



**Chief Executive's Report
September 2019**

THIS MONTH: News and Highlights

Kildare National Play Day

This event was held at Áras Chill Dara on Saturday 14 September and included something for every member of the family including those with special needs.

Dates for Your Diary

Opportunities Culture Night

Culture Night takes place on Friday 20 September (see page 18).

Brexit Practical Workshop

The LEO will be hosting a Brexit practical workshop on Thursday 26 September from 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at the Osprey Hotel.

National Women's Enterprise Day

The National Women's Enterprise Day event will held on Thursday 17 October in the refurbished Curragh Racecourse (8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Innovation Conference

The annual Innovation Conference will be taking place on Thursday 31 October (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) at the Osprey Hotel.

Science Week 2019

The Science Week Festival takes place from 10 -17 November (see page 13).

MAKEIT Christmas Fair

Expressions of interest forms will be posted to the Leo website: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/> on Thursday 12 September (see page 49).



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Corporate Services

Register of Electors

Draft Polling Scheme

The Draft Polling Scheme went on public display from Monday, 02 September 2019 at various locations throughout the county and on the County Council's Website:

<https://bit.ly/2MybhIC>

The closing date for receipt of submissions/observations is 5:00 p.m. on Friday 04 October 2019.

Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Kildare County Council is preparing a new Corporate Plan which will set out the strategic direction from 2019 to 2024. The Corporate Plan will be prepared on an inclusive basis, involving consultation with internal stakeholders, external stakeholders such as the social partners at local level, community, voluntary and environmental interests and other public bodies operating locally.

In the first instance, consultation will take place with the Corporate Policy Group (CPG). The council will also consult with the Public Participation Network (PPN), and in cases where

individuals and particular groups are not included in these structures; a survey will be available online for submissions. Submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 30 September 2019.

Members Services

Review of Standing Orders

Work is underway on the review of Standing Orders by the Protocol and Procedures Committee. The committee is actively working on this item and members of the committee will be liaising with their groups and municipal district colleagues in this regard.

Review of Strategic Policy Scheme

The review of the Strategic Policy Scheme is also now commencing. As advised to members appointed to the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), there will be no SPC meetings until such time as the consultation process takes place and



a revised scheme is brought to the members for adoption. The members will be kept updated in this regard and will be notified once the relevant public consultation period commences.

Finance and Information

Technology

Local Property Tax – Notice of consideration of setting a local adjustment factor

In accordance with SI 296/2014 Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014, whereby the 'local authority shall consult with the public in its administrative area in relation to its consideration of the setting of a local adjustment factor...'

Kildare County Council has included the prescribed notification in three local newspapers, on the council website and through its various social media channels. The closing date for submissions was 09 August 2019 at 5:00 p.m. A report, summarising the written submissions is to be discussed at the September plenary council meeting.

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 the EMRA on 07 August 2019 concerning aspects of future rail transport.

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

A six-week public consultation on the Office of the Planning Regulator's first Strategic Plan was open from 01 August to 12 September 2019. All views and comments are to be submitted directly to the OPR (info@opr.ie).

County Development Plan (CDP)

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 Act. (RSES)

Local Area Plans (LAP's)

Naas Local Area Plan (LAP)

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

Leixlip LAP

The Chief Executive's Report was issued to members on 21 August. A workshop for elected members was held on 02 September. Members will consider the Chief Executive's Report and notices of motions received at a plenary council meeting on 23 September 2019.



Planning applications received:			Applications decided: Jul-Aug 2019	
	Jul-Aug	Year	Total Granted:	209
2017:	228	1,494	Retention:	36
2018:	292	1,596	Extension of Duration:	6
2019:	239	977	Total Refused:	40

Significant Planning Applications July-August 2019

19/194 Jewelfield Ltd.

Permission for Distillery and Visitor Centre at Ballykelly Mills, Monasterevin.

19/78 Value Retail Ltd.

Permission for 345 space car park at Grey Abbey, Kildare.

18/1394 Campbell Walker

Permission for 6 office based industry, business, science and technology buildings at Loughlione, Kildare.

18/1347 Ballymore Ireland Contracting Ltd.

Permission for 84 dwellings at Ballymore Eustace.

18/921 Paddy Raggett Homes Ltd.

Permission for 99 residential units at Clonmullion and Gallowshill, Athy.

Strategic Infrastructure

Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SID)

Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506) - The oral hearing concluded on 13 March 2019 and a decision is awaited from ABP. Application by Bord na Móna Powergen Limited and ESB Wind Development Limited (ABP Ref. 18/303249) for a 110kv onsite Electric Substation at Timahoe East yet to be decided.

Application by Eirgrid plc (ABP Ref. 19/304862)

An application was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 08 July 2019 for 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.

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.

