



**Chief Executive's Report  
October 2019**

**THIS MONTH: News and Highlights**

**Kildare Play Day**

The eighth annual Kildare Play Day took place on Saturday, 14 September at Áras Chill Dara in Naas and included something for every member of the family including those with special needs.

**Culture Night**

The 10th Kildare Culture Night was held on Friday 20 September and was a great success. A total audience of 69 venues participated, with 87 events taking place on the night.

**Caragh Playground**

The playground opened on 14 September. An official opening will be organised before the end of the year.

**Tidy Towns**

The Tidy Towns 2019 results were announced on 30 September. 10 Medals were awarded to Kildare (see page 26).

**Dates for Your Diary**

**Annual Innovation Conference**

The Annual Innovation Conference will be taking place on Thursday 31 October at the Osprey Hotel (see page 44).

**National Women's Enterprise Day**

National Women's Enterprise Day will take place on Thursday 17 October (see page 44).

**Health and Safety Week**

The annual Health and Safety conference is taking place on 22 October in the Osprey Hotel, there will be two sessions for all Staff morning and afternoon

**Budget Meetings**

A briefing on Budget 2020 will be held on Monday 11 November and the statutory Budget meeting is on Monday 18 November at 2pm.



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## Corporate Services

### Register of Electors

#### Draft Polling Scheme

The Draft Polling Scheme was open for public consultation during September at various locations throughout the county and on the council's website. No submissions were received. The draft scheme will be considered by the elected members at the October Plenary Council meeting.

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Kildare County Council conducted a consultation process in relation to the development of the Draft Corporate Plan during September. Consultation was both in the form of an online survey and an invitation for written submissions or by email to [customerservice@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@kildarecoco.ie)

Over 200 responses were received and are informing the development of the draft plan.

Further consultation will take place with the Corporate Policy Group and it is intended that draft plan will come before the November 2019 council meeting.

### Chinese Delegation visit Kildare

A Chinese delegation led by Mr Yang Chuantang, vice chairman of the 9th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, visited Áras Chill Dara where they met with the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and other officials. They also visited the Irish National Stud and Gardens.

### Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme 2019 – 2024

The draft Strategic Policy Committee scheme will come before members in October in advance of going out to public consultation.



## Finance and Information Technology

### Budget 2020 Meeting

The Statutory Budget meeting is set for Monday 18 November 2019 at 2:00 p.m. The members budget briefing session will take place on Monday 11 November 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Finance will attend all October municipal district meetings with regard to the Municipal Allocation.

### Financial Reports

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).

## Planning and Strategic Development

### Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) adopted the RSES which came into effect on 28 June 2019. A Draft Ministerial Direction was served on EMRA on 07 August 2019 concerning aspects of future rail transport.

process on 10 October in Limerick and 12 October in Dundalk.

### The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

The Office of the Planning Regulator organised training for elected members in relation to the planning

### County Development Plan

The Minister and the OPR were informed on 26 July 2019 that Kildare County Council will be proceeding with a development plan variation in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It is proposed to hold a workshop with the members on 11 November 2019.



## Local Area Plans (LAP's)

### Naas LAP

The Council, at its meeting on 29 July 2019 resolved not to make the Draft Naas LAP under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

### Leixlip LAP

The Material Alterations to the Draft Leixlip LAP went on public display from 04 October 2019 to 01 November 2019.

Planning applications received:			Applications decided: Sept 2019	
	Sept	Year	Total Granted:	77
2017:	95	1,496	Retention:	10
2018:	121	1,601	Extension of Duration:	1
2019:	106	1,091	Total Refused:	17

## Significant Planning Applications September 2019

### 18/1585 David and Susan Sexton

Permission has been granted for retention of a café and a children's depot, a surface level car park, and permission for new access onto Local Road L-3010 and a new/altered access roadway to Kildare Farm Foods at Duneany and Rathmuck, subject to 22 conditions.

### 18/1026,18/1027, and 181028 Eurkon

Permission has been granted for 244 residential units at South Green Kildare (3 applications).

### 19/782 Raymond Conlon

Permission was refused for 35 residential units at Rathangan Demesne.

## Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Applications to An Bord Pleanála

Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506) - The oral hearing concluded on 13 March 2019 and a decision is awaited from the Board.

An application was made by Bord na Móna Powergen Limited and ESB Wind Development Limited (ABP Ref. 18/303249) for a 110kV onsite Electric



<b>Recent Decisions</b>				
<b>Reference</b>	<b>Developer</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Decision</b>
19/304632	Ardstone	Capdoo, Clane	366	Granted

<b>Application Stage</b>					
<b>Reference</b>	<b>Developer</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Lodged with ABP</b>	<b>ABP Decision Due</b>
19/305007	Ballymount Properties Ltd.	Magee Barracks, Kildare	375	26/07/19	14/11/19
19/305416	Resource Five Ltd.	Newtown, Kill	147	13/09/19	TBA

Substation at Timahoe East and a decision is awaited from the Bord. Application by Eirgrid plc (ABP Ref. 19/304862) was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 08 July 2019 for a substation, underground circuits, etc. in the townlands of Bogganstown, County Meath, and Leixlip, County Kildare connecting the proposed substation with electricity transformers within the Intel Ireland Facility, Leixlip. A decision is expected in early 2020.

**Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) Review Group on SHD's.**

Observations on operational and policy issues provided to the Department's SHD Review Group by both the Chief Executive and the elected members. The report and recommendations of the group is awaited.

**Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)**

Since legislation came into effect in July 2017, applications for planning permission for strategic housing developments are made directly to An Bord Pleanála.



## Part 8 Developments – Current Decisions/Proposals

Reference	Lead Dept.	Details	Launched	20 wks	Approved
P82019.09	Transport	Maynooth Eastern Ring Road	16/04/19	02/09/19	29/07/19
P82019.11	Environment	Celbridge Civic Amenity Site	10/06/19	27/10/19	
P82019.12	Community	Community Centre, Kilcock	20/08/19	06/01/20	

### Heritage and Conservation

Heritage Week 2019 was held on 17-25 September. Over 130 events took place throughout the county.



The Heritage Forum meeting took place on 17 September. Thatching grants have been fully allocated for 2019.

### Outdoor Event Licence Applications

An Event Licence was granted for *Boxed-Off* Festival at Punchestown Racecourse. The event took place on 28-29 September 2019.

## Housing

### Housing Quarterly Update - Activity Levels

The following outlines the number of applications processed to the end of Quarter 3, 2019 in a number of services areas. Details of the previous year is also included for comparison.

