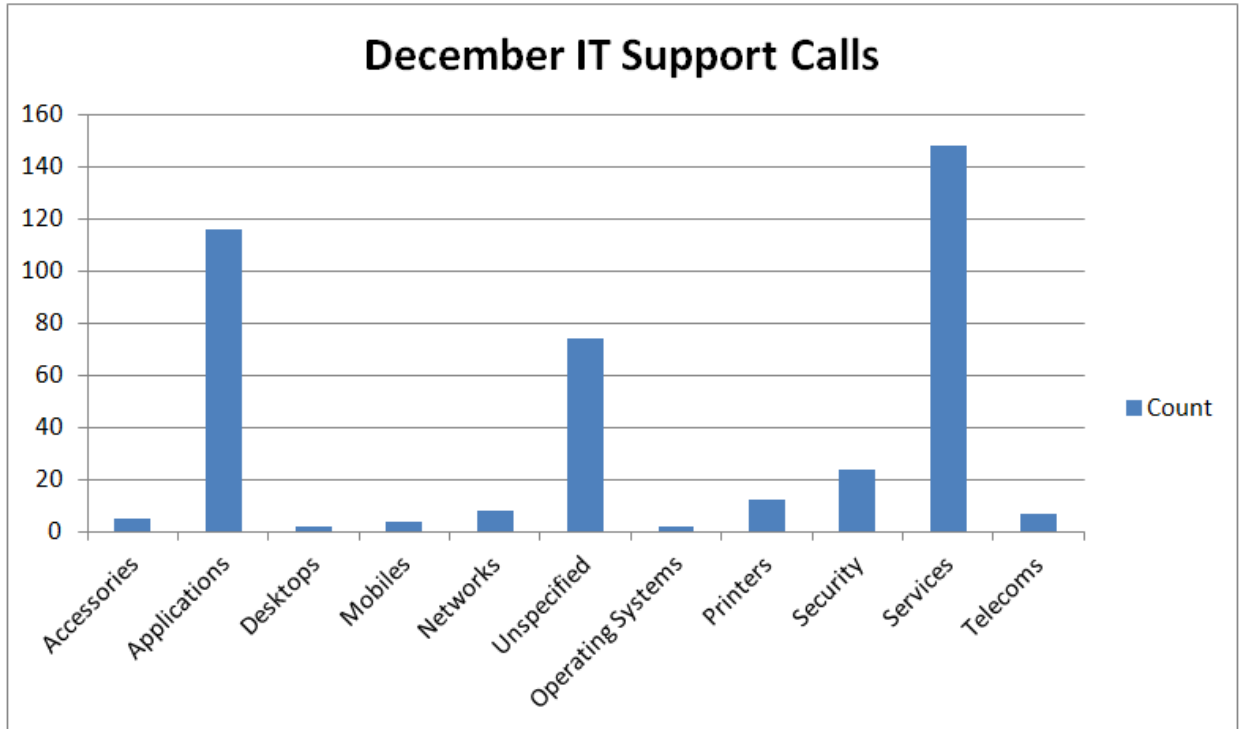
### Information Technology Section

#### Helpdesk

During the month of December there were 402 support calls logged in the IT support system. 79% of these have been resolved and 20.68% of these are ongoing.

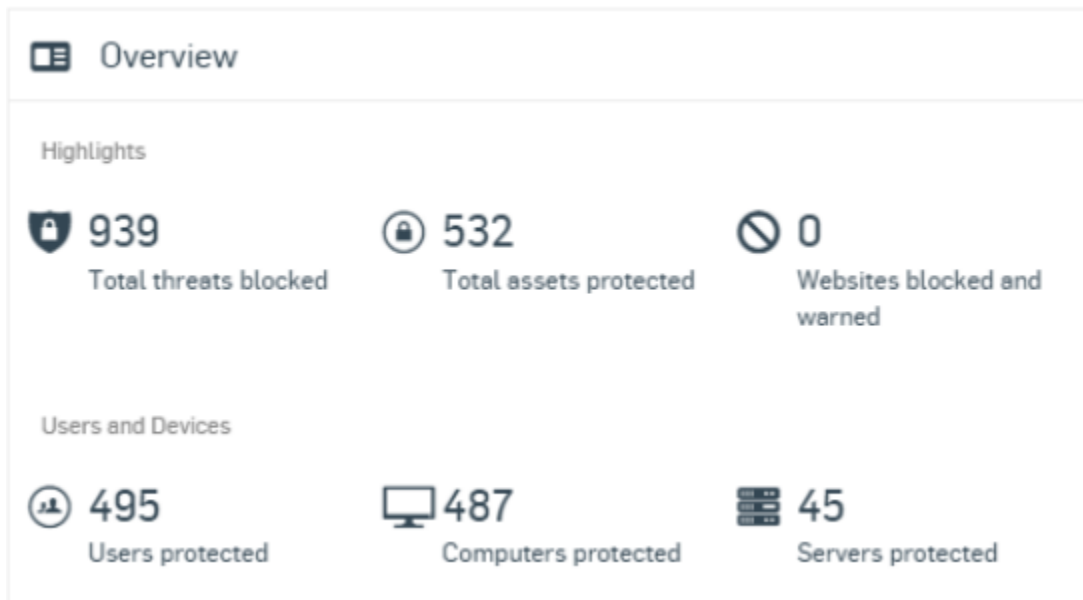


The below chart indicates the breakdown of calls by Problem Category



### Rollout of Sophos Intercept X

IT have been working on the rollout of Sophos to all computers and servers on our network. This is an antivirus system. It scans the Louth Co Co Network to detect potential threats, indicating devices which need attention. The figure below indicates that there are 532 computers and 45 servers protected by Sophos. This is a reduction in the number of computers protected, compared to November, due to the removal of Windows 7 devices from our network. 939 threats were blocked in the last 30 days.



## TopSec E-Mail Filtering System


Louth Co Co continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilised TopSec to filter and block e-mail being received into the organisation in order to protect our network.