Decisions Made					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision	
18-300558	McCourt Investments	Kill Hill, Kill	130	Refused	
18-300606	Ardstone	Barnhall, Leixlip	450	Granted	
18-301230	Cairn Homes	Maria Villa, Maynooth	462 + 106 student units	Granted	
18-301371	Ballymount	Magee Barracks, Kildare	264	Refused	
18-301775	Ladas Property	Mill Street, Maynooth	135	Refused	
18-301818	Stennock Ltd.	Morristownbiller, Newbridge	281	Granted	
18-302141	Ardstone	Kilbelin, Newbridge	343	Granted	
18-302922	Glan Developments	Ballymany, Newbridge	180	Refused	
18-303023	Ardstone	Bluebell, Naas	125	Granted	
18-303295	O'Flynn Construction	Shackleton Road and Oldtown Road, Celbridge	251	Granted	
18-303298	McCourt Investments	Kill Hill, and Earl's Court, Kill	136	Refused	
Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
19/304632	Ardstone	Capdoo, Clane	366	07/06/19	26/09/19
19/305007	Ballymount	Magee Barracks, Kildare	375	26/07/19	



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

Observations on operational and policy issues was provided to the DHPLG's SHD Review Group by both the Chief Executive and the elected members.

Part 8 Developments

Ref	Lead Dept.	Details	Launched	20 wks	Approved
P82019.07	Transport	Naas Inner Relief Road	26/02/19	15/07/19	Rejected 17/06/19
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 a great success, over 160 events took place throughout the county. A Heritage Forum meeting is scheduled to take

place on 17 September. The September return for conservation grants has been completed and provided to the Department of Culture, Heritage and Local Government.

The two related projects are finished completely. Thatching grants have been fully allocated for 2019.

Outdoor Event Licence Applications

An Event Licence has been granted for the *Boxed-Off* Festival at Punchestown Racecourse scheduled for 28-29 September 2019.



Housing

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2019
Completed		
The Paddocks, Kilcock	19 units	19 units completed and allocated December 2017/February 2018. Defects Liability period to conclude shortly.
Athgarvan Road, Newbridge	13 units	Works complete and units have been allocated. The final account and post project review is being prepared.
In Progress		
Dunmurray Rise Kildare [Phase 3]	32 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 3, 2019.
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 units	Contract awarded on 19 December 2018. Commenced on site 7 January 2019. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Contract signed 08 March 2019. Commenced on site 19 March 2019. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
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): Commenced on site 10 September 2018. Expected completion Quarter 3, 2019.
Approval Stage 4		
Status September 2019		
Approval Stage 3		
Status September 2019		
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 submitted to the DHPLG Quarter 2, 2019. Awaiting approval from the DHPLG.



		Status September 2019
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3)	Demolition of 21 units, refurb of 19 units, construction of 16 units.	Revised Stage 2 Approval request being prepared for submission Quarter 3, 2019.
Rathasker Road, Naas	50 units	Following further site investigations carried out, a revised Stage 2 application will be submitted to the DHPLG in Quarter 3, 2019.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Design Team Tenders received to be assessed.
Approval Stage 1		Status September 2019
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build 50 units	Design Team appointed February 2019. Submission for Approval Stage 2 expected Quarter 3, 2019.
Clogherinkoe	14 units	On hold due to Planning Local Need constraints.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	30 units	Awaiting outcome of planning application which will upgrade access road to this site. The Service Sites Funding (SSF) application has been approved.
Carbury	2 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 3, 2019.
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	35 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Stage 1 Approval submitted to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2019. Awaiting a response from the DHPLG.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	TBC	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 3, 2019.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2019
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 1 approval received. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 2, 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 3, 2019.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 1 received from the DHPLG July 2018. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 3, 2019.
Glandore, Athy	TBC	Stage 1 approval received. Stage 2 submission in progress for submission end August 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 3, 2019.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 existing refurb and 1 new-build	Proposed Stage 1 approval submission to the DHPLG to be prepared for submission by end Quarter 3, 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.



Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	94	120
Housing Turnkeys	39	41	65
Part V Acquisitions	30	27	220

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2019
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Expected completion March 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Anticipated contract award Quarter 3, 2019.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2019
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Part 8 approved at 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	Feasibility study/economic assessment in relation to potential for provision of affordable units on this site submitted to the DHPLG for consideration.



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status September 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 lodged. Further information requested February 2019.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	CAS – Planning granted May 2018. Homeless Care CLG to award construction contract shortly.

Housing First

The Tender for Housing First for the Mid East Region closed on 26 July 2019. The Peter McVerry Trust has been awarded the contract subject to the expiration of the standstill period.



Library and Arts Service

Albert Einstein famously said, ‘The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.’

World Library and Information Congress 2020 recent announcement

Ireland will welcome over 4,000 international librarians to Dublin when the World Library and Information Congress meet in the capital. Satellite events will also take place throughout the country and Kildare will facilitate library visits and meetings.

The Library Association of Ireland made the successful bid to bring the global professional and trade event for the library and information services sector to Ireland for the first time.

