



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

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

**Dated 7th February 2024
7^ú Feabhra 2024**

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

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – January 2024

A Chara,

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

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

- The final transfer of the water function took place on January 31st last. We will therefore no longer be reporting on Water Services.
- The works that are underway in Fair Street are now becoming obvious and we look forward to the opening of that development.
- It should be noted that the scale of works underway regarding Active Travel now total 24 different projects which is a breathtaking scale of individual projects.
- Our Outdoor Staff yet again responded admirably to Storms Isha and Jocelyn whilst at the same time having proper regard to Health & Safety.
- The recruitment and training of an additional Seven Retained Firefighters to the Council's Fire Service which will assist in achieving the target compliments in the 5 retained stations in Louth

Finally, it was a pleasure to attend the launch of Brigid 1500 festival and I commend all involved in the preparation of same

Is mise le meas.



Joan Martin
Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – 31st January 2024
Tuairisc Bainistíochta ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach – 31 Eanáir 2024

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Support Services Seirbhís Tacaíochta

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

Other responsibilities include, Information & Communication Technology

Cintíonn an 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, Techneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Chumarsáide

Bernie Woods
Director / Stiúrthóir



Financial Report

Expenditure to 31st of January 2024 / Caiteachas go dtí 31st Eanáir 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Expenditure to/Caiteachas Iarbhír go dtí 31/01/2024	Budget Expenditure/ Caiteachas Buiséadaithe 2024	% Spent to/ % Caite go 31/01/2024
Housing/Tithíocht	€3,733,907	€62,912,092	6%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€2,224,980	€27,583,468	8%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€655,593	€8,804,737	7%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€1,416,018	€27,259,532	5%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€1,868,829	€23,558,956	8%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€841,538	€11,234,063	7%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare/Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€93,868	€1,491,272	6%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€678,263	€8,839,470	8%
	€11,512,996	€171,683,590	7%

Income to 31st of January 2024 / Ioncam go 31st Eanáir 2024

Section/Rannóg	Actual Income to/Ioncam Iarbhír go dtí 31/01/24	Budget Income/Ioncam Buiséadaithe 2024	% Invoiced to/ % Sonraisc Curtha do dtí 31/01/24
Housing/Tithíocht	€1,404,138	€64,380,831	2%
Road Transportation & Safety/Iompar Bóthair agus Sábháilteacht	€161,672	€16,558,010	1%
Water Services/Seirbhísí Uisce	€31,932	€8,131,617	0%
Development Management/Bainistíocht Forbartha	€126,019	€17,277,072	1%
Environmental Services/Seirbhísí Timpeallachta	€93,972	€4,348,102	2%
Recreation and Amenity/Áineas agus Conláiste	€79,300	€1,683,163	5%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte agus Leas	€17,768	€558,596	3%
Miscellaneous/Ilghnéitheach	€247,761	€11,372,937	2%
Rates/Rátaí	€34,643,951	€34,507,064	100%
General Purpose Grant (LPT)/Deontas Ilfheidhmeach	€0	€11,366,198	0%
Provision for Debit Balance/Soláthar faoi Iarmhéid Dochair	€0	€1,500,000	0%
	€36,806,513	€171,683,590	24%

The above is the current position as of the 31st of January 2024. The allocation of the Central Management Charge is estimated in the above figures as the allocation is not completed till mid-month. The full rates demand for 2024 is included in the above figure.

Collection rates as of 31st January 2024 are as follows:

Debtors as of 31st January 2024/Féichiúnaithe mar atá 31st Eanáir 2024

	Opening Balance /Iarmhéid Tosaigh	Invoices/ Sonraisc	Receipts/ Fáiltais	Write Offs/ Díscriobhanna	Closing Balance/ Iarmhéid Deiridh
Government Debtors/Féichiúnaithe Rialtais	€30,862,447	€3,345,392	(€1,272,521)	(€0)	€32,935,318
Other Authorities/Uadaráis Eile	€93,780	€17,917	(€65,290)	(€0)	€46,407
Rates/Rataí	€5,351,492	€34,643,951	(€1,012,372)	(€0)	€38,983,071
Rents/Cíosanna	€2,912,894	€1,210,580	(€1,265,562)	(€0)	€2,857,912
Loans/Iasachtal	€294,959	€182,878	(€186,167)	(€0)	€291,670
Development Levies/Tobhaigh Forbartha	€11,444,827	€20,820	(€398,498)	(€0)	€11,067,149
Fire Charges/Táilí Seirbhíse Dóiteáin	€756,573	€45,069	(€50,546)	(€0)	€751,096
Miscellaneous/Ilgheáin	€2,291,534	€301,391	(€331,269)	(€0)	€2,261,656
Total Debtors / Féichiúnaithe Iomlána	€54,008,506	€39,767,998	(€4,582,225)	(€0)	€89,194,279

Above are the debtor balances as of 31st of January 2024. The Miscellaneous debtor figure includes the Irish Water SLA recouplements, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, LEO, Planning, Enforcement, Environment, Sports, Vets, Arts, Roads, Library, Museum and Finance miscellaneous billings.

Annual Financial Statement

Work has commenced on the Annual Financial Statement and the above figures will change when yearend accruals and claims are posted. Once

completed the Annual Financial Statement will be presented to Council.

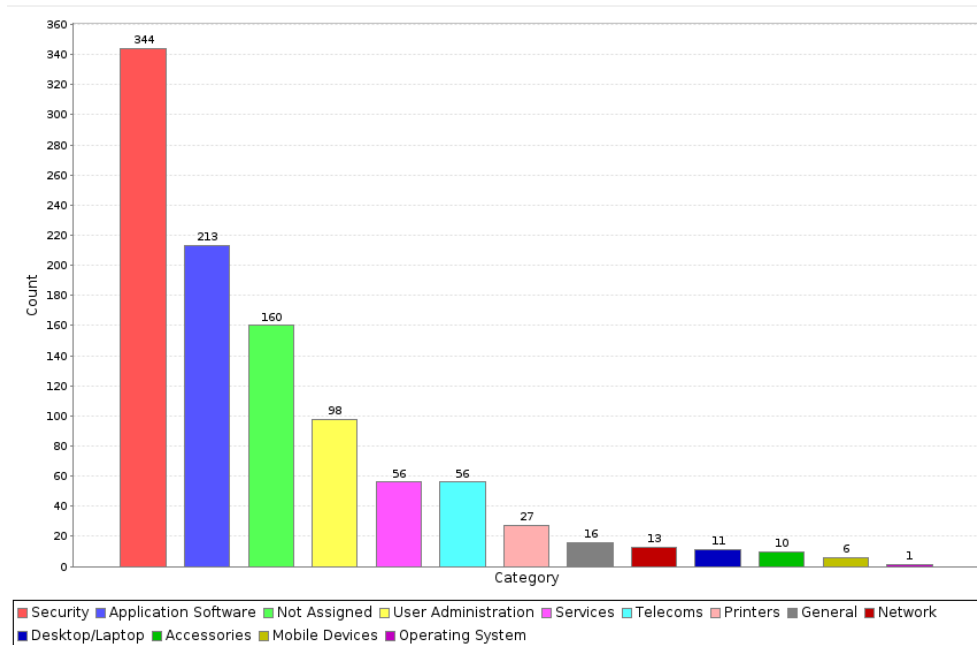
Water Services

The transfer of Water Services from Louth County Council to Uisce Eireann took place on Wednesday 31st January 2024 as previously notified.

Information & Communication Technology

Helpdesk

Between 01/01/2024 and the 31/01/2024 there were 1,011 support calls logged in the IT support system.



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

E-Mail Filtering System

Louth County Council continues to be targeted with phishing, and spam e-mail. We utilise an e-mail filtering system to scan all e-mail being received into the organisation. In January 33% of inbound e-mails were identified as potentially harmful.

 Inbound Emails


170,756

 Blocked Sender

1,957

 Blocked at gateway


18,639

 Blocked by spam /virus

34,885

 Blocked by content rules

454

 Potentially harmful emails

32.76%

Louth County Council Website

There were 18,517 unique page views of www.louthcoco.ie in January.

The following Pages received the targets increase in page views in January in comparison to December 2023.

Movers and Shakers		
PAGE TITLES	UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS	EVOLUTION
Vacancies - Louth County Council	+430	+88.3%
Services - Louth County Council	+268	+88.4%
Others	+206	+166.1%
Housing - Louth County Council	+205	+138.5%

Tuesday and Wednesday were the days of the week with the most views of the Website in January.



ArcGIS Online – Public Planning Register Map Viewer

LCC provide an online Planning Register Map Viewer which can be accessed from the Online Planning Application and Maps section user Services> Planning on the Louth County council website. This application is updated regularly to include all planning applications. There were 5871 views in January, an average of 123 views a day.



Strategic Economic Development Forbairt Eacnamaíoch Straitéiseach

This Directorate has three key areas of responsibility:

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

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

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

Tá trí eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrtóireacht seo:

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

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

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

**Eamon Woulfe
A/ Director of Service / Stiúrtóir**



Economic Development

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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

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

Louth Economic Forum

The Louth Economic Forum met on Wednesday 17th January in the Mill Enterprise Hub, Drogheda. A presentation was given by Ronan Whitty, Manager of the Mill, on their future plans.

Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC met online on Tuesday 23rd January where the draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 was approved and will now go before the February full Council meeting.

Tourism

Tourism Officer

Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin commenced her role as Louth Tourism Officer on Monday 29th January.

sea louth

sea louth are engaging with Boyne Valley Flavours as part of their new five year ‘Strategy for Food in the Boyne Valley’ which is at consultation stage.

Visit Louth

Visit Louth and sea louth had a very successful weekend at the Holiday World Show in Dublin from the 26th to 28th January.



Visit Louth / sea louth stand at the Holiday World Show

Brigid 1500 Louth: Birthplace of Brigid

The Brigid 1500 Louth: Birthplace of Brigid Festival took place from the 26th January until the 5th of February. There was a full programme of events over the 10 days, from an Art Exhibition, live theatre performance and many associated events. Eleven events received funding under the ‘Arts & Creativity Community Grant’.

Photos of the events are on our social media accounts and www.visitlouth.ie.

Many applicants received funding under the ‘Brigid 1500 Retail Window Decoration Scheme’. The focus was to encourage commercial premises in County Louth to decorate their windows to join in the Brigid 1500 celebrations.



Caohairleach, Cllr. Paula Butterly, launching the Brigid 1500 festival

As part of the Brigid 1500 Festival, a Brigid’s trail map has been developed incorporating the local points of interest associated with Brigid. The map and guide is currently available from the Dundalk Tourist Office and may be downloaded from <https://www.visitlouth.ie/assets/uploads/Brigids-Trail-A4-Home-PrintOut.pdf>.



New 'Brigid's Trail' map and guide

who visited Carlingford Oyster Factory on the 21st January.



Boyne Valley Flavours stand at the Carlingford Oyster Factory

Táin Trail

Fáilte Ireland has engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to review the current Táin Trail route and to provide recommendations on opportunities to reimagine it into an internationally compelling experiential route that engages local communities and visitors. They are working with the local authorities in the Táin Trail region on same.

Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme

The Wayfinding totems engraved paving stones and bronze stud inlays have now been installed across Drogheda. The Council are in discussions with Fáilte Ireland on a launch event for this tourism investment which displays historical information and maps of easily accessed locations within walking distance.

Drogheda Night Time Economy

- A workshop meeting was held on the 30th January to consider the potential elements for consideration by a Partnership Committee for Drogheda Night Time Economy.
- The Drogheda Comedy Festival was launched on Thursday 1st February. It will take place on the 8th to 10th March 2024. Further information is available from www.droghedacomedyfestival.ie.

Boyne Valley Flavours

- Boyne Valley Flavours held a showcase of craft food and drinks to 45 top London Chefs

- The first Boyne Valley Flavours Steering Committee meeting took place on 23rd January. Arising from this, the Food Development Officer has been in touch with the consultant and set a date for the delivery of the first draft of the Boyne Valley Food 5-year strategy.

LEO Louth

LEO Business Supports

Updated information on the range of business supports available can be found at the following website: Local Enterprise Office - Louth.

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

Green for Business



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

This is achieved by looking at the business from an environmental perspective.

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

During January six businesses were approved for 'Green for Business'.

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications

'Look for Local' / 'Shop Local'

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

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

Business Training



During January LEO held one training course; 'Bookkeeping for Small Business' and commenced two 'Start Your Own Business' programmes. In February training will continue with two courses, 'Blogging for Small Business' and 'Costing and Pricing for Small Business'. In addition another 'Start Your Own Business' programme will commence.

All scheduled training courses are available to view and book online: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Louth/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>.

Business Advice Clinics

Twenty-eight business advice appointments were provided by telephone and video conference to entrepreneurs throughout the county during January.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



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

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

Two Trading Online Voucher applications have been received in January.

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.

Sixteen businesses were appointed Mentors during the month of January.

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Business Loan



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

LEO mentors are continuing to assist MFI applicants.

During January one application for a loan was submitted to MFI on behalf of a Louth business.

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. The fee to participate in this programme has been reduced from €300 to €150 for businesses.

During January five businesses were approved for Lean for Micro.

Digital Start

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

During January one Louth business was approved for Digital Start.

North East Regional Development Plan to 2024

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

Energy Efficiency Grant



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

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

LEO Louth continues to welcome new applications.

Student Enterprise Programme



Delivery of the Student Enterprise Programme 2023 - 2024 has commenced with 17 second level schools in the county participating.

Showcase Ireland 2024 – RDS

Louth Enterprise Office supported three clients in attending Showcase Ireland 2024 which was held in the RDS in January. This is Ireland's largest trade fair for the craft and gift industry.



Caoilfionn Murphy O'Hanlon from Cushla of Gullion, Fiona Lynch of Pet Cards by Almond R Designs, Sarah Mallon Louth LEO and Caroline Duffy, Caroline Duffy Designs

Portuguese Ambassador Visit to Louth

LEO Louth were happy to facilitate the visit of Portuguese Ambassador Bernard Lucena together with Luis Carmo Reis, Director Ireland, Economic and Commercial Counsellor who visited Dundalk on Wednesday 24th January to discuss the potential of doing business with local businesses in the county and the opportunity to promote tourism potential of the region.



Louis Carmo Reis, Una McGooley, Dundalk Chamber, Ambassador Bernard Lucena, Paddy Malone, Dundalk Chamber and Pamela Kerr, LEO Louth

European Relations



PEACEPLUS

The next PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting is to be held on Tuesday 6th February.

The PEACE team continue to work with our consultants, Blu Zebra, on developing concepts and feedback from public consultation and the co-design process for the PEACEPLUS Action Plan for submission in March 2024.

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

Contact peaceplus@louthcoco.ie for further information.

Heritage

Ongoing conservation works at Taaffe's Castle, Carlingford, funded by Community Monument Fund 2023, were inspected, with staff from the National Monument Service.

The Heritage Officer met staff and volunteers from the Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust and the new Chairman of the Old Drogheda Society, to encourage them to develop and submit applications to the Irish Walled Towns Network for both Capital works grants and for funding for interpretation and events.

A Request for Quotations for specialists to advise us on getting Monasterboice onto the Tentative List for World Heritage was placed on the eTenders platform.

Fire & Emergency Services

Fire Service

The Recruitment Plan for new retained fire fighters continued in its implementation during January. Vacancies were publicised in the stations and on social media resulting in an increase in applications. Further fire fighter applications have been received by the HR Section since the interviews on 11th December.

A three-week Recruits course started in Dundalk Training Centre on 15th January and seven recruits from Louth attended. They will also be attending a two-week Breathing Apparatus Wearers course which is commencing in Dundalk on 12th February.

Under the WRC Agreement there are additional officer posts as well as additional fire fighter posts. This means that Louth County Council must appoint additional officers in each of the five retained brigades.

Further recruit fire fighter interviews will be arranged when enough applications have been received by the HR Section

The Fire Service Training Programme was mainly concentrated on the recruit's course in January due to the number of Louth instructors involved. The only other training course during January was a Manual Handling course on 10th January. The drill programme continued as normal.

The Vendor for the site for the new fire station in Dunleer forwarded contracts to the Council's Solicitor and this purchase is nearing completion. The site plan is currently being agreed for submission to the Land Registry. The Council will then request approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to proceed to the next stage which is the procurement of a building contractor for the new station.

There has been a large increase in the number of requests to the Fire Prevention Section by Government Departments to inspect properties for the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees and International Protection applicants. Inspections were carried out in all cases and the owners were notified of the required fire safety measures for

immediate implementation. Two properties in Dundalk were particularly defective in terms of fire safety and a Closure Notice and Fire Safety Notice were served.

Major Emergency Management

There were two severe weather events in Louth during January. Storm Isha was an Orange weather event on 21st January and Storm Jocelyn was a Yellow weather event on 23rd January. There were high winds, particularly during Storm Isha, with many trees down across the county. There was also a fatality resulting from a collision between a car and fallen tree near Louth Village on the night of 21st January and the Fire Service were in attendance.

The Council's Major Emergency Plan was reviewed and extensively updated during January and was adopted by the Management Team.

The review of major emergency rest centres in Louth is nearing completion.

Climate Adaptation Strategy

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

Civil Defence

Louth Civil Defence, in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service (NAS), formed a Community First Response (CFR) group which responds to life threatening emergencies within County Louth. The group comprises Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who are all volunteers with Louth Civil Defence.

During January, two emergency call outs were responded to in the county.

The following training was provided during January:

- Cardiac First Responder training for two groups of volunteers
- Drone pilot training
- General weekly training for volunteers

There was also a meeting with instructors to plan the 2024 training programme. During January, medical cover was provided at the following events:

- Cyclocross
- St. Brigid's Festival of Lights

Building Control

See Building Control activity in the table:

Louth Building Control Activity in 2023	
Activity	Number
Total Number Commencement Notices processed by Building Control	307
Breakdown of Commencement notices	
• Opt-Out Commencement Notices	128
• With Compliance Documentation	95
• Without Documentation	35
• 7 Day Notices	49
Total Number of New Dwellings notified via Commencement Notice	911
Total Disabled Access Cert applications submitted in 2023	114

The largest category of Commencement Notices was the opt-out category. This is permitted for single houses with much less compliance documentation required. The increasing number of opt-outs is a national issue, and a report will shortly be submitted by a national Building Control Officers committee to the DHLGH for consideration.

The number of new dwellings has increased in the county, particularly in the Dundalk area.