 **Inbound Emails**  
112,385

 **Blocked Sender**  
778

 **Blocked at gateway**  
29,345

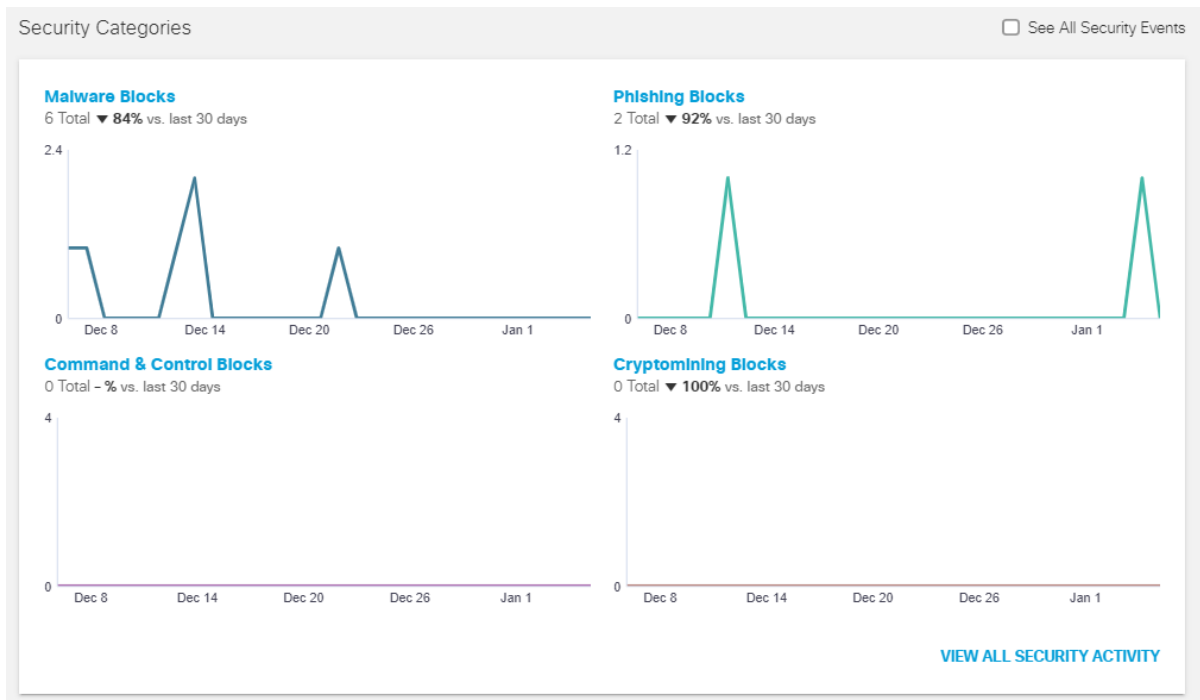
 **Blocked by spam /virus**  
18,092

 **Blocked by content rules**  
199

 **Potentially harmful emails**  
43.08%

## Cisco Umbrella

Cisco Umbrella was implemented in 2021 to protect staff and devices accessing website that may be unsafe. The graphic below show malware and phishing blocks which occurred in December.



## **Fire and Emergency Services**

### **Fire Service**

Louth Fire Service reintroduced stringent Covid restrictions in late November. Additional measures were introduced in December. All retained drills have been deferred until 1<sup>st</sup> February. Also, Road Traffic Accident and Pump Operator courses scheduled for January have been deferred. All effort at present is on maintaining each of the five Brigades ready for turnout to emergency incidents.

Three Louth Fire Service recruits are scheduled to attend a three-week fire-fighting skills course, starting in Newbridge Fire Station on 17<sup>th</sup> January. These recruits are from Carlingford and Dunleer.

DHLGH approval has been received for major improvement works to Dundalk Regional Fire Service Training Centre. This will include an extension to the training building to include a breathing apparatus briefing room, lecture room and other uses. There will be a general replacement of temporary portacabin and container accommodation with permanent construction. There will also be a replacement training tower and work done on the BA building.

A Quantity Surveyor has completed a summary cost plan and a design brief is also complete for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Approval has been sought from the DHLGH for the procurement of a design team. This is expected shortly.

The development of a fire service health and safety management system to satisfy ISO 45001 requirements is continuing. All senior fire officers are involved in the necessary actions including new policies and procedures. This includes the follow-up

actions to a benchmark audit of the system which was carried out by an external Health and Safety Consultant over two days in October.

The number of fire safety certificate applications and disabled access certificate applications received by Fire Prevention Section has increased in 2021 compared to 2020. Two Closure Notices were served during December on the owner of premises in Carlingford and Dundalk.

### **Major Emergency Management**

Regional Major Emergency Steering and Working Group meetings in relation to Covid have continued. These meetings have included personnel from the three Principal Response Agencies, i.e. the Councils, HSE and AGS. The Severe Weather Assessment Team has been re-populated and will have a focus on severe weather events over the coming months.

### **Civil Defence**

Normal Civil Defence activities continued in December, including training courses with full occupancy and attendance at events to provide medical and other cover.

Training was delivered as follows:

- Weekly Training on Thursday nights
- EMT Training
- CFR Training

### **Water Safety**

Beach Lifeguard activity ceased from mid September. All water safety infrastructure continues to be checked on a scheduled basis.

## Housing and Quality of Life Tithíocht agus Cáilíocht na Beatha

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
- Quality of Life, a wide range of initiatives and programmes designed to make living in Louth a stimulating, safe and rewarding experience, including the arts, heritage, 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
- Cáilíocht na Beatha, réimse leathan tionscnaimh agus cláir atá deartha chun saol spreagúil, sásúil, sábháilte a chur ar fail i gContae Lú, na healaíona, an oidhreacht, agus ár leabharlanna san áireamh

Paddy Donnelly  
Director / Stiúrthóir



## Housing

### Pillar 1: 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 2018-2020. The preparation for a new three year strategy has commenced. The work done within Louth can be summarised as follows:

Presentations December 2021	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda BD	Total
Number of Person who presented as Homeless	04	146	150	<b>300</b>
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	04	132	141	<b>277</b>
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	00	08	06	<b>14</b>
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	00	04	03	<b>07</b>
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	00	02	00	<b>02</b>

The tables below reflect monthly returns submitted to the Department with regard to Homeless numbers in the NORTH EAST REGION between 20<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> December 2021. This anonymous and aggregated return of all individuals accessing emergency accommodation is returned to the Department of Housing on a monthly basis.

**Table 1: Gender**

Gender	Total
Male	61
Female	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

**Table 2: Age Groups**

Age Group	Total
18-24	10
25-44	46
45-64	20
65+	06
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

**Table 3: Accommodation Type**

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	13
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	59
Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support)(TEA)	10
Unique Total (note, clients may have accessed multiple accommodation types during the week)	00
Minus people accessing multiple accommodation types during the week	00
<b>Total unique individuals</b>	<b>82</b>

**Table 4: County**

County	Total
County Louth	74
County Monaghan	04
County Cavan	04
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

**Table 5 - Families with dependent children**

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	08	08	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>21</b>
Couples with dependent children	02	04	06
<b>Total</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>06</b>

**Housing First**

	Louth	Monaghan	Cavan	Total
<b>Number of tenancies established</b>	23	02	05	30
<b>Number of individuals currently in tenancy</b>	23	02	05	30

**Homeless Services and Covid 19**

As a direct response to the risk of communal spread of the Covid-19 virus amongst vulnerable individuals in Homeless Hostels, the Council has opened up a number of void properties and temporarily decanted individuals and families from hostel accommodation into these Units.

This has allowed these persons to live in a more isolated environment thereby decreasing the risk of infection. Contracted service providers have continued to provide meals and high level support to these clients.

The Hostels and family Hub continue to operate with reduced capacity, which reflects government

guidelines in respect of social and physical distancing.

Isolation units have been made available for homeless persons with suspected/confirmed cases of Covid-19 and protocols have been drawn up to address such cases.

The full range of Homeless Services continues to be provided remotely and staff is available on request, in exceptional cases.

**Inspections of Private Emergency Accommodation**

Since December 2017 the Homeless Office has carried out random and unannounced inspections on all B&BS, Hotels and Hostels providing Private Emergency Accommodation on behalf of Louth County Council. This will continue on a monthly basis subject to Covid 19 permissions.

**Housing Assistance Payment**

The total number of applications in HAP is 3276

Ardee Municipal District	Dundalk Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Total
326	1741	1209	3276

**Pillar 2: Accelerate Social Housing**

Over the period 2018 to 2021, a target has been set for the provision of 1074 units. This target will include delivery of units from Part V provision, Acquisitions, Mortgage to Rents, Long Term Leases, Repair and Lease and Buy & Renew Acquisitions. The 2020 - 2023 pipeline delivery progress report is in tables below.