### Social Housing Applications

<b>2018</b>	<b>Existing Housing file updates</b>	<b>Transfer Requests</b>	<b>New valid Applications</b>	<b>Mortgage to Rent Apps</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
Total	485	82	929	23	188
<b>2019</b>	<b>Existing Housing file updates</b>	<b>Transfer Requests</b>	<b>New valid Applications</b>	<b>Mortgage to Rent Apps</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
Quarter 1	83	21	229	2	46



Quarter 2	93	24	227	3	44
Quarter 3	65	19	302	4	85

### HAP Applications

2018	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Total	1025	35	706
2019	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Quarter 1	204	45	193
Quarter 2	176	51	170
Quarter 3	175	40	157

### Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016

2018	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Total	29	4	6
2019	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Quarter 1	12	2	6
Quarter 2	12	4	2
Quarter 3	5	0	2

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2018	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount	Remaining Approval No.	Remaining amount approved
Total	67	€14,480,997	15	€2,989,150	3	€623,000	49	€10,868,847
2019	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount	Remaining Approved No.	Remaining amount approved
January	1	€270,000	8	€1,920,947	3	€462,500	39	€8755,400
February	2	€365,600	6	€1,455,055	6	€1,031,200	29	€6,634,745
March	2	€415,800	0	0	1	€288,000	30	€6,762,545
April	0	0	6	€1,240,470	7	€1,665,130	17	€3,856,945
May	0	0	4	€898,050	0	0	13	€2,958,895
June	1	€220,000	2	€415,800	0	0	12	€2,763,095
July	0	€0	3	€605,600	0	0	9	€1,455,645
August	0	€0	2	€449,800	0	0	7	€1,005,845
September	2	€305,000	0	0	0	0	9	€1,310,845





<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>€16,057,397</b>
<b>*Approvals continuing due to expired loans</b>	
Total Drawn down to date:	€10,160,922
Total currently committed in loan offers:	€1,310,845
Total Expired:	€4,585,630
<b>Total available for lending:</b>	<b>€3,528,233</b>

### Housing Grants

2018	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Total	434	295	3	0	248	143
2019	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Quarter 1	119	78	0	0	67	0
Quarter 2	142	68	0	0	68	35
Quarter 3	134	77	0	0	65	149

### Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

2018	LA Rents	LA HAP	
Total	1321	1163	
2019	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Quarter 1	246	193	144
Quarter 2	369	192	224
Quarter 3	309	196	121



## Housing Maintenance

<b>2018</b>	<b>Vacant House Turnarounds</b>	<b>New House Purchases Upgrades</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance requests completed</b>	<b>Number of Self Help Grants Approved</b>
Total	112	104	6,581	5,311	69
<b>2019</b>	<b>Vacant House Turnarounds</b>	<b>New House Purchases Upgrades</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed</b>	<b>Number of Self Help Grants Offered</b>
Quarter 1	28	21	1,739	1,669	0
Quarter 2	19	40	1,460	1,406	64
Quarter 3	24	40	1,529	1,452	13

## Homeless Presentations

<b>2018</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Unique</b>	<b>Repeats</b>
Total	1226	448	778
<b>2019</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Unique</b>	<b>Repeats</b>
Quarter 1	298	111	187
Quarter 2	259	115	144
Quarter 3	253	109	144

## Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

<b>2018</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Total	306	198
<b>2019</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Quarter 1	81	85
Quarter 2	93	75
Quarter 3	136	118



## Families in EA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 September 2019

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	28	42	55
6 - 12 Months	16	27	41
12 - 18 Months	5	7	14
18 - 24 Months	5	7	13
24 - 30 Months	2	2	6
	<b>56</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>129</b>

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	4	5	8
6 - 12 Months	3	7	7
12 - 18 Months	3	5	9
18 - 24 Months	2	4	5
24 - 30 Months	3	5	10
	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
<b>Completed</b>		
The Paddocks, Kilcock	19 units	19 units have been completed and allocated December 2017/February 2018. The defects liability period is to conclude shortly.
Athgarvan Road, Newbridge	13 units	Works have been completed and units have been allocated. Final account and post project review is being prepared.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan, Remedial Works (Phase 1)	Refurb of 34 Units (23 social and 11 private)	Lot 1 (6 units): completed Lots 2 - 5 (28 units) completed
<b>In Progress</b>		
<b>Status October 2019</b>		
Dunmurray Rise Kildare [Phase 3]	32 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 4, 2019.
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
<b>Approval Stage 3</b>		
<b>Status October 2019</b>		
Tankardsgarden, Newbridge	8 units plus caretaker bay	Revised Stage 3 approval received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) on 13 September 2018. Tenders have been assessed. Awaiting vacation of the site as works cannot commence until it is vacated.
Athgarvan Village	19 units	Part 8 approved at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District meeting in November 2018. Approval Stage 3 received from the DHPLG July 2019.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
<b>Status October 2019</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 21 units, refurb of 19 units, construction of 16 units.	Revised Stage 2 option is under discussion with DHPLG.



Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Dept)	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an AHB as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Expect to launch Part 8 Quarter 1, 2020.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Design Team Tenders have been received and yet to be assessed.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		<b>Status October 2019</b>
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build 50 units	Design Team appointed February 2019. Submission for Approval Stage 2 expected Quarter 1, 2020.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	30 units	A Service Site Funding (SSF) application has been approved. A design team to be appointed. Submission for Approval Stage 2 expected Quarter 1, 2020.
Carbury	2 units	A feasibility study is being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 4, 2019.
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	35 units	Stage 1 approval was submitted to the DHPLG in Quarter 3, 2019. Awaiting a response from the DHPLG.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	TBC	A feasibility study is being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 4, 2019.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 1 approval has been received. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 1 has been received from the DHPLG July 2018. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.
Glandore, Athy	TBC	Stage 1 approval has been received. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 existing refurb and 1 new-build	Proposed Stage 1 approval submission to the DHPLG to be prepared for submission by the end of Quarter 4, 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 1, 2020



## Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	117	120
Housing Turnkeys	39	63	92
Part V Acquisitions	30	29	217

## PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Expected completion April 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Anticipated contract award October 2019. To commence on site Quarter 4, 2019.

## Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Part 8 approved on 24 July 2017. Respond to re-tender.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Part 8 approved at the Naas Municipal District meeting on 17 July 2018. At tender stage.
Dominican Lands Athy	25 units	Stage 1 approval received July 2017. Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site.
ESB site Leixlip	TBC	Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site.
Caragh Road Site	TBC	A feasibility study/economic assessment in relation to potential for provision of affordable units on this site has been submitted to the DHPLG for consideration.



## Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme \*(CAS)

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status October 2019
KARE	3 Units	Part 8 planning application to be lodged shortly.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	CAS - Stage 2 approval received on 03 October 2017. Planning application approved.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	CAS – Planning granted on 01 May 2018. Homeless Care CLG expect to award construction contract in October 2019.