This is a major win for Ireland as the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) will bring more than 4,000 librarians from over 130 countries to Ireland. The congress is expected to generate more than €6.4 million for the Irish economy.

Science Week 2019

Good news for Kildare Libraries! Kildare Library and Arts Service are one of the 13 counties that have been approved funding of €8,000 under the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Discover Programme Science Week Call. The Minister for Business, Enterprise, and Innovation Ms Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development, Mr John Halligan TD, announced an investment of €476,000 through SFI, to support 13 festivals and 13 events across the country as part of National Science Week. The festival takes place from 10-17 November this year, with a theme of climate action seeking to help people understand it, how science and technology can help us create a positive climate future and the impact we as individuals can have on climate change. Businesses, communities and



institutions are invited to take part in Science Week 2019, which is expected to reach over 1,000 events nationwide.

The 13 Science Week regional festivals will offer a range of opportunities for the public to engage in Science Week. They feature family open days, school events and public talks across the regions

Extended Opening Hours

Kildare Libraries are delighted to announce they have extended their opening hours from the 01 September. This was rolled out to Leixlip, Maynooth and Naas with Celbridge and Newbridge to follow in the coming weeks. There has been a very positive response in local communities.

Capital Projects

Clane Library

Kildare Library Service on behalf of Kildare County Council has purchased a new building in Clane to develop as a new Community Library. The new library, which was a retail unit, has an

excellent location in 'The Village Centre' which is in the commercial heart of the town. The building has a total area of 689m² over two floors and will allow the Library Service to provide accessible diverse community services. Services will include meeting spaces, Wi-Fi, public access PCs, laptops, a digital hub, study zones, relaxation spaces, collections for adults, young people and children and it will provide a cultural community space for programmed events. It is planned that the new library will also operate on increased hours with late evening and Saturday opening. The project is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete.

County Kildare Decade of Commemorations

6-15 June – The third Annual Irish Military Seminar has expanded this year from two to four days. A successful partnership is in place with the Irish Defence Forces, The Curragh Military Museum and June Fest community festival.



22 June - Supported Kilcullen Heritage Centre with Frank Conroy (Spanish Civil War) plaque unveiling.

28-30 June – Supported Prosperous Heritage Festival and promoted 1919 All-Ireland Centenary.

3 July – A presentation on Internment Camps during the War of Independence

25 July – Supported launch in the Curragh Military Museum of *The Curragh internment Camps in the War of Independence* by James Durney; published by Mercier Press.

17-25 August – National Heritage Week – delivered 13 talks on a wide variety of subjects – War of Independence Internment Camps; Lord Walter Fitzgerald, Medieval Kildare; Four All-Irelands.

21 August – Newbridge Library 100 plus attended a talk on 1919 All-Ireland – descendants, TDs, Councillors, GAA – successful partnership. The Children’s Blitz was

postponed to Play Day due weather conditions.

28 July, 17 and 25 August – Platform 4 Studio in association with Federation of Local History Groups recording of *Songs from the Shortgrass* – album of County Kildare songs.

Posters and Pull Ups – Publication of War of Independence and 1919 All-Ireland

Commemorative posters for schools, libraries and general public: creation of double War of Independence in County Kildare Commemorative Pull Ups for 2019-2021; Research and design of pull up for Kildare County Council for Newbridge Town Hall.

June to August 2019 – Partnership with GAA for Centenary of 1919 All-Ireland; Research and liaison with descendants of 1919 All-Ireland Footballers; Feeding in to Kildare Reader’s Festival; Working with Kildare Heritage Centre on VR project; Creative Ireland; Federation of Local History Groups meeting and application for funding; Prosperous Heritage Festival.



The Summer Stars Party for children will take place in September, with a Science Show and certificates and medals available for all the wonderful reading they enjoyed over the summer.

Kildare Readers Festival

The 10th annual Kildare Readers' Festival takes place across County Kildare in our main libraries and in the Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge. The festival is funded by Kildare County Council and managed by Kildare Library and Arts Service and will take place from 01 October to 20 October. The festival is an entirely free literary festival which celebrates the very best in local, national and international writing. We have a staggering programme with almost 30 events scheduled. The Library Service provides a programme of events to connect their readers with authors and artists, to bring the very best from the world of literature to County Kildare.

Joining us at the festival will be renowned writers: Mr Douglas Kennedy, Mr John Boyne, Ms Emilie

Pine, Ms Stefanie Preissner, Ms Niamh Boyce and lots of home grown talent from Kildare.

All Festival events are FREE and accessible to everyone:

www.kildarereadersfestival.ie

Dormant Accounts Fund Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities

This funding is to provide library supports for marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities in line with the action under Public Libraries 2020 –inspiring, connecting and empowering communities.

Kildare Libraries obtained an overall grant of €27,000 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The three projects that will benefit from this funding are:

1. **Digital innovation workshops** for children 4-12+ years to provide digital literacy skills training using coding and



robotics kits purchased from funding.

