



## **Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

### **Minutes of meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 23 March 2023, in person and via Video Conferencing.**

- Cathaoirleach: Councillor Rob Power
- Present: Councillor Michael Coleman, Councillor Pádraig McEvoy, Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer, Councillor Kevin Duffy, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Majella O'Keefe,
- Apologies: Councillor Seamie Moore, Jacqui McNabb, Gerry Prendergast, Emer Ui Fahartha
- Also Present: Eoghan Ryan, Director of Services; Marion Higgins, A/Director of Services; Gabriel Conlon, Senior Executive Officer; Caroline Talbot, A/Administrative Officer, Susan Bookle, LCDC Co-ordinator
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#### **1. Conflict of Interest Declarations**

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that it was a requirement at all strategic policy committee meetings for members to declare any potential conflicts of interest for items under discussion at the meeting.

The item was noted.

#### **2. Minutes of Meeting held on 13 December 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2022 were proposed by **Councillor Coleman**, seconded by **Majella O'Keefe** and duly adopted.

#### **3. Resignation of SPC Member**

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the resignation of Mr. David Caffrey from the strategic policy committee.

Councillor Power requests clarification be sought as to whether committee members could propose a nominee for any of the vacant committee positions.

**4. To receive Progress Report from the Director of Service, Economic, Community & Cultural Development**

Ms. M Higgins, Acting Director of Service gave an update on the Directorate [See Appendix 1]. The Director highlighted a number of areas of activity including:

- Shopfront Scheme 2023 open for applications
- MERITS Hub Occupancy increases
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes
- Tender published to appoint a co-ordinator for Diaspora

The report was noted.

**5. To advise and consider a small line amendment to the Shop Front Scheme**

Ms M Higgins advised a small line amendment to the Shop Front Scheme to include the support of pop up shops in 2023 and a report was circulated.

It was agreed that the pop up shops would be for very short terms and exempt from rates and that the initiative would be trialled as a pilot scheme for one year.

The amendment was proposed by **Councillor Power**, seconded by **Councillor Coleman**.

**6. To receive a presentation on the preparation stage of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Presentation by Susan Bookle on the DRCD LECP guidelines, outlining the requirements and process in detail, and a synopsis of the guidelines which were condensed into the key points. The presentation covered the preparation work carried out to date and the steps to be taken over the course of the preparation of the new LECP.

**Planning**

**7. To receive a Progress Report from the Director of Planning and Strategic Development**

Mr. Eoghan Ryan, Director of Service gave an update on the Directorate [See Appendix 2]. The Director highlighted a number of areas of activity including:

- County Development Plan 2023-2029
- Plans for implementation of ePlanning
- Heritage Grants awarded.

The report was noted.

**8. Work Programme 2023**

There was a short discussion in respect of the Work Programme 2023 which was circulated and noted.

## **9. Serviced Sites Initiative**

Mr. E. Ryan advised the Committee that this was an objective of the County Development Plan which was required to be implemented within six months of its adoption. A copy of the scheme was circulated. There are certain criteria required for a serviced sites initiative including proximity to basic services such as shops, churches, schools etc. Any potential applicants would also need to qualify under the current Rural Housing Policy. A clawback would operate on the sites, awaiting legal advice on the application of same.

It was agreed to proceed as presented, with the option to review if required.

The Serviced Sites Scheme was proposed by **Councillor Duffy**, seconded by **Councillor McEvoy**.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Next meeting scheduled for 22 June 2023.

## APPENDIX I

### Progress Report – March 2023 Economic, Community and Cultural Development

#### Economic & Enterprise Development

##### **Retail Support Program 2023 now open.**

Kildare County Council has launched a range of financial supports for retailers to avail of in 2023. The scheme includes the annual Shop Front Improvement Scheme to financially assist business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties. The scheme, which supported over 60 businesses in Kildare last year, aims to increase visibility for businesses and enhance the streetscapes of towns and villages around the county.

The scheme provides for up to 50% of the cost of shop front refurbishment, depending on the work proposed, with a maximum allowable contribution of €5,000 per applicant. The scheme also incentivises applicants to incorporate accessibility and age friendly improvements to their shopfront with up to 75% of eligible costs covered under this measure.