**2021 Housing Allocations up to  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Numbers Allocated	Allocations- Social	Allocations - Voluntary	Refusals - Social	Refusals - Voluntary
Ardee MD	37	43	17	06
Dundalk MD	158	120	27	27
Drogheda BD	120	36	42	09
<b>Total Allocations</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>42</b>

Social housing transfers facilitated up to 31st December 2021

Year	Ardee	Dundalk	Drogheda
2021	01	12	19

**Housing List (excluding HAP Transfers)**

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda BD	Total
December	349	614	609	1572

**Transfer List from HAP**

Month	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda BD	Total
December	326	1741	1209	3276

There are a total of 268 applicants on the approved list for transfer (**Non-HAP**) within

Social Housing including **26** applications from the Approved Housing Bodies

**Pillar 3: Build More Homes**

The Council continues to maintain land banks in the following locations, which can be developed if an appropriate project and funding is forthcoming.

Location	Acres
Mullavalley, Louth Village	8.82
Kilkerley	3.80
Ballymakenny	16.53
Point Road	5.2
Various Individual Sites	0

**Rent Management**

The number of tenants who pay rent by Household Budget is now **978**

Current Arrears as of 31/12/2021	Rents as of	Number of Account	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old		258	€91,454.00
Rents between 7-12 weeks old		178	€115,400.00
Rents greater than 12 weeks old		773	€2,679,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1209</b>	<b>€2,885,954.00</b>

**Pillar 4: Improve the Rented Sector**

	Dec	Total
No. of properties inspected Dec 2021	40	299
No. of advisory notes issued to Landlord	54	87
No. of improvement notices Issued	05	94
No. of prohibition notices Issued	01	08
No. of Rent Book Notices Issued	00	00
Inspections ( HAP )	05	175

Improvement Notices ( HAP)	00	88
Virtual Inspections Issued	00	50
Private Inspections Complaints	02	02
HAP Complaints	01	31
RAS Complaints	00	05
Re Inspections HAP	04	48
Re Inspections Hap Compliance	01	21
Re Inspections RAS	00	00
Re Inspections RAS Compliance	00	00
AHB Inspection	00	07

### Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing

The following table summarises the level of maintenance and works activity to existing stock.

Maintenance	Total (YTD)	This month
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	5,226	607
No. of Maintenance Completed	3,674	417

### Vacant Properties

Currently 25 No. social units have been used as temporary accommodation for isolation or additional homeless need during Covid 19 and are not included in the next table.

Vacant Properties	Total	
Ardee Municipal District	01	
Dundalk Municipal District	14	
Drogheda Borough District	16	
<b>Total Re Lets</b>		<b>31</b>
Vacant Properties CPO Units not yet ready for occupation (all county)		07
<b>Total No. of CPO Properties (Relets &amp; CPO's)</b>		<b>38</b>

### Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

The private grant process is continuing with some changes to procedure to reflect social distancing guidelines.

The following grants are available

- Housing Adaption Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need whole time care in the home
- Housing for Older People – Priority 1 to works that will preserve the integrity of the dwelling
- Mobility Aids Grants - Priority 1, which will assist those who need whole time, care in the home.
- The Dept have notified Louth County Council that the allocation for 2021 is €1,889,980, of which €377,996 is to be provided from the authority's own revenue resource
- Additional funding of €962,500 has been allocated from the Dept of which €192,500 is to be provided from the authority's own revenue resource.

### Private House Grants

Status	HOP	HAG	MAG	Total
<b>Applications Completed 2021</b>	174	119	39	332
<b>Applications rolling into 2022</b>	101	363	166	630

### Estate Management

	DBD & AMD	DMD	TOTAL
Tenancy Inspections	01	00	01
Pre tenancy Training	16	00	16
Tenancy Investigations Visits	13	15	28
Tenancy Investigations Remote	16	13	29

### Anti Social Behaviour

	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
ASB Cases	01	00	05	06
ASB Ongoing	05	02	07	14
ASB Completed	06	02	12	20

	DBD	AMD	DMD	TOTAL
Verbal Warning	01	01	01	03
Written Warning	00	00	00	00
Tenancy Notification	00	00	00	00

### Climate Action

The newly revised **2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme** is the first year of a ten year programme which is expected to grow to meet the PfG retrofit commitment. The new programme sees a significant upscaling (from 'shallow' to 'deep retrofit') on what has been completed by local authorities to date and will target **2,400** social homes for upgrade works in 2021.

For 2021 Louth County Council were successful in obtaining an allocation of €1.4 million with a requirement to retrofit a minimum of 52 properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

An additional allocation coupled with positive tender prices allows for 12 more units to be completed in 2021.

The distribution works on Energy Retrofitting in each municipal district is as follows:

Municipal / Borough District	Number of Retrofitting Houses
Drogheda Borough District	23
Ardee Municipal District	20
Dundalk Municipal District	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

Delivery Stream	Rebuilding Ireland Projected Delivery 2018-2021				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	00	00	00	17	17
SHIP CONSTRUCTION RAPID	00	00	00	00	00
REGENERATION	00	00	00	00	00
CAS CONSTRUCTION	01	00	00	01	02
CONSTRUCTION BUT & RENEW SHIP CONSTRUCTION SINGLE STAGE	23	26	07	02	58
SHIP CONSTRUCTION SINGLE STAGE	00	00	00	02	02
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	00	05	131	28	159
SHIP Competitive Dialogue	00	00	00	00	00
CAS CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY & CAS SINGLE STAGE	00	05	00	12	17
PPP	00	00	80	00	80
AHB CALF Construction	10	15	02	00	27
AHB CALF Turnkey	119	188	54	223	584
CALF Part V	14	115	05	10	144
LA Part V	04	00	06	06	16
CAS Part V	00	00	00	00	00
Voids (capped)	02	05	00	00	07

the consent of the owner by means of a compulsory purchase order (CPO).

## DEFINITIONS

**AHB** = Approved Housing Body

**CAS** = Capital Assistance Scheme which provides 100% funding to AHBs to build or acquire units for disabled or homeless applicants with a non-repayment mortgage in favour of the Housing Authority to ensure that the Housing Authority has both nomination rights and security over the asset created by public funds.

**CALF** = Capital Advance Loan Fund which provides Department funding for up to 30% funding to AHBs to provide units for general use on the basis that they enter into a Payment and Availability agreement with the Housing Authority who will provide all the tenant nominations.

**CPO** = Compulsory Purchase Scheme allows the local authority to land or property without

**IPS** = Incremental Purchase Scheme

**Voids** = new addition to the report requested by Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

**SHCEP** = Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme supports the delivery of social housing by providing financial support to local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) for the long term leasing of houses and apartments from private owners and developers.

