



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Chill Dara
Kildare Local Community Development
Committee

KILDARE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

Annual Report 2023





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1. Introduction

Kildare Local Community Development Committee's (LCDC) Annual Report is intended to provide a short overview of the work and their role during 2023. This was a very successful year characterised in particular by the ongoing development of the second Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 for Kildare, the approval of a LEADER Local Development Strategy 2023-2027, a successful tender process for the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 and the ongoing oversight and co-ordination of programmes such as Healthy Ireland, Slaintecare Healthy Communities and grants such as the Community Support Fund. Another positive feature of 2023 was the selection of Athy by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) as a target area for a new **'Empowering Communities Programme'**. The invasion of the Ukraine in March 2022 continued to have an impact on all European countries, including Ireland and the LCDC continued to co-ordinate the Ukrainian Community Response Forum throughout 2023.

Oversight and co-ordination of the LCDC programmes was supported by Kildare County Council, Pobal, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) and the Department of Health.

This Annual Report provides a short overview of the work and role of Kildare LCDC in 2023. Further information can be found on the LCDC website:

[Kildare LCDC - Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://kildarecoco.ie)

or by contacting the LCDC support staff team at:

[Contact Us - Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://kildarecoco.ie)



2. Role of Kildare LCDC

Kildare LCDC was established in line with the statutory requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2014. This Act gave legislative effect to 'Putting People First' and included the establishment of LCDCs in all local authority administrative areas. The role, structure and membership of the LCDC is defined with detailed circulars and guidelines underpinning the ongoing development of the LCDC.

The purpose of LCDCs as outlined in the Act is to:

Develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

The role of LCDCs is to:

- Have primary responsibility for coordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding for the county;
- Bring a more joined up approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions, pursuing an integrated approach to local community-based services across providers and delivery structures;
- Drive meaningful citizen and community engagement in the scoping, planning and evaluation of local and community development programmes;
- Pursue a more cost-efficient administration of local and community development programmes and delivery structures, the matching of resources to priorities and better value-for money in the management and delivery of programmes;
- Focus on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between service delivery and policy development;
- Pursue opportunities for additional funding for the county, whether exchequer, EU, private or other sources.



3. Kildare LCDC Membership and Meetings in 2023

Kildare LCDC is a nineteen-member committee with representatives from statutory and non- statutory bodies. In line with the legislation, non-statutory representatives hold the majority of places on the committee (see table below). The Committee is supported to carry out its role by the Chief Officer (Marian Higgins) and designated KCC support staff. Kildare LCDC is a committee of KCC however, unlike the Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees (SPC), the LCDC is independent from the local authority in the performance of its functions. Due to the statutory requirement to rotate non-statutory members, there were a number of changes to the membership of Kildare LCDC during 2023.

Name	Organisation
STATUTORY REPRESENTATION – 9 MEMBERS	
Cllr. Suzanne Doyle	Chairperson LCDC, Kildare County Council – Elected Representative
Cllr. Tracey O’Dwyer	Kildare County Council – Elected Representative
Cllr. Aidan Farrelly	Kildare County Council – Elected Representative
Sonya Kavanagh	Chief Executive, Kildare County Council
Jacqui McNabb	Head of Enterprise, Kildare County Council
Margaret McQuillan	Head of Health & Wellbeing, HSE, CH07
Audrey Warren	Service Director, Dublin Mid-Leinster, Tusla
Ruth Langan	Area Manager Kildare, Dept. of Social Protection
Ken Seery	Director of Adult Education & Training, KWETB
NON-STATUTORY REPRESENTATION – 10 MEMBERS	
Tom Malone	Member of IFA
Lisa Baggott	Co-ordinator, South Western Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Mary O’Connor*	Board Member, County Kildare LEADER Partnership
Sinead Ronan	CEO, County Kildare Chamber of Commerce
Francis Doherty*	CEO, Peter McVerry Trust
Evonne Boland*	PPN, Community Development
Alan Kerry*	PPN, Social Inclusion
Pat Balfe*	PPN, Community Development
Jide Sadiq*	PPN, Social Inclusion
Bob Quinn	PPN, Environment



Name	Membership Replacement 2023
*Pat Balfe	Replaced Dermot O'Donnell, PPN Community Development
*Francis Doherty	Replaced Pat Doyle, CEO, McVerry Trust
*Mary O'Connor	Replaced Pat Leogue, CEO, CKLP
*Evonne Boland	Replaced Anthony Egan, PPN Community Development
*Alan Kerry	Replaced Declan Nolan, PPN Social Inclusion
*Jide Sadiq	Replaced Sarah Shakespeare, PPN Social Inclusion

Kildare LCDC is also the Local Action Group (LAG) to oversee the LEADER Rural Development Programme in Kildare. There were six LCDC and seven LAG meetings held in 2023.