The Retail Window Merchandising Scheme is available for interior window decoration and design of a shop with funding of 80% to a maximum of €500. This scheme is eligible for applications from businesses year on year to keep a modern, attractive window display.

##### **Kildare Pride of Premises Awards application deadline extended**

Kildare County Council are delighted once again to launch Kildare Pride of Premises Awards. The awards will be presented to winners on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March in the MERITS Building adjacent to Aras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare.

The Kildare Pride of Premises Awards recognise the efforts business owners across the county have made throughout 2021 and 2022 in enhancing their shop front and street scapes using Kildare County Councils Retail Grant Schemes. Through the Shopfront, Accessibility & Age Friendly Grant Scheme and the Retail Window Merchandising schemes businesses across Kildare have been awarded funding to carry out works that have improved the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties.

##### **Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023**

Athy has been confirmed as one of 26 towns in Ireland that have been selected to receive up to €100,000 in funding as part of the initiative. Under the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative, retailers, property owners and local groups can apply for grants that they can use to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies. Over 20 applicants expressed an interest in applying for funding and the proposal for the scheme has been sent to the Department of Rural & Community Development. The scheme will open fully to applicants in the coming weeks.

**FOCUS ON TECH:** A mix of start-ups and established tech companies got a unique insight into what it takes to pitch to a multinational. Maurice Barron, SVP of Zenith

spoke directly to each of our clients from his offices in New York and shared the slides he prepared to pitch to his largest client, Disney. Collaborating with MERITS for Local Enterprise Week, LEO launched their own digital product – an on-demand business accelerator.



The goal of this platform is to serve top growth-stage startups with tailored strategy, export, and leadership training from global industry experts. Entrepreneurs can join via [app.thestartup.com/kildareleo/auth](https://app.thestartup.com/kildareleo/auth)

## MERITS Hub Activity

**Enterprise Ireland HPSU Founders Forum:** 3 new cohorts of HPSU founders attended a 2-day event in MERITS comprising keynote speakers, workshops, mentoring sessions, networking and an address from EI CEO, Leo Clancy.



**Trinity College Postgraduate Diploma module 1 complete:** The first module of this level 9 programme, which focuses on Innovation and Enterprise Development, successfully completed in February having been delivered in the MERITS hub.

**Occupancy increase in MERITS:** The hub welcomed 2 new tech start-up businesses in February while an existing business upgraded to a larger office as the team expands.

**Existing National Equine Innovation Centre:** The hub, which is home to equine-tech businesses and is located on the grounds of the Irish National Stud, is now running close to full capacity. The last available private office was occupied in February while just 2 hot-desk spaces remain available.

### **Future Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub**

Kildare LEO has published a tender to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed building of the Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub in Kildare Town; the deadline for submissions is 21 Dec. The tenders are currently being evaluated. The Local Enterprise Development Plan (2021 – 2024) outlines Craft as a dynamic, green and sustainability focus sector. It is proposed that a dedicated Craft, Creativity and Design Hub will be built to act as a sectoral stimulus to develop a hub of enterprise, innovation, commercialisation, and learning.

### **Feasibility Study at Duncreevan Townland, Kilcock**

Following the tender process, consultants have been appointed to conduct a feasibility study to examine the use of lands at Duncreevan Townland, Kilcock, Co Kildare. The study has commenced and should be concluded beginning of Q2

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Building Acquisition Measure (Monasterevin)**

Kildare County Council were approved funding under the scheme to purchase a vacant building for the purpose of refurbishing it as Textile and design Innovation hub for Monasterevin and the surrounding area. The vacant Bank of Ireland building in Monasterevin was the building identified for this purpose. Following a successful bid and contract exchange, Kildare County Council have purchased the building. The economic development team will work on preparing an application for future funding calls that will support the redevelopment of the building into a co-working space.