## Library and Arts Service

**Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future – Ray Bradbury**

### Children Book Festival (CBF)

The Children's Book Festival is coming to Kildare! Author and illustrator visits will take place in all Kildare County Libraries as part of the national celebration of books and reading for children. With a total of 22 visits across 15 branches, and special CBF storytimes, it is expected to attract attendance figures of up to 800 across all events. Visits are taking place between the 08 and 24 October in libraries and as outreach to local schools.

**Carmel Uí Cheallaigh** is the author of six children's books in Irish and English. She will visit Ballitore, Monasterevin, Rathangan and Clocha Rince. She will introduce her two recently published centenary chapter books commemorating Irish incidents of World War 1. Hear about Fr William Doyle, a brave chaplain who paid the ultimate price in the war and also the story of the biggest ever loss of life in the Irish Sea. These are the first books ever published for children on these subjects.

**Judi Curtin** is the best-selling author of the 'Alice and Megan' series, the 'Eva' series and many childhood favourites. Judi's new series, beginning with *Time After Time*, is about Beth and Molly, accidental time-travelling best friends. Judi's latest



book, *Lily at Lissadell*, is published this September. She will visit Celbridge, Leixlip and Naas libraries, talking to the classes about her writing, and answering the pupils' questions. An interactive story and art workshop will be given by illustrator **Gerry Daly** in Kildare, Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Leixlip, Maynooth, Celbridge. Gerry is the illustrator of *Where are you, Puffling*, which tells the story of a little puffling who lives on Skellig Michael.

**Pádraig Kenny** is a children's author from Newbridge in County Kildare. His debut novel *Tin* was published in 2018 and was Waterstones Children's Book of the Month. His second novel, *Pog*, was published in April 2019 and was Independent Bookseller's Book of the Month. Pádraig will visit Kilcullen, Newbridge, and Castledermot to talk classes through how books are published, and he will reveal the secret ingredient that goes into making a really good book.

**Sadhbh Devlin** is author of *Bí ag Spraoi Liom!* an Irish-language picture book for children. She has worked as a television researcher for TG4 and is currently the DLR Writer-in-Residence. She will visit Maynooth, Kilcock, Clane,

Athy, Kildare. Sadhbh will give a talk on how picture-books are made - from getting an idea to the finished book, incorporating some of the 'technical' aspects. Children will make their own picture-books to bring home.

## Summer Stars

### Summer Stars Reading Challenge 2019

Kildare Library Service ran the national Summer Stars reading challenge for children in all library branches from 15 June to 31 August. Summer Stars is an exciting reading-based programme which is available free of charge to children across the country. Each child was invited to register at their local library and enjoy reading many books as part of the adventure during the summer holidays. Many book related events were held in the libraries throughout the summer such as storytelling, 3D printing workshops, arts and crafts, Harry Potter workshops, etc. Over 6,000 children attended 263 events. Children were encouraged to continue reading throughout the programme and there were rewards and incentives along the way. The award ceremonies took place in September, where all children who participated were presented with





their own Summer Stars certificate and medal. More than 2,700 children participated in the programme this year which is an increase on last year's figures.

### **Kildare Readers Festival 2019**

This is the tenth year of Kildare Readers Festival which is an entirely free literary festival with the aim of connecting readers with authors and artists. The festival programme has something for everyone, including regular favourites such as Ten Books You Should Read with Stefanie Preissner and Mary Costello and Sunday Morning Session will pair Mr Dermot Bolger with bestselling author Mr John Boyne. The library service is excited to welcome bestselling author of 12 internationally acclaimed novels Mr Douglas Kennedy, in conversation with RTE Broadcaster Mr Rick O'Shea. Mr Joseph O'Connor returns to celebrate our tenth anniversary in conversation with Kit de Waal and Henrietta McKervey. This year the library service will host writing workshops with Mr Christodoulos Makris and Kildare based Ms Pauline Clooney which are already fully booked! We look forward to an excellent memoir panel with Ms Emilie

Pine, Mr Arnold Fanning and Ms Emily Hourican (also on Sunday). Fantastic events will take place throughout the county over the festival fortnight including Ms Anne Griffin in Celbridge, Ms Hazel Gaynor and Ms Antoinette Tyrrell in Leixlip and new Irish voice in short stories Ms Lucy Sweeney Byrne in conversation with Mr John MacKenna in Maynooth to name but a few! The Readers' Festival is also very proud to launch its new website this year.

### **Leixlip Community Library**

Leixlip Library Purls of Wisdom Knitting Club are celebrating their tenth anniversary this year and there will be an exhibition of yarn bombing at the library for the month of October and a sale of work in aid of charity on the Tuesday 22 October. All are welcome.

The new Baby Sign Language course continues, connecting parents with babies of a similar age, teaching Irish sign language through nursery rhymes and poems.

We will be hosting a David Walliams inspired craft workshop where children will use their drawing skills and imagination to design their own



World's Worst Teacher and Gangsta Granny and for Halloween we will be holding a Tom Gates: Dog Zombie craft workshop; Tom already has a band with a Halloween-themed name, so Leixlip library invites you to come design your own dog zombie and band poster.

Puppy Talk with Little Woofers “Want to become a puppy parent? Little Woofers will be talking all things puppy, the good, the bad and the chewable at your local library! This will be delivered by 2 accredited trainers that work with pups and dogs of all ages through training classes and consultations.

Highlights of the Toys, Technology and Training Programme in Leixlip Library this month include; Yoga Workshop for Children with Additional Needs, ASD-Friendly Sensory Storytime and a talk on Effective Parenting for Children with Additional Needs.

Parenting Talks on offer this month include Helping Your Child to Cope with Life's Challenges, 5 ways Parents of Teens can assist Career Planning in Senior Cycle Years and Self Care for Parents.

As part of the OWL Programme, Leixlip library will also be hosting an Information Talk for the Older and Wiser by the local Community Garda.

### **Celbridge Community Library**

Celbridge Library is proud to announce that from 07 October, the library will be operating new and extended opening hours, including two late nights and a full day Saturday.

A 5 week course for adults was held on developing digital skills with smart phones and tablets, and as part of the Parenting Programme a talk took place on 'Keeping your Kids Safe Online'.

On the OWL Age Friendly Programme, there was chair yoga and a talk on crime prevention with the Community Garda.

New bicycle parking facilities are now available outside the library which will improve access for a lot of people.



## **Rathangan Library – Coming in October**

Digitize the Nation: 4 sessions @ 2 1/2 hours each for the local Ladies Club (2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th)

\*Children’s Book Festival Workshop with author Carmel Kelly for 36 boys from local school (18 October)

\*3 Outdoor and Indoors Workshops with Creative Rathangan (artist Monica de Bath and environmentalist Michael Jacob) with local schools Running from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. per session (totalling 105 children plus their teachers and special needs assistants) (10, 17 and 24 October)

\*Creative Rathangan Seminar - 'Healing the Wound' with Larry Fullam - running all day on Saturday 19 October.

