

Civic Reception for Kate O'Connor and Eve McCrystal this week



Kate O'Connor



Eve McCrystal

Donard McCabe

donard.mccabe@dundalkdemocrat.ie

Louth County Council will host a Civic Reception at County Hall, Dundalk, this Thursday 10 April, to honour the sporting achievements of Kate O'Connor and Eve McCrystal.

The event recognises the extraordinary accomplishments of two of the county's most celebrated athletes who have proudly represented Louth and Ireland on the global stage, inspiring countless others with their dedication, talent, and resilience.

Kate O'Connor made history in 2024 when she became Ireland's first Olympic heptathlete and Louth's first female Track and Field Olympian at the Paris Games.

Having risen through the ranks at Dundalk St Gerard's AC, she has gone on to claim medals at the European U20 Championships, Commonwealth Games, and most recently, at the World Indoor Championships in China, where she ended Ireland's 19-year wait for a medal at that level.

Eve McCrystal's legacy in cycling is unparalleled. Over a decade-long tandem partnership with Katie-George Dunlevy, she secured an incredible haul of five medals across three Paralympic Games in Rio, Tokyo and Paris, along with multiple World Championship titles.

A two-time Irish National Road Racing champion, Eve's illustrious career concluded with a final World Championship medal in 2024, when she partnered Josephine Healion to a bronze in Switzerland, and induction into the Cycling Ireland Hall of Fame.

David Conway, Chief Executive of Louth County Council, praised both athletes, saying: "Kate and Eve have not only excelled in their respective sports, but they've also brought immense pride to Louth. Their journeys speak to the power of perseverance, and their success has placed our county - and indeed our country - firmly on the international sporting map."

"This Civic Reception is a heartfelt expression of our admiration and gratitude."

Cllr Kevin Callan, Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, said: "What makes Kate and Eve's stories so special is the way they connect with people, especially young girls and women."

"They've become powerful role models, showing what is possible not just in sport, but in life."

"Whether you're a student, an aspiring athlete, or a mother juggling dreams and responsibilities, they show that excellence is always within reach."

Cllr Seán Kelly, Cathaoirleach of Dundalk Municipal District, also paid tribute, saying:

"Both Kate and Eve are shining examples of what can be achieved through hard work, talent and determination."

"They have inspired not only our local community but the entire country with their achievements."

"Their stories will leave a lasting legacy in our town, one that encourages young people to dream big and aim high."

Joe McGuinness, Director of Services at Louth County

Council, also noted the council's ongoing investment in local sport, saying:

"Louth County Council is currently in the final stages of a tender process for a new athletics track in Dundalk."

"While no formal plans to include a contract signing as part of the upcoming Civic Reception, the project remains a priority."

"Subject to the completion of contractual and administrative steps, we would hope that work can commence during the summer."

"In the south of the county, arrangements are also in place to make the Lourdes Stadium in Drogheda available on a number of Sundays in April and May to facilitate scheduled athletics events."

Louth County Council says that the invite-only Civic Reception will bring together family, friends, sporting representatives, and elected members to formally celebrate the achievements of two inspirational women whose legacy will live on in County Louth for generations to come.

Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme open

Louth County Council is now inviting applications for grant assistance under its Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2025.

The Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme is available to local retailers and business owners within County

Louth. Shopfronts are one of the most important elements in determining the character, quality and perception of retail streets and it is hoped to promote good quality shopfronts through this initiative.

To help businesses achieve this, Louth County Council has also published

a Shopfront Design Guidelines booklet.

The 2025 Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme opened for applications on Monday 7th April, 2025 and the closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00pm on Friday 26th September, 2025.

The application form and design guidelines are available to download at: https://louthcoco.ie/en/louth_county_council/latest-news/shopfront-improvement-grant-scheme-2025-now-open-for-applications.html or email: shopfrontgrant@louthcoco.ie.



**Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)**

**West Gate House and Drogheda Youth Development Building Refurbishment and Extension, West Street, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co. Louth
SITE NOTICE**

Louth County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to carry out development works at West Street A92 K273, West Street A92 KW13 and 62-63 West Street Drogheda A92 X7WR a protected structure (DB-306). The development site of 0.065 ha on West Street, at its junction with the George Street (Regional Road R132), is bounded to the east by Father Connolly Way. The western boundary of the site aligns with the town wall Scheduled National Monument (LH024-041014). The site is located within the Old Abbey Lane Architectural Conservation Area 17 as designated in the Louth County Council Development Plan 2021-2027 varied.

- The development will consist of:
1. Refurbishment and conservation works with internal alterations, external alterations, signage, repair and upgrades with services integration to 62 West Street (West Gate House) and Former Drogheda Youth Development, West Street.
 2. Change of use from community /guesthouse use to cultural/community with cafe facility.
 3. New single storey extension to the rear of the Former Drogheda Youth Development building, including landscaped roof podium.
 4. Part demolition of single storey (Former Drogheda Youth Development) building onto West Street to facilitate new extension infill with single storey frontage onto West Street stepping to three storey over double basement to provide new universal access circulation throughout building complex.
 5. Raising of a section of roof to the single storey building (Former Drogheda Youth Development) to create consolidated ridge line while remaining single storey to West Street.
 6. New two storey extension to the rear of 62 West Street (West Gate House) to provide link to rear annexes.
 7. External works to West Street and Fr. Connolly Way including new pedestrian access to landscaped podium.
 8. External works to rear of new extension including boundary treatment
 9. All associated site development works and associated services.

In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Louth County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination pursuant to the provisions of article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Where any person considers that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time before the expiration of 4 weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice, apply in accordance with the provisions of article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such effects.

In accordance with the provisions of article 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Louth County Council has carried out a screening of the proposed development to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Accordingly, Louth County Council has determined that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, from Wednesday 9th April 2025 until Wednesday 7th May 2025 (inclusive) at the offices of Louth County Council during public opening hours at the Drogheda Civic Offices, Fair St, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 PP78. Plans and particulars will also be available to view online on the consultation portal of Louth County Council <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/>.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, clearly marked "Westgate House Refurbishment Part 8" may be made either:

- In writing to the undersigned at Louth County Council, County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth
- Via National Part 8 Planning Portal <https://planning.localgov.ie/en>

before 5.00pm on Wednesday 21st May 2025.

Dated 9th April 2025
Terry Hamilton, Town Regeneration Officer, Placemaking and Physical Development, Louth County Council

County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, County Louth A91 KFW6
t 042 9335457 w www.louthcoco.ie e info@louthcoco.ie
View Alerts at www.mapalarter.ie/louth