Planning

Development Management / Bainistíocht Forbartha

The Planning service indicators for Louth County Council for the month of December 2023 are given below in tabular form. There were 78 planning applications received during the month of December of which 73 were valid. In addition, there were 36 responses received during the month to requests for further information and 15 Pre-Planning Requests received.

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

(A) 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	7	7	35	0	49
(ii) No. of decisions determined which required further information / Líon na gcinntí inar iarradh breis eolais	4	2	17	0	23
(iii) Percentage of applications refused / Céatadán na n-iarratas a diúltaíodh	42.86% (3)	57.14% (4)	14.29% (5)	0.00% (0)	24.49% (12)
(iv) Number of appeals determined / Líon na n-achomharc a cinneadh	1	0	1	0	2
(v) Percentage of decisions overturned on appeal / Céatadán na gcinntí a cuireadh ar ceal ar achomharc	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (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 1st – 31st December 2023.

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	
	December 2023 / Nollaig 2023	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo	December 2022 / Nollaig 2022	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	10	228	17	261
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	5	108	15	270
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	14	179	15	218
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	11	1	24
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	10	0	5
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0	0	0

(Please note: some amendments made to Year to Date figures, due to error

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	
	January 2024 / Eanáir 2024	Year to Date / Bliain go dtí seo
Number of Planning Enforcement Complaints Investigated / Líon na nGearán maidir le Forfheidhmiú Pleanála a Imscrúdaíodh	0	0
Number of Planning Enforcement cases received which did not require follow up / Líon na gcásanna Fhorfheidhmithe Pleanála nuair nár ghá obair bhreise	0	0
Number of cases closed / resolved through negotiation / Líon na gcásanna dúnta / a réitíodh le hidirbheartaíocht	0	0
Number of cases currently under investigation / Líon na gcásanna atá á n-imscúdú faoi láthair	19	19
Number of Warning letters issued / Líon na Litreacha Rabhadh a eisíodh	0	0
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Líon na bhFógraí Forfheidhmiúcháin a eisíodh	0	0
Number of cases referred for legal proceedings / Líon na cásanna a tarchuireadh le haghaidh imeachtaí dlí	0	0
Number of Injunctions / Líon na n-urghairí	0	0
Number of Prosecutions / Líon na n-ionchúiseamh	0	0

Forward Planning

Conservation Grant Schemes 2023

A total of €134,806.97 has been recouped from the Department in respect of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023 and a further €203,426.70 was drawn down under the Historic Structures Fund 2023, for the following projects:

- The Widow's Houses Castlebellingham
- Rampark Thatch Jenkinstown
- Connell & Co., Dundalk

Two further, two-year projects (commenced in 2022), completed in 2023 were also drawn down for works undertaken at the Forester's Hall, Dundalk and a re-thatching project at Carrickadoon.

Placemaking and Physical Development

Deanamh Áite agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

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

- Roads and Local Services and Physical Development

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

- Seirbhísí Bóithre agus Áitiúla, agus Forbairt Fhisiciúil

David Jones
Director / Stiúrthóir



Roads and Local Services

Municipal District of Dundalk

Dundalk and Cooley Area

Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair

Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí

Barrack St

Town Centre Containers

Ramparts

Bothar Na Feirme

Red Barns Rd

Point Rd

Inner Relief Rd

Old Coes Rd

Centenary Rd

Fairgreen Rd

Northgate St

Market St

The Square Shrub Borders

Ecco Rd

Castletown Rd

John St

Philip St

Riverside Crescent

Laurels

Armagh Rd

Moorland /Lennon Melia Crescent

Riverside Walk

Racecourse Rd
 Dublin Rd
 Mourne View Walkway
 Ardee Rd
 Carrick Rd
 Under bridges at Fr. Murray Pk
 Castleross hedgerow
 Ashling Pk Estate
 River Grids
 Bottle Banks at Long Walk
 Harp Car Park
 Meadow Grove
 Gateway at Hoey's Lane cleared every day
 and area litter picked
 Cleanup household dumped rubbish at Fr.
 Murray Pk /O'Hanlon Pk
 Cooley isolated locations, including
 Templetown, Gyles Quay, Greenore.

Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí

Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht

Nightly 200 Bins	By	Contractor
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Solar Bins emptied
 All Tubs checked for Rubbish
 Cleaned Flower Towers
 Cleaned borders around Town
 Trimmed areas at Jocelyn Drive
 Illegal dumping is ongoing in areas
 Bin maintenance carried out by outdoor staff.
 Carlingford, Omeath, Greenore,
 Templetown, Gyles Quay

<p>Road Sweeping / Scuabadh Bóithre</p>	<p>Routes per week / Bealaí sa tseachtain</p> <p>Contract Sweeper as per contract nightly, daily, weekly and monthly as per contract</p> <p>Dublin Road at Hospital pathway.</p> <p>St Helenas Rd</p> <p>Ardee Rd</p> <p>Carrick Rd</p> <p>After the storms there was extra leaves and rubbish in areas</p>
<p>Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / Folmhú Araidí Salachar Madra</p> <p>By Contractor Nightly as part of the street bin collections</p>	<p>Number per week / Líon sa tseachtain</p> <p>200 Litter Bins throughout the town</p> <p>As per bin maintenance in Cooley</p>
<p>Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála</p>	<p>Number checked weekly / Líon Seiceáilte sa tseachtain</p> <p>Ring Buoys checked Weekly Report sent to Water Safety Officer For Dundalk</p> <p>Ropes Replaced in some areas for January all rings ok just ropes being removed</p> <p>Carried out by water safety officer in Cooley</p>
<p>Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne</p>	<p>Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil</p> <p>Daily/Weekly Check lists carried out by Parks caretaker</p> <p>Litter Pick Parks</p> <p>By area staff in Cooley</p>

	Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí
<p>Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Isolated potholes, maintenance of roads that were damaged through recent storms, ongoing.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Tar Patching using the JCB Pro Works in areas repaired Lennonstown Manor and Riverside Drive Tar Patching Contractor at areas including Park St</p>	
<p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Major works been carried out at two locations, upper Jenkinstown L.P 3084-44, also Lugbriscan/Balleverty Riverstown L.S 70730.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>None at this time</p>	
<p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p>	<p><u>Dundalk</u></p> <p>Two Storms- Isha and Jocelyn a day apart. Trees down in Town areas. Tree fell at Mount Rath lane way. Tree partly fell at O'Hanlon Park, was taken down for safety as wires were close by.</p> <p>Some small trees at Old Coes Rd fell blocking footpaths, no damage done.</p> <p><u>Cooley</u></p> <p>Recent storm Isha, crew cleared trees on R173 Carlingford to Omeath, also R173 back road to Carlingford isolated branches blocking local roads removed.</p>	

<p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> Cleaning of footpaths, Carlingford, Greenore, Gyles quay, Templetown.</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> N/A</p>	
<p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá</p>	<p>On going repairs bulb replacement Traffic Lights at Ecco Rd Castletown Sequencing checked</p>	
<p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> N/A</p>	
<p>Signage / Comharthaíocht</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> Replaced damaged Cycle Lane markers in Church St</p> <p>Replaced numerous faded signage in areas around town and at the quays</p>	
<p>Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach</p>	<p><u>Cooley</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Dundalk</u> All the usual areas Dumping of Sofas and Mattresses in areas continues on By pass after Christmas</p> <p>Entrance to Woodview Estate Black bags being dumped weekly Mooreland Rd Fly Tipping</p> <p>Bags of litter picked up from all estates weekly</p> <p>Cleaning at Ecco Rd- Bags removed</p>	

Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	Cleaned Graffiti Bins in Park Graffiti cleaned from signs in Town Centre.	
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Tree removal by LCC staff on R173

Blackrock, Faughart and North Mid-Louth Area

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

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

Location / Suíomh	Notes / Nótaí	
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	<p>Tar patching on RD147 Stonetown and Louth Village, RD147-0 and on RD217 Maine, Reaghstown and at Walterstown LS-7158 Golf link Road, Blackrock LS-7162 Cockle Hill, Blackrock LT51372 Ballinloughan Little Ash L-7100 White Mill Faughart LS-7098 Old Graveyard Road, Faughart LS-7100 Faughart Upper LS-7096 Monascrebe Faughart LS-7108 Annies, Kilcurry</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	<p>LP-3112 Maghereagh, Kilkerry LS-7129 Donaghmore, Kilkerry LS-7126 Cortail Kilkerry L-7100 White Mill Faughart LS-7103 Raskeagh Kilcurry LS-7108 Annies, Kilcurry LS-7106 Lennonstown Kilcurry LS-7097 Carrickaneena Faughart Rd216 Williamstown at Kilsarn Rd177 Killcrouney and on Rd166 Tallanstown – Glyde Farm</p>	<p>Tar Patching & pothole repairs</p> <p>Tree pruning/vegetation maintenance/verge trimming</p> <p>Resurfacing/overlay works (by contract)</p> <p>Drainage maintenance – cleansing and gully cleaning, opening outlets & storm drains, preparation for surface dressing.</p>
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	<p>Mills of Louth – Killany Mills of Louth – Louth Village, Arthurstown Tallanstown Monvallet Drummenagh and the removal of lesser debris from various roads</p>	<p>Clearing fallen trees & debris. Dealing with storms</p>
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán		<p>Footpath renewal</p>

Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta	Xerox junction	Major repair works completed
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A N/A	Renewal of junction markings Renewal of existing and provision of additional road markings
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Louth Village and in Annagassan	Cleansing/repair/replacement New signage
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	LS-7162 Clermont Road Haggardstown LS-7100 Whitemill Faughart LS-7114 Killen Blackrock, Tallanstown	Collection of dumped waste for disposal. Collection & disposal after community clean up
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



LCC removing fallen tree on L-3167 Rathiddy Road Knockbridge

Ardee Municipal District

South Louth Operations (Rural Area)

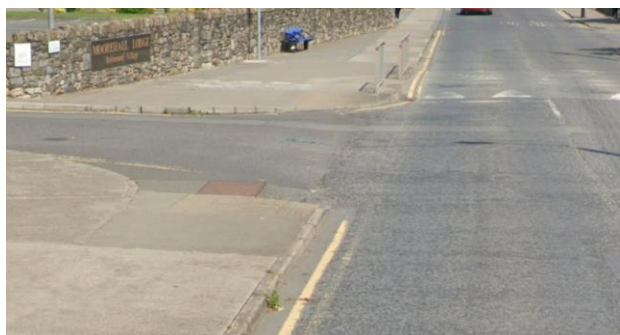
Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair		Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí
		All routes in Ardee Town (5.2km per day) Clogherhead Car Park daily cleanup around bins
Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí		Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht
Ardee Town Dunleer town Collon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

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

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

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Cleaning out the old Depot at Bog Road, Tinure, Co. Louth and make ready for sale of same. Cleanup following Storm Isha LS 6222-0 Corstown LS 6223-0 Corstown LT 22211-0 Mitchelstown LP 2223-29 Verdonstown LS 5232-0 Bog Road LS 5234-0 Silverhill LP-1260-0 John Street Ardee LP 2296-0 Leaby's Cross	
Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála	Keenans Cross pipe work Gullies at Ardee town and housing estates Finvoy road LP 2223-29 R169 Woodlands LS 5256-0 Jumping Church Road	
Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha	R169 Woodlands to the N2 5 trees LS 5256-0 Jumping Church tree. 1 LP 2214-0 Braganstown trees 2 LS 5266-0 Oriel Road Collon trees 3 R166 Castlebellingham 2 trees R168 at Nurseries cross 2 trees LS-6269 Knockaleva lane 1 tree	

	Beechwood drive Dunleer LP-2889 Mountain View Hill, Dunleer. LP-2226 Dillionstown to Drumcar.	
Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán	Repairs to footpath at Collon Manhole repairs at Stoney lane Gritting of footpaths at all areas Sean O Carroll Street Ardee Market Street Ardee N2 R170 Hale Street Ardee	
Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráchtá	N/A	
Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre	N/A	
Signage / Comharthaíocht	Damaged sign at Rathesker Washing signs at Ballapousta Signage repairs to Ramp at Stabannon	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	N/A	
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



R170, Hale Street Ardee before works



R170 Hale Street, Ardee after works.



New Bollards installed at Tullyallen School on the LP-2318-17

Borough District of Drogheda

Drogheda Town Area

<p>Litter Picking / Píocadh Bruscair</p>	<p>Location and metres per month / Suíomh agus méadar sa mhí</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps and lane ways weekly 22 steps when recourses allow and green areas. • Hotspots on Monday – decided by Supervisor following inspection. • Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Daily during working week. Also all Bring Banks in Drogheda urban are checked and cleared Saturday p.m. • Drogheda Rural Bring banks are cleared daily during working week.
<p>Emptying of Public Bins / Folmhú Araidí Poiblí Port Oriel Pier, Clogherhead</p>	<p>Numbers and frequency / Líon agus minicíocht</p>
<p>Clogherhead Beach</p>	<p>7 Daily</p>
<p>Port Beach</p>	<p>8 Daily</p>
<p>Termonfeckin</p>	<p>6 Daily</p>
<p>Baltray</p>	<p>6 Daily</p>
<p>Seapoint Carpark</p>	<p>3 Daily</p>

- Drogheda town centre Litterbins emptied daily circa 60 early mornings.
- 234 litter bin (including 10 no. Solar bins) are emptied weekly in town.
- Dominic's Park & Mell river walk emptied daily.
- South Louth Drogheda Municipal district rural area's public Litter Bins are emptied twice a week or daily when needed especially at beaches/Portoriel/Seapoint/Termonfeckin/Baltray – at least 40 bins per day.
- Approach roads in Drogheda town emptied twice a week.
- Bin upgrade and maintenance ongoing + street furniture – 8 bins replaced in January and servicing of hinges & locks on-going.
- TUS working at Buttergate cutting back vegetation and environments crew removing.
- TUS / LCC clean ups at Highfield steps and the Dale.

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. When resources allow.
- Hotspots weekly on Monday after weekend – decided daily by supervisor after checking Drogheda urban area.
- Villages are swept once per month – i.e., Termonfeckin, Baltray, Sandpit, Monasterboice, Tullyallen & Tenure.
- Drogheda town Boyne river walkways are swept 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday).
- Road sweepers sweeping estates on North & South side of town – will commence approach roads, clean up after recent storm and cleaning of approach roads signage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter area focused on Marsh Rd, Termonfeckin Rd, Rathmullen Rd, Marleys Lane, Donore Rd, Slane & Collon Roads. • Anti -litter signs erected at various locations. • Daily cleaning at Bottle banks. • Cleaning of rampart walk, north road cycle path and St Dominick's Pk after recent storms.
Emptying Dog Waste Receptacles / FolmhúAraidí Salachar Madra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty about 35 No. once a week, washed and disinfected.
Ring Buoy Checking / Seiceál Baoithe Tarrhála	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 ring buoys checked each week Town area (Thursday) • 9 ring buoys checked each week at Rosehall (Friday)
Checking of Playground and Gym Equipment / Seiceál Trealamh Áiteanna Sugartha agus Corpacmhainne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sites checked daily / Suíomhanna Seiceáilte Laethúil • Between 4 & 5 daily (4 playgrounds in Drogheda town, Skate park, adult exercise equipment). 3 Playgrounds in Drogheda rural area) + disinfected.

Location / Suíomh		Notes / Nótaí
Road Repairs / Deisiú Bóithre	Drainage Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully cleaning contractor Drogheda Town appointed and due to commence 29/11/23, all night rate works are now complete, a total of 1,358, day rate 	

gullies have commenced, 500 no.in total.

LCC's crew

1. Clean ups and removal of trees after recent storms, trees at Rathmullen Rd, Weirhope & Bullies Acre.

2. Prepare stocks of sand bags & salt in event of weather conditions.

3. Pot hole repairs at Rathmullen Pk, Pearse Pk, Yellowbatter, Oaklawns, Beaulieu, Beechgrove, Barrack lane, Marys St, Rope walk, Thomas St, Duke St, Stockwell Lane.

4. Up-grade of pole and signage town streets.

Road Works Program – Resurfacing works 2024

Survey of roads have commenced at

1. Cord Rd
2. Baltray Rd
3. Dual carriageway
4. Bredin St
5. Beamore Rd

CIS Lanes.

1. Working on final account for 2023 @ Stumpa and The Burren.

Drogheda Improvement Accessibility Scheme 2023 – on going dropped kerbs & tactile paving at, (90%)

Works commenced at Boyle O Reilly.

	<p>Cleanup following Storm Isha LS-6291 Tinure LS-6327 Beaulieu LP-2278-32 Sandpit R166-102 Termonfeckin to Clogherhead LP-2244 Hackets Cross to Port LP-2299 Newline Monasterboice. LS-6243 Nicolastown</p>	
<p>Drainage Remediation / Feabhasúchán Draenála</p>	<p>Annual Drogheda Gully cleaning program ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gully cleaning contractor Drogheda Town appointed and due to commence 29/11/23, all night rate works are now complete, a total of 1,358, day Rate gullies have commenced, 500 no.in total. <p>LS-6291 Tinure R166-102 Termonfeckin to Clogherhead LP-2244 Hackets Cross to Port R170 -136 At Scoil ui Mhuiri - Flooding</p>	
<p>Fallen or Dangerous Trees / Crainn Leagtha nó Chontúirteacha</p>	<p>Trees at Rathmullen Rd, Bullies Acre and Weirhope, due to recent storms.</p> <p>R166-211 Togher to Annagassan LS-6241-8 Clonmore LP2250-0 Barmeath Castle Grangebellew</p>	
<p>Footpath Maintenance/ Cothabháil Cosán</p>	<p>Currently preparing at list of locations for footpath repairs for commencing in March depending on weather conditions.</p> <p>Flexi Bollards at LP-2318 Tullyallen School</p>	

<p>Traffic Light Repairs / Deisiú Soilse Tráichta</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR02, R132 @ Railway Station Jct (R132) Bryanstown Ped lights East and West not working (beside school) – • DR02 – R132 @ Railway Stn jct (Pedestrian phase lamp fail Phase D green) Bryanston Ped lights East and West not working (beside school) (call came from the public, no fault showing on RMS please investigate) • DR10, R132 @ Dual Carrigeway Ped, Ireland – Lights Out • DR04, R132 @ Bull Ring/North Quay/South Quay Jct (R132D) – Junction out • Monasterboice – VMS speed sign Monasterboice not working • DR17, Lourdes Church Ped – Green light out • DR11 R132 @ North Rd Ped (Mother Hughes Pub) – red man out <p>Driver speed feedback signs at Monasterboice gateway.</p>	
<p>Road Markings / Marcáil Bóithre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of existing roads for up-grading in 2024. 	
<p>Signage / Comharthaíocht</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New flexi – bollards at Bessexwell Lane. • Replace street poles at St Marys St. • New bollards at Meatmarket lane. • Reinstate bollards at West St. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No litter signs at link rd, off Rosewall Roundabout. Ramp signage at Donore Rd. Bollard reinstatement on Dublin Rd & North after RTA. 	
Weed killing / Marú fiailí	N/A	
Litterbin cleaning disinfecting / Díghalrú glantacháin boscaí bruscair	Dog Bin disinfecting complete on approach roads.	
Illegal Dumping / Dumpáil Neamhdhleathach	<p>Balls Grove Black bags of rubbish, broken chairs and washing machines dumped for a number of weeks now in the driveway of Balls Grove, Drogheda. Rubbish is visible from the public road</p> <p>Marian Court. Abandoned Van blocking footpath at Marleys Court The fence beside it is being broken as children are climbing on the van and rubbish being dumped beside the broken fence.</p> <p>Dublin Road/R132 Complaints regarding Dublin Road.</p> <p>Mell area Dog fouling reports. Request for visible presence</p> <p>Marley's Lane Illegal dumping</p>	<p>Inspected and removed by cleansing evidence.</p> <p>Case still open</p> <p>Investigated and liaised with Meath County Council and Residents Association Dublin road area</p> <p>Stenciling ongoing regarding advising of responsibilities</p> <p>No evidence. Removed by cleansing.</p>

	Town centre Recycling units	Inspected daily
Graffiti Removal / Glanadh Graifítí	N/A	



"Vote with Your Butt" ballot bins as part of anti-litter initiative fixed on West Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Physical Development

Roads Projects

Narrow Water Bridge

Tender Documents have been received from 2 number tenderers. These tenders will be assessed from compliance with the works proposals and quality submissions.