Date of LCDC/LAG Meeting	Online/In-person/Blended
25th January 2023	Blended
29th March 2023	Blended
24th May 2023	Blended
5th July 2023	Blended
27th September 2023	In-Person
29th November 2023	Blended
13th December 2023 (LAG only)	Online

The work of the LCDC in 2023 was supported by the following Kildare County Council Staff:

Date of LCDC/LAG Meeting	Online/In-person/Blended
Marian Higgins	LCDC Chief Officer, Director of Service
Susan Bookle	LECP Co-ordinator
Marie Kane	A/LCDC Co-ordinator
Terrie Devlin	LCDC Administrator
Anita Clarke/Kathryn Morbin	LCDC Support (Kathryn Morbin replaced Anita Clarke Oct 2023)
Laura Kelly/Claire Morrissey	HI Co-ordinator (Claire Morrissey replaced Laura Kelly April 2023)
Maria Healy	Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer



4. Kildare LCDC Work and Progress 2023

Since the establishment of Kildare LCDC in 2014 significant progress has occurred with its work and role increasing year on year. The following presents a snapshot of the work that took place during 2023.

4.1 Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The development of Kildare's second Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029 was a key priority of the work of the LCDC in 2023. It is a statutory requirement that local authorities should prepare an integrated Local Economic and Community Plan with specific community and economic elements. The purpose of the LECP is to set out the objectives and actions to promote Kildare's economic and local/community development for a six-year period.

Process to Develop the LECP

Preparation

In February 2023, following national detailed guidelines, work commenced to ensure that there was a general awareness of the LECP, its role and its importance amongst key stakeholders in Kildare through meetings, presentations and a video.

A senior cross-sectoral and representative Advisory Steering Group was established to oversee the development of the LECP

The work undertaken in Stage One included:

- Reviewing Kildare LECP 2016-2021
- Updating the Socio-Economic Profile of Kildare (which was further updated as Census 2022 data became available)
- Carrying out a review of key European, National, Regional and local policies and plans

This work culminated in the preparation of the Socio-Economic Statement that proposed the LECP draft vision and high-level goals which was agreed by the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC in June and the LCDC in July.



Consultation

The formal consultation process commenced in July 2023 and ran until November 2023. The following priority stakeholders were identified:



The methods used to consult with stakeholders included:

- A review of relevant recent plans
- An online survey
- Community and Voluntary consultation
- Employer and Business consultation
- Statutory Agencies consultation
- Collaborative structure consultation

Over 1,300 individuals directly engaged in the consultation process. This consultation stage helped finalise the vision and high-level goals of the plan which were approved by the LCDC in November 2023 and by the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC in December 2023.

Next Steps

The third stage in the planning process involved the finalisation of the objectives and outcomes of the LECP. Aligning the objectives to a wide range of key strategic plans, including the County Development Plan 2023-2029, Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, was pivotal at this stage. The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC and LCDC were scheduled to approve the final objectives at their respective meetings in February 2024.



The LECP is on track to be finalised in early 2024 and a two-year implementation plan will be developed in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders. The final stage in the process will be to monitor and evaluate the ongoing implementation of the LECP over the next six years.

4.2 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP is the national programme that aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality in disadvantaged communities and individuals. It is co-funded by the European Social Fund and managed by Local Community Development Committees in each local authority area.

The programme (2018-2022) was extended to 2023 as a result of the impact of Covid-19 and the war in the Ukraine.

County Kildare LEADER Partnership CLG (CKLP), contracted to implement the SICAP 2018-2023 programme in Kildare continued to roll out the programme in 2023. SICAP is underpinned by two goals, agreed nationally as:

Goal 1: Supporting Disadvantaged Communities – 2023 Target Kildare: 59 groups

Goal 2: Supporting Disadvantaged Individuals – 2023 Target Kildare: 781 individuals.

SICAP in Kildare in 2023 was very successful in implementing the agreed plan on time, on budget and with more people than initially targeted.

Kildare's SICAP budget allocation for 2023 of €1,465,474 was fully spent and represented an increase of 8% from 2022 which was very positive for the county. This included additional funding to Kildare of €170,973 and a further €10,000 to support local responses to the Ukrainian crisis into the county through the SICAP Programme.

Pobal, are contracted by the Department of Rural and Community Development to oversee the programme at national level. National targets are set for each goal, and a rigid planning and review process is in place. Kildare LCDC approved the end of year review 2022 at their meeting in March. This process was in line with requirements and submitted to Pobal for their review on behalf of DRCD.

Kildare LCDC were actively involved in informing the plan for 2023 and approved it at their meeting in January 2023. The Annual Plan for SICAP 2023 included the Government's five priority groups established as part of the SICAP Mid-Programme review in 2021.



1. Long Term Unemployed
2. Traveller and Roma
3. New Communities including Ukrainian Refugees
4. Older People
5. Mental Health (including youth)
6. The LCDC continued from 2022 with a sixth priority for Kildare to reflect the demographic:

Young Early School Leavers/Young People at risk of leaving school early.

There were eighteen actions in the SICAP 2023 plan.