**SHIP** = Social Housing Investment Programme

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Father Finn Park (Phase 2)	1/1	17	Completed	08/04/2021	7no. * 2 bed & 10no. * 3 bed
Cox's Demesne Phase 2B	1/1	22	On-site	28/02/2022	2no. * 2 bed, 4no. * 3 bed, 2no. * 4 bed, 6no. * 1 bed Apt & 8no. * 2 bed Apt.
Muirhevnamor, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	Stage 2 Approved	16/10/2023	3no. * 2 bed & 8no. * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2 - 4)	1/1	72	Stage 2 Approved	16/04/2024	27no. * 3 bed, 4no. * 4 bed, 8no. * 1 bed Apt, 25no. * 2 bed Apt & 8no. * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	Stage 2 Approved	12/03/2024	29no. * 2 bed, 23no. * 3 bed, 9no. * 4 bed, 10no. * 1 bed Apt, 6no. * 2 bed Apt, 16no. * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 1 Approved	27/01/2024	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road - East Site, Drogheda	1/1	80	Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2025	To be confirmed
Gort Bui, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	1/5	13	Completed	16/10/2020	13no. * 3 bed
Gort Bui, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/5	9	Completed	14/12/2020	6no. * 3 bed & 3no. * 4 bed
Termon River, Termonfeckin	1/2	2	Completed	17/12/2020	2no. * 4 bed
Gort Bui, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/5	10	Completed	01/03/2021	6no.* 3 bed & 4no. * 4 bed
Gort Bui, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/5	9	Completed	16/04/2021	5no. * 3 bed & 4no. * 4 bed
Glyde View, Tallanstown, Drogheda	1/1	2	Completed	10/05/2021	2no. * 3 bed

Termon River, Termonfeckin	2/2	1	Completed	30/11/2021	1no. * 4 bed
Gort Bui, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	5/5	8	Completed	20/05/2021	2no. * 3 bed & 6no. * 4 bed
Moneymore, Drogheda - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	23/12/2022	1no. * 2 bed
Gort Uaine, Clogherhead - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	23/12/2022	1no. * 4 bed
School Lane, Dunleer - Infill	1/1	1	Funding Approved Single Stage	23/12/2022	1no. * 3 bed
Doire Beag, Collon, Co. Louth - Infill	1/1	6	Funding Approved Single Stage	25/08/2023	6no. * 3 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	1/4	11	Funding Approved Turnkey	30/11/2022	To be confirmed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/4	6	Funding Approved Turnkey	31/01/2023	To be confirmed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/4	6	Funding Approved Turnkey	28/02/2023	To be confirmed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	4/4	22	Funding Approved Turnkey	31/05/2023	To be confirmed
Gort Bui Ballymakenny Rd	1/1	1	Completed	16/04/2021	1no. * 2 bed
Linenfield Ballymakenny	1/2	5	On-site	31/12/2021	5no. * 2 bed
Linenfield Ballymakenny	2/2	1	On-site	28/02/2022	1no. * 2 bed

Summary of Units Completed 2021 via CALF								
Scheme	D/HPCLG Ref. No	Project Name	Project Phase	Non-Part V Units Expected	Part V Units Expected	Approved Housing Body	Completed	Unit breakdown
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8644	Cathedral View, Dundalk, Co Louth	1 OF 5	15	1	Tuath Housing	Completed	14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all schemes
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8644	Cathedral View, Dundalk, Co Louth	3 OF 5	16		Tuath Housing	Completed	14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all schemes
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8644	Cathedral View, Dundalk, Co Louth	4 OF 5	11		Tuath Housing	Completed	14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all schemes
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8644	Cathedral View, Dundalk, Co Louth.	2 OF 5	10		Tuath Housing	Completed	14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all schemes
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9139	Clonmore Ardee	1 OF 4	12		Cluid Housing	Completed	2 x 4 beds, 2 x 3 bed and 8x 1 beds in this phase
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9139	Clonmore , Ardee	2 OF 4	14	1	Cluid Housing	Completed	2 x 4 bed, 12 x 3 bed and 1 x 2 bed units in this phase

AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9139	Clonmore, Ardee	3 OF 4	15		Cluid Housing	Completed	8 x 3 bed and 7 x 2 bed units in this phase
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9139	Clonmore, Ardee	4 OF 4	13		Cluid Housing	Completed	10 x 3 bed and 3 x 2 bed units in this phase
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9514	Halliday Mills, Quay St, Dundalk	1 OF 1	77	8	CoOperative	Completed	15 x 3 bed apartments, 58 x 2 bed apartments and 12 x 1 bed apartments
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.879	Harbour View, Coulter Place, Dundalk	1 OF 1	24		Cluid Housing	Completed	12 x 1 bed and 12 x 2 bed apartments
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.855	Lismullen Grove, Dundalk, Co Louth	3 OF 3	8		Tuath Housing	Completed	8 x 3 bed units in this phase
AHB CALF Turnkey	2021.1092	Fairways Gardens, Dundalk	1 OF 1	8		Cluid Housing	Completed	8 x 2 bed apartments

Summary of Projected 2022 CALF Delivery									
Scheme	D/HPCL G Ref. No	Project Name	Project Phase	Non-Part V Units Expected	Part V Units Expected	Approved Housing Body	Completed	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit breakdown
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8644	Cathedral View, Dundalk, Co Louth	1 OF 5	12		Tuath Housing	On-site	3/31/2022	14 x 2 bed apartments, 9 x 2 bed houses, 14 x 3 bed duplexes, 14 x 3 bed terraced houses and 14 x 4 bed houses across all phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9501	Dublin Road, Dundalk	1 OF 1	59	6	Respond	On-site	11/30/2022	5 x 3 bed houses, 7 x 3 bed duplexes, 2 x 3 bed apartments, 16 x 2 bed duplexes, 4

									x 2 bed apartments, 4 x 1 bed houses and 27 x 1 bed
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.8939	Duiche Roden, Dundalk, Co Louth	1 OF 2	75	12	Cluid Housing	On-site	10/31/2022	2 x 4 bed houses, 18 x 3 bed duplexes, 22 x 3 bed terraced houses, 19 x 2 bed aparts 29 x 2 bed terraced houses, 4 x 2 bed bungalows and 36 x 1 bed apartments across both phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9681	Newfoundwell Road Drogheda Co Louth	1 OF 2	46	9	Cluid Housing	On-site	3/31/2022	17 x 3 bed terraced houses, 1 x 3 bed duplexes, 25 x 2 bed terraced houses, 4 x 2 bed terraced, 4 x 2 bed duplexes, 28 x 2 bed apartments and 19 x 1 bed apartments across both phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.8971	Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda	1 of 4	15	2	Respond	On-site	4/30/2022	2 x 4 bed houses, 97 x 3 bed houses and 34 x 2 bed houses across all 4 phases

AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.8971	Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda	2 of 4	21	2	Respond	On-site	7/31/2022	2 x 4 bed houses, 97 x 3 bed houses and 34 x 2 bed houses across all 4 phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.8971	Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda	3 of 4	43	3	Respond	On-site	10/31/2022	2 x 4 bed houses, 97 x 3 bed houses and 34 x 2 bed houses across all 4 phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8046	Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk, Co. Louth	2 of 3	10	6	Tuath Housing	On-site	1/31/2022	6 x 2 bed apartments, 32 x 3 bed terraced houses and 8 x 3 bed semi detached across all phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8046	Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk, Co. Louth	3 of 3	17	2	Tuath Housing	On-site	6/30/2022	6 x 2 bed apartments, 32 x 3 bed terraced houses and 8 x 3 bed semi detached across all phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2021.1033	Scotch Hall, Drogheda, Co Louth	1 of 1	21		Respond	Funding Approved	7/31/2022	6 x 1 bed apartments and 15 x 2 bed apartments
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9791	Tullybrook, Slane Road, Drogheda	1 of 1	69	16	Cluid Housing	On-site	5/31/2022	2 x 4 bed houses, 22 x 3 bed terraced, 24 x 3 bed duplexes, 22 x 2 bed terraced, 7 x 2 bed duplexes and 8 x 2

									bed apartments
AHB CALF Turnkey		Tierney St, Ardee	1 of 2	5		Circle	Proposal	8/31/2022	3 x3 bed bungalow, 2 x 2 bed bungalow, 3 x3 bed terraced and 3 x 2 bed terraced houses across both phases
AHB CALF Turnkey		Tierney St, Ardee	2 of 2	6		Circle	Proposal	12/01/2022	3 x3 bed bungalow, 2 x 2 bed bungalow, 3 x3 bed terraced and 3 x 2 bed terraced houses across both phases