2. Autism Experience Exhibition to Take Place in Six libraries and Áras Chill Dara

The aim of this pop-up exhibition is to engage the community, in gaining a greater insight into what it is like to live with Autism. While many people have heard the word Autism, very few truly understand it and fewer still have a sense of what it is actually like to face the challenges of those with Autism experience.

This exhibition is presented in a Question and Answer format which makes it accessible and engaging for visitors and includes an audio guide and a range of activities to enable visitors to “step into the shoes” of someone with the condition. The exhibition will take place in Áras Chill Dara on 03 December as part of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

3. Week long Creative

A writing course for residents of direct provision centre and members of the community in general to allow for social interaction on a creative project. The course will include a visit to Maynooth University for a guided tour of the Nigerian activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa Exhibition.

Cleverreach – E-mail Newsletter

Over the summer we have been busy testing and fine tuning our new email newsletter system provided by Cleverreach. On 26 August our first email newsletters went out to over 22,000 library subscribers about all the wonderful events in store for them during the month of September. Those interested can sign up online at: <http://kildare.ie/library/newsletter/subscribe/index.html>. The Library Service is piloting this and it could become a tool for other areas of Kildare County Council.



Arts Grants and Award

Opportunities Culture Night

Culture Night celebrates 10 years of development in Kildare this year, and includes 83 events across Municipal Districts. It takes place on Friday 20 September. We are delighted to welcome print-maker and stained glass artist Ms Margaret Becker as Culture Night ambassador 2019:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2poB0pldY8g>

The programme includes *on-line video launch of 'One Last Kiss' by Ross Breen with Part Times Choir *art workshops for children, including 'Miniature Fairy House' and 'Making a postcard to a WHALE' *adult painting, craft workshops and demonstrations *taster workshops in Zumba, gymnastics, ballroom, hip-hop and latin dance *choral music and African drumming workshops *bog oak and leather-working demonstration *stop-motion As Gaeilge presentation *Culture Night photo booth *open-mic music gig for teens and young adults *stand-up comedy and laughter yoga *fine art print- making workshop and candle making *needlecraft and weaving workshops for children *9 art,

ceramic and photography exhibitions
 *an evening of poetry and prose
 *celebration of Polish culture *museum tours *A Beatles 'Love Me Do' concert , or a reminiscence on the showband era talk *film screening, celebrating Irish Sign Language and Kildare Young Film Makers *a world food cookery challenge *a Portrait Artist painting competition *theatrical performances and celebration of our youth theatres *an astronomical talk on 'The Sun' * exhibition on the Irish Weather *swim and gym sessions *a Public Art Bus Tour *carniosacral therapy, kinesiology and candlelit yoga *historical walks and talks
 *A public art unveiling * 14 concerts - with music ranging from church, medieval, brass and reed bands, Guatemalan-Latin rhythms, to Irish trad, jazz, orchestral, gospel and Spanish. The final Culture Night Programme will be available on:
<http://www.kildare.ie/artsservice/>



Made of Athy Music Trail Project on Nationwide

The Made of Athy plaque unveilings continued on 29 August, with a plaque for Mr Seamus Malone, the award winning animator who attended Athy College. Seamus won a scholarship to Bristol University, and went on to work for Oscar-winning animation studio Aardman. His animation credits include high-profile projects such as 2000's Chicken Run and Arthur Christmas (2011), while he directed a number of episodes of the Emmy and BAFTA-winning television series Shaun the Sheep, a Wallace and Gromit spin-off. Shane O'Sullivan and the Beautiful Noise Choir performed 'Shaun the Sheep' on the night.

Music Generation Initiative:

Kildare was one of five counties to successfully secure national funding for the Music Generation Initiative, in May 2019. The post of Development Officer, to lead the initiative was advertised soon afterwards, but we were unsuccessful in filling the position. The post was recently re-advertised and interviews will take place in the coming weeks. Led by

the Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board (KWETB) and supported by Kildare County Council, we expect the programme to be offered to schools and youth groups in the coming months, across each of the five Municipal Districts.

Arts, Health and Wellbeing

The Voices of Spring Community Choir and Past Times Choir continue to benefit members of our community with dementia and their carers.

One of the projects for the choirs is The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions premieres "One Last Kiss", the fifth installment of their live music sessions. The Culture Night Special Edition is a collaboration between Past Times and Voices of Spring Community Choirs are not to be missed. To watch the launch of this video live please log onto:

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

This time Kildare based singer songwriter Mr Ross Breen takes the lead with his beautiful track.



There is also a “Working 9 to 5” a live performance of Work Songs, Sea Shanties and songs about the working week on Saturday 21 September at 12:00 noon in Naas CBS Boys School, Corban's Lane, Naas. Guest Artist Mr Ross Breen will perform “One Last Kiss” with us on the day.