Goal 1: Communities	Goal 2: Individuals
Community Outreach Engagement	Supporting Disadvantaged Young People
Supporting Community Groups	Mental Health, Wellbeing & Resilience
Kildare Leadership Support	Supporting Traveller and Roma Inclusion in Kildare
Collaborative Engagement	Supporting New Communities & Displaced Ukrainians
Social Enterprise	Supporting Older People
Kildare Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy & Kildare Integration Strategy	Supports for Parents
Older People	Education Supports for Young People
Mental Health	Progression to Employment
New Communities and Displaced Ukrainians	Supporting Self-Employment

While CKLP were responsible for ensuring that the work progressed, a highly collaborative approach was taken. CKLP work with state agencies e.g. HSE, ETB, Department of Social Protection, KCC, local schools and voluntary/community organisations such as In Sync, Family Resource Centres, Kildare Traveller Action, community centres, sports groups to progress the actions in both goals and to inform future planning.

Some highlights from SICAP in 2023 included:

- Interagency Ukrainian Refugee and New Arrivals Response
- Implementation of the Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2019–2023 and Kildare Integration Strategy 2020–2024
- Networking and collaboration with key stakeholders.
- Mental health and Health and Wellbeing interventions.
- Commencement of a three-year strategy for Social Enterprise Development
- Programmes to overcome isolation for older people



- Continue to re-ignite communities after Covid-19
- Youth resilience and capacity building training
- Jobseekers' skills and personal development training
- Education opportunities for children and families

The percentage of individuals **living in disadvantaged areas** provided with SICAP supports was achieved in 2023 for the first time (26.76% achieved versus 26% set). This target has continuously posed a challenge for Kildare's high growth county as many people who are provided with supports through SICAP, live outside the recognised Haase deprivation areas. Kildare exceeded the targets set to support communities and individuals as follows:

Goal	Target Set 2023	Target Reached 2023
Goal 1- Communities	59	77
Goal 2-Individuals	781	1,023
% of individuals in disadvantaged communities	26%	26.76%



Minister Joe O'Brien TD meeting with the SICAP Ukrainian Support Worker and International Protection Applicants (IPAs) at County Kildare LEADER Partnership CLG, Kildare Town



SICAP Enterprise Support Worker discussing the Back to Work and Short-Term Enterprise allowance with a client at the SICAP Information Event during Social Inclusion week 2023



SICAP Education Support Worker with some of the Roma Community exploring Return to Education opportunities during the Traveller/Roma Education event at Social Inclusion week 2023.



In line with requirements, the SICAP programme 2023 was audited by Kildare County Council's Audit Team and no high-risk findings were identified.

Kildare LCDC continued to monitor progress through their SICAP subgroup. This subgroup met in the weeks leading up to the LCDC meetings to review SICAP implementation and to consider opportunities and challenges. A report is prepared and presented to the LCDC members for consideration. SICAP is a standing item on all LCDC meetings with the LCDC making all final decisions in relation to the programme. The subgroup met six times in 2023.

The membership of the SICAP subgroup in 2023 was as follows:

Marian Higgins	Subgroup Chairperson, Chief Officer LCDC, Director of Services, KCC
Declan Nolan/Evonne Boland	LCDC Member, PPN Representative (Evonne Boland replaced Declan Nolan in September 2023)
Cllr. Aidan Farrelly	LCDC Member, Public Representative
Sarah Griffin/Caroline Sheehan	Tusla (Caroline Sheehan replaced Sarah Griffin in Nov 2023)
In attendance	
Nicola Fogarty/Breda Stewart	SICAP Manager, CKLP. Breda Stewart replaced Nicola Fogarty in September 2023)
Violet Balfe	Financial Controller, CKLP
Supported by	
	Marie Kane, Terrie Devlin

New SICAP 2024-2028 Tender Process - The tender for the new SICAP programme 2024-2028 was published on e-Tenders on 17th July with a closing date of the 8th of September 2023. An LCDC Evaluation Committee was formed in accordance with Pobal guidance. The Committee was Chaired by Kildare County Council's Head of Procurement and other members included the LCDC Chief Officer, LCDC Chairperson, SEO Community Department Kildare County Council and administrative support was provided by the LCDC Support Team. Kildare LCDC received one tender. Following a number of evaluation meetings and a follow-up negotiation meeting with the tenderer, the contracts were signed in December 2023 between Kildare LCDC, Kildare County Council, and the successful tenderer County Kildare LEADER Partnership Company. The new Programme will commence in January 2024.



*Signing of contracts for SICAP 2024-2028 and LEADER 2023-2027 in December 2023
(Back Row from left) Breda Stewart SICAP Manager CKLP, Karl Duffy LEADER Manager CKLP,
Marian Higgins LCDC Chief Officer & Director of Services KCC.
Front Row from left) Pat Leogue, CEO CKLP, Sonya Kavanagh Chief Executive KCC*

4.3 Rural Development LEADER Programme

The Kildare LEADER programme is implemented by CKLP and overseen by Kildare LCDC (as LAG). The first LEADER Local Development Strategy, under LCDC as LAG was approved in late 2016 for the 2014-2020 programme. This LEADER programme was extended nationally to allow for EU negotiation of the next LEADER programme. The project funding available to Kildare for this programme 2014-2023 was €5,089,853 which included additional Transitional and EURI funding commencing in 2021.