Summary of Projected 2023 CALF Delivery									
Scheme	D/HPCLG Ref. No	Project Name	Project Phase	Non-Part V Units Expected	Part V Units Expected	Approved Housing Body	Completed	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Breakdown
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9739	Donore Road, Drogheda, Co Louth	1 of 1	59	7	Cluid Housing	On-site	9/30/2023	8 x 3 bed apartments, 54 x 2 bed apartments and 4 x 1 bed apartments
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.8939	Duiche Roden, Dundalk, Co Louth	2 of 2	43		Cluid Housing	On-site	8/31/2023	2 x 4 bed houses, 18 x 3 bed duplexes, 22 x 3 bed terraced houses, 19 x 2 bed apartments, 29 x 2 bed terraced houses, 4 x 2 bed bungalows and 36

									x 1 bed apartments across both phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9681	Newfoundwe ll Road Drogheda Co Louth	2 of 2	39		Cluid Housing	On-site	3/31/2023	17 x 3 bed terraced houses, 1 x 3 bed duplexes, 25 x 2 bed terraced houses, 4 x 2 bed terraced, 4 x 2 bed duplexes, 28 x 2 bed apartments and 19 x 1 bed aparts across both phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.8971	Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda	4 of 4	41	6	Respon d	On-site	1/31/2023	2 x 4 bed houses, 97 x 3 bed houses and 34 x 2 bed houses across all 4 phases
AHB CALF Turnkey	2020.9015	Oriel Heights, Collon	1 of 1	2	11	North & East Housing	Funding Approved	3/31/2023	4 x 3 bed units and 9 x 2 bed units
AHB CALF Turnkey	2019.8077	Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1 of 1	38	7	Clanmil	Funding Approved	3/31/2023	9 x 2 bed apartments and 36 x3 bed houses

## Community and Sports

### PPN

Louth PPN postponed the Community Awards Ceremony in November due to the pandemic. The PPN Secretariat made the decision to announce our winners via virtual ceremony on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and the link was sent to all our members and shared via all media outlets.

We would like to thank Louth County Council and Dept. Rural & Community Development for their support of the PPN throughout 2021.

Congratulations to all our nominees and the 16 finalists.

<b>Ethnic Minorities Category</b>	
Award	Culture Connect
Outstanding Award	Hands4Unity
<b>Sports Category</b>	
Award	Kilkerley Emmets GFC Football Club
Outstanding Award	Sean McDermotts GFC Juveniles
<b>Art &amp; Culture Category</b>	
Award	Creative Spark - SEEK Festival
Outstanding Award	Dromiskin Tidy Towns
<b>Older Persons &amp; Disability</b>	
Award	Roche Emmets All-Stars
Outstanding Award	Alzheimers Day Care Centre Drogheda
<b>Environment &amp; Animals Category</b>	
Award	Drogheda Animal Rescue
Outstanding Award	Oriel River Catchment & Coastal Assoc.
<b>Community Health Category</b>	

Award	Post Polio Survivor Group
Outstanding Award	Red Door Project
<b>Children &amp; Youth Category</b>	
Award	Engage 4 Change Programme
Outstanding Award	Outcomers Dundalk
<b>Outstanding Achievement Category</b>	
Award	Maeve Curtis
Outstanding Award	Larry Magnier

## EU\_SHAFE 4<sup>th</sup> Inter-regional Learning Meeting

Coimbra, Portugal 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the EU\_SHAFE Project Co-ordinator travelled to Coimbra, Portugal for the 4<sup>th</sup> EU\_SHAFE Inter-regional meeting which was due to take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### Day 1

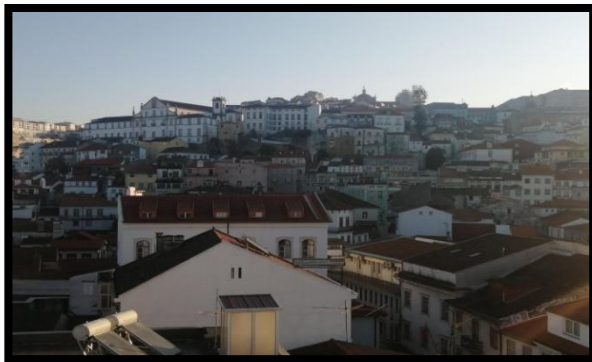
The meeting took place in the Caritas Coimbra facility in Coimbra. Caritas Coimbra are the Portuguese partner in the EU\_SHAFE Project. The meeting took the form of a hybrid meeting with partners and stakeholders attending in person and online. The opening speech was given by Carlow Diogo, the Director General of Caritas Coimbra where he gave us an overview of the work carried out by Caritas Coimbra in the regional.

Following on from the warm welcome extended to all of the project partners, we had a limited tour of the Caritas facilities on site learning about the organisation's social support and care services. Following the tour, the EU\_SHAFE partners

presented their nominated Good Practices in Domain 4: Health and Community Services and also those nominated in the Cross Cutting Practices category. Louth gave presentations on “Ardee – Age Friendly Town” and the “Local Economic and Community Plan – a collaborative practice”.

After lunch Deusto University provided an evaluation of the Good Practices in Domain 4 having analysed the responses to the assessment survey by the partners and stakeholders. Caritas Coimbra then gave a short summary of the different projects in which they are involved, including DAPAS (Deploying AAL Practices at Scale), DIANA (Digital Intelligent Assistant for Nursing Applications), SMARTWORK (Smart Age-friendly Living and Working Environments) and of course EU\_SHAFE.

The day finished with a trip to Municipal Services of Urban Transport of Coimbra (SMTUC). Here we heard about the Blue Line – the electric bus selected by Caritas Coimbra a a good practice for the EU\_SHAFE project. In addition to the presentation, the attendees had an opportunity to travel on the bus where they were confronted with the reality of older people living in the city’s historic centre.



The day ended with a dinner for those attending the meeting where further opportunities for networking arose.

Day 2

Day 2 began again in the Caritas facility where Regional Stakeholders made presentations on the Centro Regions Good Practices. The presentations included “Transportation on demand” of Inter-municipal Community of Médio

Tejo; the Mobile Health Units of the Inter-municipal Community of the Centro Region (CIM); the Best Practice in Active and Healthy Ageing Catalogue from CCDRC and Conselhos Repórteres 55+, a project coordinated by Caritas Coimbra with University of Coimbra – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences.



After lunch the partners paid a visit to “The Autonomous Homes in Pinhal”. The project partners visited this senior village to see how this social care and support service promotes the autonomy of the older adults living there.

Overall the meeting was very successful and was crucial to the exchange of inter-regional learning in age-friendly environments. These work sessions were key to helping the consortium in the activities of the second phase of the project in which partners must deliver an action plan resulting from this learning experiences

Upcoming meetings:

Hamburg, Germany – February/March 2022 (TBC)

Final project event Bizkaia, Spain – April/May 2023 (TBC).