Engagement with DFI Infrastructure, Loughs Agency, NPW, etc. is ongoing to discharge the Conditions of Planning. Land Valuation Services has been procured and they are liaising with the agents of landowners. A Consultant has been appointed for mussel fishermen valuation service.

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

The CPO became operative on the 20th of Sept. 2023. TII have approved the gateway to issue 'Notice to Treat'. The notices have issued on the week ending 15th December. Following this and the 'notice to enter' on the 8th January a contractor has commenced the hedge removal and fencing contract to meet the requirements of the Wildlife Act.

The design team continues to engage with the landowners, their agents, and other stakeholders. Technical acceptance report has received its initial approval for structures. Tenders have been assessed for an archaeologist for carrying out test trenching and other services required. A tender recommendation has been finalised and TII

approval to award the archaeological contract has been sought. A consultant has been appointed for geotechnical advice for some soft soils areas and options are currently being incorporated in the tender documents. Tenders have been received for valuers and a claims adviser/peer review and both will be appointed following TII approval. It is anticipated that hedge removal will be completed prior to the 1st March 2024



Hedge Removal in progress between land holdings

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Work on progressing the Phase 3 design of the scheme has stopped, as the €600,000 allocation received for 2023 was to meet current project commitments and was not sufficient to allow the design process to continue. There has been no response to a Monaghan County Council request for an additional €600,000 to complete the Phase 3 design work, which was submitted to TII on the 8th March 2023. The Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council wrote to TII again in June 2023 requesting the re-instatement of funding to continue the design process – no response has been received.

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

N2 Project Phonenumber 087 340 3786, or email: ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie

N52 Ardee Bypass

A local environmental group were granted leave in the High Court for a Judicial Review against An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and the Boards directions to Louth County Council concerning the preparations of an EIAR and NIS.

The Applicant has confirmed it is not filing any further papers by way of response to the Bord or the State Respondents; this means that the pleadings are “closed” & case is ready for a hearing.

A hearing is set for Tuesday 9th April 2024 and it is scheduled to take 3 days so will continue on Wednesday 10th April and Thursday 11th April.. The Scheme is currently at a standstill until the resolutions to these proceedings are overcome.

Port Access Northern Cross Route Phase1

Clonmel Enterprises, employed by HISCO, are working on the section of road from the R132 to Ballymakenny Road including upgrades to the Ballymakenny Rd and Twenties Lane. Entry to the remaining lands has been secured and outstanding works are currently being completed.

Kerbing, cycle path and footpath work are substantially complete on the mainline and side roads. Surface, binder and base layers have been laid throughout and signing and lining are substantially complete.

Realignment of the Twenties Lane is well advanced in partnership with CFS Homes who will be completing surfacing on the Twenties Lane tie in over the coming weeks.. The remainder of the road is being realigned by Clonmel Enterprises. It is envisaged that the road will be handed over to the Council following public lighting, traffic light

commissioning and completion of a road safety audit.



Road Marking Works in Progress at bus bays and cycletracks



New carriageway with footpaths



Sienna Convent Frontage

Boyne Enterprise Link Road

Road formation completed, drainage and services completed. ESB have now completed diversion works. Final surfacing works will be completed shortly.

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

R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme

The Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for DoT to progress two of the schemes, namely D7 & D6 towards feasibility stage has been completed and the final Report has been submitted to the Council forwarded to the Dept. of Transport for approval.

Tender documentation to engage a consultant to carry out a constraints study, feasibility study and options reports will be released to the market in early 2024.

Greenways

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

Section 1 - Carlingford to Carlingford Marina

Works continue to complete the crossing points at the Marina entrance. Final surfacing planned for early Feb 24.



Works in Section 1 Carlingford

Section 2 - Omeath to the Border

Works are progressing well with the site clearance complete; subbase placement and mainline drainage in Section 2.

Final surfacing and fencing complete from Border to Lower shore road culvert.



Greenway access control points installed at culvert

Construction on the remaining sections of Greenway aim to be completed in February 2024.

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

Section 3 – Northern Ireland

A revised major planning application was submitted in Feb 2023 and granted in March. The minor planning application for the route change was submitted in April 2023 and

received its planning on the 26th of Oct. 23. Works have commenced Nov. 2023 in NI to facilitate, and the cross-border element has been installed as far as the start of the proposed boardwalk.



Works in Victoria Lock in NI

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

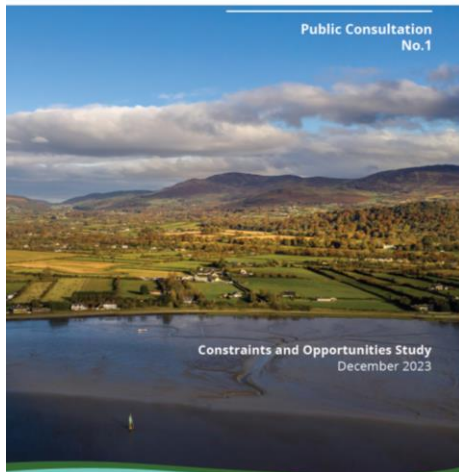
TII Funded Greenways:

Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Greenway

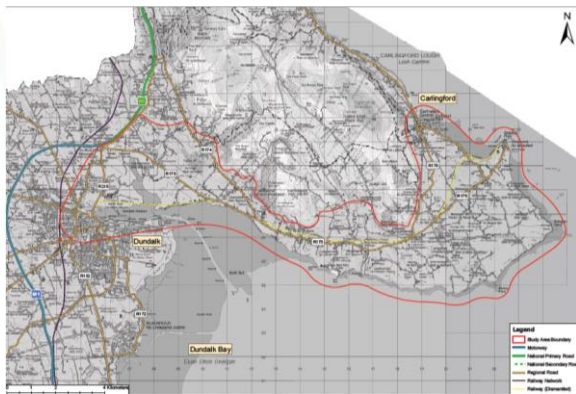
Draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) has been approved by TII. Mapping, flooding information and other relevant databases have been shared with the appointed consultant to enable the constraints to be recorded.

Phase 1 public consultation took place on Thursday 7th December at Carlingford Heritage Centre. The aim of this public consultation was to receive feedback on the Project Study Area, the constraints identified and any other features/opportunities within the study area that the Project Team should consider. The feedback and submissions received through this public consultation will be considered by the Project Team and will help to inform the development of the project.

This public consultation closed on 19th January and the project team has received responses by post and email. A report will now be prepared with the feedback received.



Public Consultation 1 in Heritage Centre, Carlingford



Study Area

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

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

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Beach Accessibility Project relates to better accessibility to the beach areas at Templetown, Clogherhead and Port beaches. The Preliminary designs are now complete and issued to the Members for information purposes. Applications under the ORIS Fund are being made for Port (Lurganboy) and Templetown.

Access Road at Newtown, Drogheda

This scheme is developer led, assisted by the offset of development levies under agreement with the Council. Main carriageway works are nearing completion. Works are ongoing on the Marsh Road.



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

LIHAF Project:

LIHAF Mount Avenue Improvement

Works are ongoing on the scheme, earthworks are ongoing, and service diversions and new service installation taking place. Roadwork is complete on the Castletown Road and a new pedestrian crossing has been commissioned. A substantial upgrade of UE watermains is currently taking place.

Changes to traffic management have taken place from the 27th of November with access to more houses to the south via a newly realigned section of road with cycle lanes and footpaths. ESB high voltage ducting, drainage and other services are taking place north of the new roundabout. This plan will be in place until February when road works will continue further north. Facilities are in place for access to all properties and housing development schemes. Kerbing, drainage, ducting, public lighting and footpath works are also progressing on the off-line section north of Lis na Dara. The project is on programme for completion in September.



Kerbing and services along Council Housing frontage.



Kerbing, ESB ducting, drainage and service provision approaching Headford



Alignment approach of the northern arm of the roundabout

Specific Bridge Improvement Grants

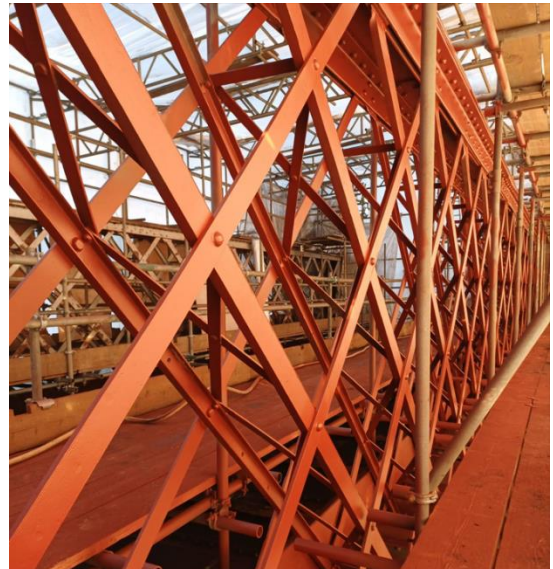
Obelisk Bridge

Shot blasting of Steel Members ongoing. Perished steel members being removed to enable proposed remedial works to proceed. Damaged stonework taken down and raking out of remaining stonework completed on South side of bridge approach walls.

Recent storms caused disruption to the works from damage to the encapsulation system. Over 50% of Bridge now shotblasted, steel cleaned down and primed. Platform erected for closer inspection of Bridge Abutments. Root treatment undertaken in exposed areas of stone walls.



Obelisk Bridge Section of shotblasted steel



Obelisk Bridge Section of primed steel



Close up of corroded Main Horizontal Steel Member



Damaged Stone southside of Bridge.

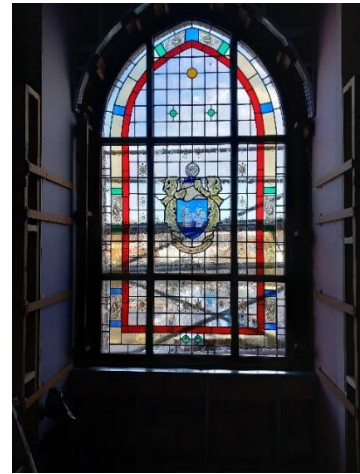
Corporate Projects

Redevelopment Fair Street Offices, Drogheda

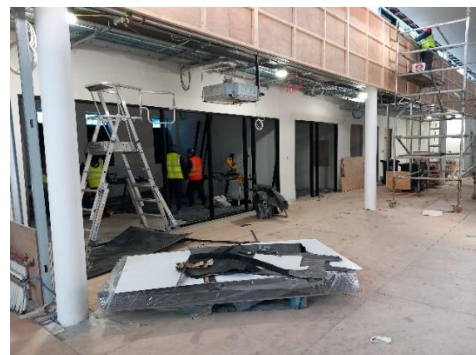
Block B: Former Borough Chamber Building

Plastering commenced throughout building. Cupola external cladding and louvre installation by Specialist Contractors still ongoing. Verge coping stone commenced. Glazed Panel installed to courtyard area on Western elevation. Ridge Roof Detailing

ongoing. Pointing over Arch opening to New Link Building completed. All Mechanical Services pressure Testing completed. Stained Glass Window remedial works commenced.



Block B Stained Glass Window



Block N Meeting Room fitout

Block N: New Link Building

Mechanical Air Ventilation fit-out ongoing in Toilet Blocks. Heating Units installed at both Main and Rear Entrances. Breakout Area to Francis Johnson Building Frames and glazing installed and protective covers placed over glazing. Front Copper Façade entrance Curtain Walling commenced. Further Guttering installed. Final Layer of Roof Membrane installed. Internal Window flashing and grounds and sound insulation installed at clear storey level in foyer. Meeting Room and Staff Office fit outs ongoing. Site Services ducting ongoing.



Block N New Link Building : Breakout area linking New Build to existing Francis Johnson Building



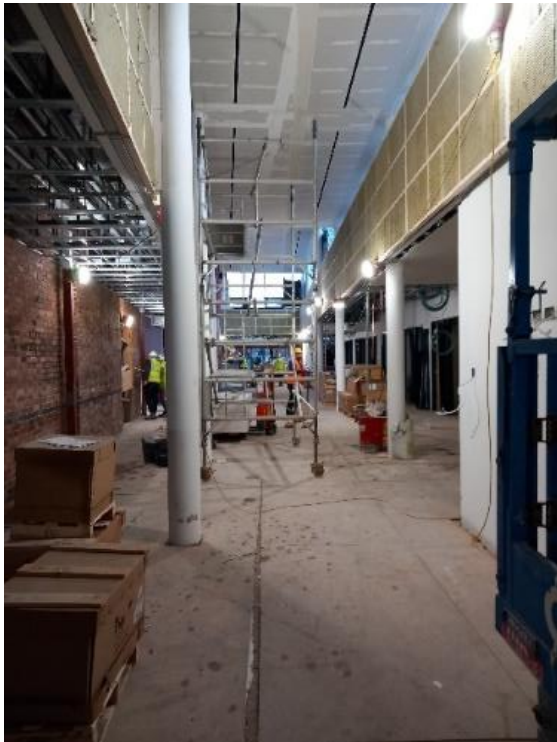
Block N New Link Building : Staff entrance North elevation



Block B Council Chamber Exhibition space fit out



Block N New Link Building : Entrance Copper Façade Support Frame Structure installation



Block N: Internal fitout

Block C: Community Services Building

Internal Ceiling services and ceiling fit-out continuing. Eastern Roof hip slating ongoing. Rebuilding of Eastern Elevation commenced. South Area Planters Slab Pour No.1 completed after Well capped off. Internal brickwork to North elevation completed with remaining ceiling structures installation completed. Mechanical and Electrical Service installation continuing. Further Windows installed.



Block C Well Capping



Block C Well Capping



Block C Southern Planter attenuation Area Slab pour No.1

Block E: Annex Building

Roof construction ongoing. Emergency escape stairs are in place.

Dunleer Fire Station

Consultants appointed, designer currently working on preliminary proposals and options on site layouts continue. Site surveys

completed. Final purchase of the lands process is on-going.

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

Louth Flood Defence and Coastal Erosion Projects

Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Projects

Consultant Engineers Binnies/ Nicholas O'Dwyer JV continues to work on stage 1 of the project. The draft Hydraulic report has been reviewed by the OPW / LCC, the JV have reviewed the comments received and are developing the final report, with the final sensitivity analysis being carried out. Preliminary options assessment for an extensive range of possible Flood Relief Measures continues to be developed and assessed. There is a Formal Emerging Options Workshop scheduled for early 2024. The proposed locations for ground investigation works have been finalised along with accompanying environmental and archaeological assessments. Tendering will be carried out in the New Year. Additional seasonal environmental surveying e.g. wintering bird's surveys are being carried out. The Draft Options Report has been delivered for Ardee and is being finalised and reviewed by LCC and OPW.

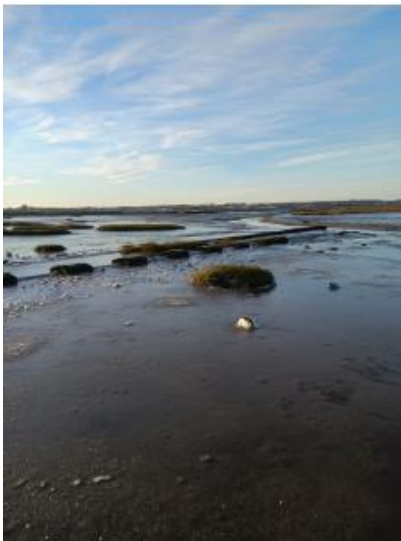
Monthly project briefing notes are being issued to the current relevant stakeholders. The Project website being hosted by OPW can be reached at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home

Drogheda and Baltray Flood Relief Project

The Consultant Engineers RPS are continuing to work on Stage 1 of the Project. Hydraulic analysis continues with the Core design runs, sensitivity and blockage assessment runs now complete and being assessed. RPS have

completed the draft hydraulics report and LCC and OPW are currently reviewing, and queries are being resolved. Additional topographical surveying has been carried out and the hydraulic model updated accordingly. Options assessment has begun and will continue over the next few months.

The specification for an underwater archaeology survey is being developed prior to procurement of a specialist contractor. An otter survey has been completed and an overwintering bird survey commenced in October and will continue until March 2024



Photograph taken during over wintering bird survey.

The Project website being hosted by OPW is now complete and can be reached at: www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie

Carlingford and Greenore Flood Relief Project

OPW and LCC have commenced information gathering including ICWWS, latest LiDAR, River survey, Topo (including thresholds), CCTV, Beach profiles, Bathymetry, etc. Procurement of CCTV and Topo Contractors to complete the information required to begin in first quarter 2024. A data collection exercise has been

carried out to collate data from the recent flood event. This data will be used to inform the project and calibrate hydraulic modelling.