The purpose of the LEADER programme is to improve the quality of life and economic activity in rural areas through grant aiding private enterprises and community groups. This is different to SICAP, as LEADER is a grant aiding programme.

This grant aid is provided to projects under the following themes:

- Economic development, enterprise development and job creation
- Social inclusion
- Rural environment



Due to small decommitments of funding on some projects, there were two final allocations of grant aid totalling €47,614 in 2023. A number of projects were fully or partially completed during the year and claimed their grant aid totaling €703,335.

An independent evaluation committee, in line with requirements, assessed the projects in advance of their presentation to the LAG for full approval. This committee continued to meet in advance of the LAG meetings. All requirements of the programme were adhered to and a specific LEADER annual report for 2023 was approved and submitted to DRCD.

Kildare has supported a broad range of projects to support community, economic and environmental development across the county. An example of projects that availed of LEADER grant aid are presented below:

GRAZE Dairy Farm Partnership

The Gray family's GRAZE Dairy Farm Partnership is near Prosperous in Co. Kildare. The farm, which has been operating for four generations, was originally a traditional liquid milk operation before switching to spring milk production in 2013. The farm won awards in 2020 and 2021 for its milk.

Purpose of LEADER grant aid to GRAZE Dairy Farm Partnership

The aim of the project was to get award-winning, farm-fresh top-quality milk, which, with the support of LEADER Grant aid towards a new pasteurisation unit, the milk is pasteurised on site and sold directly to consumers. The milk travels just 100 metres from the milking parlour to the vending machine. The milk is sold in 500ml and 1 litre measures and there is ample parking and full access at a special sales cabin.

The target beneficiaries for the fresh milk were consumers in local towns and villages such as Caragh, Clane, Naas and Prosperous. These towns and the surrounding North Kildare area continue to experience rapid population growth and are amongst the fastest growing parts of the country.

Social Farming

The promoter identified the need to develop a social farming activity in the north of Kildare to respond to the mental health needs of members of the community, as well as building on their own desire to contribute to the community. They also wished to share the joy which they both experience from being on a farm each day.



*Varieties of fresh milk options
for sale at
GRAZE Dairy Farm*



Purpose of LEADER grant aid to Social Farming

The aim of the project was to construct a purpose-built cottage dedicated to the activities of the social farm. This included a large open plan area, a kitchen, a disability friendly shower and a boot room. The intended beneficiaries were wheelchair users and persons with intellectual disabilities, as well as the general population with mental health challenges. See the progress of the building project below.



Kildare LAG continued to work through its' Rural Development subgroup. This subgroup met in advance of the LAG meetings to review progress, and to ensure that opportunities and challenges were identified. This included an update of the projects being recommended by the evaluation committee for approval. A report from the subgroup is presented at the LAG meeting and they make all final decisions in relation to LEADER.

Membership of the Rural Development Subgroup in 2023, who met seven times, was as follows:

Marian Higgins	Subgroup Chairperson, Chief Officer LCDC, Director of Services, KCC
Cllr. Tracey O'Dwyer	LCDC Member, Public Representative
Sinead Ronan	LCDC Member, County Kildare Chamber of Commerce
Jacqui McNabb	LCDC Member, Head of Enterprise, Kildare County Council
Tom Malone	LCDC Member, IFA
In attendance	
Karl Duffy	Manager, Rural Development Programme, CKLP
Supported by	Susan Bookle, Marie Kane, Anita Clake/Kathryn Morbin



New LEADER 2023-2027 Programme

The Government announced the details of the new LEADER Programme for 2023-2027 in late October 2022 with an indicative budget of €5.4 million for Kildare from 2023-2027. The main themes of the new LEADER Programme are: (1) Economic Development and Job Creation (2) Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion and (3) Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.

Following an expression of interest process, Kildare LCDC (as the LEADER Local Action Group) with County Kildare LEADER Partnership as the Implementing Partner were invited to submit a Local Development Strategy (LDS) by July 2023 for the delivery of the 2023- 2027 LEADER programme for Kildare. Following profiling, needs analysis, public and stakeholder consultations and policy analysis, the LAG developed and agreed local development priorities and submitted a new LEADER LDS to the Department of Rural and Community Development for approval. The Kildare LDS was approved by the Department in late 2023 and contracts were signed with Kildare LAG, Kildare County Council and County Kildare LEADER Partnership in December 2023. The new LEADER Programme will commence in early 2024.

4.4 Healthy Ireland Programme

Healthy Ireland (HI) is a national response to improve health and wellbeing across the country. This framework for improved health and wellbeing sets out the vision, goals and priorities for 2013-2025.

Following the success of Healthy Ireland Rounds 1, 2 and 3, an application was made in January 2023 by Kildare LCDC to Pobal for Healthy Ireland Round 4 funding 2023-2025. Priorities of the overall programme application for 2023-2025 focused on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

The application was fully approved by Pobal in June 2023 with a three-year commitment for local authorities to employ a dedicated full-time Co-ordinator. In addition, commitment to funding of €267,494 over a three-year period 2023-2025 was given.