## LEADER

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

Promoter	Amount
Martin & Patrick Hickey – Solar Panels – Ref 110827	€189,885.00
Gyles Quay Caravan Park Ltd – Multi Purpose Muga Pitch Dev – Ref 113821	€14,477.55
Louth Leader Partnership – Innovating Communities Designing our Future Capital – Ref 112977	€6,823.73
Applied Behaviour Analysis in Local Education – Biodiversity Sensory Garden – Ref 114080	€32,381.55
Dundalk Youth Centre – Youth Arts Engagement Project – Ref 113482	€7,780.00
St Josephs GFC – Community Resource Room – Ref 113916	€14,313.90
Lannleire Pavilion Co Ltd – Shower facilities & lobby area refurb – Ref 114295	€33,581.81
Louth Leader Partnership – Introduction to Community Composting – Ref 110880	€9,949.21
Oriel River Catchments & Coastal Assoc – Salmonid Monitoring System – Ref 113660	€5,125.67
Oriel River Catchments & Coastal Assoc – ORCCA Citizen Science Mobile Application - Ref 114129	€27,225.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€341,543.42</b>

## SICAP

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2023 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

SICAP addresses high and persistent levels of deprivation through targeted and innovative, locally-led approaches. It supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups.

The programme is managed at a local level by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), with support from the local authority, and actions are delivered by Louth LEADER Partnership, our Local Development Company (LDC).

In light of the on-going challenges of Covid-19, the announcement by the Minister of a one year extension to the SICAP programme and his request for a Mid-Programme Review, there has been a slight shift in focus for the 2022 Annual Plan towards addressing the local programme priorities which were previously identified:

- New Communities with particular focus on those living in Direct Provision
- Long Term Unemployed
- Travellers/Roma.

Louth has also received a budget increase of approx. 11% - €148,831 for 2022. This brings the SICAP Budget for Louth to €1,501,383.00

### The Litter League

Louth County Council's Litter League results were announced at the "Louth Looking Good" awards night held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, in Crowne Plaza hotel.

Congratulations to Castlebellingham/Kilsaran, Annagassan and Stabannon as they were the overall winners in their categories, they have received their prize and Gold award at the awards ceremony.

Well done to all our winners who participated in the league this year. Louth County Council sincerely appreciates and wants to acknowledge

the tireless work that is carried out by Tidy Towns committees around the county, in keeping their communities litter free. Every scrap of litter picked enhances the attractiveness of our wee county. We hope that you will continue in keeping up the great work that you do throughout 2022.

### **Town & Village Streetscape Enhancement Measure**

The closing date for the Streetscape scheme is 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021. This Measure will support activity such as painting (including murals), signage replacement, shopfront improvement, lighting and canopies.

There are a total number of 62 applicants under the Scheme from the following 4 areas throughout the county.

- Dunleer 23 Applicants
- Ardee 20 Applicants
- Carlingford 6 Applicants
- Blackrock 13 Applicants

### **Louth Library Service**

Following recent government guidance on Covid restrictions, all relevant SOGs continue to apply, along with social distancing and contact tracing guidelines.

Louth Library Service continues to offer lending, study space services, research and newspaper reading facilities all the while complying strictly to public health rules and relevant guidelines including most recent advice on live events, 50% venue capacity and mask wearing for over 9's.

### **Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024**

#### **Library**

Amanda Branigan & Brendan McSherry are the Quality of Life reps on the LCC Climate Action Team. An energy efficiency audit is currently underway in Dundalk Library.

#### **Archives**

The County Archives supports corporate Climate Action Goals. Operations are currently implementing energy upgrades to the Archives building including an air to water heat pump, improvements to doors and several windows and low energy lighting to reduce energy use.

### **Continuous Professional Development**

Library staff at all levels took part in over 60 Continuous Professional Development training programmes and Webinars in 2021. Programmes ranged from climate action training, age friendly, disability, autism awareness, diversity and inclusion, to hosting online events, social media and up skilling in existing and new digital technologies.

This engagement in CPD reflects the ongoing commitment of library staff to adapt to the changing needs of our increasingly diverse communities and reflects the wide variety of services delivered by Louth Library Service.

## Drop In Campaign



The national *Drop In* Campaign continued throughout December raising awareness of current library services available to the public and to invite the public to 'Drop In' casually or as part of a new year's resolution!

**Example of our in-house promotion for the campaign**



***Vada dropped in to collect some new books and check out our sensory area***

## Housebound Service

The Library service delivered over 1000 items to Housebound customers during 2021. Demand continues for the Housebound Delivery Service for elderly or vulnerable people who are cocooning or in isolation and the service will continue into 2022.



## eServices



The wide range of eServices available to library members, include free eBooks & eAudiobooks through Borrow Box. To date in 2021 Louth Library users have borrowed in excess of 38,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks.

## Meet Libby



In addition, free newspapers and magazines and Comic Books are available through Press Reader and Libby.

Lastly, there is a host of online courses with Universal Class and Transparent Language online.

For more information on these services click [here](#)

## DAF Project Update

### Library programme nominated for AONTAS Star Award

The Louth Library Service Young Entrepreneurs Club, supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development Dormant Accounts Fund and Louth County Council, has been nominated for an Aontas Star award.



The six-week programme facilitated by Serena Bryans and Yvonne Kavanagh of About Communications saw the students of Ardee Youthreach take their own businesses from idea stage right through to pitch and presentation.

The programme is nominated in the Adult Learning Initiatives that Support Social Inclusion category. The shortlist will be announced ahead of the 2022 AONTAS Adult Learners' Festival in March.

## Library Newsletter



The January edition contains the latest news, events, services, and recommendations from our libraries.

Anyone interested in receiving this monthly newsletter to their inbox can sign up here:

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/library-membership/louth-library-newsletter-emailing-list-registration.html>

Click here to read this month's newsletter

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/library/blog-and-newsletter/louth-library-newsletter-january-2022.pdf>

## First Fortnight



Louth Library Service will be hosting a virtual talk All Night Long - How to Eat to Optimise Sleep and Recovery with Glenville Nutrition - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of January at 7pm. First Fortnight challenges mental health prejudice and stigma through arts and cultural actions and events that create spaces for unscripted conversations around

mental health. Booking via Timify <https://book.timify.com/?accountId=5f9a9eb964916511fcceae5f&hideCloseButton=true>

**All Night Long:**  
how to eat to optimise sleep and recovery

Zzzzzzz... **Wednesday 13th of January at 7pm**

Online event, registration essential.

Up to 75% of us suffer from sleep issues during our lifetime and it is certainly a common complaint at the moment. Getting enough sleep is critical to support long term mental and physical health and can significantly impact your performance and coping mechanisms within a day or two. This practical talk covers how much sleep we really need, why quality and quantity are both important and how sleep impacts our health. Find out if you are in 'sleep debt' and the 8 steps to better sleep that you can start to work on today.

Comhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council  
**Glenville** NUTRITION COURSES CLINICS CENTRES  
FIRST FORTNIGHT THE ART OF MENTAL HEALTH

**Supporting Positive Behaviors' Post Christmas - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of January at 7pm**



**Aoife Lee**

Aoife Lee from Parent Support regularly appears on Ireland AM and the Dermot & Dave Show on Today FM. In this virtual session Aoife will be talking about understanding our children's behaviors' and how as caregivers, we can support ourselves and our children by maintaining boundaries and behaviors on the day-to-day challenges of parenting.

Booking via Timify <https://book.timify.com/?accountId=5f9a9eb964916511fcceae5f&hideCloseButton=true>

**Master the Menopause - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of January at 7pm**

The Menopause can be a time of upheaval for many women, with symptoms from hot flushes and mood swings, to weight gain - sometimes starting years beforehand. While the much-maligned menopause is no longer a taboo subject, this natural phase in our lives often shoulders the blame for other issues too.

Join Glenville nutrition to find out what you can do to smooth your transition as much as possible and learn what aspects of your health to prioritise during and post-menopause. Booking via Timify <https://book.timify.com/?accountId=5f9a9eb964916511fcceae5f&hideCloseButton=true>

**Master the Menopause:**  
The heat is on – eating for the menopause and beyond

**Wednesday 26th of January at 7pm**

Online event, registration essential.