### **Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub**

Over €4.2m has been awarded to the Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. When complete, the hub will act as a home for our county-wide food cluster and will provide manufacturing space for 20 entrepreneurs. It will also act as a hub of education for the youth of the area to upskill and access the job market. We still await formal contract from the department but the design team will now work on preparing the tender documents and the project is expected to go to tender in Q2 2023

### **Kildare Hub Marketing Coordinator**

The Kildare Hub Strategy (2022 – 2025) outlines the development of Kildare's hub infrastructure and the respective networks operating in these spaces (the K-Hub Network). The strategy aligns with the policy framework of the Kildare Economic Development Strategy 2025 and the Local Enterprise Development Plan. We have appointed a coordinator to support the promotion of the K Hub Network

### **Diaspora**

A tender has been published to appoint a co-ordinator for the Kildare Diaspora Engagement Strategy. The appointed consultant will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of the actions under the strategy in 2023

## Direct Financial Aid From LEO

Funding Applications Awarded From Jan 1st – 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	19	€39,347.50
Priming Grant	2	€57,162.20
Business Expansion Grant	2	€86,849.00
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	7	€11,239.00

### Priming Grants Approved:

- (i) Natural Hygiene Limited of Naas MD was approved €41,849 to support recruitment of 2 Full time roles, equipment purchase and consultancy.
- (ii) Shalford Interiors Limited of Naas MD was approved €45,000 to support expansion of their manufacturing facility.

### Business Expansion Grants Approved:

- (i) SIOG Botanicals of Kildare/Newbridge MD was approved €8,162 to support expansion of their Flower Art Commission business.
- (ii) Farringtons Brewery Limited of Clane/Maynooth MD was approved €49,000 to support recruitment of 2 Full time roles and expansion of their manufacturing facility.

### Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme

Enterprise Ireland launched a new funding intervention to support manufacturing and international trading businesses who are currently viable but financially vulnerable as a result of the direct and indirect effects of the crisis. Aid will be approved in the form of grants and repayable advances. LEO staff now supporting active applications to bring suitable cases to EVAC in 2023. Full details on the scheme can be found here: [Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme - Enterprise Ireland \(enterprise-ireland.com\)](https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/ukraine-enterprise-crisis-scheme)

### Entrepreneurship Advisory Support Services from LEO

PARTICIPANTS PER MD	Start-Up Clinics	Business Clinics	Mentoring
Naas	29	23	3
Athy	4	3	0

Celbridge-Leixlip	9	3	1
Kildare-Newbridge	15	18	1
Clane-Maynooth	15	7	0

**1-1 BUSINESS CLINICS:** Start-up advisory clinics are hosted online every Wednesday.  
Business-specific subject clinics are offered every Thursday in MERITS.

**CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT:** 14 client companies are working towards a Level 6 in Management certified by Waterford IT. This programme is facilitated by renowned business strategist Blaise Brosnan and aims to build management capacity in businesses positioning for growth or those challenged by resource limitations.

**FOCUS ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS:** St. Bridgid’s Day marked the first WIB event with over 90 female entrepreneurs in attendance to welcome activist and journalist Joanne O Riordan. €1,020 was raised and donated to St. Brigid’s Hospice.



Over 30 female entrepreneurs attended *Giving Small Business the Digital Edge* this month. As a direct outcome a mentor advisory clinic has been set up on 16th March to assist clients in advancing their digital journey and access 1-1 advice on their best next steps.

**FOCUS ON FOOD:** A food-specific *Start Your Own Business Programme* has been designed for those with an idea or early-stage food/beverage business. This programme commenced on 11th March and include 1-1 mentor support for each food start-up.

**Going GREEN for a brighter future**

The Green for Micro Programme is the best place to start on your ‘green journey. we have worked with approximately 70 businesses across Kildare everything from restaurants and bars, craft manufacturers, food producers, services companies in the digital space, waste management and transport companies.

There are many benefits to taking part in Green for Micro, including helping understanding your carbon footprint - because if you understand your baseline, can measure it and then you can begin to take action. Also, it can help to develop opportunities to reduce energy costs, carbon emissions and develop a more sustainable business. We typically identify between 30 and 50% of energy costs



savings in companies with a payback period of less than 4 years - and in all cases we identify a valid pathway to reduce emissions in line with Climate Science.