Marine Projects

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

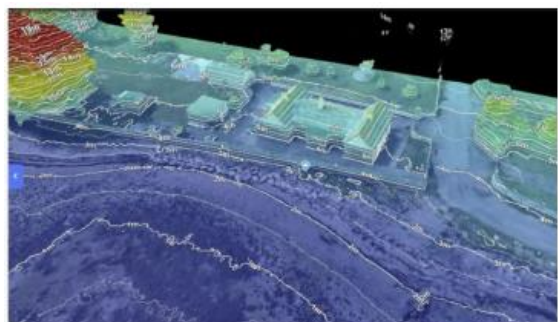
“Louth County Council submitted 3 No. Section 177AE Planning Applications to An Bord Pleanála on January 18th for proposed coastal protection works at the following locations:

- Drummullagh, Omeath, and
- Bellurgan Point,
- Ballynamoney/Ballagan, Greenore.

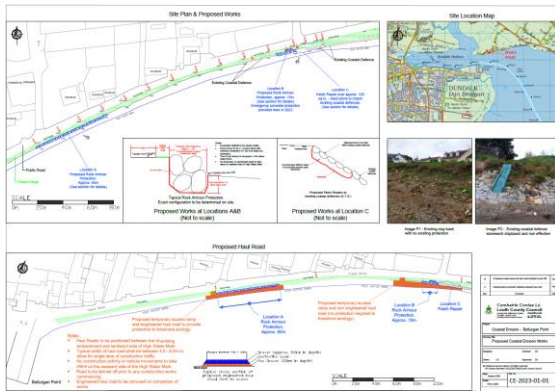
The submitted plans and particulars are available to view on <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/browse>

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

Thereafter, and subject to Section 177AE consent and foreshore consent, it is anticipated to procure a civil engineering contractor in Q1 2024, with construction works anticipated to commence in Q2 2024.



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



Typical works proposal Bellurgan site.



Column Steel reinforcement from foundations

Schools Programme Projects

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

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

Ardee E.T.N.S.

A contractor has been appointed and works commenced on the 10th July with mobilisation and site clearance. Drainage, foundations and ground works are ongoing. Pathway around west side of building filled.

- Foundations dug & trench filled – 90%
- Main concrete strip- 90%
- Site sign on site.
- Holding down bolts on site.
- Silo commissioned.

Proposed Works Forecast next month

- Complete blockwork to substructure level.
- Prep for first phase of floor slabs.
- Slabs due on site week commencing 22nd January.
- Steel due on site week commencing 5th February



Dead building in place

Coláiste Chú Chulainn and Park at Marshes Lower, Dundalk

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

Faster Project

Electrical Vehicles Charging Points



Louth County Council appointed Weev to install and operate 25 rapid electric vehicle chargers at locations across the border region in the Republic of Ireland.

SITE BUILD STATUS	
Site 14	NAVAN; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 7	VIRGINIA; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 4	CARRICKMACROSS; ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 8	BALLYBOFEY; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 3	DUNDALK; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 1	ARDEE; All works complete, awaiting ESB connection
Site 2	DROGHEDA ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 12	SLIGO ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 11	MANORHAMILTON ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.
Site 6	CAVAN ESB connection works complete. WEEV now commissioning unit.



Works completed Ardee Car-park .



Works completed Dundalk (Tennis Club)

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

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

Information is available at the following outlets:

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

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

Active Travel Investment Program

2024 Budget Allocation

At time of writing the Chief Executive's Report, The National Transport Authority (NTA) have not yet awarded Louth County Council a budget allocation for 2024 but based on previous years the 2024 budget allocation is likely to be announced in early 2024 with early indications is that it will be similar to previous years. The budget allocation when announced is to proceed with the design, planning and detailed design of twenty-four (24) number Active Travel Projects.

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

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

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

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


The seven different phases are as outlined below...



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


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



During the month of December 2023, the Active Travel Team undertook engagement with several key stakeholders and resident groups i.e. Non-statutory Public Consultation and received very positive feedback on our proposals. We also conducted a joint meeting with Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024. All discussions were very beneficial, and comments will be used to inform the preliminary and preparation of Part 8 documents.


Active Travel Projects


Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Drogheda: R132, Bridge of Peace to Train Station (incorporating Marsh Road)	€415,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>Gateway 2 Report approved by the NTA on 27th Sept 2023.</p> <p>The Design Team have now considered all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process held in Sept / Oct 2023 and have incorporated some observations into the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p> <p>A Gateway 3 Report was completed in December 2023. Our Design Team are currently developing and analysing Traffic Modelling at all major junctions along the route.</p> 	Proposed Part 8 display end of Q2 2024
Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, design.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Consultants RPS Group has commenced design and are currently developing options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GPS surveys have all been completed. 2. Traffic surveys, junction modelling & Archaeologist assessment have all been completed. <p>It is anticipated to have an on-line briefing on the proposed scheme to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors in early 2024 in advance of public consultations. Date of on-line Briefing to be confirmed in early Feb 2024.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024
Drogheda: R168 Collon Rd, Hill of Rath RAB and Rosehall RAB.	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Gateway 2 Report completed in November 2023 and submitted to the NTA for approval.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and consultants RPS Group hosted an on-line briefing to Drogheda Municipal District Councillors on the 19th June 2023 to outline the proposals for the scheme. A further update was</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q3 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<p>given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team intent to have a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official will be invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.</p>  <p><u>View of Collon Rd looking South East from Mell Roundabout</u></p>  <p><u>View of R166 looking East from Hill of Rath Roundabout</u></p>	
Drogheda: Rathmullan Road including Marley's (Pathfinder Project)	€400,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	<p>LCC received Gateway 2 Report from Design Consultants at start of October and report was submitted to the NTA on 27th October 2023.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team and Design Consultants, have commenced to assess some elements in Phase 3 Preliminary Design.</p>	Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				<p>The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the Preliminary Design i.e. Phase 3 Gateway 3 Report.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">View of Marley's Lane looking South from Aura Leisure</p>	
Drogheda Dublin and North roads, design.	€200,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>An update on the scheme was given to Drogheda and Bettystown / Laytown Municipal Districts on Tuesday 16th January 2024.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team are having on-going discussions with Irish Rail regarding Dublin Road Bridge and interaction with the Dart North Coastal Project.</p> <p>The Active Travel Team intent to have a non-statutory consultation day in Drogheda Library on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 between 3pm – 7pm. Councillors and Elected Official will be invited to attend a closed session between 2pm – 3pm prior to opening to the public.</p>	North Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024 Dublin Rd, Drogheda - Proposed Part 8 display Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
				 <p data-bbox="919 591 1419 613">View of Dublin Rd, Drogheda Rd looking South</p>	
Drogheda: Boyne Bus. Park Link Road.	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Please refer to relevant update in this report.	Part 8 Completed
Dundalk: R132 Inner Relief Rd. (Pathfinder Project)	€550,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	<p data-bbox="793 695 1547 829">Gateway 2 Report was approved by the NTA in May 2023. Junction traffic modelling completed in July 2023. Gateway 3 Report (Preliminary Design Report) was submitted to the NTA in early August 2023 and we are currently awaiting approval from the NTA.</p> <p data-bbox="793 857 1547 938">The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process.</p>  <p data-bbox="827 1219 1509 1273">View of Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk looking north from Hoey's Lane Roundabout</p>	Proposed Part 8 display end of Q1 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Dundalk: Dublin Rd Xerox Junction to Ladywell Bridge	€464,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 Preliminary Design	<p>LCC received Gateway 2 approval from the NTA on Monday 19th June 2023. Gateway 3 Report submitted to the NTA on the 4th October 2023.</p>  <p><u>View of Dublin Rd, Dundalk looking north at DKIT Entrance</u></p>	Proposed Part 8 display end Q1 2024
Dundalk: Ard Easmuinn Rd to Train Station / Friary School Dundalk & Dundalk Bus Station to Rail Station.	€400,000	Band 3 >10mil	Phase 3 /4 Preliminary Design / Statutory Process	<p>Received Phase 3 Gateway approval from the NTA on the 29th June 2023.</p> <p>Permission given to proceed to Gateway 4 “Statutory Process”. DT preparing Part 8 Planning Package. Towards the end of 2023 we held a number of meetings with resident groups (x8) along the route. The Design Team are now considering all submissions received as part of the Non-statutory Public Consultation process in order to inform the next phase i.e. Phase 4 Statutory Process. The Active Travel Team met five key residents’ groups, to discuss key areas of contention i.e. parking etc, in order to amend some proposals in advance of Part 8 publication.</p>	Proposed Part 8 Q2 2024

Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways	Part 8
				 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>View of Ard Easmuinn Looking North from China Bridge</u></p>		
Transport / Mobility Plans: Including Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Clogherhead, Dunleer, Termonfeckin & Castlebellingham	€250,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	<p>Drogheda Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Drogheda Online survey completed and synthesised. ATOS completed and GIS specialist has prepared new drawing and superimposed "Proposed Active Travel Links" as a layer to each of the ATOS Results maps.</p> <p>Dundalk Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) Consultants WS Atkins were appointed on the 27th July 2023. The ABTA process has commenced with the consultants gathering baseline information. Baseline Report completed and we are now assessing Forecast Transport Demand. This ABTA will form part of the Dundalk LAP.</p>	N/A	
Hoey's Lane, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	<p>Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.</p> <p>LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA at end of November 2023.</p>	2024	
Mill Street, Dundalk	€250,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	<p>Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme.</p> <p>LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16th Oct 2023 and are</p>	2024	

Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways	Part 8
				currently reviewing the options. Gateway 2 Reports submitted to NTA at end of November 2023.		
Hill Street Bridge to Train Station, Dundalk	€150,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options. The Active Travel are engaging with Irish Rail / CIE with regards to possible route selections.	2024	
R132 Dublin Road, (Rank Xerox Junction to Greengates)	€100,000	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	2024	
Moneymore, Active Travel elements	€200,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 – Concept Proposals	Design Consultants (WSP Group) appointed in Mid July 2023 and have commenced Phase 2 and are reviewing Active Travel Options for scheme. LCC Active Travel Team have received Gateway 2 Reports (Options Development) from our consultants on the 16 th Oct 2023 and are currently reviewing the options.	N/A	
Drogheda improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Drogheda- All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A	
Dundalk improvement of accessibility	€60,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Dundalk All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A	
Ardee improvement of accessibility	€40,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	Various locations in the town of Ardee All works completed and we are anticipating a similar allocation in 2024.	N/A	

Project Name	Allocation 2023 (Note Awaiting 2024 allocation in early Feb 2024)	Project Band	Current Phase	January 2024- Project update	Anticipated Part 8 Completions, subject to NTA approval of Gateways
Termonfeckin Active Travel elements	€165,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Project completed	N/A
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 1) 1. St Louis Secondary School Dundalk 2. Rehab Care Mill Street Dundalk 3. Saint Brigid's and Saint Patrick's School, Drogheda 4. Scoil Aonghusa, Drogheda	€600,000	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 – Preliminary Design	All four projects reviewed. St Louis, Dundalk - Meeting held with An Taisce and Principal. Action plan now agreed and signed off. Rehab, Mill Rd, Dundalk to be incorporated into Mill Street scheme above. Drogheda x 2 - Preliminary Design / Concepts developed. Following a procurement competition, Barry Transportation were appointed Design Consultants on 3 rd April 2023. Preliminary design commenced. Traffic, Drone & Topographical Surveys to be completed Nov 2023. Joint Gateway 2 & 3 Reports submitted to the NTA at the end of Nov 2023.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's
Safe Routes to Schools (Round 2) 1. Bellurgan National School 2. Callystown National School 3. St Mary's NS, Knockbridge 4. St. Malachy's GNS, Dundalk	-	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Active Travel have conducted a Procurement Competition for a Design Consultant in Q4 2023, with a Letter of Intent issued to the preferred Design Team in Dec 2023. It is anticipated that the Design Team will be appointed in 2024.	No part 8's but possible Section 38's

Place Making

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects (URDF)

West Gate Vision (Drogheda)

The Westgate planning application to An Bord Pleanala has been submitted by Louth County Council. The application seeks approval for significant regeneration of the Westgate area of Drogheda.

Preparation of the Westgate planning stage has been financially supported by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) as part of Project Ireland 2040 and match funded by Louth County Council.

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

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

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

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

Full details of the proposed works are available here:

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



Submissions on the planning application are to be submitted directly, in writing, to An Bord Pleanala up until February 9th 2024

St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration (Dundalk)

Phase 1

BDP Ltd are the Urban Design Team for the first phase of the St. Nicholas Quarter project. Phase 1 of the project, which received Part 8 approval in April 2018, involves the enhancement of the public realm along Bridge Street, Linenhall Street and Peace Park. The detailed design stage has been completed and the documents for the tender for a contractor are now finalised. Decision Gate 2 submission has been made to the URDF as per the Public Spending Code requirements, and the tender will be advertised following successful approval from the URDF funding body. Upon completion of the tender process, it is anticipated that the works will commence on-site in Q2 2024. A public engagement day was

held on Wednesday 29th November in Dundalk Town Hall where residents and stakeholders had a chance to review drawings and information on the delivery of this project. It was a well-attended event with great feedback received on the day.



Phase 2

Phase 2 of the St. Nicholas Quarter project is the design of an acceptable concept for the re-development of the Backlands area of the St. Nicholas Quarter. This concept will then be progressed for Part 8 planning with full public consultation. The consultancy services tender

has now been finalised and BDP have been appointed as the successful tenderer. A town Health Check has been completed on the area and initial summary report completed by the design team. Engagement with local stakeholders will commence in the coming weeks and months which will form the basis for the design concepts.

URDF Call Three Funding Allocation.

On-site inspections and discussions with property owners are continually ongoing. The formal process of acquiring the initial properties under compulsory acquisition programme has commenced.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Ardee Castle

The last two outstanding design items have been resolved and the National Monuments Service have issued ministerial consent for the project.

A new part 8 approval will be sought on the revised design which will result in the new extension having a different external material finish. Documentation for the Part 8 application is currently being prepared.

Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford



This project has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8

process at the July Dundalk Municipal District meeting. The Council have met with the RRDF section in the Department and discussed the next steps for the project. An application for category 1 funding for the project from the RRDF is being prepared for submission in February 2024.

Omeath Placemaking Scheme

Glas Civil Engineering are continuing with the initial phase of the project, with majority of the utility work now complete on site. Kerbing and final pavement preparation has commenced. Glas Civil Engineering will work through the next stage of works on an agreed phased basis. There is ongoing public engagement with local stakeholders to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. The proposed works are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2024. This scheme will enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety through the village with the creation of new crossing points, footpaths and widening of existing footpaths.



Road and Footpath Layout

Ardee 2040

The completion of Ardee 2040 Design Audits, reports and planning documents is in advanced stages of completion by Turley Planning, the lead project design consultants, to further the planning submission to An Bord Pleanala.

The Ardee 2040 project will enhance the streetscape and amenity areas in Ardee with a focus on the key areas of the Main Street, the Old Railway Lands and the new amenity lands to the east of the town centre.

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

Additional Projects

St Laurence's Gate Plaza, Drogheda

Further environmental reports are necessary and are being progressed, in preparation of

the Part 8 process for St Laurence's Gate Plaza.



Cross Departmental Projects

Play Spaces

The proposed play space in Termonfeckin has successfully achieved planning permission through the Part 8 process at the December Drogheda Municipal District meeting.

The water tower at Termonfeckin has been demolished above ground. The water tower foundations and associated pipework will be removed in the coming weeks with site clearance.

Site analysis in Termonfeckin is underway examining services and existing infrastructure. The design and build tender for a playground contractor closed on 17th January 2024. The assessment of tenders received is ongoing.

Part 8 planning is being prepared for St. Dominic's Park playground refurbishment, including AA Screening Stage 1 report.

Town Centre First Projects

Town Centre First Plan - Dunleer

The Plan will officially be published in February with a launch event to be held in the Market House Dunleer before the end of Q1 2024. The associated environmental reports are currently being updated and completed following the finalisation of the plan in December.



Town Centre First Plan – Clogherhead

The new town team has been established with the first meeting scheduled to take place in the last week of January.

Site visits have already been carried out with members of the town team and Louth County Council to identify the key local issues and opportunities. Land use and vacant surveys have been carried out which will help inform the plan.

Organisational Development

Forbairt Na hEagraíochta

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

This Directorate has five key areas of responsibility.