The menopause can be a time of upheaval for many women, with symptoms from hot flushes and mood swings to weight gain, sometimes starting years beforehand. While the much-maligned menopause is no longer a taboo subject, this natural phase in our lives often shoulders the blame for many other health and lifestyle issues too. Find out how to know if you are in the menopause or perimenopause and what you can do to naturally smooth your transition as much as possible. Learn what aspects of health to prioritise during and post menopause and how to keep yourself looking and feeling your best.

Comhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council  
**Glenville** NUTRITION COURSES CLINICS CENTRES  
FIRST FORTNIGHT THE ART OF MENTAL HEALTH

# Right to Read at your Library

## Summer Stars short story competition prize winner from Louth!

Library member Thomas Ritchie was the proud winner of the Summer Stars short story competition in the 10-14 age group for his story *Of all the places in the world, I never thought I would be here.....* Thomas recently visited Dundalk Library to collect his well deserved prize. You can read Thomas' story here:

[https://www.librariesireland.ie/services/right-to-read/summer-stars/of-all-the-places-in-the-world-i-never-thought-i-would-be-here?fbclid=IwAR33RFV7FKNn-XzB\\_CD3VeGXUDxU0-f\\_WultxiUyPltz9bjV6iuFlvuqnrq](https://www.librariesireland.ie/services/right-to-read/summer-stars/of-all-the-places-in-the-world-i-never-thought-i-would-be-here?fbclid=IwAR33RFV7FKNn-XzB_CD3VeGXUDxU0-f_WultxiUyPltz9bjV6iuFlvuqnrq)

We wish Thomas all the best for his future writing career!



**Our Summer Star! Thomas Ritchie receiving his hamper of books**

## Happy New Year to all our Readers!

### Children's Storytime and Crafts

Join us throughout the month of January on our Facebook page for lots of great stories and crafts for children

**Friday 14th January @6.30pm**

Storytime with Eilish

**Friday 21st January @6.30pm**

Storytime with Annemarie

**Saturday 22nd January @11am**

Arts & Crafts with Eileen

**Friday 28th January @6.30pm**

Storytime with Lisa

**Saturday 29th January @11am**

Art & Crafts with Amy

Right to Read  
at your Library



Online Storytime and Craft Videos will be streamed on the library facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LouthLibraries> throughout the month of January for families and children to enjoy from home.

## Books for Young Adults

As part of our ongoing efforts to support reading and literacy in young adults, library staff members Ray and Lisa streamed two promotional videos, viewed over 530 times, on the library Facebook page showcasing the new Young Adult Fiction and Graphic Novels that are available to borrow in all our library branches.

The videos, welcoming teens to #DropIn, check out our new stock or ask for help from our staff members featured reading tips and book recommendations for parents and teenagers. To view the videos click here: <https://fb.watch/a1wDzYjm0Y/>

<https://fb.watch/a1wF4F6ETQ/>

A blog post also featured as part of this promotion.

<https://shelflifethelouthlibraryserviceblog.wordpress.com/2021/12/01/top-teen-reads-2021/>

### Clever Little Handies

Free Online Baby Sign Classes commencing on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of January at 10:30am for four weeks. The course is aimed at parents with newborns to toddler stage. Parents will learn to communicate with their baby before they can talk.

Booking via Timify <https://book.timify.com/?accountId=5f9a9eb964916511fcceae5f&hideCloseButton=true>



**Rhyme & Sign Storytime**  
Tuesday 11th January at 10:30am

**CLEVER LITTLE HANDIES**  
Baby Sign Classes

Free for Parents with babies and toddlers, from newborns up. The event will feature rhymes and stories through ISL.

Online event, registration essential

Comhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council

### Music Virtual Workshops - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> of January at 10am.

Fun, interactive music session for children age 0 - 5 years and their parents or grandparents. Sing, dance, play learn and have fun. Booking via Timify <https://book.timify.com/?accountId=5f9a9eb964916511fcceae5f&hideCloseButton=true>

**MOO MUSIC WORKSHOP**  
Via Zoom

Fun Interactive music sessions for children age 0 - 5 years and their parents or grandparents. Sing, dance, play learn and have fun.

**Wednesday, 12th January at 10AM**  
**Wednesday, 26th January at 10AM**

Online event, booking essential

Libraries Ireland Right to Read at your Library Comhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council

### The Science of Harry Potter - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of January at 3pm

Find out if you are Muggle or Magic in this spellbinding workshop with Anyone4Science.

Booking via Timify <https://book.timify.com/?accountId=5f9a9eb964916511fcceae5f&hideCloseButton=true>

**THE SCIENCE OF HARRY POTTER WORKSHOP**  
FIND OUT IF YOU ARE MUGGLE OR MAGIC!  
Saturday 15th of January at 3pm

Anyone4Science

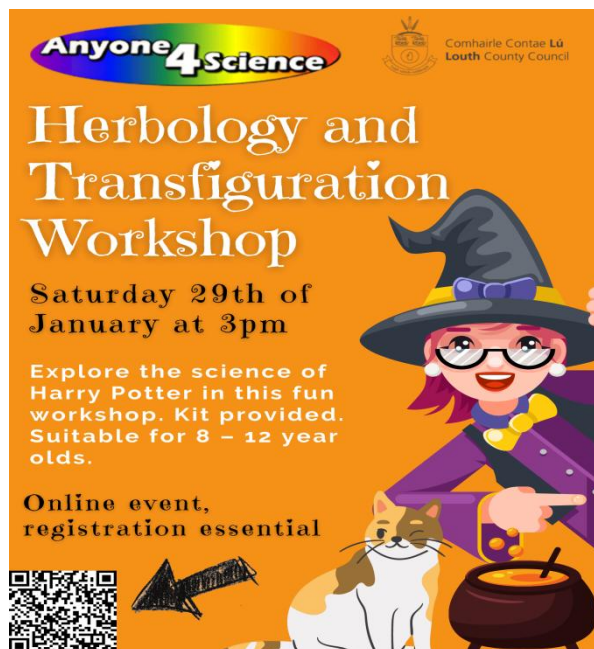
THIS WORKSHOP WILL HELP PARTICIPANTS CREATE INVISIBLE INK. THEY WILL THEN WRITE THEIR INVISIBLE MESSAGE, PARTICIPANTS WILL THEN PREPARE A SPECIAL COMPOUND, APPLY IT TO THEIR MESSAGE AND FIND OUT IF THEY ARE MAGIC OR MUGGLE! SUITABLE FOR 8 - 12 YEAR OLDS.

ONLINE EVENT, REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

## Herbology and Transfiguration Workshop Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of January at 3pm

Have you ever wanted to study some of the subjects in Hogwarts? Join Anyone4Science for this fun workshop.

Booking via Timify  
<https://book.timify.com/?accountId=5f9a9eb964916511fcceae5f&hideCloseButton=true>



### Primary Schools

More than 60 class sets were borrowed in 2021, with plenty of titles being reserved for the January - April term. Virtual class visits are now back open for booking, and our team are looking forward to Zooming into classrooms around the county in the coming weeks and months!

### Community Engagement



Louth Library Service supported our partners from the Genesis Programme and 140 of their families for their Winter Workshop 2021 during December. Library staff recorded a special storytime, Natasha Mhac a Bhaird's *Reindeer Down*, created 140 craft packs and accompanying craft demonstration video.