Work took place during 2023 to implement health and wellbeing initiatives across the county through the following collaborative programmes:



Project Partner	Programme Description	2023 Funding
Kildare Sports Partnership (KSP)	KSP programmes included Learn2Cycle, GAA for All, Sportability Day, Disability Inclusion, Fitsticks for Farmers, Get Kildare Walking and Women's Couch to 5k. Overall, 2,938 people engaged with 102 instructors trained	€25,000
County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP)	Wellness Recovery Action Plan Training (WRAP) organised by CKLP took place at Newbridge Family Resource Centre in October and Teach Dara Family Resource Centre in November. 41 completed the training	€18,000
Kildare Mental Health Ireland	Kildare Mental Health's Connect Cafés (held in Kildare Town and Naas Hospital) functioned as both sign posting events and to help people with mental health issues feel included in their community. It was also a way for participants to meet informally with service providers and professionals at an event that facilitated table discussions and friendly chats. 210 people engaged.	€2,000
CAMS-Care	The CAMS-care programme served a very significant purpose to train those working with people who are self-harming or suicidal. 17 professionals engaged and 9 completed the full training programme.	€5,000
Peter McVerry Trust	Sensory Garden for families at one of the homeless hubs in Kildare and wellness and sensory packs for families. Programme is scheduled for completion in 2024.	€25,000
Total Funding		€75,000



***Couch to 5k
'Get Kildare Walking'
in Monasterevin
supported by
Healthy Ireland***



***Skylarks Inclusive
Club –
a targeted disability
programme in 2023
supported by
Healthy Ireland***





Kildare LCDC continued to work through a Health and Wellbeing Subgroup to support oversight of Healthy Ireland and the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme. The Subgroup met six times in 2023 and reported into Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meetings.

The membership of the Health and Wellbeing Subgroup was as follows:

Cllr. Aidan Farrelly	Chairperson/LCDC Member
Anne Myler	Kildare Library Service
Edel Byrne	HSE
Karen Heavey	HSE
Carmel Cashin	Kildare Age Friendly
Lisa Baggott	SWRDATA
Karl Duffy	CKLP
Emma Berney	CYPSC
Sinead Ronan	LCDC Representative/Co. Kildare Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Shakespeare	Family Resource Centres representative
Pat Balfe	LCDC Member/PPN Community Development representative
Claire Morrissey	HI Co-ordinator
Maria Healy	SCHC Local Development Officer
Supported by:	Marie Kane, LCDC Team

4.5 Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme

Athy was designated as one of 19 Slaintecare Healthy Communities in late 2021 and commenced in 2022 with the employment by Kildare County Council of a dedicated Local Development Officer. The purpose of Slaintecare Healthy Communities is to reduce health inequalities through a range of evidence-based programmes and to increase targeted health related programmes.

The HSE oversee the roll out of the evidence-based programmes, with the LCDC overseeing local co-ordination, building key working relationships, opportunities for collaboration and identification of the health and wellbeing needs of the community for planned actions.

The Programme entered into its second year of operation in 2023. Collaboration and engagement at a community level continued whilst working relationships were forged between the Local Development Officer, local stakeholders, and community members.

2022 Seed Funded projects concluded and five new themes emerged to direct the allocation of 2023 Seed Funding of €75,000 towards: Traveller Health and



Wellbeing, Food Insecurity, Neurodiversity and Inclusion, Trauma Informed Practice and Socially Engaged Arts. The Local Implementation Group continued to meet and identify community Health and Wellbeing needs. The Department of Health provided additional funds of €5,718 in 2023 to support community-based initiatives.

Budget 2024

Dept of Health Seed Funding	Partner Organisations	Amount
Food Supports	County Kildare LEADER Partnership, Grow it Yourself	€25,000
Traveller Health and Wellbeing	Kildare Traveller Action	€15,000
Neurodiversity and Trauma Informed Practice	CYPSC, HSE, InSync Youth & Family Service, Family Resource Centre	€30,000
Woodstock Artist in Residence	Creative Places, Empowering Communities Programme	€5,000
Total Seed Funding		€75,000

Dept of Health Additional Funding	Partner Organisations	Amount
Walking Group	Kildare Sports Partnership	€508
Sensory Garden	McVerry Trust	€1,000
Colour Your Community	HSE	€1,510
Kayaking	Kildare Sports Partnership	€2,700
Total Seed Funding		€5,718

Key Outputs in 2023:

- 58 people signed up to Connect 5 Athy's FREE online Health Coaching App and 23 participants engage in one-to-one coaching.
- 44 professionals participated in an Introduction to Autism Webinar facilitated by Slaintecare Healthy Communities and CYPSC.
- 4 Family Resource Centres signed up to a pilot Neurodiversity and Inclusion programme which commenced in January 2024.
- Kildare Traveller Action supported 10 Traveller women to engage in Swimming Lessons. 9 Families were supported in the lead up to Christmas with Wellbeing Packages
- 43 children (29 families) engaged in a Food Support Project during school holidays and within the school setting (8 students from Athy Community College).
- 5 Local Schools funded to engage in Grow it Yourself GROW programme.
- Phase two of the Enhancement Fund works along the Barrow Walkway were completed. Works included: resurfaced, and widened paths, Age Friendly seating with accessible paving alongside accessible picnic benches and increased litter bins.