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

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

Tá cuig eochairfhreagrachta ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

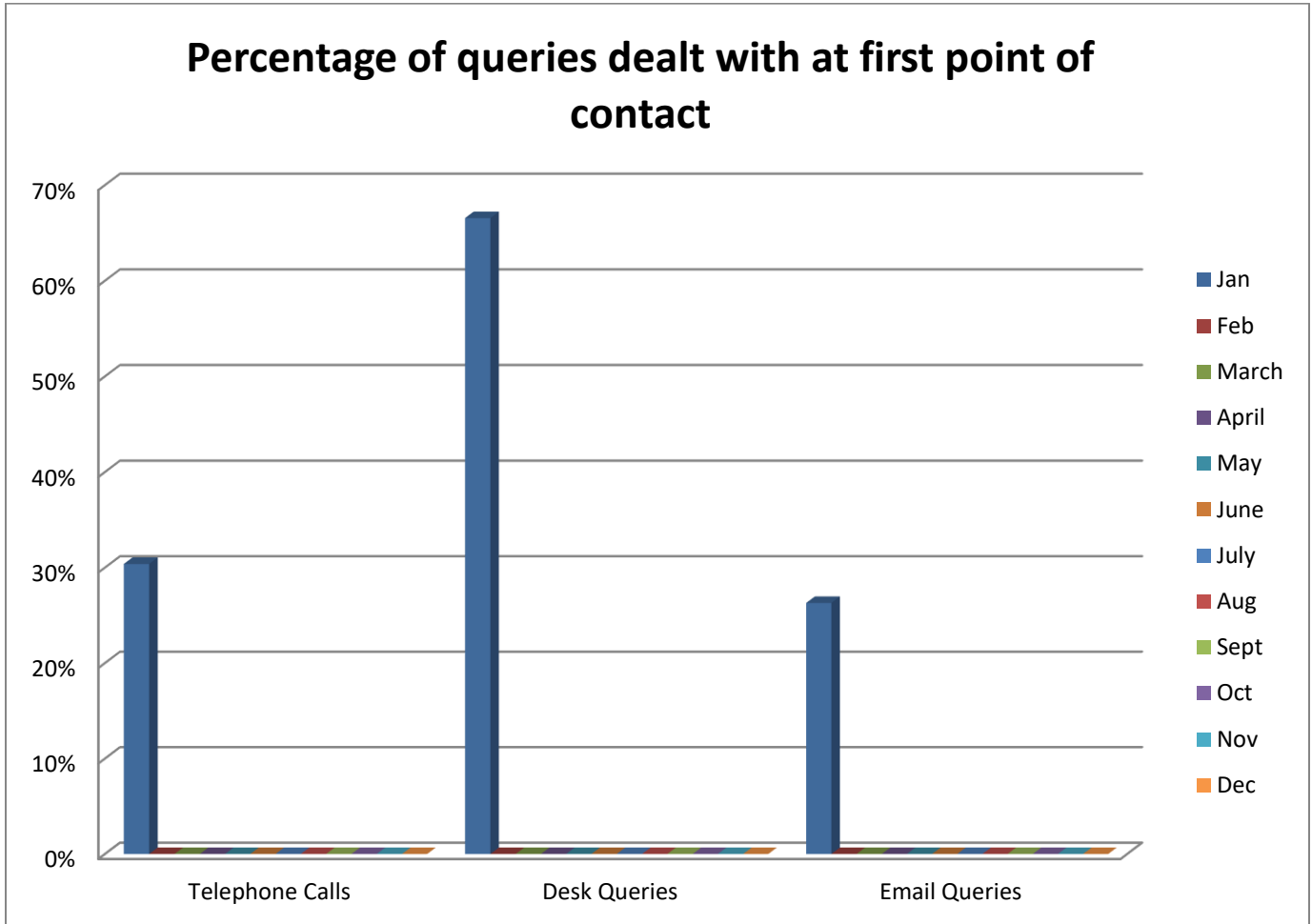


Joe McGuinness
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir

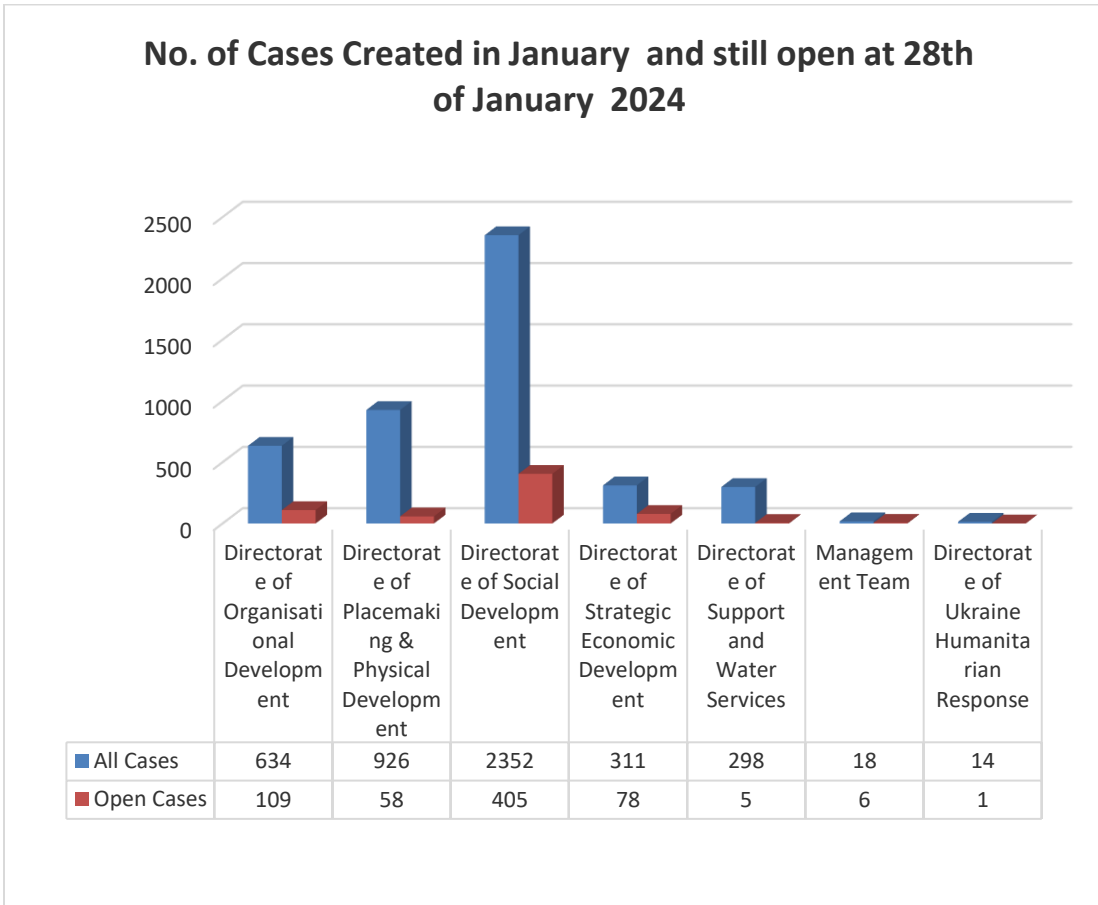
Corporate Services

Customer Services Report

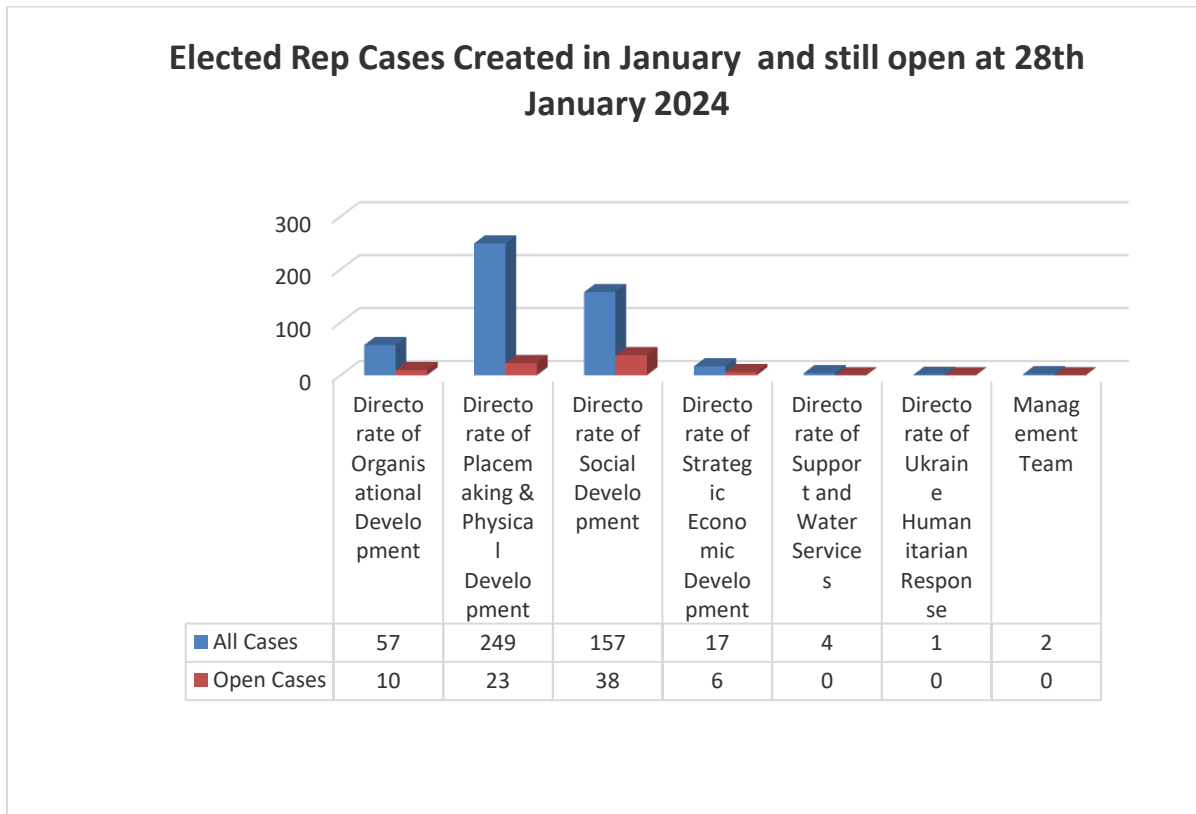
During the month of January 2024 Customer Services dealt with queries – 8864 calls, 1575 e-mails and 3963 counter queries.



There were 4553 valid Sugar CRM cases recorded during January of which 662 (14.5%) remain unresolved, broken down by directorate as follows:



During January 487 elected reps. cases were recorded on Sugar of which 77 (15.8%) remain unresolved broken down by Directorate as follows:



The table below illustrates activity in the redress area.

Request Received	2023 Total Jan-Jan	2024 Total Jan – Jan	2024 Jan ONLY
FOI	11	13	13
DSAR	1	0	0
Data Protection Request	0	4	4
(AIE)	1	1	1
Ombudsman	1	1	1
Complaints	4	4	4

Electoral Register

Many applications continue to come through checktheregister.ie, application forms are also sent in for the Franchise Team to process. There was a notable spike in online applications after the announcement of a Referendum which is scheduled to take place on 8th March 2024.

If your name is not on the Register of Electors, or you need to update your details, you can submit an online application at www.checktheregister.ie You can also submit an application for your name to be included on the

Register – forms are available at all public counters, garda stations, libraries and online from www.checktheregister.ie

Please note, completed applications must be received by the Local Authority by close of business on Tuesday 20th February 2024.

Postal & Special Voter application forms must be received by the Local Authority by close of business on Monday 12th February 2024.

Although the Local and European Elections are scheduled to take place in June, the date hasn't been confirmed yet. When a polling day order is made, the closing dates will then be made known.

Community Sport

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

On 8th December 2023 the draft Louth LECP framework was presented to the Eastern Midland Regional Authority (EMRA), the Regional Authority issued a Statement of Consistency for the Louth LECP as required under Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act (as amended) subject to several minor amendments.

The minor amendments have now been implemented into the final plan.



Louth OPC hosted Meath OPC at Netwell CASALA Centre, DKIT

Louth Older People's Council were delighted to host members of Meath OPC at the Netwell CASALA Centre, DKIT on 24th January 2024.

The Netwell CASALA Centre is a research centre and Living Lab where staff, students and researchers design, develop, test and trial digital health and wellbeing solutions with and for older people, and those who care for and about them, to empower and support better and longer living in the community.

Suzanne Smith, Centre Director gave the members a presentation on the centre and the projects and research that is being undertaken at the Living Lab.

The Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) aims to improve the life of older people by providing access to integrated care and support that is planned around their needs and choices, supporting them to live well in their own homes and communities.

Erin Smyth, ICPOP Co Ordinator in Co Meath and her counterpart Dearbhla Birdy, ICPOP Co Ordinator for Co Louth gave the members a joint presentation on the ICPOP programmes in both counties.

The meeting gave both OPC's the opportunity to get to know each other and members robustly discussed the topic of ageism, particularly the issues of ageism in the print and tv media. Members discussed a selection of birthday cards with ageist images and ageist messages and how the images and messages can be negatively internalised.

Members also discussed examples of ageism which they had experienced in their lives, and they were particularly vexed with health screening

programmes which had an age cut off point, they strongly felt that such programmes should be related to need and not specifically age.

Louth OPC will examine these issues further in 2024 as they roll out a suite of ageism awareness initiatives.

It is anticipated the Louth OPC will arrange a return visit to their colleagues in Co Meath later in the year.



Members of Louth OPC & Meath OPC at DKIT Netwell CASALA Centre

Local Enhancement Programme 2024



On 6th December 2023 Department of Rural and Community Development's Local Enhancement Programme 2024 (LEP) was launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD. The LEP in Louth will be

administered by Louth County Council's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The LEP provides locally based community and voluntary groups in disadvantaged urban and rural areas across Co. Louth with funding for minor capital works and improvements to their facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use.

Department of Rural and Community Development has allocated €195,412.48 capital funding to Louth LCDC. €32,568.75 capital funding is ring-fenced for Women's Groups such as Sheds, Groups, Clubs, Networks and other such groups or projects aimed at providing social networks for women.

Women's Groups are also entitled to apply for the general funding available for community groups.

The fund opened on 15th January 2024
Closing date for application is 4pm 23rd February 2024

CLÁR 2023 Funding Scheme

The Community Support Team in Louth County Council is delighted to announce that all ten projects have recently been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding under the CLÁR 2023 Scheme. Four were announced in December 2023 and the remaining six announced in January 2024.

Construction of accessible changing rooms to include toilets and showers.	Cuchulainn Gaels GAC	M1 2023	€44,910
Installation of solar compactor bins and information panel on recycling.	Omeath Tidy Town	M1 2023	€44,951
Improvement to existing surface and drainage on the community centre carpark, to also include	Mullaghbuoy Community Centre	M1 2023	€45,000

some plants and signage.			
Tarmac surface of existing carpark	Cooley Kickhams GFC	M1 2023	€50,000
Construction of a 23m square garden room to facilitate group meetings and workshops.	SN Muire, Rampark	M1 2023	€48,192
Upgrade of the soft playing area to create a safe space for sports and recreation.	Scoil Naomh Brid Omeath	M1 2023	€32,859
Installation of soft multipurpose playing surface to include benches / picnic tables.	Dulargy NS	M1 2023	€33,657
Extension to, and repairs of, existing walking track.	Cooley Kickhams GFC	M1 2023	€14,377
Installation of Astro Turf Facility	Scoil Naomh Lorcan, Omeath	M1 2023	€50,000
Resurfacing & relining of existing track	Glenmore Athletics Club	M1 2023	€50,000

Anti-Litter Cigarette Butt Awareness Campaign

The "Vote with your Butt" campaign, part of a broader Anti-Cigarette Litter initiative, was launched on January 17th and continued until January 31st. This campaign features Ballot Bins in Dundalk and Drogheda, complemented by strategically placed billboards and bus shelters conveying the anti-litter message.

Community support team members and Tidy Town groups visited businesses in Dundalk and Drogheda, engaging and encouraging them to share the campaign's essential messages by proudly showcasing window stickers in their shop fronts as a visible show of support. In addition, LMFM broadcast advertisements throughout the campaign.

The Ballot Bins present smokers with 'either/or' questions, allowing them to vote by responsibly disposing of cigarette butts. The initiative extends its outreach to villages, where Tidy Town groups will raise awareness and promote the use of ballot bins to combat cigarette litter.

In line with Louth County Council's commitment to fostering environmental awareness and instilling community responsibility, the campaign aimed to significantly decrease cigarette litter, contributing to the development of cleaner and healthier public spaces.

Tidy Town Project Scheme 2024

As a demonstration of Louth County Council's dedication to strengthening participation in community-led development, the Tidy Towns Project Scheme 2024 is geared towards enhancing the marks given to Tidy Town groups participating in both the National Tidy Towns Competition and local competitions.

The scheme, introduced on January 5, 2024 and closed on January 31st.



A Dundalk Business lending its support by displaying the campaign message sticker.



Ballot Bin erected in West St, Drogheda

PPN

Louth PPN's Secretariat met for their first meeting of 2024 on Wednesday 17th January 2024, during which the following items were discussed and agreed:

Workplan & Budget 2024

Louth PPN's Secretariat have developed their workplan and budget for 2024 which will be ratified at the next plenary Meeting.

The thematic Projects for 2024 are as follows:

- Community Peer-to-Peer Mentoring
This project is an extension of 2023's mentoring project, aiming to share the vast wealth of knowledge and experience which currently exists across the community and voluntary sector of County Louth with other community groups within Louth PPN's membership.
- Intercultural Sports
It was agreed to complete this project in 2024 with a sporting event in Drogheda
- Youth
Further details to follow.
- Environment
It was agreed to build on the success of last year's environmental project at Rathescar Lake for 2024.

- Disability Louth - Further details to follow

Training

It was agreed that Louth PPN will be offering the following training in Q1:

- Writing Effective Funding Applications
- Property Marking Machine
- Canva
- Social Media

Exact dates to follow.

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Louth 'We Have Been Shortlisted' for 'Best Mental Health' initiative at the all-Ireland community & council awards

Now in its 18th year, the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards will take place in Dublin City on the 17th Feb 2024. These awards recognise and celebrate community and councils working together. They provide a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work done within our communities, to reward our unsung heroes and recognise the phenomenal contribution they've made to our lives. Healthy Louth are excited to announce that they have been shortlisted within the category for 'Best Mental Health' initiative for their Healthy Louth – 'Mental Health Matters' initiative that has been delivered in partnership with Louth Local Development Company (LLDC). This category celebrates outstanding and inspirational initiatives across Ireland starting in the community.

Our Mental Health Matters initiative was set up to reduce structural barriers that reduce discrimination and inequalities among marginalised communities and at-risk clients which LLDC serve. Mental health is something that we all have but not everyone knows how to maintain and protect. This fact is reflected in [Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 Local Strategy for Louth](#) which highlights a lack of knowledge among the marginalised communities and at-risk groups that LLDC serves. Our Mental Health Matters initiative addresses this information deficit.

Our Mental health Matters initiative was set up to promote social inclusion and build individual and

community capacity. The initiative's purpose is to provide all sectors of society with a unique learning opportunity to learn and experience how to participate fully in the well-being of their lives. Working with interfacing communities and at-risk clients, LLDC are familiar with the reality of the target group's lived experience. LLDC is aware of the coping mechanisms required when living in poverty and disadvantage. Our Mental Health Matters initiative facilitated LLDC with an opportunity to build this much needed community and individual capacity. Our range of focused workshops and specialised interventions continue to promote social inclusion, build capacity, add value, trigger real change and improve the health and well-being of the people of Louth.

Our Mental Health Matters initiative was set up to allow us to develop a holistic, learning and activity platform that provided marginalised groups and at-risk individuals with an opportunity to:

- Participate in a collaborative learning platform that shows participants how our thinking influences our actions in helpful or unhelpful ways using practical real-life examples.
- Introduce our clients to effective coping mechanisms and strategies on how to better manage the stresses and challenges of everyday living.
- Teach our clients to recognise and manage unhelpful thoughts.
- Teach our clients the importance of life changing strategies on building and improving their emotional resilience, creating life purpose, goal setting and practicing self-compassion.
- Introduce our clients to new ways of thinking that lead to positive mental health for them and their families.
- Introduce our clients to coping strategies to manage anxiety, demotivation, depression, and obesity.
- Show our clients how the incorporation of tiny new habits can lead to great change.
- Enable our clients to understand the intrinsic links between sleep, positive thinking, healthy diet and physical fitness.
- Increase our clients, self-esteem, self-confidence and overall level personal happiness.

- Empower our clients to begin a journey to a healthier and more confident, fulfilling life.