“We enjoy working with Micro companies and learning the amazing stories of these businesses. For us, it provides us with an invaluable insight into decarbonisation for business as Micro companies have particular challenges which SMEs or large companies do not have. And helping to solve these challenges will ultimately support us in developing more effective solutions for companies of all scales.”

The programme also helps companies to implement a Climate Action Strategy – a step by step instructional to reduce emissions in line with Climate Science - and to understand the next steps to take on their ESG journey.

Common opportunities we see to reduce a company’s carbon footprint and energy costs include:

- Renewable Energy such as Solar PV
- Heating Controls and Upgrades
- Building Fabric Upgrades
- Equipment Power Down when not in use
- Lighting and Other Miscellaneous controls
- Waste Reduction
- Electric Vehicles
- Packaging selection
- Material selection to reduce footprint
- To access a Green consultant and begin the first steps on your sustainable journey then contact Kildare Local Enterprise Office

### **Trading Online Voucher**

Irish consumers spend around €850,000 per hour, 24 hours a day online. With the trend ever increasing towards online spending it is estimated that only 30% of small Irish businesses are engaged in any meaningful way in e-Commerce sales. For businesses employing less than ten people this percentage could be even lower. It is now believed that of online purchases made in Ireland that 70% of these are done in overseas markets.

A Trading Online Voucher (TOV) is a financial incentive developed by the Local Enterprise Office for small businesses with no more than 10 employees, less than €2m turnover and who have been trading for at least 6 months. This voucher is designed to stimulate the applicant business to develop their online trading presence. The voucher is administered through your Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and takes the form of matched funding where the maximum amount payable will be €2,500 or 50% of the eligible cost (whichever is the lesser), exclusive of VAT.

Applicants interested in a Trading Online Voucher can now apply online using a link on Kildare Local Enterprise Office website. Those wishing to avail of a voucher, must attend an obligatory information seminar. At each seminar attendees will be informed of the purpose of the scheme and how best to use and get value from the application of the voucher. You can book the next information seminar via the website.

**Marian Higgins**

**A/Director of Service**

## **APPENDIX II**

### **Progress Report – March 2023 Planning and Strategic Projects**

#### **1. Forward Planning**

##### **Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029**

The new Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28/01/2023 and is published on the KCC website.

2 no. applications for leave to take Judicial Reviews have been submitted to the High Court, one relates to the Core Strategy and the other to the addition of a structure to the Record of Protected Structures.

The Council still have not been served papers in relation to the first case and it is therefore expected to be adjourned at the next hearing date of 17/04/23.

The structure was added to the Record of Protected Structures through the CDP process. An application to take a Judicial Review was granted to the owners in February 2023. The KCC legal team have identified an issue with the legislation with respect to the addition of structures to the RPS & have advised the Council to agree to a Consent Order from Full Council (27/03/23) regarding the deletion from the Record of Protected Structure addition. A process to add the structure through Section 55 will be initiated thereafter.

##### **Serviced Sites Initiative**

The Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme will be presented to the Members at the March Monthly Meeting of the Council for adoption.

##### **Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029**

Draft Kildare Town LAP to be published 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 with a public consultation event to take place in April.

##### **Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030**

The Report on Public Consultation for the pre-draft stage of the plan making process was circulated to the Elected Members of the relevant Municipal Districts in County Kildare and County Meath following an MD briefing on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.

##### **Masterplans**

Maudlins Site Masterplan – Traffic Modelling/Study to be completed by end of February for circulation to landowners.

Confey – 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Masterplan expected Mid-April 2023. Further details to follow.

Collinstown Masterplan – work ongoing with a draft expected by end of April, 2023.

##### **RZLT**

Determination letters to be issued to all those who made submissions by 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023. Supplementary Maps to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2023. Final Maps to be published by 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2023.

## 2. Development Management

**OPR Review Update-** As a follow up to the OPR review of Early 2022 key recommendations on priority areas by the OPR required actions by KCC and the updated statuses have been detailed and a return made to the OPR.