Marking a Mark

The Arts Service were delighted to support emerging actor Mr Mark Smith, an emerging actor from the inclusive theatre company Run of the Mill, based in Celbridge on the "Making a Mark" project. It was further supported by the Abbey Theatre's development award and will be premiering at the Dublin Theatre Festival in September:

<https://www.facebook.com/TalkingShopEnsemble/videos/2336181769752009/UzpfSTM1MTUyNTMwMTY5NjQ1NjoxMjE2MjA2ODUxODk0OTU5/>

Professional Development for Visual Artists

Over the autumn/winter, visual artists will participate in professional development and networking workshops facilitated by Visual Artists Ireland, examining business skills with Ms Marian McDonald, career development with Ms Jaki Irvine and opportunities with Ms Sheena Malone as well as information exchange with VAI, Arts Council, Kildare Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Kildare County Council's Arts Service.



Water Services

Infrastructural Projects

Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)

The contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on 20 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 08 August 2019 and it has a 30 month construction programme. Works are due to commence on site in September 2019.

Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility Design Build and Contract (DBO) Variation

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

Capital Projects

Kilmeague Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

Works are progressing well on site and are due for completion in early Quarter 4, 2019. A 3 month process proving period will follow the completion of works, before handover to operations in early Quarter, 2020.

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

This project is to recommence once the legacy land issue is resolved.



Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

This project is being assessed by Irish Water Asset Planning under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP) and a site assessment report is being finalised by Irish Water's consultants.

Rathangan Waste Water Treatment 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

This work is scheduled for tender in Quarter 4, 2019

Water Networks Projects

Newbridge Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works (Back Yard Services (BYS)-Lead Replacement)

Detailed Design is completed for both the Highfield and Piercetown Back Yard Service 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. Patrick's 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

Approx. 1750 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, of 2019.

Environment

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 the Leixlip Scheme. The municipal districts will be briefed on the emerging 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 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 end of Quarter



4, 2019, with preliminary flood risk management options report due in Quarter 1, 2020. The revised mapping will be used by the Office of Public Works (OPW) to update flood extents in the catchment.

Kerdiffstown

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence was granted on 07 March. Taking possession of properties under the CPO has commenced. Notice to Enter has been served on the majority of lands. An advanced works contract is ongoing in connection with the St Vincent de Paul property. The L2005 realignment will be awarded shortly. Demolition works are near completion. Short listing of candidates for the main contract has been completed.

Cemeteries

Athy Cemetery

Further surfacing works have been completed in the cemetery.

Churchtown Cemetery

Cemetery works have been completed. Works on the columbarium walls have 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 discussion with the local cemetery committee.

Newbridge Cemetery

Work on the upgrade of the car park has now been prioritized, 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 now 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 three other walls.

Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

All governance arrangements are in place. Partnership with Kilkenny County Council is to be formally signed. The Draft Sectoral Training Plan has been finalised for presentation to the County and City Management Association (CCMA). All (17) adaptation plans are on target for adoption.

Kildare Climate Action Team

The Chief Executive's Report on the draft adaptation strategy is now finalised and will be circulated to the elected members in advance of 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 have been 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

2019 Results will be announced on 30 September.

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 19.



Kilcullen Public Realm

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

Monasterevin Public Realm

A presentation was made to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 29 July 19.

Public Realm Upgrade for Kildare Town

A working draft is now complete which is to be presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee.

Public Realm Upgrade for Newbridge

A working draft is now complete which will be presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee.

Parks

National Play Day

This event will be held on Saturday 14 September. The event is based on the theme 'Back to Basics' The event this year features over 30 events both indoors and outdoors. Events are also held being for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), this included a reserved hour for access to events and also a quiet room.

Caragh Playground

Construction on the playground is almost complete and it is hoped to have the playground open by the middle of the month.

Allenwood Playground

An alternative site has been identified within the ACDAL site. It is hoped to progress this to design subject to a



preliminary planning assessment and the approval of the ACDAL Board who own the site.

Castledermot Playground

Work on the construction of the playground in Castledermot has been delayed. This is due to an application by Castledermot Amenity Group for a Leader Grant to fund the installation of a paved entrance and circulation paths linking to the playground.

A decision on the grant application is due in October. If the grant application is successful work on the playground and the paved entrance and circulation paths should start in late spring 2020.

Riverforest Estate, Leixlip

Reinstatement of the open space known as 'The Bowl' is due to be completed by the end of the month.

Framework for Landscape

Architects

A tender for the formation of a framework of landscape architects has

been advertised. It is planned to have a framework for projects >€500k and projects <€500k. The initial tender competitions are based on developing a masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land and a landscape plan for Caragh Court Roundabout in Naas. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 08 October. It is hoped to have consultants in place by December to commence these projects and also to progress designs for Newbridge Boardwalk, The Ball Roundabout, Naas, Cherry Avenue, Kildare Town, Carton Avenue, Maynooth and Monread Park, Naas.