At the time of writing, twenty community-based organisations have participated in our Mental Health Matters initiative. One hundred and seventy-eight attendees participated in one hundred and ten workshops. This work is ongoing.



Participants on Healthy Louth's "Mental Health Matters"



Participants on Healthy Louth's "Mental Health Matters"



Participants on Healthy Louth's "Mental Health Matters



Participants on Healthy Louth's "Mental Health Matters

Pilates

Pilates started the year off with a new class schedule. In January we offered a morning class every Monday morning from 9:30 – 10:15am and an evening class from 7:15 – 8pm every Tuesday and with the demand a second Tuesday night class has been added from 8.15-9pm with pre-booking essential. Classes cost €5 pay as you go and they have been a massive success!

Sports

LCC Sports Facilities

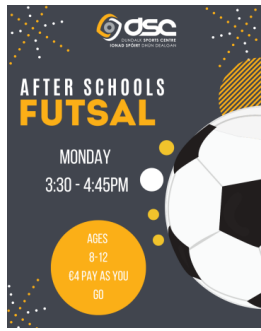
DSC Active Older Adult Classes

There was continued success in all our older adult programmes recently. It was fantastic to hear the positive feedback from many of the regular participants. The consensus seems to be that participant's find the classes challenging but fun, varied and very sociable.

There are classes to suit everyone, and they are designed to complement each other so that customers can come to all classes during the week if they like to. Classes include 'Active Dance', 'Active Ageing', 'Strength and Balance', and 'Chair Yoga'

After Schools Futsal

Another programme which started the year with major success is 'After Schools Futsal'. Pre-Christmas the attendance numbers were gradually increasing with over 20 children attending. It has been great to see so many return after the break, excited to continue learning and developing the skills indoor.



Zumba

Although Zumba has been running in the Sports Centre for a long time now. It has seen many new members trying the class for the first time recently. It is a fantastic class for getting active and improving your cardiovascular fitness whilst simply having fun and a laugh.



Lourdes Stadium

LAS Bootcamp

On the 16th January our bootcamp got underway with 26 participants signing up. The bootcamp will run for six weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays and caters for all levels of fitness. 15 places have been allocated through the LCC well-being initiative.



LAS Bootcamp in Lourdes Stadium

Lourdes Stadium Works

January has also seen the commencement of construction works at Lourdes Stadium. A new equipment storage room will be located beside the track and upgraded works to the indoor facility will include a new multi-purpose room, inclusive toilet facilities, and an outdoor training area.

Louth Local Sports Partnership

Coach & Volunteer Education Programmes 2024

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

Safeguarding

Activity	Date	Venue
Safeguarding Level 1	January 25 th 2024	Online

Sport Ireland Winter Initiative

A major new national campaign was launched to get as many people as possible out exercising and participating in physical activity this New Year.

This 'Winter Initiative' calls on women, men, children, grandparents, cousins, neighbours, friends, work colleagues who haven't yet 'got going' to get out walking, running, cycling or participating in some form of physical activity.

Local clubs and groups are also encouraged to post and advertise their events and activities online to spread the word about the Winter Initiative and encourage new people to try out different sports which they may have felt were outside their comfort zone before now.

Couch 2 5K Programmes in Dundalk & Drogheda

Two new Couch 2 5k programmes started in Dundalk and Drogheda in January to support people to exercise and work towards completing a local 5km run in their local park run events in Spring 2024.



Couch 2 5K Participants

Connect Family Resource Centre Walking Group

Congratulations all the participants in the new Connect Family Resource Centre walking group who completed their 8-week walking programme in Lourdes Stadium Drogheda. The group haven been set up with support from Louth Local Sports Partnership, staff in Lourdes Stadium and Get Ireland Walking.

The group now meet on a weekly basis for community walks in the Drogheda area.



Connect Family Resource Centre Walking Group

Cooley Men on the Move kicks off in January

Our 12-week Men on the Move in conjunction with Cooley Kickhams GAA Club kicked off on 8th January.

The Men on the Move Programme encourages men to get more active, have fun and improve their fitness levels through twice weekly activity sessions. The programme offers men the chance to learn and take part in safe, effective exercises tailored to suit their needs.



Dundalk Men on the Move re-starting again in January.

Our 12-week Men on the Move in conjunction with Clann na Gael GAA in Dundalk began on 8th January.

Women's Social Soccer Kicks off in Dundalk & Philipstown

Women's Social Soccer kicked off again in Louth in January 2024 in Dundalk and Philipstown. Social Soccer a fun and non-competitive social sports opportunity for female participants to enjoy a weekly game of Soccer.

No previous experience is necessary, and all equipment required to play is provided.



Women's Social Soccer

Community Fitness Bootcamps underway in Dundalk & Drogheda

Two new Community Fitness Bootcamps commenced in January in Dundalk and Drogheda with large numbers taking part in both activities.

The bootcamps are an ideal opportunity to engage in physical activity within a social group within the local community. The camps are facilitated by experienced instructors.



Louth LPS Community Fitness Bootcamp

Waste Management, Environment & Climate Action

A total of 32 complaints were received and investigated by the Environmental Compliance team in January 2024, some of which remain open pending further investigations.

Complaint Type	Received in January 2024	Total Received in 2024
Air & Noise	8	8
Farm	1	1
Waste/C&D	18	18
Water Quality	5	5

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

Waste Byelaws (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) were introduced in 2019. The key objectives of the Waste Byelaws are:

- To encourage households and businesses to manage their waste in an environmentally responsible manner.
- To promote better segregation of household and commercial waste.
- To ensure only authorised waste collectors are used to dispose of waste.
- To reduce illegal dumping and backyard burning of waste.

Letters are continuing to be issued to householders and businesses in areas where bin presentation is a prevailing issue including Chapel Street and Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Louth County Council have received re-occurring complaints regarding bin placement on these streets which are obstructing pedestrians and cyclists.

Louth County Council's Waste Enforcement Officers and Litters Wardens are in the process of obtaining householders details which may result in Fixed Payment Notices of €75 being issued by Louth County Council to the householders where breaches of the Waste Presentation Byelaws are identified.

Commercial Food Waste Inspections

The Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 requires that all major producers of food waste must segregate all food waste from other waste streams. This prevents it becoming contaminated and unsuitable for recycling. A business that is

subject to the legislation has three alternative options for its segregated food waste:

- The waste can be collected by a waste collector that is offering a brown bin collection service. The collector must take the waste to an approved plant for recycling by composting or by another similar process.
- The waste can be transported by the business directly to a composting plant or other type of food waste recycling facility; or
- The waste can be dealt with by the business on-site using an authorised composting unit (this option is subject to being granted a Certificate of Registration from the Waste Management and Environment Section of Louth County Council).

Louth County Council are currently undertaking commercial food waste inspections in Co. Louth. Warning letters have been issued to premises where non-compliance with the Regulations were identified and will be re-inspected again to ensure compliance with the Regulations have been demonstrated.



Brown Bin Collection Service

All householders in Ireland will be entitled to a brown bin recycling collection service from their waste

collector from January 2024 as new EU legislation comes into force.

The legislation is set to benefit those in more remote areas, where brown bin services have not been available compared to urban areas.

Currently, around 69% of Irish households can avail of a food waste collection service from their waste service collector, with many of those without a brown bin in rural parts of the country.

However, from January 2024 the new Regulations will mean waste collectors will be required to offer a brown bin collection for all customers.

All types of food and organic waste are accepted in brown bins including raw and cooked meat and fish, plate scrapings, along with fruit and vegetable peelings, food-soiled paper napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes as well as grass clippings and light garden waste.



Article 27 By-Products

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

By-product notifications are made to the EPA through an online portal. Louth County Council Waste Enforcement Section have a role to carry out

site inspections at site of origin and/or site of destination to check material meets criteria of notification.

Extended Producer Responsibility Initiatives

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

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

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

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

Solid Fuel Regulation

New Regulations regarding Solid Fuels came into force on the 31st October 2022. These new regulations affect householders, retailers and those involved in producing or importing solid fuels.

The Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 introduced a national ban on the sale and distribution of 'unapproved' solid fuels.

The Regulations require that producers of solid fuels must register with the EPA to be placed on a Fuels Register. The EPA is responsible for the administration of the Fuels Register and issues a unique registration number to each registered producer. Producers must register annually by the 1st September each year.

Approved solid fuels must be labelled with the words "Contents comply with the Air Pollution Act Regulations" and packaging must also include the

EPA producer registration number. This is to give the retailer and the householder confidence that the product is an approved fuel. Retailers and merchants must ensure that any solid fuel retailed is sourced from a registered producer and is an approved solid fuel.

Louth County Council are continuing to carry out Solid Fuels inspections in Co. Louth which involves a formal inspection of all retailers selling or distributing solid fuels.

A review of all producers identified in Co. Louth are all also been identified and are being notified of their obligations with the new Regulations. So far, retailers and producers are engaging with Louth County Council and are removing unapproved solid fuels from sale and/or engaging with the EPA. Follow-up inspections will be carried out with retailers who were found to be previously non-compliant.

Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme

The Deposit Return Scheme starts on 1st February 2024. If you buy a drink in a container with the Return logo, you are charged an extra refundable deposit. You can then claim back the levy by returning the empty container for recycling.

The deposit is between 15 and 25c depending on the size of the container.

Most drinks containers, such as bottles, cans and tins made from plastic, aluminum or steel can be returned. They must be between 150ml and 3 litres in size and have the Re-turn logo on them.

You can return containers to shops that have a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) or accept the containers manually. Some shops have a take back exemption as they are not able to accept the containers back for the Deposit Return Scheme. The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in Ireland will be a step towards a sustainable future.



waste has been examined for evidence and fixed penalty notices have been issued where evidence has been found. All the waste has been subsequently removed.



Litter Enforcement & Investigations

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

In January our wardens completed 145 investigations. Where evidence was found fixed penalty notices were issued accordingly under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. 15 fixed penalty notices have been issued this month.

A successful prosecution was obtained in December 2023 in relation to illegal dumping under section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. The dumping occurred at Legion Avenue Dundalk. Upon non-payment of the associated fixed penalty, the case was heard in Dundalk Court, the defendant was fined €300 and ordered to pay the councils clean-up costs of approximately €550.

A successful conviction was also obtained for dumping of waste which occurred in the Omeath area. This was also under Section 3(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Due to non-payment of the associated fixed penalty, the case was heard in Dundalk Court this month. In this case the defendant was also fined €300 and ordered to pay the councils clean-up costs of approximately €550.

Our litter wardens continue to investigate all reports received by Louth County Council of littering and illegal dumping within urban and rural areas. They also continue to engage with businesses advising on litter mitigation measures and actively patrolling litter hot spots. Illegal signage is also removed and fixed penalty notices issued accordingly.

Over are some images of illegal dumping/littering cases which have been investigated in January. All



Diesel Laundering Waste

There were 4 IBC's dumped in January 2024 at a cost of approximately €4,992.40.



Bathing Water

In accordance with the Bathing Water Regulations 2008, Local authorities must report all newly identified bathing waters to the EPA before the 24th February annually. No new beaches in Louth were identified following the public consultation period which was held last year. The current designated beaches in Louth namely Templetown, Port, Clogherhead and Seapoint will be monitored in accordance with the bathing water regulations for the bathing season in 2024.

All information on beaches and water quality can be found on the EPA hosted website – www.beaches.ie



Climate Action



Climate Action Plan Process 2024 – 2029

Public consultation for the Draft Louth Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was opened on the 22nd of November and ran until the 20th of December.

Submissions could be made by post, email or through the Louth County Council Consult platform.

A total of 26 valid submissions were received for the County Louth plan. These submissions were reviewed and prepared for a report which was submitted to the LCC Chief Executive.

The Climate Action Team continued to work with the external consultants appointed to deliver the AA and SEA required for the Climate Action Plan. The 26 submissions received were reviewed for potential changes to the AA and SEA with updated documents produced to inform and complement the plan process.

The finalised Climate Action Plan will be presented to the elected Members of LCC for review and sign-off at the February Full Council Meeting.

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



Louth County Council's Draft Climate Action Plan is currently available to view online through the following link <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-climate-action-plan>

Louth County Council have applied for and has been awarded support from the EU government in Climate adaptation. A program on climate adaptation training will begin in March for key LCC staff members. LCC are the only Irish Local Authority to receive this support.



Climate Adaptation 2024

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

Community Climate Action

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

The Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1) has launched and is available for community groups in Louth. The Shared Island Strand (Strand 1a) of this funding stream has also launched and is open for applications until the 6th of March.



they may have in relation to the Community Climate Action Fund.

Biodiversity Action



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Framework for the Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

November 2022

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan was launched on 25 January by Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage & Electoral Reform, DHLGH. The plan includes 194 actions associated with 5 strategic objectives:

1. Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity
2. Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs
3. Secure Nature's Contribution to People
4. Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity
5. Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives

The Community Climate action Officer has held a number of drop-in clinics on the Community Climate Action Fund across each of the Louth Libraries. The workshops were well attended by community groups across the County.

WE'RE TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

Community Climate Action Fund

Drop-in clinics will be held at the following libraries

- Carlingford Library - Tuesday 23rd January 10am-1pm
- Ardee Library - Wednesday 24th January 10am-1pm
- Dunleer Library - Wednesday 24th January 2pm-5pm
- Dundalk Library - Friday 26th January 10am-1pm
- Drogheda Library - Friday 26th January 2pm-5pm

All projects must deliver a direct climate benefit, for more information please email climateaction@louthco.ie

Louth County Council was represented at the event by Biodiversity Officer, Helen Hanratty. Local Authorities will have a key role in the delivery of the Plan.

A video to promote the Plan was also launched at the event -

[Actions For Nature – Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

The Community Climate Action Officer has visited a number of community groups in Louth to speak about the upcoming fund and discuss any queries

Education and Awareness Initiatives

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

V & W have expanded their 'Biodiversity Area' at Drogheda Recycling Centre. They incorporate this area into their Education programme for all students attending their on-site school tours.



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

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Varcities H2020 Funded Project Update – Construction Works

Construction is actively underway at the Dundalk pilot site for the implementation of Visionary Solution 1 (VS1).



Construction Work in Progress for Varcities Project at County Library and Museum

VS1 is set to introduce an Outdoor Learning Pod, designed to showcase the latest technologies, and serve as a hub for various collaborative activities at Dundalk Library and Museum Quarter.



Constructing the Floor for the Learning Pod

Sensors are installed at the site to gather data on visitor numbers and the duration of their stay. Follow the Projects Progress and Like and Share and help us raise Public Awareness

<https://www.facebook.com/VARCITIES>
<https://twitter.com/VARCITIES1>
<https://www.instagram.com/eu.varcities/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2oqZP3ne_Tbl_xwf1-5jQ/videos?view=0
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/varcities-green-cities-are-healthier-cities/>

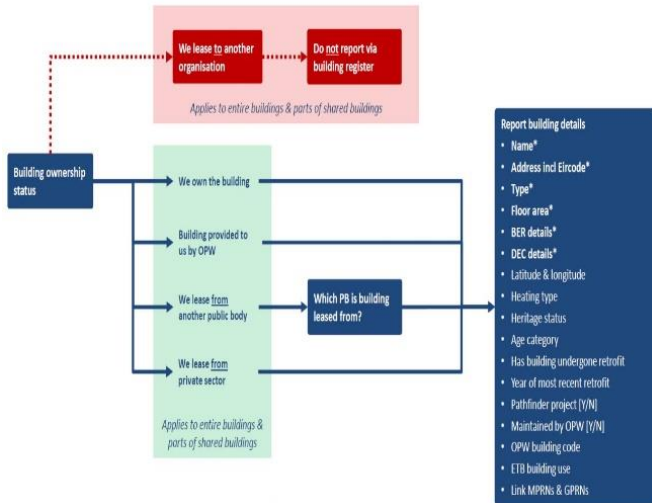
Energy Efficiency Performance

SEAI Reporting Obligations

Public Bodies are required to achieve 50% improvement in energy efficiency and 51% reduction in energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by the year 2030. Energy performance reporting for public bodies is documented by collecting and reporting energy-related data on SEAI's Monitoring and Reporting (M&R System) System. A new requirement for that for 2024, requires input of building-related data from the Council's Building Register.

Staff from the Council's The Energy Team are progressing the compilation of the Public Sector Buildings Register on the M&R System. This involves meticulously inputting data for our top 20 significant energy users into the designated portal.

Building register 2023



Once the building registry has been completed, the next step is the input of meter data, which will commence on 29th January 2024, with a deadline of 22nd March 2024.

Key Cycle Stage	Deadline
M&R system open for data entry	29 January 2024
Meter data deadline	22 March 2024
Provisional scorecard available	17 May 2024
Final deadline - energy & activity	28 June 2024
System opens for data entry - buildings, projects, vehicles & travel	29 July 2024
Notification of DVAs	5 August 2024
Final deadline -buildings, projects, vehicles & travel	15 November 2024
Post-DVA deadline	22 November 2024
Final scorecard available	22 November 2024
Annual Report 2024	Q1 2025

Table-Key Energy Reporting Dates

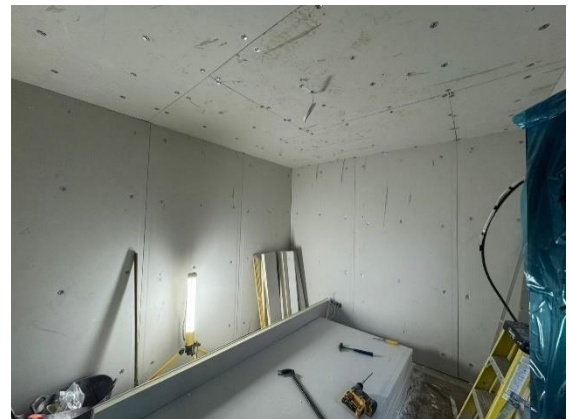
Energy Management System Deliverables 2023-2024

Council staff arranged for 5 building energy audits in 2023 as part of our Energy Management System – Energy Action Plan under our obligation to ISO50001:2018.

Of these 5 audits, energy improvement works are in progress at 3 of those - Dundalk Fire Station, Dowdallshill Cemetery and Animal Compound Dromiskin. It is expected to complete draw-down of SEAI energy project grant funding offered, by Q2 2024. The other two projects are currently being finalised to optimise the most suitable renewable technologies whilst also considering the protected status of these structures.

Energy Efficiency Upgrade Works at Dowdallshill cemetery

The Dowdallshill Cemetery Upgrade project involved energy improvement works to Council buildings at the site. They included external wall insulation upgrade, glazing upgrade, a space heating and domestic hot water system upgrade.