**e-Planning** - Is operational in 12 counties. The rollout of the first 6 counties for this year has encountered delays. They are expected to go live early Q2, with the roll out of e-Planning in Kildare now scheduled towards end of Q2 2023. Delivery of rollout of devices for use on site and remotely has commenced and will continue for the coming weeks. Access to a test site will be made available for staff over the coming weeks.

## 3. Public Realm Capital Works – Strategic Priorities by Municipal District

The SPPR Team and Director has commenced the briefing meetings with each Municipal District to agree a prioritisation of projects within each MD. Meetings have take place with the Naas MD, the Athy MD and a scheduled meeting with the Kildare-Newbridge MD was postponed at the request of the Cathaorleach.

### Projects of County Wide Significance:

1. **Barrow Blueway** –Road crossing tender assessed, successful tender identified, working with WWI on the issuing of a temporary works licence ahead of issuing letter of acceptance. Bridge tender closed March 10<sup>th</sup>. Place making plan complete, looking at funding opportunities to delivery ancillary infrastructure, benches, shelter points etc.
2. **Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1: From Alymer Bridge to Sallins:** Contractor on site, going well to meet completion dates of end September/early October 2023.
3. **Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2: Sallins to Clonkeen** – TII will fund subject to different stages/gates in the process being followed. Site investigation works underway. Section 38 for new pedestrian bridge Sallins – consultation to commence in April with ratification at Naas MD meeting in June.

### Kildare Newbridge MD:

1. **Newbridge Cultural Quarter – Phase 1 County Library & Archive** – Draft notices for Newspaper and Site Notice are under review. Part 8 documents to be finalised by consultant this week and prints to follow. Expected week of 27<sup>th</sup> March. Expect to publish in newspaper week commencing April 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
**Sustainability & Climate Action Centre** - Feasibility Study is completed and has been circulated to the elected members via the members portal. Next steps to be agreed. Presentation to Management Team on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Further discussion with members at workshop – date/time TBC  
**Newbridge Market Square** – works to be carried out in conjunction with the MD office, Newbridge Tidy Towns, elected members and Newbridge Access Group.

2. **Kildare Square – Phase 1** – Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final layout confirmed with consultant. Preparing for Part 8 and working with consultant for quick turnaround – May/June launch expected.  
**Next steps:**
  - a. Discussion with Failte Ireland, funding of 500k awarded with deadline of November 2023.
  - b. Proceed to Part 8 with statutory consultation where submissions can be received.
3. **Kildare Square – Phase 2 & Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet:** Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. KCC Agent met with the owners of the two bungalows, possible deal expected. Valuations carried out on potential sites with discussions underway.
4. **Curragh Plains Strategy** – Following the completion of the Second Stage of the consultation process, the Final Draft of the Conservation Management Plan and the Interpretation Plan is under review. Project currently on HOLD pending further discussions with OPW.
5. **Killcullen Market Square** – Part 8 Approved – funding to be identified for implementation.
6. **Rathangan Market Square** – Part 8 Approved – funding to be identified for implementation.

#### **Athy MD:**

1. **Emily Square.** Tender for construction published in March. CCTV omitted from the Scheme.
2. **Shackleton Museum** – Tenders for main works closed 3pm on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 7 interested parties. Pre-construction works – removal of internal finishes is continuing. Relocation underway.
3. **Dominican Lands Masterplan** – Stage 1 of masterplan completed. SSFRA required for the site. Query regarding cap on insurance liability to be resolved this week and this should see Letter of Officer issue to preferred tenderer.
4. **Edmund Rice Square** - €500k capital funding set aside. LPT of €50k set aside for feasibility study.
5. **Athy Dry Dock** – LPT funds set aside in 2021 and 2022 of €20k each year. Contact being made with Waterways Ireland in relation to their possible role in advancing the project.
6. **Ballitore – Tanyards.** €20k Town & Village Renewal funding for Conservation Plan to be completed by the end of this month (March 30<sup>th</sup>). €5k match funding LPT allocated. No funds to progress works on this site.