## **Local Studies**

The fourth annual John Devoy Symposium took place in McAuley Place, Naas on Saturday 28 September. Councillor Seamie Moore, Leas-Cathaoirleach for Kildare opened the event, with author and RTÉ broadcaster David McCullagh and historians Liz Gillis and James Durney among the speakers. This event was supported by the County Kildare

## **Decade of Commemorations Committee**

The launch of the new album of County Kildare Songs at Federation of Local History Groups will take place on on 21 October.

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee and Local Studies supported the annual seminar of the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups which took place in Kilcullen on Saturday 12 October. This free event featured presentations by historians Terry Dunne and Liam Cahill on the role of workers (including agricultural labourers) in the War of Independence in County Kildare. The Cathaoirleach of Kildare, Councillor Suzanne Doyle also launched a new album of lesser known songs from County Kildare 'Songs from the Short Grass' at this event, which included a performance by artist Darren Brereton. This album is supported by Creative Ireland and is produced by the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups in association with Local Studies Department of the Library Service. As part of Kildare Readers Festival, the Decade of Commemorations



Committee organised a screening of Ken Loach's *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* in Riverbank on Wednesday 16 October. The night included members of the Lord Edwards Own re-enactment group from Monasterevin in period costume. Historian Liz Gillis outlined the context of the film, based on her research on the Hales brothers from Cork whose story mirrors that of the central characters of the film. Seminar on 'Aspects of the Heritage of the Curragh' on Saturday 16 November

The Local Studies Department are co-organising a seminar on the heritage of the Curragh with Kildare Archaeological Society and Heritage Office of Kildare County Council on Saturday 16 November. This event will take place in the Keadeen Hotel in Newbridge and the programme includes a wide range of speakers on various aspects of the heritage of the Curragh. Dr John Feehan and the former Chief Parks Superintendent of Phoenix Park Dr John McCullen are among the speakers. The event will also include the launch of the digitised online journals of the County Kildare Archaeological Society and the launch of a new revised edition of John

Feehan's book on the Curragh by the Cathaoirleach of Kildare, Councillor Suzanne Doyle. This event is supported by Creative Ireland.

### **Kildare Culture Night**

After months of planning, the 10th Kildare Culture Night was a great success, with total audience of 69 venues participated, with 87 events taking place on the night.

Showcase events for the 2019 programme were:

#### **\* A Portrait Artist Painting**

**Competition** in Castletown House, Celbridge with guest sitters Senator David Norris and actor Eilish O'Carroll, with hundreds of visitors

#### **\*Out on the Wild Waves**

#### **A night celebrating Irish Folklore**

was a night of poetry, music, song and dance presented by local performers of all ages. Performances from Ardclough Youth Theatre, Ardclough Drama Group and St Anne's Choir, including a performance of the youth theatre's award-winning retelling of the Children of Lír. All were welcome with free refreshments after the event.

They created a window display and an after-mass "pop up" performance, to



promote their energetic Culture Night performance

**\*Culture Night Photo Booth**

Realised by members of McAuley Place and artist Cathy O'Brien in the weeks prior to Culture Night, a special Photo Booth (a hand crafted over-sized picture frame) travelled from venue to venue on the night, in Naas and environs, to get everyone in the picture for Culture Night

**\* In The Same Mould**

The artist Marta Golubowska worked over the 4 weeks leading to the Culture Night with a group from the local Irish Wheelchair Association to create a piece for display in Athy Library. The artwork explored how disability influences social situations and what are the implications in terms of isolation and social seclusion. It is

the ambition of the IWA to create artwork presenting makers as talented and capable.

**\* The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions – Culture Night Special Edition**

The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions had an on-line premiere of "One Last Kiss", the fifth installment of their live music sessions, with Kildare based singer songwriter Ross Breen. The Culture Night Special Edition is a collaboration between Past Times & Voices of Spring Community Choirs.

<https://www.facebook.com/PastTimesCommunityChoir/>

The Library Service will now carry out an evaluation of Culture Night and look at options to support the Culture Night participants to further promote their services and facilities, through social media and other channels.



## Water Services

### Infrastructural Projects

#### **Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)**

The contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on the February and it has a 24 month construction programme. Work is progressing well on site.

Murphy International Ltd., on behalf of Lidl (subject to an Irish Water agreement), is laying part of the Eastern Interceptor Sewer along the route of the Newbridge Outer Orbital Relief Road between the dual carriageway and the Great Connell Road. These works are now well advanced.

#### **Contract 2B (Network)**

The contract was signed by Irish Water and Coffey Construction Ltd. on the 08 August 2019 and it has a 30 month construction programme. Works commenced on site in September 2019.

#### **Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility DBO Contract Variation**

Veolia Water Ireland is advancing works on this variation to the DBO contract.

### Capital Projects

#### **Kilmeague Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade**

The plant was commissioned in late September 2019. It is being operated by the contractor for three months during a process proving period, before handover to operations in early January 2020.

#### **Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification**

The legacy land issue has been resolved.

#### **Timolin Plant WWTP Upgrade**

This project is being assessed by Irish Water Asset Planning under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP) process and a Site Assessment Report is being finalised by Irish Water's consultants.





### **Rathangan Plant WWTP Upgrade**

Irish Water has reviewed the Options Report prepared by its consultant. Irish Water will be progressing this upgrade through minor upgrade works by operations.

### **Allenwood North WWTP Upgrade**

Scheduled for tender in Quarter 4, 2019.

### **Water Networks Projects**

#### **Newbridge Town Watermain**

#### **Rehabilitation Works**

#### **(Back Yard Services-Lead Replacement)**

A detailed design has been completed for both the Highfield and Piercetown Back Yard Service (BYS) Schemes Works commenced in Pairc Mhuire on the week of 22 July 2019. To date, approximately 900 metres of new HDPE watermain has been laid.

All works are currently under review for the remainder of 2019 regarding the Water Network Programme Schemes, as Irish Water's targets have been met and exceeded for this year. As a result, the following projects are now likely to commence in 2020:

- Highfield, Newbridge BYS scheme.
- Piercetown, Newbridge BYS Scheme.
- St.Patricks Terrace,Naas BYS Scheme.
- Dublin Road, Naas Mains Rehabilitation project.

#### **Kildare Town Watermain**

#### **Rehabilitation Works**

Watermains have been laid in Lourdesville, Cleamore Terrace, Assumpta Villas and Campion Crescent. The transfer of services is ongoing. A number of customers have yet to provide consent to allow for the completion of the private side works so that decommissioning works can be completed in these estates. This work cannot commence until all consents have been obtained.