- € 5,718.00 Department of Health additional funding supported.
 - Purchasing of plants and equipment for McVerry Trust Sensory Garden in their family hub
 - Walk and Talk Group and Parent and Child walking groups.
 - Introduction to kayaking sessions at the Dry Dock on Nelson St. Athy
 - Financial support to 'Colour Your Community' competition within local school, facilitated by the HSE.



Accessible seating and resurfaced paths along the Barrow Walkway in Athy



Parent and Child Walking Group supported by Slaintecare Healthy Communities

4.6 Empowering Communities Programme Athy

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced a new national programme Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) in 2022 which is co-ordinated by the Local Development Companies and overseen by the LCDC. Fourteen areas in the country experiencing significant disadvantage were selected one of which was Athy West Urban in Co. Kildare. The ECP Programme aims to empower local communities to craft their own response to area-based poverty, social exclusion, and the resulting consequences.

An ECP Community Worker was employed by County Kildare LEADER Partnership in January 2023 with an annual budget of €140,000 to lead out on actions and approaches which aim to build and maintain trusting supportive working relationships with the residents of the Athy West Urban Area targeting five estates, namely Towns Park, Castle Park, Carbury Park, St. Dominic's Park and Green Hills.

The focus of work is on supporting and building the capacity of the individuals, households, families and communities within the area to address issues impacting them. This work spans individual, family, education, training, employment, health and wellbeing themes.



Key Outputs in 2023:

- A weekly drop-in service opened in March and was accessed 350 times by residents
- 3 social clubs were established within the community house attended by 35 residents weekly.
- 3 Residents Associations and Committees were formed
- Creation of the AWUA community focus group.
- Training and education workshops attended by 40 residents.
- Health and Wellbeing workshops were availed of 300 times
- Participation in national events (national playday, national clean spring clean) by 150 residents
- Installation of community composting box.



Litter Picking across three estates supported by the Empowering Communities Programme

4.7 LCDC Grants 2022

Community Support Fund

Kildare LCDC was allocated €332,848 from the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2023 to support community groups with small grants towards running costs, equipment and repairs. This included a small allocation of €3,328 specifically for womens' sheds. The fund was advertised in late January 2023 and the closing date was Friday 24th of February 2023. 143 applications were approved for funding in July 2023 (see Appendix 1)



LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

In 2023, the Department of Rural and Community Development invited applications from LCDCs for dormant account funding to promote visibility and acceptance of LGBTI+ young people across Kildare, provide LGBTI+ young people with safe spaces to access supports in line with the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy. Kildare LCDC applied for funding and were awarded €16,852 to be rolled out in 2024.

4.8 Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The Kildare Ukrainian Emergency Response Forum was formed in 2022 as a direct response to Russia's invasion of The Ukraine. The role of the Forum was to coordinate the community-led response in the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees as they were accommodated around the country. It is modelled on the Community Response Forums established across the country to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, which in Kildare was based on an expansion of the LCDC membership.

This forum is an interagency, information sharing group that include members of Kildare County Council, Kildare LCDC, County Kildare LEADER Partnership, Department of Social Protection (DSP), Kildare Volunteer Centre, Health Service Executive (HSE), Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board (KWETB), Maynooth University, Kildare Citizen's Information Services (CIC), Kildare County Childcare Committee (KCCC), An Garda Síochána, Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), Local Link, Helping Irish Hosts and the Irish Red Cross.

The Community Response Forum met five times during 2023. Funding during 2023 was secured through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) nationally with €180,973 secured for Kildare.

4.9 Other Work

Kildare LCDC is based on high levels of collaboration. While it provides statutory oversight and leads on a number of programmes required nationally, Kildare LCDC, through its members and support staff, are involved in a number of aligned initiatives. A small snapshot in 2023 includes:

- **CYPSC:** The LCDC Chief Officer is the Vice Chairperson of Kildare CYPSC. There are very strong links and working relationships between Kildare LCDC and CYPSC given the demographic of the county, with CYPSC being a standing item on LCDC agendas.



- The LCDC Co-ordinator was a board member of **Kildare South Dublin Local Link** and played a key role in supporting their development as a key provider transport across Kildare.
- **Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Network:** The LCDC Co-ordinator is a representative on this network which aims to provide a range of supports and services to people experiencing bereavement.
- **Connecting for Life - Suicide Prevention:** This HSE led network plays an important role in implementing the Connecting for Life Plan for Kildare. The LCDC is a member of this group.