#### **Celbridge – Leixlip MD**

1. **Wonderful Barn** – URDF funding required, waiting on Call 4. Meetings took place with LEO last week to help prepare the business case for the project.
2. **Celbridge Parochial House** – TBD.
3. **Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplans** – Feedback from SPPR and internal departments issued to the design team. Final draft being prepared. Vacancy inspections carried out and this update will feed into the report.

#### **Clane – Maynooth MD**

1. **Bawnogues Community Centre** – Fully funded by KCC and was due for completion in October 2022, completion now expected Q2 2023. Ex Gratia Payment to be determined.
2. **Prosperous Gateway/Traffic Calming Measures** – completion due mid-April.
3. **Kilcock Gateway/Traffic Calming Measures** – completion due end of June.
4. **Maynooth Town Centre Masterplan** – URDF Revised Business Plan submitted to the Department.
5. **Harbourfield** – Part 8 approved, but funding shortfall to be addressed, business case submitted to Dept and awaiting outcome.
6. **Town and Village Town Renewal Masterplans** – TRMPs will be published on completion of AA/SEA screening for Derrinturn, Johnstown Bridge and Straffan. VRMPs underway for Allenwood, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Coll Dubh.

#### **Naas MD**

1. **Potato Market** – Contractor appointed to do conservation works in accordance with the Historic Towns Initiative grant (€248,931). The Phase 1 works are completed (not incl laying of electrical infrastructure under the supervision of an archaeologist) and the Farmers Market commenced operations on 26/11/2022. Phase 2 / Part 8 to be prepared. Project submitted as part of the All Ireland Community and Council Awards.
2. **Town Centre Masterplan** – Engagement with various landowners has commenced with further meetings to take place over the next week or so. Business plan will be revised after consultation and resubmitted to the Department.
3. **Market House, Naas** – Bid made on behalf of KCC with a view to the development of a Water Based Hub/Bike Hub/potential café/restaurant and/or youth/travel hostel. Site to be pursued and acquired under the Derelict Sites Act.
4. **Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan** – Consultants appointed, urban design analysis and surveys underway. Presentation to the MD of preliminary analysis took place on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Two workshops arranged for February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> in the Sallins Community Hall facilitated by consultant – Cathal O’Meara, who gave the presentation to the elected members. Very good turnout and interaction at the first workshop.

#### **5. Heritage & Conservation**

##### **Heritage Projects Progress**

##### **Local Biodiversity Action Plans**

Plans being completed.

##### **MD Biodiversity Grant Scheme**

A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Residents Associations will be launched in Nov (LPT Project).

##### **UNESCO World Heritage Designation -Royal Sites of Ireland – Dun Ailinne, Kilcullen**

Royal Sites of Ireland added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites tentative list for Ireland. Works has commenced on mapping and appointment of a co-ordinator for the Royal Sites project.

**Community Monuments Fund 2022 (€213,570)**

- St Michaels Athy- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Tower Moone Abbey- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Tower Kildare Cathedral

**Irish Walled Towns Fund (€15,000)**

- Conservation Management Plan for Naas Towns Walls- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Conservation of Castledermot Town Walls- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

**Heritage Plan Fund (€36,000)**

- Kildare Heritage Awareness Project 2022 -Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Geophysical Survey-Old Kilcullen- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

**National Biodiversity Action Plan fund (€48,000)**

- Control of American Skunk Cabbage - Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Development of a methodology for the control of Himalayan Balsam along Liffey- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Biodiversity Awareness- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Kildare wetlands Story Book and Publication- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

**Creative Ireland (€10,000)**

- Holy Wells of Kildare, Photography- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- recording training- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

1. Planning Referrals / Section 5 / Section 57:

Planning referrals to date: 138

Forward Planning: Review of Kildare Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of Maynooth Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of CDP architectural conservation related submissions.

2. Built Heritage investment Scheme (BHIS): – 15 grants awarded €126,400

BHIS scheme complete. 8 grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €72,328.00.