#### **Taghadoe to Maynooth Watermain Replacment**

Approximately 1,750 metres of new HDPE watermain has been now installed. Decommissioning works are near completion for this scheme.



## **Suncroft Village – Transfer of Service Connections**

This scheme involves the transfer of service connections from an existing cast iron watermain to an existing HPPE watermain, and subsequently the decommissioning of a section of Cast Iron mains. This work is due to commence in Quarter 4, 2019.

## **Environment**

### **Catchment Flooding**

#### **Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)**

Meetings have taken place with the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding the prioritisation of works. A Steering Group with the OPW has been established to progress the consultants brief for the Naas Study and Leixlip Scheme. The municipal districts will be briefed on the emerging Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme.

#### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

A Judicial Review has been lodged against An Bord Pleanála's decision. Kildare County Council, as notice party cannot commence any works until the review is heard or withdrawn. Efforts

are ongoing to resolve issues. Progress is being made.

### **Athy Flood Modeling**

Scenarios have been completed meaning that the proposed flood measure can be adopted into the Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) as part of the Dominican Masterplan, subject to the approval of the elected members.

### **Hazelhatch**

The contract for further hydrological study into flooding at Hazelhatch has been awarded to RPS Ireland. Delivery of revised mapping of the area is scheduled for the end of Quarter 4, 2019, with a preliminary flood risk management options report due in Quarter 1, 2020. The revised mapping will be used by the OPW to update flood extents in the catchment.

### **Kerdiffstown**

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) licence was granted on 07 March 2019. Taking possession of properties under the CPO has commenced. Notice to Enter will be served on the remaining properties shortly. An advanced works contract is ongoing in connection with the St. Vincent de Paul property.





The L2005 realignment will be awarded shortly. A letter of intent has been issued. Demolition works has been completed. The shortlisting of candidates for the main contract has also been completed.

## **Cemeteries**

### **Athy Cemetery**

Further surfacing works have been completed in the cemetery.

### **Churchtown Cemetery**

Works are complete.

The columbarium wall has yet to be completed.

### **Rathangan Cemetery**

Works are now complete.

### **Kildare Town Cemetery**

The updated design for upgrade works is now in hand and subject to ongoing discussions with the local cemetery committee.

### **Newbridge Cemetery**

Work on the upgrade of the car park has now been prioritised and consultants have been appointed.

Tenders have been advertised and the proposal is to have works commenced by the middle of October 2019.

**Columbarium Wall at Laraghbryan,**  
Works are complete.

### **Columbarium Walls at Derrinturn, Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown**

A consultant has been appointed to deliver a new columbarium wall for Derrinturn Cemetery. A separate competition has been advertised to procure the delivery of the 3 others.

### **Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)**

All governance arrangements are in place. A partnership with Kilkenny County Council is to be formally signed on 11 October. Draft Sectoral training plan has been finalised for presentation to CCMA.

All 17 adaptation plans in the Eastern and Midlands Region on target for adoption.

### **Kildare Climate Action Team**

The Chief Executive's Report on the Draft Adaptation Strategy was approved at the plenary council



meeting on 23 September. A successful climate summer camp for younger people was delivered over the summer in conjunction with the Irish National Stud.

### **New Initiatives**

#### **Countywide Green Kilometer**

17 applications received and are currently being assessed.

#### **Civic Amenity Site North**

The closing date for the Part 8 was 28 August 2019. Submissions are currently being assessed.

#### **Dog Pound**

Works are progressing well.

#### **Tidy Towns**

Kildare towns and villages continue to perform exceptionally well in the national Tidy Towns competition. The awards were announced on Monday 30 September 2019 in the Helix DCU.



Every town and village in County Kildare increased their marks. There were 39 entries this year and the council would like to welcome to the competition two new entries Brannockstown and Newtown.

Ten medals were awarded as follows:

#### **Gold**

- Maynooth
- Straffan
- Naas
- Leixlip

#### **Silver**

- Kill
- Celbridge
- Newbridge

#### **Bronze**

- Ballymore Eustace
- Rathangan
- Clane



### **Rathangan Public Realm**

The Part 8 is to be published shortly. A presentation was made to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 29 July 2019.

### **Kilcullen Public Realm**

A presentation was made to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 29 July 19. The Environment Section is to revert further to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee with further details/information prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

### **Monasterevin Public Realm**

A presentation on initial public consultation event was made to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 29 July 2019.

### **Public Realm Upgrade for Kildare Town**

A working draft is now complete and is scheduled to be presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 08 October.

### **Public Realm Upgrade for Newbridge**

A working draft is now complete and is scheduled to be presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 16 October.



## Parks

### Kildare National Play Day 2019

The eighth annual Kildare Play Day took place on Saturday, 14 September at Áras Chill Dara in Naas and included something for every member of the family including those with special needs.



### Caragh Playground

The playground opened on 14 September. An official opening will be organised before the end of the year.

### Medieval Garden, Kildare Town

The site for this project is located at the rear of Kildare Cathedral and links Chapel Hill to the small park and playground in Lourdesville. Kildare Tidy Towns engaged Landscape Architect Ms Elma Fenton to prepare a design for a medieval garden for the area. To facilitate the implementation of the design an existing retaining wall

bordering the site needs to be removed and a new one constructed. Consultant Engineers are in the process of being appointed to design and construct this. It is hoped to tender for the construction of the wall in early 2020. Once completed it is planned to progress the installation of the garden and planting.

### Tree Works Programme

Work has commenced on the preparation of tenders for tree works in all the municipal district areas. It is hoped to tender for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District in the next 2 weeks followed by Naas, Clane-Maynooth and Athy. It is hoped tree surgeons will be in place by the end of the year to commence the work across the county.

### St. Cocoa Athletic Track Kilcock

A tender for improvement works in the athletics track in the Bawnogues has been reissued. This work involves the installation of sprints lanes, a new high jump area, relocation of the steeplechase jump, an additional long jump area and upgraded lighting. The closing date for tenders is 30 October.



## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

#### Community Grants 2019

The table below outlines the grants awarded to date across the county

under the various grant schemes administered by the Community and Cultural Development Department.

Grant Scheme	No. of Grants	Amount Awarded
Community Grants	178	€238,278
Festival Grants	78	€131,656
LPT Grants (groups nominated by councillors)	152	€765,022
Private Residents' Associations	250	€211,262
Local Authority Residents' Associations	73	€66,088
LPT Grants (Sports - Athy Municipal District)	30	€30,000
LPT Grants (Projects - Residents' Associations - Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District)	18	€19,444
Drehid Grants Scheme	32	€236,445
	<b>811</b>	<b>€1,698,195</b>

### Local Community

#### Development Committee

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on Wednesday 24 September 2019.