5. Kildare LCDC Financial Overview 2023

The funding that Kildare LCDC was responsible for allocating and overseeing in 2023 was over €2.45m as follows:

Programme	Budget 2023
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)	€1,284,501
SICAP additional funding for Ukrainian Refugees	€180,973
LEADER	€339,922
Grants:	
Community Activities Funding	€332,848
LGBTI+ Funding	€16,852
Healthy Ireland	€75,000
Slaintecare Healthy Communities Seed Funding	€80,718
Empowering Communities Programme	€140,000
Total	€2,450,814

For further information on any aspect of the work of Kildare LCDC please visit our website on **Kildare LCDC - Kildare County Council (kildarecoco.ie)**.



Appendix 1 Community Support Funding 2023 – Successful Applicants

Group/Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Amount Awarded
4th Kildare Town Scout Group	Rent	€2,737
18th Kildare (Prosperous/Robertstown) Scout Group	Rent	€827
23rd Kildare (Sallins) Scout Group	Electric	€1,337
4th Kildare Naas Scout Group	Electric and gas	€825
7th Kildare Rathangan Scouts	Electric	€1,814
8th Kildare Allenwood Scout Group	Alarm	€500
9th Kildare Kilcullen Scouts	Den equipment	€1,459
Allen heritage and History Society	IT equipment	€129
Allenwood Celtic AFC	Insurance	€1,393
Allenwood Community Development Assoc CLG	Insurance, painting & IT equipment	€5,645
Allenwood Day Care Centre (SVP)	Rent	€3,240
Aontas Ogra	Fence	€2,269
Ardclough Village Centre Ltd , Community Org	Electric	€1,500
Ardclough Youth Theatre	Rent, IT equipment	€3,083
Ashgrove Derrinturn Residents Association	Insurance, landscaping & equipment	€4,425
Athy Community Council	Insurance	€1,474
Athy Community Family Resource Centre	Utilities	€3,351
Athy Dragon Boat Club	Insurance, rent & paddles	€1,644
Athy Gymnastics Club	Equipment	€3,290
Athy Recreational Community Hall	Tables and chairs	€5,809
Athy Sing and Sign	Rent and running costs	€748
Athy Town AFC	Insurance	€701
Ballykelly GFC	Electric, oil, LED bulbs	€4,721
Ballymore Eustace Community Development Assoc	Insurance, gas, audit fees	€2,250
Balyna Area Active Retirement Association	Activator poles	€1,525
Balyna Community First Responders	Insurance	€574
Balyna Rural Enterprise Development Association Ltd	Audit, running costs, IT equipment	€3,337
Caragh Celtic FC	Insurance, rent, equipment	€3,737
Caragh Community Centre	Electric, gas, oil	€2,242
Carbury Development Association	Insurance	€550
Carbury Village Residents Association	Insurance & running costs, equipment	€933
Castledermot First Responders Group	Insurance and rent	€1,064
Castledermot GAA	Electric, insurance, defibrillator	€2,750
Castlefen Residents Association (Sallins)	Insurance, IT and basketball equipment	€1,936
Celbridge GAA	Electric	€1,500
Cill Dara Crusaders (American football team)	Equipment	€1,206
Cill Dara Historical Society	Insurance, running costs, IT equipment	€1,074
Cill Dara RFC	Gate	€2,227
CKAN Co. Kildare Access Network	Website design and branding	€4,500



Group/Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Amount Awarded
Clane United AFC	Electric	€1,395
Clongorey Community Association Limited	Insurance, utilities & repairs	€866
Cnoc Na Greine Residents Association (Kilcullen)	Insurance	€297
Coill Dubh Community Centre.	Fuel, heating, plumbing & fire alarm	€4,329
Community Cancer Caregivers	Website and equipment	€3,825
Crooked House Theatre Company (Newbridge)	Electric, chairs & equipment	€4,563
Cuan Mhuire CLG	Electric, gas, laundry room, equipment	€9,525
Cuidiu Kildare and Naas	Rent	€574
Donadea Community First Responders Group (DFR)	Defibrillators	€2,884
Dunmurray Rise Residence Association	Insurance	€623
Eadestown GAA	Electric	€900
Easton Meadows Residents Association	Shed and mower	€4,500
Edenderry Rugby Club	Insurance	€2,250
Gaeilge Nuada	Rent for event	€574
Griese Youth Theatre & Children's Drama	Insurance, running costs, stage railing	€1,911
HEADSUP Kildare	Rent	€729
Irish Wheelchair Association Athy.	Gas and electric	€3,375
Johnstownbridge GFC Club	Equipment	€4,342
Kilcock Girl Guides	Rent	€1,440
Kilcock Scouts	Insurance and utilities	€2,029
Kilcullen Community Centre	Electric, phone, wood pellets	€1,263
Kilcullen GAA	Insurance and utilities	€1,340
Kilcullen Town Hall & Heritage Co Ltd	Insurance and electric	€1,825
Kildangan GAA	Insurance and electric	€1,500
Kildangan Hall Committee	Electric and oil	€973
Kildare branch Down Syndrome Ireland	Phone and rent	€3,375
Kildare Town Community and Family Resource Centre	Electric and insurance	€1,153
Kildare town community garden	Electric and plumbing work	€6,150
Kildare Town Youth Hub	Electric, insurance, windows	€6,107
Kildare Traveller Action	Phone and insurance	€1,231
Kildare Wildlife Rescue	Insurance and refuse	€574
Kill GAA Club	Electric	€574
Kingdom Life House LG Athy	IT equipment	€2,513
Leixlip Men's Shed	Insurance and running costs	€574
Leixlip Musical and Variety Group (LMVG)	Insurance and electric	€755
Leixlip Youth Premises Group Ltd	Equipment	€813
Liffeybank FC	Rent and insurance	€830
Little Way Cancer Support Centre	Electric and gas	€1,350
M.U. Barnhall R.F.C.	Insurance	€2,250
Maynooth Autism Friendly Town	Website development & marketing	€3,041
Maynooth Community Council	Insurance	€529
Maynooth ICA	Electric	€574