Roundabout Landscaping

Contractors have been appointed to carry out replanting on Kilcullen Road, Ballymore Eustace, and Newhall Roundabouts in Naas and also around The Sentinel Art Piece at the entrance to Newbridge and two roundabouts at the M7 at Monasterevin. It is hoped to have these completed by the end of 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 Department:

Grant Scheme	No. of Grants	Amount Awarded
Community Grant	178	€238,278
Festival Grant	77	€130,156
LPT grants (groups nominated by councillors)	152	€747,522
Private Resident's Associations	246	€207,531
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
	806	€1,675,464



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on Wednesday 03 July 2019.

Healthy Ireland

The second phase of Healthy Ireland is now complete. A third round of funding has been announced. Kildare LCDC is continuing to work with Kildare Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) on joint plans. While resourcing is being committed over a two year period, the level of funding available remains consistent. There are new requirements and the planning process is underway. The plan is due for submission on 20 September.

Heads-up (Mojo)

Recruitment is being finalised for the Mini Heads Up Programmes commencing in Allenwood and Maynooth. Referral levels were very positive. These programmes will commence shortly.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Work continues to implement the SICAP programme across the county. The SICAP sub group is meeting to prepare for the upcoming LCDC meeting and Pobal are carrying out a yearly check in meeting. Preparations for SICAP action plan 2020 will commence shortly.

Community Enhancement Programme

Applications for the ring fenced Men's Shed funding under this scheme are being accepted until the deadline of 09 September at 5:00 p.m.

Rural Development LEADER

The Rural Development Sub Group is meeting on 09 September to prepare for the upcoming LCDC meeting. Funding is still available under this programme. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership - 045 895450. The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 September.



Kildare Fáilte

Key activities August/September 2019

Rose of Tralee tour of County Kildare- 18-21 August



This included visits to a number of places around Kildare starting with a tour in Sallins and Maynooth. The official welcome reception took place in Newbridge Town Hall followed by a camogie demonstration in St. Conleth's Park highlighting women in Sport and the connection with The Curragh where they were welcomed by the No. 1 Army Band. Day 2 concluded with visit to Kildare Village. Day 3 started with an official photo shoot for RTÉ at Castletown House, this was the first time we managed to secure this in County Kildare. From here the Roses visited Moone Village and High Cross. Some Roses were

transferred in classic cars and driven along the Gordon Bennett route where they all met up for lunch and activities in Kilkea Castle. To celebrate and promote the opening of The Curragh Racecourse and highlight racing in the county, the group visited The Curragh where they experienced horse simulators and a Rose Derby Race took place. RACE School brought 2 simulators into the Champagne Bar for this and Mr Jim Kavanagh gave a history presentation on The Curragh. The Chief Executive, Mr Pat Keogh of the Curragh Racecourse welcomed the group. The visit concluded in Lullymore Heritage Park where the Roses had a tour and participated in some turf cutting despite the challenging weather conditions. An actor was also on the bus giving a history tour enroute to each place.





**Further Activities included
the following:**

- Attended the evening with Keith Barry and the Roses on the Tuesday night in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth
- Day 4- Delivered a speech to the Roses before their departure for Tralee
- Represented Kildare and attended the two televised nights of the Rose of Tralee finals in Tralee
- The video piece of the Tour of Kildare featured on RTÉ on the final night of the Rose of Tralee
- Press, social and video production regarding the Rose's visit to Kildare
- Supported Naas Racecourse with the community day and the Chief Experience Officer also attended the Naas Racecourse Summer BBQ
- Worked with Carlow Tourism in sponsorship of the Carlow Garden Festival at Burtown House and Gardens in Kildare and attended the event
- Attended the Naas town team meeting
- Kildare Derby Festival follow up report
- The Kildare Fáilte Board meeting was held on 14 August
- Fáilte Ireland meeting and a meeting with LEADER regarding future projects as well as a strategic team meeting in Kildare County Council regarding developments- Shackleton, Arthur Guinness, Moone, and Destination Towns



-
- The Chief Executive Officer was invited by the Royal and Ancient at the British Open as part of Women in Leadership Forum to speak on a panel



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 Junction11 (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 Kildare Nationalist and the 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's (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 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 is at tender/construction stage for improvement works to footpath 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
- Sallins Controlled Pedestrian Crossing improvements – complete
- Newbridge Road, Naas footpath works – complete
- Resurfacing of Abbey Street Car Park, Naas – complete
- Hazlemere road repairs – complete



- Main Street, Naas – Construction Stage
- Brannockstown Footpath – complete

Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2019

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

- 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
- 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 end by mid-September 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

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 completed by the end of the year.



Road Safety

European Road Safety Summer School

The Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer (RCSTO) attended the European Summer Safety School, in Belgium from 26 – 30 August. The five-day course presented an integrated approach to road safety, based on good examples from European countries.