### Healthy Ireland (HI)

The second phase of Healthy Ireland is now complete with Pobal approving the final reports made. A joint submission for Healthy Ireland Round 3 between Kildare LCDC and Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) was made on 20 September. The final guidelines for this round of funding was received on



22 August. This round of funding covers July 2019 - June 2021 with funding available of €374,100. There are a number of ringfenced aspects to the funding available which include:

- The employment of a part time Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator
- Small grants for mental health initiatives
- Community engagement fund to include merchandising, publicity and promotion
- Mental health actions

The LCDC agreed the final submission which works with project partners to implement actions based on national and local priorities:

1. Community Engagement Fund- a range of initiatives- active communities, walking to woodlands, sofa to summit, community coaching targeting Traveller/Roma. This will be led by Kildare Sports Partnership.
2. Support for homeless families living in family hubs across the county - led by the Peter McVerry Trust
3. Motivate and Activate - a range of programmes targeting disadvantaged teenage young women, older people, children and people with disabilities- led by Kildare Sports Partnership
4. Health and Wellbeing Plan - to agree a strategy to inform future HI plans, and to support the review of the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)- led by the Kildare LCDC
5. Social Farming Placements - led by County Kildare LEADER Partnership
6. Safer Alcohol Accreditation - Training and supports for sports organisations organising events where alcohol is available - led by South Western Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
7. Specific Mental Health Initiative - targeting rural men in North West Kildare. This will be led by HeadsUp Kildare
8. Mental health training programmes and supports targeting families. This will be led by Hope Cottage.

**Social Inclusion Community  
Activation Programme (SICAP)**

Work continues to implement the SICAP Programme across the county.



Pobal met with the SICAP sub-group to carry out a yearly review. This was very positive and informative. The County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) are currently preparing the draft Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Plan 2020 which will be reviewed by the LCDC at their November meeting.

### **Heads-up (Mojo)**

Work is progressing with the Mini Heads Up Programmes in Allenwood and Maynooth. Referral levels were high, with positive engagement.

### **Community Enhancement Programme**

The Men's Sheds funding was approved at the LCDC meeting and successful groups will be informed shortly.

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Four projects were approved for funding:

1. Robertstown Community Amenities.  
Restoration of heritage barge -  
€40,590
2. Monasterevin Community Centre.  
Refurbishment of community centre-  
€147,434.61
3. County Kildare LEADER Partnership.  
Digital Readiness Training - €20,330
4. Hartwell Creative Retreat.  
Construction of retreat centre -  
€167,787.62

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership - 045 895450.

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 November 2019.





## Kildare Fáilte

### Key activities September 2019:

- Follow up and editing of video from Rose of Tralee visit highlighted the great community spirit in the county. Represented Into Kildare and Kildare County Council at the final nights which were televised.
- Interviewing and recruitment of team- full time marketing executive starting mid-October
- Follow up with membership enquiries and collection of fees
- Attended media training with other county councils in Fáilte Ireland organised by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)
- Networking lunch with other local authorities and meeting with Fáilte Ireland pre-training
- Organised a meeting for all trade in the K Club and presented in relation to the plan of action for trade attending Windsor for Intokildare and Dublin Convention Bureau event
- Meetings with various volunteer groups – Kilcullen Heritage Centre, Ardclough visitor Centre- Malt to vault, Timolin Heritage Group, McCauley Place
- Edited the Shackleton video in preparation for Autumn School
- Meeting to organise reception on behalf of the county council for the official opening of Autumn School
- Visited the Waterford Greenway and had meetings with Waterways Ireland
- Meetings with CrossFit organiser regarding an event in November in Kildare due to attract 8K visitors to the County
- Commissioned a film on Kildare and had numerous meetings regarding storyboards





- Kildare Fáilte board meeting
- Monthly meeting with public relations
- Monthly social media agency meeting- review of last quarter and confirmation of blogs
- Ongoing meeting supporting tourism providers and members in the county

### **Launch of the New Visitor Experience Kildare Town**

The Cathaoirleach of Kildare, Councillor Suzanne Doyle launched the new legends of Kildare virtual reality experience at the Kildare Town Heritage Centre on 07 October.

## **Roads, Transportation and Public Safety**

### **M7 Widening, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins Bypass Project**

SIAC Construction Ltd/Colas Ltd. is the contractor. The contractor has opened three lanes both eastbound and westbound from Junction 8 Johnstown to Junction 11 (M7/M9 merge). As works are continuing in this area an 80kph speed limit is in place.

### **Maynooth Eastern Relief Road and Bridge**

The preferred route option, (C), was presented in committee to the Maynooth Municipal District Committee on 05 April.

The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee confirmed approval of the Part 8 in respect of Option C on 29

July. Detailed design and CPO preparation stages are now underway.

### **Athy Distributor Route**

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October, 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist and Leinster Leader on 28 November 2017. No objections/Judicial Reviews were received by the deadline on 23 January 2018. €3 million was included in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) road grants 2019 for this project. Notices to



treat have been issued. Notice of entry on lands has been issued. Advance works between Corran Árd and Fortbarrington Road have been completed. The railway abandonment is complete. The removal of the rails and sleepers will be the next visible sign of works. A further advance contract is under procurement.

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road – Planning approval was issued by An Bord Pleanála to Cairn Developments Plc. Works are progressing well and the expected completion date is the end of 2019.

### **Newbridge Outer Orbital Route**

Naas Road to Great Connell Road Newbridge: Construction has progressed well to date and much of the realignment of the south bound lane of the R445 is complete – underground services, kerbing, footpaths, roundabout, traffic islands, road surfacing, public lighting and line marking. The estimated completion date is Quarter 4, 2019.

### **Northern Link Street and South Green Area Access Improvement Scheme (Kildare Town)**

The route selection process is ongoing and consultation with Iarnród Éireann has commenced regarding the design of an upgrade/replacement bridge over the railway. A briefing was delivered to the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 12 June. A non-statutory Public Consultation was held on the 18 June at the Kildare Education Centre. All submissions received will be considered and the Route Selection Process will reach a conclusion in the coming months.