The grants which were utilized were:

- Harristown House, Brannockstown
- The Firs, Naas

- Thatch Cottage, Nurney
  - Naas Town Hall (clock)
  - Cathedral Church of St. Brigid, Kildare Town
  - Gothic Hall, Thomastown
  - Glebe House, Leixlip
  - Thatch House, Thomastown
3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) : - 2 grants awarded  
HSF scheme complete. 2 grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €100,000.  
The grants which were utilized were:
- Abbeylands House, Clane
  - St. David's Castle, Naas.
4. Thatched Cottage Grant:  
€5,000 granted for rethatching of Rooskey Cottage.  
Works now complete.
5. Historic Towns Initiative:  
The Council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration project between Heritage and Conservation. This was increased to a maximum value of €248,931, which requires 20% match funding. Works are due to be complete in coming weeks for use of the Naas Farmers Market on 26<sup>th</sup> of November.
- A Part 8 application is currently being developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team for additional works.
6. Heritage Stewardship Scheme:  
The Heritage Council awarded €21,000 for a pilot scheme study of Monasterevin under the Heritage Stewardship Scheme. The application titled, RPS: Reform and Reuse, proposes to update the RPS and to include a record of the level of dereliction and vacancy of each structure. Alison Rea Architects was successful tenderer and the project commenced late July. The scheme is now complete and c.150 structures have been reviewed for the RPS.
7. Town Renewal Masterplan:  
Advisory role with Public Realm Team of TRM for Allenwood, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Coill Dubh/Coolearagh.
8. Part 8's:  
Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications.  
Advisory role in feasibility for Wonderful Barn. Attendance at public consultation open day 13<sup>th</sup> of November.
9. Infrastructure projects:  
Ongoing advice with regard to architectural conservation related issues in essential infrastructure projects.

### **National Biodiversity Action Fund**

The following projects were applied for (Dept) on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb (awaiting approval)

Control of American Skunk Cabbage - €8k  
Control of Himalayan Balsam - €10k  
Vegetation Control Lullybeg for Marsh Fritillary - €9,500  
Development of the Woodland Monitoring Survey – Bat Conservation Ireland - €8,235  
Kildare Citizen Science in Schools and Community Projects - €15k  
Pollardstown Fen Buffer Zone Study - €16,500  
Ecological Survey and Management of Harristown Commons - €16,500  
Biodiversity Awareness Project - €37k  
**Total €120,735**

### **Heritage Council**

The following projects were applied for and were **approved funding** on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- 1) Biodiversity & Heritage week events –€18k
- 2) Survey of Kildare Military Structures –€20k
- 3) Naas Historic Landscape Assessment –€68k...Draft tender prepared 10<sup>th</sup> March...key dates to be commenced in early May, finished by 13<sup>th</sup> October, closing date for tenders 21<sup>st</sup> April, budget of 25k

**Total €106,000**

### **Community Monuments Fund**

The following projects were applied for (awaiting approval)

Moone Tower (108,635.95)  
Kildare Tower (110,696,25)  
Clane Friary (60k)  
Laragh Bryan (100k)  
Donaghcumper (45k)  
Tipper (15,129)  
Great Connell Priory (15k)  
Dunmanogue (9,753)

**Total €464,214.20**

### **Irish Walled Towns Network**

The following projects have been applied for (awaiting approval)

Castledermot Walls (47,699 – KCC Match Funding of 4,770)  
Kildare Town Walls (49,700 – KCC Match Funding of 5k)  
Castledermot Interpretation (2,867 – no match funding)  
Publication on Kildare Walled Towns (10k – KCC Match Funding of 1k)

**Total €110,266 (not including match funding)**

### **Heritage Stewardship Scheme:**

Application approved for €25,200 from the Heritage Council to continue our review of the RPS. The review will be extended to Kilcock, Kilcullen, Castledermot and Rathanagan.

### **Infrastructure projects:**

Ongoing advice with regard to architectural conservation related issues in essential infrastructure projects.



March 2023

**Cassidys Mills, Monasterevin**

TVR funding to be channelled into a Conservation Management Plan, Condition Survey and feasibility study.

**Eoghan Ryan**

**Director of Service**

**Planning and Strategic Projects**