A variety of presentations were delivered under the following pillar topics:

- Road safety indicators
 - Education and awareness raising
 - Infrastructure
 - Enforcement
 - The European framework
- While Ireland is ranked 3rd safest 'road safety' country in Europe, road safety progress in other EU areas has stagnated for the last four years. The EU considers the 'Safe System

Approach' as being the best practice in road safety, internationally.

Participants at the school were advised on how to implement the Safe Systems Approach into our own road safety strategy, locally.

Many professionals from other EU states participated in the course, and these came from people dealing with road safety and mobility issues, staff at national, regional or local authorities, road safety interest groups, police, spatial planning and road infrastructure departments, members of consultation committees and researchers.

Some of the presentations of most value to the Road Safety Officer (RSO) were the linkage between mobility, health, urban planning and road safety; a systematic approach to road safety awareness; technologies, enforcement and integrated policy and vehicle safety technologies.



Kildare Civil Defence assisted at the following events in July and August 2019

- Relay for Life in Punchestown (24 hour Event)
- Sallins Community Event
- Donadea Wheelers Duathlon Event
- Athy Barrow Splash Event
- Celbridge Festival Event
- Tour of Kildare Event
- Barrettstown Fun Day Event (Naas)
- St. Coca's 10 Mile Run Event (Kilcock)
- Athy Teddy Bear Picnic Event



Fire Service

Up to 31 August 2019 Kildare Fire Service responded to 986 operational incidents which resulted in 1,208

station responses (see breakdown below). Some incident types require more than one station to respond.

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2018	Total Calls September 2019
Newbridge	460	300
Naas	503	286
Athy	266	145
Maynooth	322	211
Monasterevin	214	125
Leixlip	245	141
TOTAL	2010	1208

Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2018	88	85
2019	51	48

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2018	18
2019	10



	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2018	204
2019	119

	No. Planning File Comments
2018	518
2019	294

Building and Development Control

Building Control (figures to end of August 2019)

	2018	2019
Commencement Notices		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	662	454
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	618	442
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	44	12
No. of Inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	109	141

	2018	2019
Certificates of Compliance on Completion		
Total Number of Certificates received:	644	387
Number Valid	629	386
Number Invalid	15	1
Awaiting processing	-	-
Additional Information		
Number of Inspections carried out	23	64



Disability Access Certificates	2018	2019
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	139	81
Number granted:	130	94
Number refused:	0	0
Number of Inspections carried out	35	12

Building Control Active Sites	August 2019	2019 YTD
Number of units inspected	153	1,020

Development Control

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



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

“Elected members please advise your constituents that the LEO 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”

2019 Shop /Accessibility Funding Applications received as of 10 Sept 2019:

	Shop front balance	Total MD
Athy	Budget fully allocated	€39,068
Maynooth	Balance of €31,129	€0
Celbridge/L eixlip	Balance of €30,857	€10,371
Newbridge/ Kildare	Balance of €10,116	€12,735
Naas	Budget fully allocated	€46,621

Kildare County Council inviting Expressions of Interests for the ‘Pride of Business Premises’ Competition 2019 – Application Deadline Extended

The Pride of Business Premises competition has a self nomination process and aims to recognise local property owners who maintain a high level of visual appearance to their premises.

The inaugural competition will be adjudicated by three independent judges. Judging will take place in early October 2019, where five winners and five runner ups will be selected from across the five Municipal Districts in County Kildare. The awards ceremony will take place in October 2019. **The application deadline has been extended to 30 September.** Please encourage your Municipal District constituents to take part.



Applications are available at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Pride-of-Business-Premises-Awards.html>

Entrepreneurship Support Services During September 2019

Brexit Supports

Brexit still remains very high on the agenda and a series of interventions have been put in place, including a radio campaign, site visits to the businesses most at risk looking 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.

Specific Brexit supports offered by the LEO include; free Brexit specific 1-1 mentoring, customs training (13 November), vouchers to improve trading online capabilities and to explore new export markets, and a Brexit practical workshop (26 September). A full list of Brexit supports is available at:

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

Please encourage SME owners within your Municipal District to fill out the Brexit Scorecard to assess exposure.

The Brexit Scorecard is available at:

<https://prepareforbrexit.virtualadviser.com/>

Soft Supports Summary

The autumn suite of the LEO courses was launched at the end of August. Please advise your Municipal District constituents of the Digital Marketing, Starting Your Own Business, taxation, Management Development and LEAN approach to management courses available. All of our courses can be booked at:

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



Local Enterprise Development Services

Best Start-Up Business, Mr Pierce Dargan, Founder of Tincomy Ltd. T/A Equine MediRecord in The Curragh to compete for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur National Title

The National Final of "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneurs" will take place on Sunday 15 September.

Representing County Kildare will be Mr Pierce Dargan, founder of Tincomy Ltd. T/A Equine MediRecord. The equine software business focuses on equestrian health management.