### **Naas Municipal District 2019**

#### **Naas Municipal District Footpath Works**

The Naas Municipal District has substantially completed the first programme of footpath improvement and associated works at the following locations within the Naas Municipal District:

- The Gables, Kill (footpath improvements) – complete
- The Park, Naas (footpath improvements) – complete
- Sallins Road, Naas (footpath improvement) – complete



- St. Brigid’s Avenue, Kilcullen (road and footpath improvements) – complete
- Relocate Bus Stop, Sallins – complete
- The Gables, Kill
- Elmwood, Naas
- R407 Main Street Sallins

**Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2019**

The first package of works (Works Package 1) is now complete. It includes the following works locations:

- Newbridge Road, Naas footpath works – complete
- Resurfacing of Abbey Street Car Park, Naas – complete
- Hazlemere road repairs – complete
- Main Street, Naas – at construction Stage
- Brannockstown footpath – complete
- Section A: L6039 Crab Road
- Section B: L20113 Bishopscourt, Kill
- Section C: L20102 Alasty
- Section D: L6012 Sherlockstown, Sallins
- Section E: L60601 McLoughlins Lane, Boleybeg

The next programme of footpath improvement works is at tender stage including:

- The Paddocks Naas
- Hazelmere, Naas
- Section F: L6035 Naas Rugby Club to the Red House
- Section G: L6043 Craddockstown
- Section H: L2004 Digby Bridge



The second package of road improvement projects (Works Package 2) is at construction stage with construction to be completed by mid-August 2019. It includes the following works locations:

- Section A: L6011 Turnings
- Sherlockstown-Daars
- Section B: L20042 Blackhall, Clane
- Section C: R407 Bodenstown-Clane
- Section D: L6076 Castlefish (Nicholastown)
- Section E: Bishopshill, Ballymore Eustace
- Section F: Dunshane
- Section G: Walterstown, Sallins
- Section H: L2023 Punchestown, Naas
- Section I: L200610 Osberstown Cottages, Sallins

The third package of road improvement projects (Works Package 3) is at pre-construction stage with construction to commence by the end of October 2019. It includes the following works locations:

- Main Street, Ballymore Eustace
- Tipper Road, Naas
- Abbey Bridge, Naas

The fourth package of road improvement projects (Works Package 5) is at tender stage with construction to commence in November 2019. It includes the following works locations:

- R407 – Sallins
- Chapel lane, Sallins

### **Vehicle Restraint Barrier**

The Naas Municipal District is at tender stage with regards to the replacement of the vehicle restraint systems (VRS) at Alexandra Bridge, Clane.



### Emergency Drainage Works

The Naas Municipal District has carried out the following drainage works:

- Main Street, Sallins – repairs to the drainage system at the shops/apartments on the R407 opposite Sallins Bridge. This work is now complete.
- Lakelands, Naas – repairs to the collapsed pipe exiting the lakes and the removal of trees causing the problem (root ingress). This work is now complete.

### Surface Dressing Works

The Naas Municipal District has recently completed the surface dressing works programme for 2019 in the Naas Municipal District including:

- R412 – Dunlavin Road (south of Brannockstown)
- L2023 – Punchestown Road (Between Beggars End and Watchhouse Cross)

- L2009/L2018/L2019/L2021 – Boston Hill, Tuckmilltown, Oughterard
- L2020 – Military Road
- L2018 – Killeel
- L6038 – Rathmore to Redbog

### Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2019

The LPT/Carpark funded works programme for 2019 has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee. The Naas Municipal District is delivering the road and footpath improvement elements of this programme on an ongoing basis.

### The Low-Cost Safety Scheme

The Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for Corbally Crossroads is at tender stage. It is proposed to commence construction in the coming weeks with works complete by the end of the year.



**Kildare Civil Defence assisted at the following events in September 2019**

- Naas Wild Food Festival
- Barnhall Tag Rugby Ability Blitz
- Centra/Supervalu Trade Show a two-day event
- Sarsfields Football Blitz
- Kildare County Council National Play Day
- Donadea Wheelers Duathlon
- The Curragh Longines Racing Festival
- Maynooth Velo Abu Event
- Transition Year Student Show – Punchestown – A two-day event
- Athy Boat Tours Launch
- Kildare Sports Ability Day - Maynooth College
- Allenwood Family Fun Day
- Naas Town 5km and 10km Run
- Barrow Way Walk - Athy

**Fire Service**

Up to 30 September 2019 Kildare Fire Service responded to 1,102 operational incidents which resulted in 1,357 station responses (see breakdown below). Some incidents required more than one station to respond.

<b>Operational Calls</b>		
<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls 2018</b>	<b>Total Calls September 2019</b>
Newbridge	460	338
Naas	503	320



Athy	266	163
Maynooth	322	234
Monasterevin	214	138
Leixlip	245	164
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>1357</b>

## Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2018	88	85
2019	63	59

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2018	18
2019	11

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2018	204
2019	146

	No. Planning File Comments
2018	518
2019	334



## Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 30 September 2019:

### Building Control

<b>Commencement Notices:</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	662	497
Number of valid Commencement Notices received:	618	485
Number of invalid Commencement Notices received:	44	12
Number of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	109	162

<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion:</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total Number of Certificates received:	644	431
Number Valid	629	430
Number Invalid	15	1
Awaiting processing	-	-
Additional Information		
Number of Inspections carried out	23	78

<b>Disability Access Certificates:</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	139	89
Number granted:	130	108
Number refused:	0	0
Number of Inspections carried out	35	14





<b>Building Control Active Sites:</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Number of units inspected	107	1135

**Development Control:**

<b>Active Sites</b>	<b>At 31/12/2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Number of Sites with house construction	64	78
Number of Sites where all units complete but snags not complete	36	36

<b>Estates that Require Monitoring /Maintenance:</b>	19 (Ballintine Park – Waste Water Treatment Plant up and running)
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## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

*“Elected members please advise your constituents that LEO office is always open to discuss their idea, business needs or grant availability, weekly business advice*

*clinics continue across the county in 2019 email*

*localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie*

## Boston Trade Mission

Mr Peter Carey Chief Executive Officer, and Ms Jacqui McNabb Head of Enterprise at Kildare County Council, accompanied the Kildare Chamber of Commerce, Maynooth University and the 10 Local Enterprise Office clients on their recent Trade Mission to Boston.

This is part of ongoing efforts to raise Kildare’s profile internationally and to improve the already-strong bilateral trade and investment linkages with Boston. The Trade Mission was also part of the LEO’s objective to support clients post Brexit, by increasing the export market penetration and diversification of Kildare companies.

A key activity on the trip was the Kildare Diaspora Dinner, where over 40 key stakeholders from the Boston business community where the focus

is on promoting Kildare as a key destination for companies in Boston to invest in addition to developing trade linkages.

## Entrepreneurship Support Service September to October 2019

## Brexit Supports

Brexit remains very high on the agenda and a series of interventions have been put in place, including site visits to the businesses most at risk to look at the potential impacts, formalities and procedures our businesses will need to adopt when trading with a country which is outside the single market and custom unions.