Improved wall insulation at Council building at Dowdallshill Cemetery

The works are expected to generate estimated energy savings of 6,600kWh per year at this one site.



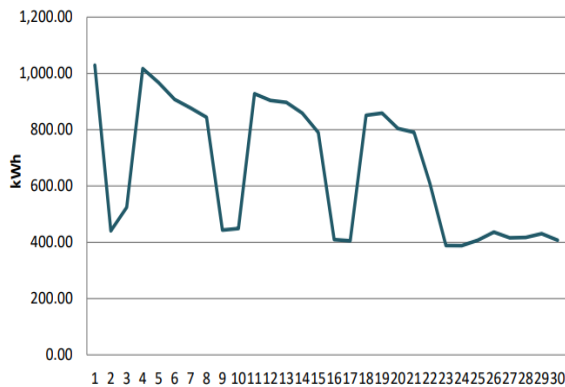
Energy Team Monthly Meeting with staff from OPW

County Hall Energy Savings

Energy consumption in this building has reduced by 30% since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2016, whilst CO2 Emissions are 26% lower (i.e. saving of 3 tonnes of CO2).

A significant portion of the overall consumption stems from electrical usage outside normal office hours. To proactively address this, Council staff implemented advanced energy management practices that specifically enforce energy user shutdown procedures during office closures. Energy staff consistently generate and monitor detailed energy reports, ensuring compliance with energy-saving measures.

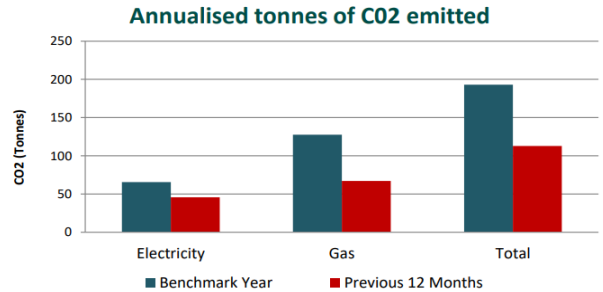
Monthly electricity report December 2023



Graphic - Energy User Shutdown Procedures were Implemented (at County Hall during the Christmas holiday period).

Town Hall Savings

Energy consumption within the Town Hall building has seen a commendable 43% decrease since its enrolment in the Optimising Power @ Work campaign back in 2014. CO2 emissions for December 2023 show a substantial 30% reduction (equivalent to 06 tonnes) compared to the levels recorded in December 2014.



Description	Electricity	Gas	Total
Benchmark Year	66	128	193
Previous 12 Months	46	67	113
% Difference	-30.3%	-47.4%	-41.6%

Graphic shows CO2 saving at Dundalk Town Hall from the benchmark year 2014.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

As of the 31st of January 2024, Louth County Council Veterinary Section, under a Service Level Agreement with the FSAI, enforces food safety standards on one abattoir and fourteen meat processing plants under its supervision in the County.

Louth County Council has carried out seven inspections in the year to date.

There were ninety-eight valid Sugar CRM cases assigned to Veterinary Services during January 2024, with eight still in progress.

Control of Dogs

Control of Dogs Act 1986

Dogs through the pound January 2024	
Total dogs through the pound	33
Seized under Section 16	0
Strays	18
Surrendered by owners	12
No dogs reclaimed by owners	2
No of dogs rehomed direct	10
No of dogs rehomed to welfare groups	7
No of dogs on hand in Pound at 31/01/2024	16

Dog Licences January 2024	
No of Licences sold	642
Licence Checks:	
House calls	304
Section 16 Notices issued (request to produce licence within 10 days)	157
Fixed Penalty Notices	4

Control of Horses

Control of Horses Act 1996

Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2003

Horses impounded. January 2024	
Horses seized, and reason for seizure:	0
Horses reclaimed by owner	0
Horses rehomed	0
Horses disposed of	0
No of horses on hand in Pound on 31/01/2024	0

Dog Breeding establishments (DBEs)

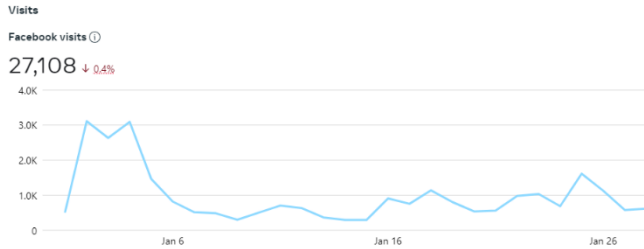
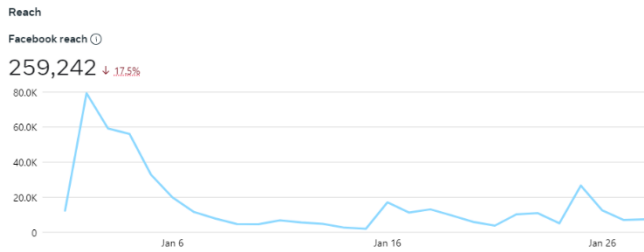
Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010

Dog Breeding Establishments January 2024	
Total no of registered DBE's in Louth (as at 31/01/2024)	6
Hunt	1
Boarding Kennels	2
Training Kennels	1
Welfare	2

The Pound Keeper gave an information session on responsible dog ownership and care in Ardee and Drogheda Libraries.



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



Social Development Forbairt Shóisialta

This Directorate has two key responsibilities:

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

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

Tá dhá eochairfhreagracht ag an Stiúrthóireacht seo:

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

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

Ger Murphy
Director of Service / Stiúrthóir



Housing

Addressing Homelessness

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

Table 1: Actions by Homeless Services

20 th December 2023 – 19 th January 2024	Ardee MD	Dundalk MD	Drogheda MD	Total
Offered advice, support (including fast tracking H.A. for Rent Supplement eligibility)	3	80	47	130
Placed in Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	32	15	47
Refused Offer of Temporary Emergency Accommodation	0	1	1	2
Not eligible from outside county or non HRC	0	0	0	0
Total number of Persons who presented as Homeless	3	113	63	179

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

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Total
Male	89
Female	79
Total	168

Table 3: Age Groups

Age Group	Total
18-24	32
25-44	80
45-64	51
65+	5
Total	168

Table 4: Accommodation Type

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	89
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	79
Total unique individuals	168

Table 5 - Families with dependent children

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	17	20	31
Couples with dependent children	12	24	37

Table 6 - Housing First

Number of tenancies established	43
Number of individuals currently in tenancy	35

**Housing Allocations
Up to January 22 2024**

District	LA	LA Refusal	AHB	AHB Refusal
Ardee	0	2	0	0
Drogheda	9	0	4	3
Dundalk	16	2	12	1
Total	25	4	16	4

Transfers

District	Number
Ardee	0
Dundalk	1
Drogheda	0
Total	1

Housing List

January 2024	Ardee	Drogheda	Dundalk	Total
Housing List	390	633	1032	2055
HAP Transfer List	301	1139	1668	3108
Total Housing List	691	1772	2700	5163

There are 293 applications on the transfer list (Non-HAP) within Social Housing including 47 applications from the Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment

The total number of applications in HAP is **3,108**

Ardee Municipal District	Drogheda Borough District	Dundalk Municipal District	Total
301	1139	1668	3108

Rent Management

The total number currently paying rent by Household Budget is **932**.

Rents Arrears at 24 th January 2024	No of Accounts	Value
Rents between 4-6 weeks old	214	€82,424
Rents between 7-12 weeks old	169	€122,635
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	888	€3,051,785
TOTAL	1271	€3,256,844

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

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

Letter Type	Month/Year	Number Issued
1st Reminder	January 2024	140
2 nd Reminder	January 2024	37
Final Reminder	January 2024	5
Total issued		182

Customers that fall into arrears may enter a payment plan for full repayment over an agreed period of time. **47** new payment plans commenced in January 2024 (up to and including 25th January).

Vacant Properties

Vacant Properties on 22 nd January 2024	Total
Ardee Municipal District	7
Dundalk Municipal District	8
Drogheda Municipal Borough District	23
Subtotal (re-lets) Vacant Properties	38
CPO units not yet ready for occupation (All County)	3
Total No. of Properties (Relets & CPO)	41

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

Maintenance Calls

19 th December 2023 – 22 nd January 2024		Total (YTD)
No. of Maintenance Requests Received	563	563
No. of Maintenance Requests Completed	469	469
No. of Maintenance Requests in Progress	70	N/A
No. of Maintenance Requests Refused	24	24

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

The 2024 Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme for 2024 is being finalised and will be subject to confirmation of funding allocation from DHLGH.

Private Rental Inspections

19 th December 2023 – 22 nd January 2024		Total (YTD)
Properties inspected monthly	81	81
Advisory Letters issued	40	40
Improvement Notices issued	0	0
Private Inspections	0	0
HAP Inspections	29	29
RAS Inspections	0	0
AHB Inspections	46	46
Private Re-Inspections	0	0
HAP Re-Inspections	6	6
RAS Re-Inspections	0	0
AHB Re-Inspections	0	0
Inspections from Complaints	0	0
Virtual Re-Inspections	0	0
Properties made Compliant	0	0

Tenancy Engagement

1 st January 2024 – 23 rd January 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
No. Tenants who attended Pre-tenancy training	12	1	15	28	28
Post-tenancy inspections	0	2	20	22	22
Tenancy Investigation Visits	0	0	10	10	10

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 st January 2024 to 23 rd January, 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
ASB Cases* Received	9	0	6	15	15
ASB cases Ongoing	6	0	9	15	-
ASB complete cases	5	0	0	5	5

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

Notifications Issued for Tenancy Breaches

1 st January 2024 to 23 rd January 2024	Drogheda	Ardee	Dundalk	Monthly	Yearly
Verbal Warnings	1	0	0	1	1
Written Warnings	0	0	0	0	0

Tenancy Notifications	0	0	0	0	0
Tenancy Warnings Housing Act, 2014	0	0	0	0	0

Repair and Lease

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

Units	Address	Beds	Notes
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected
1	Dundalk	2	Finished & inspected
1	Dundalk	2	Under negotiation for works
6	Castlebellingham	2	Planning approved

Affordable Housing

Louth County Council, in partnership with Westdalk (ROI) Ltd and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, is delighted to launch a Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme at Cois Ferraige, Blackrock, Co. Louth. Ten 3-bedroom homes will be made available for purchase by successful applicants. Social media and local newspaper advertisements began on the week beginning Monday 22nd January 2024 with the application process going live on the 07th of February 2024 until 28th February 2024. Other discussions are ongoing with other developers for Affordable units in Dundalk and Drogheda.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Submitted:	128
Approved:	60
Rejected:	6
Withdrawn	8
Funding Issued to Applicant	2
Rental Applications	33
Principal Private Residence	95

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, funded by the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund was launched on 14 July 2022. To increase the number of vacant and derelict properties being brought back into use, the Grant is being further expanded from 1st May 2023.

When the Grant was launched it was made available to eligible vacant properties in towns and villages. Following a review, a decision has been made to expand availability of the Grant nationwide to eligible vacant properties in cities, towns, villages, and rural parts of the country. The Grant has been expanded from 1st May 2023 to include:

1. The inclusion of one property which will be made available for rent, by the owner, in addition to one grant for a property which will be the principal private residence of the owner i.e. a maximum of two grants will be available to an individual, with only one grant available for a property to be rented.
2. Changing the property eligibility date, which is currently pre-1993 for the build date, to include vacant and derelict properties built up to and including 2007; and
3. Increasing the current maximum grant rates from €30,000 to €50,000 for vacant properties and from €50,000 to €70,000 for derelict properties.

Mortgage to Rent January

Active MTR Applications Total	29
AHB MTR Applications Active	14
AHB MTR completed 2024	0
Private MTR Applications Active	11
Private MTR completed 2024	0
MTR Application Awaiting Purchaser	4

Under MTR, a borrower gets to stay in their home and agrees to give ownership of the home to the MTR provider. This means the borrower becomes a social housing tenant of their local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB). This arrangement is entered into voluntarily and agreed between the

borrower, their lender and the MTR provider. After five years have passed, the borrower might be given the option to buy the home back if they are in a position to do so.

Acquisitions

Louth County Council is purchasing properties for applicants who are homeless and/or have a disability. The Council is actively working with tenants and landlords in relation to the tenant in situ scheme where tenants have been given a notice to quit, some of whom may be in receipt of HAP. In January Louth County Council has purchased 12 properties.



Recently acquired properties in Carlingford and Castlebellingham.

Local Authority Home Loans

2024 Budget Allocation (20% of 2023 allocation until 2024 approval is received from the Department)	€1,606,000
LAHL Approvals at 22/01/2024	€0
Breakdown of LAHL applications processed at the 22nd January, 2024	
Total Number of Applications at 22/01/2024	4
LAHL carried over from 2023	6
Invalid/Returned	0
Approved	0
Declined	0
For Review	6
Outstanding – waiting on further information	4

Grant Assistance to the Elderly and Disabled

Grants are available for adaptations to a person’s home. Qualifying works are those that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who is a member of the household. Grants are also available towards necessary repairs or improvements to the home for persons aged 66 and above, who are living in poor housing conditions. All grants are assessed based on the household income and limits apply. Priority is given where adaptations are needed to help the person leave hospital/residential care.

Status	HAG	MAG	HOP	Month	YTD
Grants Approved 2023	159	27	117	-	303
Applications on hand 22/01/2024	154	20	315	-	489
Grants Approved 01/01/2024 to 22/01/2024	6	0	2	8	8



Bathroom Adaptation completed in January in Ardee, part-funding by a Housing Grant for a Disability.

Capital Delivery

Turnkey and Part V Acquisitions Local Authority Build Sites. Works are progressing on a number of the large Louth County Council Local Authority Build sites located at Mount Avenue, Dundalk (93 units), Boice Court, Drogheda (72 units) and Muirhevnamor. Infill sites, Dundalk (11 sites).



Mount Avenue, Dundalk – construction of 93 housing units in progress.



Medebawn Close, Dundalk – Turnkey Units



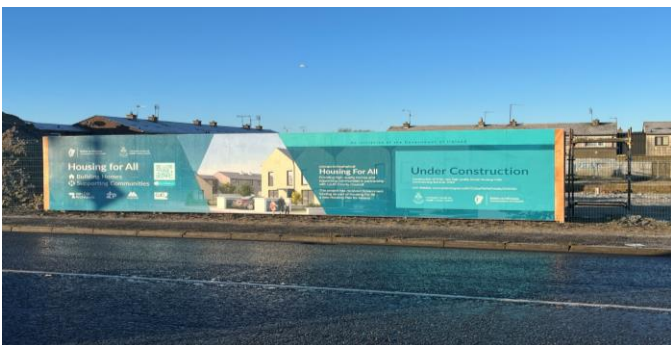
Ellwood, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda – Turnkey & Part V Units.



Muirhevnamore Infill Site, Dundalk – 11 housing units construction in progress



Boice Court, Drogheda - 72 housing units construction in progress



Muirhevnamore Infill Site, Dundalk – 11 housing units Information Board

SHIP Delivery

Project Name	Project Phase	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Muirhevnamore, Dundalk Phase 1	1/1	11	On Site	31/10/2024	3 * 2 bed & 8 * 3 bed
Boice Court (Phase 2)	1/1	72	On Site	19/02/2025	27 * 3 bed, 4 * 4 bed, 8 * 1 bed Apt, 25 * 2 bed Apt & 8 * 3 bed Apt
Mount Avenue, Dundalk	1/1	93	On Site	31/05/2025	29 * 2 bed, 23 * 3 bed, 9 * 4 bed, 10 * 1 bed Apt, 6 * 2 bed Apt, 16 * 3 bed Apt
Rathmullen Park, Drogheda Infill	1/1	6	Stage 2 Approved	30/01/2026	2 * 2 bed Apt, 2 * 2 bed, 2 * 3 bed
Point Road, Dundalk	1/1	49	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Dunleer (Ravel Grange)	1/1	72	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda - West	1/1	105	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Mullavalley, Louth Village	1/1	43	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Greenhills, Drogheda	1/1	20	SHIP Accelerated Delivery, Stage 1 Approved	31/12/2026	To be confirmed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	2/6	10	Completed	31/12/2023	10 * 2 bed
Ellwood Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda	3/6	6	Completed	31/12/2023	3 * 2 bed Apt, 3 * 3 bed Apt.