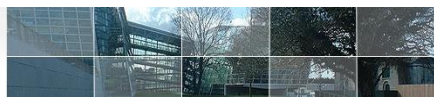
Equine MediRecord produce medical record software for different stakeholders throughout the equestrian industry and operates in Ireland, the UK and French markets. 24 contenders (three from each region nationally - one in each category) were selected to compete at the final for the title of 'Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur.' A further €100,000 investment fund will be available to the winners.

Local Enterprise Office supporting local food producers at Naas Wild Food Festival

The LEO sponsored 12 food clients to take a stand at the annual Naas Wild Food Festival. The event took place on Saturday 07 September at the Naas Harbour. There were more than 30 exhibitors present and this year saw largest footfall to date.

Supporting the Establishment of the Kildare Craft Network

Building on the significant national profile of craft makers in County Kildare, LEO Kildare in association with Kildare LEADER Partnership are managing a programme for makers who wish to avail of training to facilitate the development of a craft network for County Kildare. The training for the establishment of the network will take place over a ten month period and began on Tuesday 10 September at Áras Chill Dara.



Student Enterprise Programme Launched

The Student Enterprise Programme was launched in the first week of September. The Local Enterprise Office has appointed a co-ordinator who will issue a call out to all

secondary schools in Kildare. Last year 26,000 students took part in the Student Enterprise Programme across the country. The county final will take place in March 2020 and the National Final will take place in Croke Park on 01 May 2020.

Local Enterprise Office at the LHH Penna Career Fair on Behalf of Celestica

On Tuesday 10 September, Local Enterprise Office representatives took part in the LHH Penna Career Fair in Lexlip where exposure was gained to over 100 people. There was a large interest in the Start Your Own Business courses.

Local Enterprise Office Business Network Opportunities in Association with Kildare Chamber

The LEO sponsored lunch and learn events with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce resumed on 13 September.

Local 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, and 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 in the coming weeks.



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 initial funding investment for the project. Submission to the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, in advance of the closing date at the end of September will be made to secure the remaining funding.

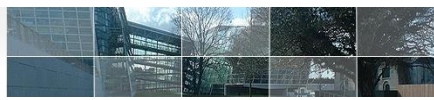
Kildare Food and Beverage Strategy

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 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.

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. was awarded the contract in late July and the commuter survey went live on 02

September and will close on 30 September. 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 which currently exist here.

Further information in relation to the survey can be found on

www.kildarecoco.ie/business/commuter_survey

Commuters can access the survey at:

<https://www.sphinxonline.com/SurveyServer/s/INTERACTIONS2/INTR1930/questionnaire.htm>

It is expected that the final report will be ready for publication at the end of October.



Important Dates for Your Constituents

26 September Brexit Breakfast

The LEO will be hosting a **Brexit practical workshop** on **Thursday 26 September from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** at the **Osprey Hotel**.

The event will feature speakers from Grant Thornton and will cover; an Introduction to Brexit, advice to local business, common Brexit risks (*regulatory compliance, supply chain and inability to deliver goods in the event of a 'No deal' Brexit, Tax, Customs and Tariffs for businesses trading with the EU*), opportunities arising from Brexit and the financial support available to Kildare businesses.

Please inform your Municipal District constituents about this event.

Places can be booked at: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Brexit-Breakfast-Ensuring-your-business-is-ready-regardless-of-the-outcome.html>

Procurement Opportunities with Kildare County Council - 01 October

The Kildare County Council Procurement team will be at the **City West Hotel on Tuesday 01 October from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** This event will allow your Municipal District constituents to explore opportunities available to their business.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Come-meet-the-KCC-Procurement-team.html>

National Women's Enterprise Day - 17 October

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.).

With TV and Radio Broadcaster and Columnist Ms Lottie Ryan as MC and Keynote Speaker Ms Sonia Deasy of Pestle and Mortar, there will be a line-up of excellent speakers sharing their experience, challenges and solutions for the world of business today. Please encourage Municipal District constituents to avail of the ****Early Bird Offer** now available for a limited time (€45).

Places can be booked at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/National-Women-s-Enterprise-Day-2019.html>



Innovation Conference - 31 October

The annual **Innovation Conference** will be taking place on **Thursday 31 October** (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) at the Osprey Hotel.

Booking will be available on the LEO website: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/> from Thursday 12 September.

MAKEIT Christmas Fair - 28 November

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 who may be of interest please inform them expressions of interest forms will be posted to the Leo website: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/> on Thursday 12 September.

Ongoing Grant Aid

If your constituents are interested in any of the grant aid below, advise them to contact the LEO on 045 98096 or 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) and are 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. The grant covers 50% of eligible costs (subject to a maximum of €2,500 per company in any one calendar year) and is available to any business with less than 10 employees.

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

Shopfront – This grant is 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 – This grant works with small businesses with fewer than 10 employees and turnover up to €2 million, by providing unsecured business loans of €2,000 to €25,000 for commercially viable proposals and is 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 the LEO on 045 980967, or localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Peter Carey
Chief Executive