## Louth County Archives



### National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

The revision for Enterprise and Economic Development has now been approved and issued out for use. The draft revisions for Community, IT, and Library are in progress, while Environment is close to being finalised. To date, Health & Safety, Planning & Development, Housing, Procurement, Finance, HR, Water and Corporate have been completed, approved and issued out to local authorities.

The Co Archivist assists staff on an ongoing basis with queries on the management of records and advises on the preparation of records both for destruction and for transfer to the Records Centre and the Co Archives. Records of several sections have been reviewed for destruction over the past month and Destruction Certificates issued.

### Creative Ireland 2021

Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022





Ireland Louth team, Pride of Place sent art packs out to 12 nursing homes across Louth. Artist Rozzi Kennedy spent 9 months working with 130 residents across these nursing homes helping them to create their own pieces of art.

The culmination of all this work was launched virtually on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Feedback for the project was extremely positive from participants, their families and carers and it was wonderful to be able to view the pieces, virtually at least!

### **Highlanes Gallery**

On 29<sup>th</sup> December Highlanes Gallery hosted an evening of Irish Traditional Music on the occasion of Nano Reid's ADAMANTINE exhibition. The performance was a premier of 'Long Woman's Grave' - a brand new collaboration between Nuala Kennedy, SJ McArdle & Trevor Hutchinson. The first single of Long Woman's Grave, 'High Germany', was recorded entirely during lockdown at all 3 member's homes and was an immediate hit on national radio stations.

### **First Fortnight**

The First Fortnight Festival takes place from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January. The First Fortnight charity was set up to challenge mental health prejudice through arts and cultural action. Louth Arts Office are delighted to be organising 2 events in conjunction with An Táin Arts Centre for the 2022 festival.

The first event is the 'Connect' Project which will work with a group of adolescents who are community mental health service users locally. The project will start during the festival but will run until the end of February where the young adults will work with artist and art therapist, Jennifer Slater, to create bespoke pieces that will be displayed in the Spring at buildings in Earl St in Dundalk.

The second event is on Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> January as part of An Táin's book club. They will host a Q & A night with author Michael Harding on his book 'A Cloud Where The Birds Rise'. Hardings book is a collection of his most memorable musings on the human condition. The reader is held in

moments of belonging, solitude, love and healing. It is a celebration of finding beauty and hope in the ordinary.

### **An Táin Arts Centre**

Following on from the premier of 'Women of Independence' in December An Táin Arts Centre will launch their open call for the 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment of their Remembrance Trilogy. To mark the centenary of the Civil War, An Táin, in partnership with Upstate Theatre Project, will create a piece of community theatre based on stories from Louth from 1922. The first meeting will take place on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Jan from 7-10p.m for those interested in taking part. Details can be found on [www.aintain.ie](http://www.aintain.ie)

### **Droichead Arts Centre**

Droichead Arts Centres Theatre Club for 2022 kicks off in style with the Abbey Theatre's Production of 'Every Brilliant Thing' on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Start your new year with a play about all the things worth living for! Jump in and be part of the creative experience as the audience help tell this poignant and hilarious story. Talking honestly and compassionately about mental health, *Every Brilliant Thing* is an hour of uplifting humour.

<https://www.droichead.com/show-detail/?id=873629648>

The Borrowed Ground exhibition which launched in December continues until the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. 11 local artists took part in this exhibition which shows works created during the covid pandemic.

<https://www.droichead.com/show-detail/?id=873629623>

## Museum



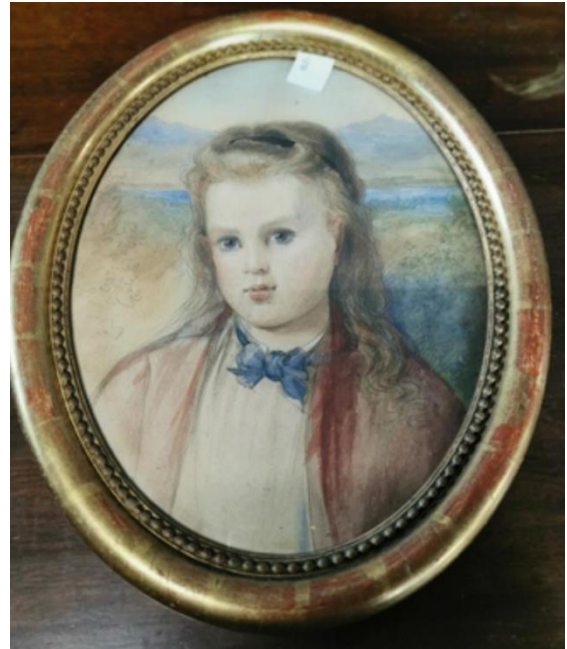
In the run-up to Christmas the Museum has developed a number of activities and features suitable for all ages. The craftwork focus on making snowglobes based on and inspired by seasonal activities, whilst the features highlight artefacts associated with Christmas. All are available on our Facebook pages.



*Snowglobe*

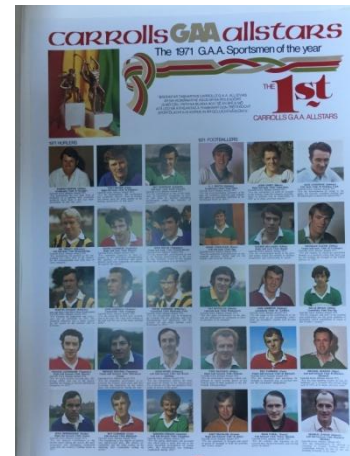
## Recent Acquisitions

The Museum recently acquired this beautiful piece a watercolour of Mary Rachel Dunlop housed in a gilt frame. Dunlop was a relation of Arctic explorer Sir Francis Leopold McClintock.



*Watercolour of Mary Rachel Dunlop*

## Documentary Feature



Originally sponsored by PJ Carroll's, the Allstars celebrated its 50 anniversary earlier this year. To celebrate this event a documentary tracing the history of the GAA Allstars will be broadcast on December 29 on RTE next. The Museum was approached and was in the position to provide some feature items on the award scheme.

## Climate Action

As a member of the Quality of Life team the Museum continues to support corporate Climate Action Goals.'

## Heritage Office

December was mainly taken up with the finalisation of the various projects carried on through the year and recouping of grants from funders (the ability of the Heritage Office to carry out any projects is almost entirely dependent on external funders). The projects undertaken in 2021 included:

### Community Monuments Fund (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)

1. Conservation work on a section of the town wall that runs alongside Featherbed Lane, close to Laurence's Gate
2. Conservation study on Glaspistol towerhouse, near Clogherhead
3. Conservation study on Taaffe's Castle in Carlingford (both in private ownership)

### Heritage Plan funding (Heritage Council):

1. Conservation assessments of Cappocksgate in Ardee, Saint Mary's Abbey (Louth) and Darver graveyard boundary wall.
2. Conservation and Management Plan for the Council's Millmount Complex in Drogheda.

### National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage):

1. Support of the wardening service provided by the Louth Nature Trust for the Little Tern Breeding Colony at Baltray
2. Demonstration hedge-laying at Blackrock Park, with Blackrock Tidy Towns

Conservation studies are an essential first step in obtaining funding to carry out necessary conservation works in future.

Work continued on a Tourism Development project to install interpretation at the Hill of Faughart and at Castletown motte, as well as directional signage for the tourists that we hope to encourage to visit these sites. This project is

funded by Louth LEADER and will be completed in the first half of 2022.

Work began on developing project proposals for 2022, including meeting with the new manager and the Board at the Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust, to discuss their proposals for Carlingford Tholsel.