## Full list of Brexit supports

<https://mailchi.mp/69ab763db83d/brexit-is-coming-and-were-here-to-help-2918709>

Please encourage SME owners in your municipal district to fill out the Brexit Scorecard to assess exposure:

## Brexit Scorecard:

<https://prepareforbrexit.virtual-adviser.com/>



## Soft Supports Summary

55 Kildare people will have commenced *Start Your Own Business* courses between September and October.

There are still places available on the LEO Autumn training courses. Please advise your municipal district constituents of the Digital Marketing, Taxation, Customs Training, Management Development and LEAN approach to management courses that the LEO offer. All courses can be booked at:

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

## Mid-East Regional Innovation Conference

Kildare County Council's LEO has partnered with Meath, Wicklow and Carlow Enterprise Offices to present the Mid-East Regional Innovation Conference, taking place on **Thursday 31 October at the Osprey Hotel, Naas, County Kildare.**

The event is to celebrate the thriving culture of innovation which exists throughout the Mid-East Region, and to recognise the increased demand on the Mid-East LEO's from the emerging

technology sector for support in their development and the increase in demand from small businesses for support in innovation.

The event will host world renowned speaker, innovation expert and author of best selling *Non-Bullshit Innovation: Radical Ideas from the World's Smartest Minds*, David Rowan and disruptive e-commerce and social media entrepreneur Seánie Walsh.

Please encourage your municipal district constituents to attend this event. Booking is available at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Innovation-Conference-%E2%80%93-Competitive-Advantage-for-those-who-Innovate.html>

## Economic Development Services MERITS

The completion of the MERITS (Mid-East Region Innovation Think Space) building in Naas will realise a vision to serve the emerging technology sector by connecting organisations and people, acting as a centre of excellence in supporting innovative companies across county and wider region. MERITS was awarded nearly



€2 million in funding from Enterprise Ireland and has also received significant financial support from Kildare County Council. The tender for this project was published in July and a contractor will be appointed by the end of October 2019.

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

Launched by Minister Heather Humphreys in April, the conversion of the historic Model School in Athy into a centre for educational and entrepreneurial excellence for the food sector will promote economic development and creative learning for Athy and surrounding areas. The Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub will comprise a:

- Skills Hub
- Community Timeshare Incubator Kitchen
- Community Food Discover Centre
- Co-Working / Collaboration Zone

Coca Cola have provided an initial funding investment for the project. The economic development team submitted an application for funding for

this ambitious project to the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) at the end of September. The application will be assessed over the coming weeks and a decision is expected from Enterprise Ireland before the end of the year. Mr Donnachadh O'Brien Engineers worked with the team on the feasibility study design for the project and application.

### **Kildare Food and Beverage Strategy**

Kildare County Council has identified the food, drink and hospitality sector in the county as an economic growth area which requires a strategy that supports initiatives that will further develop and enhance the sector. The economic unit tendered for a food and beverage strategy and James Burke and Associates were awarded the contract in August. The consultants are carrying out research currently and engaging with key stakeholders to seek their views. The first stakeholder forum meeting took place on Tuesday 08 October. A food survey is also being launched to ascertain the views of the wider public. The strategy is due to be published in Quarter 4, 2019.



## **Equine Innovation Centre @ The Irish National Stud**

The establishment of this facility at the Irish National Stud will act as a sectoral stimulus to develop an equine innovation hub of enterprise, innovation, applied research, commercialisation and learning. Uniquely, it will offer a single access source of equine technical and entrepreneurial innovation. The hub will consist of

- Co-working and incubation facilities
- Team collaboration/co-creation units
- Shared Facilities

Kildare County Council is working with The Irish National Stud on this project and an application for funding to renovate the space identified is currently being prepared for submission to Kildare LEADER.

## **Coca-Cola's Manufacturing Plant in Athy.**

It has just been announced that the Monster Beverage Company plans to acquire Coca-Cola's manufacturing plant in Athy. Monster will assume ownership of the Athy plant in

## **Kildare Commuter Survey**

In co-operation with the economic unit in Meath County Council, Kildare County Council jointly tendered for the provision of a commuter survey for the county. Interactions Ltd. were awarded the contract in late July and the commuter survey went live on 02 September and closed on Friday 11 October. Over 2,500 people have completed the survey in Kildare. The results of the survey will assist Kildare County Council in both identifying the commuting patterns of residents within the county and the skills base that currently exists here. The survey results will be published in November. Further information in relation to the survey can be found on:

[www.kildarecoco.ie/business/commutersurvey](http://www.kildarecoco.ie/business/commutersurvey)

December after the completion of a phased wind down of operations by Coca-Cola.

Kildare County Council will liaise further with the company through the offices of the Economic Development Unit and provide ongoing support.



## Important Dates

### 31 October Innovation Conference

The annual **Innovation Conference** will be taking place on **Thursday 31 October** (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) at the Osprey Hotel.

**\*\* Note: EARLY BIRD tickets are available until Friday 11 October\*\***

**Please encourage your Municipal District constituents to attend this event.**

**Booking available is available here:**

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Innovation-Conference-%E2%80%93-Competitive-Advantage-for-those-who-Innovate.html>

### 17 October National Women's Enterprise Day

The LEO is hosting the dynamic National Women's Enterprise Day event to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day on Thursday 17 October in the refurbished Curragh Racecourse (8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.).

**Please note tickets for this event are now sold out.**

### 28 November MAKEIT Christmas Fair

The annual MAKEIT Christmas Fair invites Craft and food businesses to sell unique gifts to members of the public. The LEO is calling for food and craft producers in Kildare to take part.

**If you know of any Municipal District constituents that may be of interest, Expressions of Interest forms can be found here: (Closing date 11 October)**

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/MAKEIT-Food-and-Gift-Fair-2019.html>



## Ongoing Grant Aid

If your constituents are interested in any of the grant aid below, advise them to contact us on 045 98096 or [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

**TOVS** – Trading online vouchers are available to the value of €2,500 (*50% of eligible costs up to the maximum of €2,500*) Available to any business with less than 10 employees.

**TAME** – This grant can part-fund the costs that you will incur in investigating and researching export markets. Grant covers 50% of eligible costs (subject to a maximum of €2,500 per company in any one calendar year) Available to any business with less than 10 employees.

**Priming and Expansion Priming** – Up to 50% of the investment or €150,000 Available to any business with less than 10 employees in the manufacturing sector or internationally traded services.

**Shopfront** – to assist and support independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts/commercial properties. Grants are given for €5,000 or up to 75% of costs and are open to all businesses.

**MFI** – Works with small businesses with less than 10 employees and turnover up to €2 million, by providing unsecured business loans of €2,000 to €25,000 for commercially viable proposals. Available to any business with less than 10 employees.

## Business Advice Clinics

If your constituents are interested in booking a Business Advice Clinic please advise them to contact us on 045 980967, or [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

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**Peter Carey**  
**Chief Executive**