Group/Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Amount Awarded
McAuley Place	Chairs and tables	€1,870
Monasterevin GFC	Utilities, LED lights	€3,834
Monasterevin Men's Shed	Insurance	€420
Monasterevin AFC	Pitch maintenance	€625
Monasterevin Blueway Kayak Club	Equipment	€3,085
Monasterevin Community Centre CLG	Insurance, utilities, chairs & equipment	€8,293
Monasterevin Sustainable Energy Community CLG	Insurance and IT	€581
Monasterevin Tidy Towns CLG	Insurance, utilities, stonework, mower	€8,274
Monasterevin Womens Shed	Furniture and Equipment	€4,248
Monasterevin Youth Action	Refuse, oil, gates and attic floor	€5,481
Monread Football Club	Rent	€1,335
Monread Indoor Bowls Club	Rent, branded shirts	€1,427
Moone Celtic Football Club	Rent, electric, equipment	€4,083
Moorefield Drive Residents Association	Outdoor exercise equipment	€3,549
Naas Camogie	Equipment	€2,367
Naas Community Men's Shed	Insurance and running costs	€1,930
Naas Cricket Club-	Insurance and rent	€900
Naas Pythons Special Olympic Club	Rent, sports gear	€1,295
Naas youth project IN Sync youth & family services	Gas and IT equipment	€1,968
Narraghmore Development CLG T/A The Old Hardware	Insurance, running costs, equipment	€5,517
Narraghmore Foroige Club	Basketball area	€2,426
Newbridge Community First Responders	Insurance and running costs	€679
Newbridge Family Resource Centre	Electric	€1,529
Newbridge United FC	Pitch maintenance, equipment	€5,440
Old Kilcullen Area Community Association	Play equipment	€3,074
PlayActing Youth Theatre	Rent and insurance	€1,387
Prosperous Dramatic Society	Rent and storage	€574
Raheens GAA	Electric, equipment	€1,299
Rathangan Community Association Ltd.	Insurance, utilities, alarm system	€5,098
Rathangan Day Care Centre/Parish Welfare Assoc	Windows	€2,952
Rathangan GFC	Insurance and running costs	€2,250
Rathcoffey Indoor Bowling Club	Rent and equipment	€3,065
Rheban GFC	Electric	€574
Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA)	Audit fees	€1,217
Ros Glas Hurling and Camogie Club	Insurance and running costs	€2,208
Ryston Social Club	Electric and gas	€2,250
Saddlers Hall Residents Association (Kill)	Wall repair	€2,025
Sallins Sunshine Club	Electric and oil	€1,009
Sarsfields GAA Club	Electric and oil	€1,500
ShareRing Skills Group	Bee keeping course, equipment	€2,340
St Mary's Brass & Reed Band Maynooth	Insurance, running costs, equipment	€1,547
St. Conleths Day Care Centre	Electric, gas, tables and chairs	€5,083



Group/Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Amount Awarded
St. Kevins GAA Club	Electric, oil and running costs	€1,500
Straffan Community Hall Committee	Electric	€1,500
Suncroft Community Development	Electric, gas, insurance, painting	€5,184
Suncroft Community Outreach Group	Rent and insurance	€726
Suncroft Curragh Community Games	Equipment	€2,753
Suncroft First Responders	Rent and phone	€540
Teach Dhiarmada Ltd Castledermot	Insurance, audit, utilities, light fittings	€2,103
Teach na nDaoine Cill Chuillin	Insurance, utilities, Kitchen, fence	€7,439
The Acre Project	Insurance	€1,347
The Ballymore Eustace Community Trust	Electric, gas, oil	€2,250
Tir Mona Athletics club	Insurance, utilities	€1,288
White Well View Residents Association	Equipment	€2,121
Young Life Ireland	Activities	€1,125
Zero Waste Community Garden Rathcoffey	Insurance	€394
Total:		€315,429

Women's Shed Community Support Funding 2023 – Successful Applicants

Group/Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Amount Awarded
Celbridge Womens Shed	Insurance	€507.00
Monasterevin Womens Shed	Running costs	€1,065.00
Newbridge Womens Shed	Running costs	€506.00
Rathangan Womens Shed	Rent and Insurance	€1,145.00
Sallins Womens Shed	Insurance	€105.00
Total:		€3,328.00



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Chill Dara
Kildare Local Community Development
Committee