CAS Delivery

Project Name	AHB	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Coulter Park, Dundalk,	Tuath	10	Stage 3 Approved	03/09/2024	Five * 2 Bed house, One * 2 Bed ambulant unit, One * 4 Bed Communal unit
Barrack Street, Dundalk, Co Louth	Dublin Simon	30	Stage 2 Approved	15/09/2025	Nineteen * 1 Bed apartments Three * accessible units Eight * Studio apartments
St John's Home, Peters Street, Drogheda	North & East	4	Stage 3 Approved	30/09/2025	Four * 1 Bed units
Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co Louth	Women's Aid Dundalk	12	Stage 1 approved	02/09/2025	Five * 1 bed apartments Seven * 2 bed apartments

CALF Delivery

Project Name		Total No. of Social Units Expected	Non Part V/ Part V	Project Status	Projected Substantial Completion Date	Unit Type
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	1/2	5		Delivered	30/11/2023 Delivered 13/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Two bed Bungalow, • 1 Three bed Bungalow, • 2 Three bed semi detached
Tierney Street, Ardee Circle Housing	2/2	6		Delivered	30/11/2023 Delivered 13/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Three bed Bungalow, • 1 Three bed semi detached • 3 Two bed terraced houses

Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	1/3	40	36/4	On site	31/01/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Three bed detached, • 10 Two bed terraced, • 14 Three bed semi detached, • 15 Three bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	2/3	46	43/3	On site	15/02/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Two bed terraced, • 18 Three bed semi detached • 15 Three bed terraced
Newtown View, Marsh Road, Drogheda Respond Housing	3/3	47	41/6	On site	30/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Four bed detached, • 11 Two bed terraced, • 1 Three bed detached, • 22 Three bed semi detached • 11 Three bed terraced
Tullybrook, Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	18 Delivered 65	69/16	On site	19/12/2023 30/01/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Two bed apt • 7 Two bed duplex, • 24 Three bed duplex, • 22 Three bed terraced, • 22 Two bed terraced • 2 Four bed terraced
Racecourse Meadows, Dundalk Tuath	4/4	12		On Site	01/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 three bed houses

Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	1/2	49	43/6	On site	30/01/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 One bed apt, • 7 Three 3 bed duplex, • 5 Three bed terraced, • 5 Two bed apt • 14 Two bed duplex
Donore Road Drogheda Cluid Housing	1/1	66	59/7	On site	31/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 One bed apt, • 54 Two bed apt • 8 Three bed apt
Duiche Roden, Dundalk Cluid Housing	3/6 4/6 5/6 6/6	8 10 6 36		Delivered Delivered Delivered On-site	Delivered Delivered 20/12/2023 31/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 one bed apt, • 11 Two bed apt 18 Three bed duplex • 6 Two bed terraced 4 Three bed terraced
Drybridge, Drogheda North & East Housing	1/1	16		On site	20/11/2023 Delivered 06/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Three bed apt, • 10 Two bed apt • 4 One bed apt
Dublin Road, Dundalk Respond Housing	2/2	16		On site	31/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 One bed apt, • 2 Three bed apt, 1 Two bed duplex • 4 One bed semi detached
Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing	1/2	30	19/11	On site	29/03/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 One bed apt • 10 Two bed apt
Connollys Field Dundalk Fold Housing	2/2	40		On Site	17/05/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 One bed apt • 9 Two bed apt

An Caislean, Flaxmill Lane, Yellowbatter Drogheda North & East	1/1	17	14/3	On site	30/04/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 One bed apt • 7 Two bed apt • 3 Three bed apt
Friary Place, Mill Lane Drogheda Tuath	1/1	49	44/5	On-Site	19/07/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 One bed apts • 22 Two bed apts

Cultural Services

Archives



Archives Entrance Gate Sign

National Retention Policy Records Management Working Group

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

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

Archive Transfers

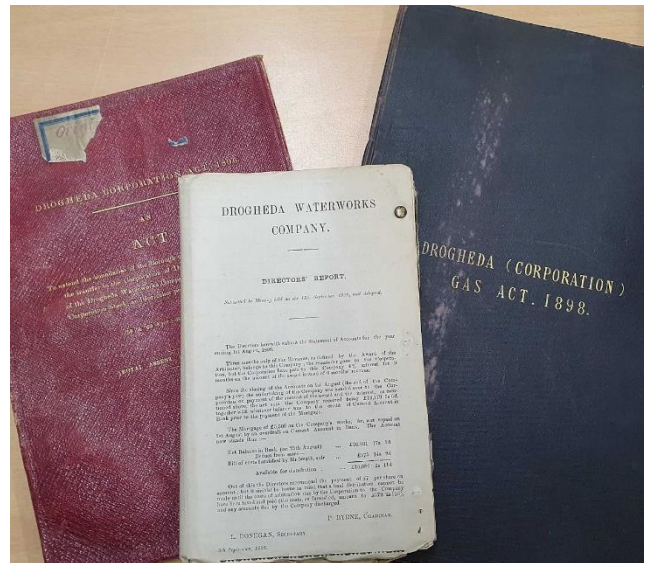
Several sizeable transfers of records that are now archival have been received in recent months. These include Drogheda engineering drawings, fire records and valuation archives. These archives require sorting, cataloguing and boxing before they can be made available for access.

Catalogue Upgrade

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

Donating Archives

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



Recent Acquisitions: A selection of some archives regarding Drogheda Gas Act and Drogheda Waterworks.

Research Enquiries

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

Climate Action

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

Installation of a glazed partition in the lobby area of the building is currently taking place. This will assist in controlling environmental conditions and streamlining energy use in the building. This is supported by the SEAI scheme.

Libraries

Right to Read



Little Library at Bedtime



Little Library at Bedtime is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the government's 'First 5' Strategy.

Louth Library Service are inviting all families with children aged four years and under to join the library. Each child will receive a bedtime story book to take home and keep, together with a wallet and library membership card. One free book is available for each child and titles are available in both Irish and English. Parents and guardians will also receive a 'Bedtime reading tips' leaflet with lots of advice on the benefits of reading to children at bedtime.



One of our borrowers enjoying the Little Library at Bedtime book.

Baby Talk

On January 26, Drogheda Library held an event to celebrate baby graduates from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. A collaboration with Health Librarian, Ruth O'Rourke and Deirdre Bradley, Speech and Language Therapist from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, the Neonatal Intensive Care Reading Project saw the babies and their families gather in the library for a special morning of songs and stories. This collaborative initiative saw Louth Library Service recommending reading stock for lending in hospital by staff, carers and parents of babies in the neonatal unit.



Hospital and Library staff with graduates from the neonatal unit and their parents/guardians.

Programmes and Initiatives

Brigid 1500

The Brigid 1500: 'Louth Birthplace of Brigid' Festival got underway in January, with creative events for children and adults taking place in Ardee, Drogheda and Dundalk Libraries. From Quilling and Watercolour classes to Bridog Doll workshops; the events pay homage to one of Ireland's most esteemed Saints and highlight her legacy throughout the county.



Vivienne Byrne – Facilitator for the Quilling Workshops that are taking place in Louth Library Service as part of the Brigid 1500 festival.



Participants showing off their artwork at the Brigid 1500 Watercolour class in Ardee Library.

Louth County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023



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

Over the past month, visitors to Dundalk Library have had the opportunity to view our Decade of Centenaries exhibition, 'Local Context and Connection'. The exhibition presents information on the ambush at Rockmarshall, the Dundalk Jail Break, the Boyne Obelisk, the Great War, the bombardment of Millmount, Cumann na mBan: Ardee Battalion, Coastguards, Courthouses and Railways. The exhibition will move on to Drogheda Library in February and will travel to other branches later in the year.



Director of Services, Ger Murphy, pictured at the Decade of Centenaries exhibition with historians and library staff.

Adult Events Alzheimer's Café



Maeve Montgomery, Collette Carroll and Mary Callaghan at the Alzheimer's Café in Dundalk Library

January's Alzheimer's Café in Dundalk Library saw Guest Speakers Collette Carroll, Senior Occupational Therapist for Older People, and Mary Callaghan, Nurse from the Mental Health Team for Older People, offer expert advice on assistive technology products for people with memory difficulties. The next Alzheimer's Café will take place on Tuesday, February 20. All are welcome, no booking required.

Women In Wellness in Ardee Library

Following on from successful sessions in Drogheda and Dundalk Libraries, the six-week Women in Wellness programme is currently running on Friday mornings in Ardee Library. The programme is facilitated by Tracey O'Brien, who leads participants through a variety of practices to help awaken a state of wellbeing in themselves. These practices are tools to provide a solid base for healing many symptoms resulting from stress and trauma. This is a Creative Ireland funded initiative.

Activator Pole Walking Programme

A successful five-week Activator Pole Walking Programme has just concluded in Dundalk Library. Run in collaboration with Louth Sports Partnership, attendees gathered in the library to get information about the health benefits of using Activator Poles while walking, before taking them for a test run on some local walking routes. The feedback has been extremely positive, and a small number of Activator Poles are now available for short-term loan from Dundalk Library. The programme is due to begin in Ardee Library in the coming weeks.

Climate Action

Louth County Council's Community Climate Officer, Fiona Lennon, visited our library branches in January for a Community Action Fund Drop-in Clinic. This gave members of the public the opportunity to call in and speak with Fiona and ask questions about the Community Action Fund.

Creative Writing

If you are looking to take up a new skill in 2024 or want to become more confident in your writings, library Creative Writing groups are back in session.

Ardee Library: The Vere Foster Writers Group meets every second Friday.

Drogheda Library: Meeting on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2.30pm-4pm.

Age Action Computer Classes

New computer courses for people over the age of 55 have commenced in Drogheda and Dundalk Libraries. Facilitated by Age Action, the course offers free one-to-one for people who have little or no computer experience. To book in for future courses, please email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie.

Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) in Ardee Library

The Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) facilitated computer classes in Ardee

Library. Taking place on Thursday mornings, the classes were aimed at complete beginners, with the goal of helping participants become comfortable with using the library's public PCs. Shan from LMETB's Louth Education Guidance and Information Service held an information morning on Tuesday, January 16 in the library to offer advice and guidance on CVs and education and training options.

Children's and Family Events

LEGO Activity Day

Approximately 250 young LEGO enthusiasts were recently treated to a fun, interactive workshop in Drogheda Library with professional LEGO Brick Artist Jessica Farrell. Jessica created a 12-foot LEGO brick replica of West Street, detailing some of the buildings there. Buildings or sections that were seen as 'underused' were represented in dark grey bricks, while the rest were built as they appear. The model was very impressive, and families had great fun identifying all the buildings. Three activity stations were also set out, and the children were invited to build what they would like to see on West Street.



One of the participants in the LEGO Activity Day pictured with the model of St Laurence's Gate

Responsible Dog Ownership

Dog owners and enthusiasts in Ardee and Drogheda got a masterclass in responsible dog ownership and care, thanks to Catherine Keating from Louth County Council's Dog Pound.

]

Junior Book Club

Dundalk Library held a drop-in sign-up session for their new Junior Book Club on Friday, January 26. There was huge interest in the club, and members will now get to enjoy and discuss some of the latest junior Fiction, Non-Fiction and Graphic Novels.



The poster for Dundalk Library's Children's Book Club, which held its sign-up event on January 26

Regular Events



Sylvie and Luce enjoying Baby Book Club at Dundalk Library

Throughout January, we enjoyed our weekly toddler group meetings, our monthly baby book clubs and some very special story-times for all ages! Our regular events will continue throughout 2024 at the following times:

Baby Book Club

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

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

Parent and Toddler Group

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

Drogheda Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm

Dundalk Library: Every Thursday from 10am – 12pm



Enjoying Baby Book Club in Drogheda Library.

Knitting and Crochet Group

The Ardee Library Knitting and Crochet group continued to meet every Thursday afternoon throughout the month. New members are always welcome to attend. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. No booking required.

eServices

Borrow Box



Did you know that you can access free eBooks and eAudiobooks with your library card? Borrowbox is one of many facilities available with Louth Library Service. To access it, simply download the Borrow Box app from the Google Play Store or Apple Store. Enter your library service, your card number (at the back of your library card, underneath the barcode) and your 4-digit PIN.

You will be able to download up to five eAudiobooks and five eBooks at a time, choosing from a wide collection of Adult, Young Adult and Children's titles, both Fiction and Non-Fiction.

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

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

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

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

Arts

Brigid1500

Louth County Council kicked off their Brigid 1500: 'Louth Birthplace of Brigid' festival on Friday, January 26 at 6pm in Dundalk. The official opening of the festival, carried out by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paula Butterly, doubled up as the launch for a specially commissioned exhibition in the town. Taking over the old Houston's building on Clanbrassil Street for the duration of the festival, organisers converted the building into an art exhibition space to host all the pieces created over the past 12 months through the Artist in the Community project and the St Brigid's School Cloak

project, amongst others. All featured artworks were commissioned as part of the overall Brigid 1500 programme over the past year. Pride of place was given to the Brigid's Cloak, featured in the main window. The festival continued that first weekend with a day of talks in the Oriel Centre focusing on Brigid's ancient roots at Faughart.



The beautiful Brigid's Cloak designed and made by the students at St Brigid's School in Dundalk in 2023.

Featuring speakers and guests such as Dr Mary Condren of Woman Spirit Ireland, and Nóirín Ní Riáin, the day was insightful and immersive in its format and very well received.

The Brigid: Lady of Light theatre event took centre stage on Wednesday, January 31 with a special Gala Preview at An Táin Arts Centre. The story of St Brigid was told through a mix of music, drama and dance; from her beginnings in Faughart, right through to her death in Kildare. The event was well attended by local councillors, TDs and Senators, and the reception to the premier of this specially commissioned event was overwhelming.

With a cast and creative team primarily made up of professional theatre practitioners and musicians, as well as local community and amateur participants, this was a real showcase of talent in the wonderful surrounding of An Táin.

The show is open to the public on February 1 and 2, and the festival will continue until Monday, February 5. For details of the festival and its events, visit <https://www.visitlouth.ie/visitor-info/brigid1500.html>



Creative Director Paul Hayes, Musical Director and Composer Daithí Kearney, Choreographer Fiona Keenan O'Brien and the dancers who took part in Brigid: Lady of Light at An Táin Arts Centre.

Creative Ireland

The new Creative Climate project, the Louth Urban Food Sanctuary, continues its preparations for 2024. Trial produce selected for growth will include Ginger, Bok Choi, Ugu, Heritage Peas and Sweet Potato. For details of all produce and how to get in touch to take part, email creativeireland@louthcoco.ie, or keep an eye on the new website: <https://louthurbanfoodsantuary.com/>. The website will also contain some videos on the key project team and a tutorial on seed saving and planting Garlic. Planting for the season will begin on March 2 in the Dundalk Inclusive Garden at Creative Spark. Details of all community planting events and workshops will be posted on the website.

Drogheda Classical Music Series

Drogheda Classical Music Series (DCMS) continued on Friday, January 19 with Jonathan Roozeman and Varvara Nepomnyashchaya. The Finnish-Dutch Cellist and his Piano partner played a programme of thrilling works including Damstrom's short, virtuosic 'Aveo', which was written for Jonathan himself. Details of the remaining concerts in the series can be found at <http://droghedaclassicalmusic.com/concerts/>.

An Táin Arts Centre

An Táin Arts Centre started its 10-year anniversary celebrations on Thursday, January 25 with the premiere of Dundalk playwright Jaki McCarrick's play; 'Belfast Girls'. The story explores the urgent, current questions around classism, patriarchy and the ripple effect of colonialism through a powerful historical play based on true stories.



The cast of 'Belfast Girls' by Jaki McCarrick, which premiered in An Táin Arts Centre on January 25, 2024.

This theatre piece was developed by An Táin Arts Centre in partnership with Quintessence Theatre Group, and is touring in association with the Lyric Theatre, Belfast and the North East Network (An Táin Arts Centre, Droichead Arts Centre and Drogheda and Solstice Arts Centre, Navan).

Droichead Arts Centre

Droichead Arts Centre held their Young Producers Programme event 'Rising Stars' on Saturday, January 27. A number of talented teenagers from across the Drogheda and East Meath areas came together to battle it out for some top prizes.

The Young Producers programme is made up of 15 Transition Year students from schools in Drogheda and East Meath. It allows them to programme and produce an event of their choice in the Arts Centre.

Highlanes Gallery

The Micheál O'Connell exhibition 'System Interference' continues in the gallery until February 17. The work touches on environmental concerns but in an abstruse way. The range of works include printed materials and sound recordings.

For details on this and any upcoming exhibitions see <https://highlanes.ie/exhibition/system-interference-micheal-oconnell/?back=ago> .

Féile na Tána

Now in its tenth year, Féile na Tána saw its programme expand and develop to its biggest offering this year.



The poster for the 10th annual Féile na Tána

Performers such as Nuala Kennedy, Dónal O'Connor, Micheál O'Raghallaigh and Mary Bergin took over the Cooley Peninsula for a 10-day spectacular festival, including workshops, Céilís and live performances.

Your Roots Are Showing – Folk Conference

From January 17 – 21, Ireland's only Folk Conference took place at the Gateway Hotel in Dundalk. The event saw a convergence of folk, roots and traditional music from around the world, offering a rare blend of time-honoured tradition and innovative artistry.

The event also delved into the rich culture and culture of storytelling, dance and language. Part of the five-day series included the Dundalk Music Trail, with performances on the streets of Dundalk as well as in intimate gigs in the Spirit Store and An Táin Arts Centre.

Funding Opportunities

The Arts Council will once again have a vast range of funding opportunities throughout 2024. All details can be found on the Arts Council funding page: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>.

Museum

Exhibition

'From Small Acorns – the story of Women's Football in Ireland' has completed its run on the museum's Mezzanine floor. The exhibition marked the 50th anniversary of the Stade de Reims Women's football club tour of Ireland and concluded with an oral history session with players and relatives of those involved with the early days of women's football in Ireland.



Wearing the Green Jersey: 'From Small Acorns' at the County Museum, Dundalk.



Building a legacy: 'From Small Acorns' at the County Museum, Dundalk.

It's all about the Collection – County Museum featured on RTE's The Today Show in January



It's all about the Collection.

On Wednesday, January 18, County Museum was invited to present some of its most interesting and remarkable items from the Collection on the National Treasures segment on RTÉ's Today Show with Maura and Dáithí. Over the course of the live segment, Curator Brian Walsh spoke to Dáithí Ó Sé about the following pieces:

- Archer Beatrice Hill-Lowe's Olympic Bronze medal
- Arctic explorer Sir Francis Leopold McClintock's expeditions to the Arctic
- Singer-songwriter Liam Reilly's 'Bagatelle' jacket
- Engineer James Barton's theodolite
- Patrick White's Purple Heart
- St Brigid
- The compass from the SS Dundalk
- The Heinkel motor car
- A dress from the 1950s

The segment can be watched in full on the RTÉ player at <https://t.co/OSNpw8Zepp>.



A sample of the items featured during the segment.

St Brigid – the exhibition

To coincide with the St Brigid Festival the County Museum is hosting an exhibition, which opened in late January, about St Brigid's life and career. Running for the entire month of February, the exhibition features a number of crosses and other items associated with St Brigid and her legacy. It also showcases a craft project, created by several local schools in conjunction with the museum, which incorporates a dress of paper flowers.



Last year's St Brigid exhibition at County Museum.

Ukraine Humanitarian Response Freagairt Dhaonnúil na hÚcráine

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

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

Yvonne O'Brien
Acting Director / Stiúrtóir Gníomhach



Ukraine Humanitarian Response

Offer A Home Programme

Property Figures as at 31/01/2024

Property offers recorded to date	55
Owners successfully contacted	55
Properties allocated to date	31
Beneficiaries assigned to date	98
Assessments	44
Assessments currently underway	0
Properties assessed as suitable	32
Properties with minor works required	2
Properties withdrawn	12
Properties not viable	9

The Ukraine Response team continued to engage with many beneficiaries of temporary protection to support queries through Sugar CRM and directly around accommodation and reunification.

Local Authority Integration Team

The role of the team is to compliment mainstream services by linking in with and coordinating integration supports for 4 refugee cohorts:

- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)
- International Protection Applicants
- Programme Refugees, and
- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status.

During January, the team were busy meeting with accommodation centre managers and many of the inter- agency and NGO representatives who work with the four cohorts of refugees to gain an understanding of the integration support environment and the immediate challenges facing individuals and families living in Louth. The team completed a 'Directory of Services / Coordination Model' of local services in the county. An Independent Living Guide has also been created to assist new residents to Co. Louth in accessing services when they initially move into Co. Louth.

The team began their training programme and completed Suicide Awareness training and Cultural Awareness Training. The team also attended the launch of the River Project in DKIT on January 19th. The project has been created to assist professionals with training for those most in need of further support and education in Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV).