



**Chief Executive's Report
November 2019**

THIS MONTH: News and Highlights

Eadestown Playground

The Eadestown Playground was officially opened on 09 October by the Mayor of the Naas Municipal District, Councillor Carmel Kelly (see page 31).

Kildare Young Filmmakers

Kildare Young Filmmakers won 3 awards at the Noise Flicks Film Festival in the IMC Tallaght in October (see page 21).

Pride in your Place Awards

The Pride in Your Place Awards and Tidy Towns competitions awards took place in Maynooth University on 30 October (see page 32).

Dates for Your Diary

Sallins Playground

The official opening of Sallins Playground will take place on 22 November.

MAKEIT Food and Craft Christmas Fair

The MAKEIT Food and Craft Christmas Fair will take place at Áras Chill Dara on Thursday 28 November (see page 42).

Pride of Business Premises Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony for the Pride of Business Premises competition will take place on Tuesday 03 December in the Kildare County Council Chamber.

Maynooth Library - Grá Gaelige

Maynooth Community Library is set to become a Pop-up Gaeltacht - for one night only on Tuesday 19 November 2019 (see page 18).



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Corporate Services

Register of Electors

Draft Register 2020/2021

The Draft Register of Electors was published on 01 November 2019. It is now on display at Kildare County Council's Offices, at local Garda Stations, Libraries, Post Offices and online at www.checktheregister.ie. Claims to the draft register must be received before 25 November 2019.

Corporate Plan 2019-2024

The Corporate Plan 2019-2024 will be considered by the elected members at their meeting of 25 November 2019. When the plan is approved it will be published on our website.

National Audit Oversight Committee (NOAC) Report for 2018

The NOAC report was published on the 10 October. It was uploaded to the Members Information Portal and

brought to members attention at the October Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and plenary council meeting.

Finance and Information Technology

Budget 2020 Meeting

The Statutory Budget Meeting will be held on Monday 18 November 2019.

2018 Audit Report

The 2018 Audit Report was issued by the Local Government Auditor and he attended the Audit Committee meeting on Tuesday 07 November 2019 to discuss the report with the committee. The Audit Report is unmodified, which means that no changes were made to the 2018 accounts by the Local Government Auditor.

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.

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

The Office of the Planning Regulator organised training for elected members in the planning process on 10 October in Limerick and 12 October in Dundalk.

County Development Plan

The Minister and the Office of the Planning Regulator 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). A workshop was held with the members on 11 November 2019.

Local Area Plans (LAP's)

Naas LAP

The council, at its meeting on 29 July 2019 resolved to not make the Draft LAP under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Leixlip LAP

The material alterations to the Draft Leixlip LAP went on public display from 04 October 2019 to 01 November 2019, and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions will be considered at a Special meeting in November.



Planning applications received:			Applications decided: Oct 2019	
	Oct	Year	Total Granted:	91
2017:	126	1,496	Retention:	18
2018:	122	1,601	Extension of Duration:	1
2019:	132	1,224	Total Refused:	29

Significant Planning Applications October 2019

19/622 Maynooth University:

Permission was granted for a new Maynooth University Students Centre across two building blocks.

18/1481 Lagan Homes

Permission was refused for 58 residential dwellings at Newtown Townland, Celbridge.

18/1514 Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd. and ESB Wind Development Ltd.

Permission was refused for a renewable energy development at Drehid, Mulgeeth, Ballynamullagh, Mucklon, Kilmurray, Killyon and Timahoe East, County Kildare.

19/164 Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Permission was granted for a data centre and associated plant and equipment rooms at Backweston Campus, Ballymadeer, Celbridge.

19/493 Farway Construction Limited

Permission was granted for 10 dwellings at Johnstown, Johnstownbridge, Enfield, County Kildare.



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 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 Substation at Timahoe East and a decision is awaited from the Board.

An 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.

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

The Strategic Housing Development (SHD) process was created in 2016 as a fast-track planning mechanism to facilitate the delivery of larger housing projects. The SHD provisions came into effect on 03 July 2017 and apply for an initial period, until the end of 2019. While the process originated as part of the Government's Housing Action Plan Rebuilding Ireland, it also has to be seen in the longer-term context of the National Planning Framework, which sets a target of providing over half a million new homes by 2040. Since the legislation came into effect in July 2017, applications for planning permission for SHD's are made directly to An Bord Pleanála.



Recent Decisions				
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
19/305007	Ballymount Properties Ltd.	Magee Barracks, Kildare	375	Granted

Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
19/305416	Resource Five Ltd	Newtown, Kill	147	13/09/19	TBA
19/305701	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Naas West and Jigginstown, Naas	314	16/10/19	TBA

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

The report and recommendations of the Department's SHD Review Group issued in September. The conclusions of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on the review of the Strategic Housing Development process were brought forward on 30 October 2019. The Minister has

indicated that he shall sign an order, before the end of the current year, to extend the SHD arrangements to 31 December 2021. The Minister is also considering some changes in operational practices by the Board, as well as some minor legislative changes which will be incorporated in the next available Planning and Development Bill which he intends to bring forward.

Part 8 Developments – Current Decisions/Proposals

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



Housing

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status November 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. Final account and post project review 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
Dunmurray Rise Kildare [Phase 3]	32 units	Units completed 25 October 2019.
In Progress		
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 4, 2019 subject to Irish Water connection.
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
Approval Stage 3		
Tankardsgarden, Newbridge	8 units plus caretaker bay	Alternative accommodation is being considered for families currently resident in Tankardsgarden
Athgarvan Village	19 units	Part 8 was approved at the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting in November 2018. The main contract tender issued on 18 October 2019. The tender return is due on 06 December 2019.
Approval Stage 2		
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 options discussion and agreed in principal with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in mid-October. Revised Stage 2 application to be submitted. Briefing meeting to be arranged with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee.
Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) as a joint proposal to maximise



	agreement with AHB and Planning Dept)	the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Proposal due from an AHB in mid-November.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Civil/structural tenders have been received and assessed. Building services tenders are due mid Jan 2020.
Approval Stage 1		Status November 2019
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65-70 units	A design team was appointed in February 2019. Revised proposal to increase density to 65-70 units under consideration prior to completing Approval Stage 2 expected Quarter 1, 2020.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	36 units	A Service Site Funding (SSF) funding application has been approved. Infrastructure requirements to be agreed with Transportation and a design team is to be appointed. Submission for Approval Stage 2 expected Quarter 2, 2020.
Carbury	4 units	A feasibility study is being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2020.
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	35 units	Stage 1 approval submitted to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2019. Revised approval Stage 1 to be submitted based on guidance from the DHPLG
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	55-60 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2020.
Caragh Road Site, Naas	TBC	Feasibility study/economic assessment in relation to potential for provision of affordable units conducted on this site and established that the site is suitable for consideration for an element of affordable housing. Design studies to commence Quarter 4, 2019.



Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status November 2019
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Approval Stage 1 received. Proposed Approval Stage 2 Quarter 4, 2019.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 1 received from the DHPLG in July 2018. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.
Glandore, Athy	TBC	Stage 1 approval received. Approval Stage 2 proposed Quarter 1, 2020.
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 4, 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 1, 2020

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	133	120
Housing Turnkeys	39	64	92
Part V Acquisitions	30	43	224

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status November 2019
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Expected completion April 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Anticipated contract award week commencing on 11 November 2019. To commence on site by end of November 2019.
Ardrew, Athy	TBC	Ardrew site identified as preferred site for PPP Bundle 3.



Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status November 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 Naas MD 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.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status November 2019
KARE	3 Units	Part 8 planning application to be lodged Nov 2019.
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 01 May 2018. Homeless Care CLG expect to award construction contract early November 2019.



Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2018	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount	Remaining Approval No.
Total	67	€14,480,997	15	€2,989,150	3	€623,000	49
2019	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount	Remaining Approved No.
January	1	€270,000	8	€1,920,947	3	€462,500	39
February	2	€365,600	6	€1,455,055	6	€1,031,200	29
March	2	€415,800	0	0	1	€288,000	30
April	0	0	6	€1,240,470	7	€1,665,130	17
May	0	0	4	€898,050	0	0	13
June	1	€220,000	2	€415,800	0	0	12
July	0	€0	3	€605,600	0	0	9
August	0	€0	2	€449,800	0	0	7
September	2	€305,000	0	0	0	0	9
October	6	€1,207,100	0	0	0	0	15

Total Approved to Date: €17,264,497
 Total Drawn down to date: €10,160,922
 Total currently committed in loan offers: €2,517,945
 Total Expired: €4,585,630
Total available for lending: €2,321,133

***Approvals continuing due to expired loans**



**Families in Emergency Accommodation
including Supported Temporary
Accommodation and Family Hubs as at 31
October 2019**

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	37	60	76
6 - 12 Months	17	29	40
12 - 18 Months	8	12	17
18 - 24 Months	2	2	6
24 - 30 Months	2	2	6
	66	105	145

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	1	4
6 - 12 Months	1	2	4
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	4	7	13
24 - 30 Months	1	2	3
30 - 36 Months	4	7	12
	11	19	36



Library and Arts Service

“You can borrow a book, but you get to keep the ideas!” Stephen King

Age Friendly Library Recognition Programme

Age Friendly Champion for Kildare Library Services, Evelyn Cooley was very pleased to accept the Age Friendly Charter for Athy Library which was selected as our Age Friendly nominee by Michael Ring, TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development in Kevin Street Library.

Background on the Charter

Following on from that training, our older patrons were surveyed, and based on feedback from that survey, Kildare Library Service came up with three commitments for their Age Friendly Charter.

The Age Friendly Library Recognition Programme is an initiative of Age Friendly Ireland, in conjunction with the Libraries Development Committee and the CCMA to encourage libraries to develop in a more age friendly way. Each local authority nominated one library (in our case, Athy Library) to become their Age Friendly Library, and in January 2019 Age Friendly Ireland provided training in age friendly principles to 48 libraries nationally.

They are as follows:

- Continue the work started in Athy Library to achieve a model of accessibility and inclusion with the requirements of older people in mind
- Increase opening hours in the main Kildare branches
- Review marketing for the OWL Age Friendly Programme to target a bigger, wider audience



- Between now and the end of the year, Older Person's Council members will visit libraries all over the county and give feedback to the programme
- It is then envisaged that the programme would be

Implemented across all libraries nationally and that the LGMA/Age Friendly Ireland will work together to sustain the programme and publish guidelines. This is only the start of the Age Friendly Library Recognition Programme.

Judging by the Kildare Library survey results, users were very complimentary about the Age

Friendliness and in particular library staff.

Local Studies

Aspects of the Curragh Heritage Seminar

The Local Studies Section of Kildare Library Service is co-organising a seminar 'Aspects of the Curragh', in association with the County Kildare Archaeological Society on Saturday 16 November. This event will be supported by Creative Ireland with the opening address by Cathaoirleach, Councillor Suzanne Doyle. The event will feature a number of distinguished speakers exploring different aspects of the unique heritage of the Curragh.

A new edition of Dr John Feehan's long out of print book on the Curragh *Cuirreach Life* will be launched at the event, along with the newly digitised journals of the County Kildare Archaeological Society and the formal launch of the Abarta audio guide to the Curragh.



Decade of Commemorations Committee (including 120 Years of Local Democracy Exhibition)

The work of the Decade of Commemorations Committee continues apace, with planning for 2020 events already underway. The Irish Military Seminar will again take place in June 2020, while partnerships with local history groups and community groups are again planned for throughout 2020. Key events which took place during 1920 will be commemorated in 2020 include the Bloody Sunday events in Dublin in November 1920 (including the role of Kildare man Mick Sammon as referee in the events in Croke Park), an ambush in Kill during the War of Independence and historic local elections held in County Kildare in 1920. An exhibition marking '120 Years of Local Democracy' detailing key local government events over the past 120 years is on display in Maynooth Library from 09 to 20 December. This mobile exhibition, curated by the Local Archivists and Record Managers Group, will subsequently go on display in Monasterevin Library in January and Leixlip Library in February.

Local Studies

The Local Studies Department continues to acquire a wide range of items of historic and contemporary relevance to County Kildare, including postcards, ephemera and other rare publications. The Library Service recently acquired a scrapbook associated with the Aylmer Family of Donadea, which offers interesting glimpses into the sporting lives of members of the aristocracy in 19th Century Kildare as it includes interesting information on tennis and cricket events held in the grounds located in Oldtown Estate. An autograph book from a County Kildare internee in the Curragh Camp (War of Independence period) has also been recently donated to the collections.

STEAM Programme Events and Workshops for Primary School Children

Primary schools throughout County Kildare have availed of the opportunity to sample free Science Workshops and events organised by the Library Service throughout the month of November to mark Science Week 2019. Among the highlights of the Science Week events taking place as



part of the STEAM Programme are: 'Dinosaur Science' with Dale Treadwell, 'Pedal Power Lab' with Paul Finch, 'Mad Professor Science Shows' and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Workshops with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.

Planning is already underway for the 2020 STEAM Programme, with events for schools again planned to coincide with Engineers Week, Tech Week, Biodiversity Week, Science Week and Maths Week 2020.

Science Foundation Ireland Funded Public Science Events for Adults, Families and Children in Libraries

The Library Service received funding from Science Foundation Ireland earlier this year to host a range of science workshops for individuals who may not traditionally have access to Science events. The month of November has seen over thirty public science events taking place in the seven main branch libraries. Separate free events are being organised for adults, families and children. Highlights have included: a mobile planetarium with Blackrock Castle Observatory, Climate Change Workshops with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council

and Irish Wildlife Trust, Eccentric Energy Shows with Dr Science Wows, Science Experiment Workshops for children and a visit by one of Ireland's leading STEAM communicators and potential future astronaut Dr Niamh Shaw.

Newbridge Science and Technology Community Exhibition

The Library Service will also support and host a stand at the Newbridge Science and Technology Community Exhibition which will be held in Newbridge Town Hall on Saturday 16 November. This free event for the wider community has been organised by Paul Brereton of Science Culture Ireland and will give the Library Service an opportunity to promote the digital services and facilities which public libraries in County Kildare offer today.

Online Passports

Kildare Libraries are supporting and promoting passport online services throughout the county. Applicants are encouraged to use the libraries free computer services to avail of this worthy service.



The Passport Service strongly encourages all applicants, both adults and children, to apply online for their first passport using the cheaper, faster, straight forward and more efficient online service.

Maynooth Library

Grá Gaeilge

Maynooth Community Library is set to become a Pop-up Gaeltacht - for one night only! Dé Máirt 19ú Lá déag Mí na Samhna/Tuesday 19 November 6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. There will be games, chats, craic agus ceol. Fáilte roimh chách / All are welcome!

On Saturday 16 November Fizz and Chips Theatre Company are running bilingual drama workshops in Maynooth Community Library as Gaeilge agus Béarla. In this one-hour workshop, explore movement, sound, and voice in a fun and friendly environment through Irish and English.

Arts, Crafts, and a sense of Community

As well as providing a wide variety of arts, crafts, and creative activities for children, Maynooth Community Library runs two very successful craft groups for adults. There are 20-25 members across these two groups, meeting weekly and bi-weekly. Membership spans across all ages, from young au pairs to retirees, providing an opportunity to meet new people, swap stories and skills, and sometimes even materials, over a cup of tea. Often a new skill or project is taught, but key to these groups' success is the social element. Members have reported that attending is invaluable to their mental health. Some members may not have visited the library for years before joining the craft groups and have now discovered there is a lot more for them in the library such as talks, workshops, and help with eServices.



Newbridge Community Communiversity

Newbridge Community Library continues to facilitate Communiversity every Tuesday morning throughout November. In association with Maynooth University and County Kildare LEADER Partnership, Communiversity is a free 17-week programme aimed at long term unemployed and people supported under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). Up to 25 participants attend weekly classes covering four different modules - *Local History, Media Studies, Economy and Us and Politics, Power and People*.

Career Guidance for residents of Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre

In November the Library Service is partnering with Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre in providing special on-on-one CV tutorials for residents with career guidance counsellor Mr Paul Aspell in the library. Feedback so far has been excellent with participants noting how their prospects have improved considerably as a consequence with some already gaining employment.

Storytime in Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre

Library staff will visit Eyre Powell for a special monthly Storytime and Craft session. Taking place every fourth Monday afternoon, the session incorporates an initial reading of a storybook followed by a craft session based on the theme of the book. Based on their experiences at this session, children from Eyre Powell are now visiting the library on a regular basis attending the Wednesday Storytime session and Friday's *Here Come the Weekend* activity club as well as availing of the various resources which the library collection offers.

AsIAM Autism Experience Exhibition

The AsIAM Autism Experience Exhibition is taking place in Athy, Celbridge, Naas libraries and Áras Chill Dara this November. Have you ever wondered what it is like to have autism? AsIAM, Ireland's National Autism Charity, invite you to do just that. Visit the Autism Experience Exhibition where you will travel through a series of interactive experiences which will enable you to "step into the shoes" of a



person on the autism spectrum. Your journey through a range of exhibits will cover all of the senses, and you will discover some of the challenges in communication, social interaction, and sensory processing, all of which people with autism face on a daily basis. Upon leaving you will be encouraged to make one change in your community to help make the world a more neuro-diverse and understanding place. Join AsIAM in their mission towards building a more inclusive Ireland.

Launch of Multi-Sensory Garden in Leixlip Community Library

The new Multi-Sensory Garden at Leixlip Community Library was launched on Saturday 02 November. The garden was officially opened by Councillor Michael Coleman, the Cathaoirleach for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. Leixlip Community Library won the 2018 Library Association of Ireland (LAI) Project Prize for the idea of a Library Sensory Garden and used the €1000 prize to fund the creation of the garden. The garden was designed by Ms Sharon Curran as a space for everyone to enjoy, but it is particularly suitable for

children with Autism and additional needs. The garden was landscaped by Mr Enda Kinnane and Mr Alan Gilgunn. This will be a child led garden, where Toys, Training and Technology (TTT) events such as planting workshops and story time will take place. It is a space which will evolve with the seasons with changing colour, textures, sounds and smells.

Not only does the garden offer beautiful plants but also a multi-textured garden path to explore, knitted decorations provided by Purls of Wisdom Knitting Group, and a beautiful wall mural painted by artist, Ms Holly Delaney, featuring animals, plants and insects with a riot of colour and textures. This garden is a relaxing sanctuary for anyone who wants to use it and aims to have a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of those who spend time there.



Castledermot Library Upgrade Works and Refurbishment

Castledermot Library will be temporarily closed to the public from Wednesday November 06 until early 2020 for essential upgrade works. These renovation and refurbishment works include:

- Extensive conservation works to the original stained-glass windows. This work requires temporary removal of the stained glass to be worked on offsite
- Full upgrade of the internal lighting system to energy efficient lighting
- Complete internal fit out to include study area, children and young adult library, printing facilities, self-service options and adult library

The furniture layout and design will allow for a community space for talks, workshops and small meetings. The internal decoration will be in keeping with the heritage of the building. In order to ensure minimum disruption to services the Mobile Library Service will visit Castledermot Community

Centre on Wednesdays 13 November, 08 December, 08 and 29 January from 2:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. In addition, during this period library members can borrow and return to any library in the country. Library members can continue to avail of the online services which include eBooks, eMagazines, music downloads and eAudio books at anytime, anywhere. This service is totally free of charge; fines are now abolished in all library branches. Regular updates on the project will be communicated via social media [facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](https://www.facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService) and twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Kildare Young Filmmakers

Kildare Young Filmmakers won 3 awards at the Noise Flicks Film Festival in the IMC Tallaght in October. They received awards for Best Film, Best Director and Best concept. A local filmmaker had an article about his success winning the Best Film Award for his short film title 'Film' in the Leinster Leader:

<https://www.leinsterleader.ie/news/local-news/491391/kildare-teen-wins-top-filmmaking-award.html>



The sustained investment since the groups inception in 2014 has seen the group grow and develop with waiting lists of young people aiming to join the group. Three former members of the group have gone on to study film at third level and one former member, Ms Amy O'Reilly, recently cited the support of Kildare Arts Service and Kildare Young Filmmakers in helping her realise her ambitions of studying film at third level.

Maynooth Film for All – Ash is the Purest White

Now in its twelfth year, the Maynooth Film for All Film Club continues to offer a broad range of Irish and World cinema to film lovers in Kildare.

In November, the critically acclaimed Chinese, French production 'Ash is the Purest White' was showcased in Maynooth University.

The Maynooth Film for All Film Club is a partnership between Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service and the English Department and Media Studies @ Maynooth University

Return of the Arts Service Newsletter

In October Kildare Arts Service re-launched their online Newsletter using the Cleverreach email distribution programme. Prior to being discontinued in 2018 the Newsletter (formally the Arts e-bulletin) was a valuable resource in promoting the work of Kildare Arts Service and arts activities and opportunities taking place around the county.

Earth Writings: Bogs, Forests, Fields and Gardens | Group Exhibition at Maynooth University Librar: 18 - 29 November 2019

This multi-media group exhibition highlights eco-community engaged practices of four artists working with peoples/natures in peatlands, woodlands, fields and cities in south west Ireland. Works include video, books, paintings, sketchings, prints on aluminum, grafted trees, blogs and other interventions by artists: Ms Monica de Bath (Kildare County), Ms Cathy Fitzgerald (County Carlow), Ms Pauline O'Connell (County Kilkenny) and Ms Seodín O'Sullivan (Dublin). Their creative-ecological practices call attention to the diversity of the ways human societies are mutually



constituted with and through their natural worlds and environments, rejecting dominant growth-based strategies of sustainable development. At times of ecological crisis, rapidly changing weather systems, and species extinctions, there is much to learn from these artists who ‘stay with the trouble’ (Haraway, 2016) to realise healthier environmental relations.

Taking place during national Science and GeoWeeks, the exhibition will be complemented by a symposium, launch, class visits, and future webpage and publication to invite a broader public to think differently about how we can begin caring for our wounded environments and create more sustainable futures.

The programme is supported by the Irish Research Council New Foundations STEAM Scheme, Creative Ireland, Kildare County Council Arts Service, Maynooth University Department of Geography, Maynooth University Library, and the Space&Place and Ómós Áite Research Collaboratives.

<https://visualartists.ie/events/earth-writings-bogs-forests-fields-and->

[gardens-group-exhibition-at-maynooth-university-library/](https://visualartists.ie/events/earth-writings-bogs-forests-fields-and-gardens-group-exhibition-at-maynooth-university-library/)

Music and Health - Choral Programme

Both Past Times Community Choir (Naas) and Voices of Spring Community Choir (Celbridge) are at max capacity now and no longer open for new members, with a waiting list in place for both choirs. The choirs operate on a needs-based waiting list for any future potential members. Queries about joining the choir can be directed to Carolann on 045 448316/ carolanncourtney@kwaras.ie

Music and Health - Hospital Programme

The music on the ward programme and day hospital sessions will recommence in November. This will be a fortnightly programme engaging patients, staff and visitors in music whilst in the hospital.



Visual Arts and Health - General Information

Mr John Conway was selected as artist in residence for Naas Day Care Centre. The centre was awarded the residency by Age and Opportunity and was supported by the arts, health and wellbeing specialist in applying for the award and selecting the artist. He commenced the residency in October.

Emerging Visual Artist Bursary Award – Exhibition in Riverbank Arts Centre

Many congratulations to Ms Michelle McBride, recipient of Kildare County Council's Emerging Visual Artist bursary award in 2018 and supported by Riverbank Arts Centre, which has culminated in 'State of RoY' a thoughtful exhibition of work which launched on Saturday 09 November. 'The State of RoY' is the first solo exhibition by Michelle which explores entrenched notions of history, tradition and destruction. The exhibition runs until Friday 20 December 2019.



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 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.

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and design stage. Irish Water has commenced engagement with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

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 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 WWTP Upgrade

This project will now have to be progressed as a Capital Scheme rather than through operations.

Allenwood North WWTP Upgrade

This work is scheduled for tender in Quarter 4, 2019.

Water Networks Projects

Newbridge Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works

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 Back Yard Services (BYS) Scheme.
- Piercetown, Newbridge BYS Scheme
- St. Patricks Terrace, Naas BYS Scheme.
- Dublin Road, Naas Mains Rehabilitation Project

Pairc Mhuire, Newbridge BYS scheme

Works on site have resumed in Pairc Mhuire, Newbridge, as of 14 October. A total of 1230 metres of new HDPE watermain have since been installed as part of this scheme. Customer private side service connection works are due to commence on the week commencing 18 November.



Kildare Town Watermain

Rehabilitation Works

Watermains have been laid in Rowanville, 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 customers consent has been obtained.

Taghadoe to Maynooth Watermain Replacment

Upgrade works and decommissioning works have now been completed. The new section of watermain is now live. Permanent road reinstatement works have yet to be completed as part of this scheme.

Suncroft Village – Transfer of Service Connections

This scheme is now under review and works will now not proceed in 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 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 a 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 OPW to update flood extents in the catchment.

Kerdiffstown

Taking possession of properties under the CPO is now complete.

An advanced works contract is near completion in connection with the St Vincent de Paul property.

The L2005 realignment contract has been awarded to David Walsh Civil Engineering. Shortlisting of candidates for the main contract has been completed. Tenders are to be issued before Christmas.

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.

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

Tenders are being assessed.

Work on the upgrade of the car park is to commence before end of year.

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 walls in Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown.



Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

All governance arrangements are in place. Partnership with Kilkenny County Council was formally signed on 11 October. A sectoral training plan has been finalised and approved following presentation to the County and City Management Association (CCMA). The training plan was further presented to all local authority Training Officers on Tuesday 05 October. All (17) adaptation plans in the Eastern and Midlands Region have been approved. The CARO's are now developing a strategy implementation KPIs for agreement at a national level. The CARO has also commenced working with the constituent local authorities in relation to the actions contained within the Government Climate Action Plan.

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. The Kildare LEADER 'Communities 4 Climate Action'

community training programme has commenced and is being well attended.

New Initiatives

Countywide Green Kilometer

17 applications have been received and are currently being assessed.

Civic Amenity Site North

The Part 8 is listed for consideration at the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting scheduled for Friday 15 November 2019.

Dog Pound

Works are scheduled to be completed by end of year.

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 2019. The Environment Section is to revert to the



members at the November meeting with further details/information prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

Monasterevan Public Realm

A presentation on the 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 has now been completed and was presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 08 October and will now

progress to the formal statutory consultation stage.

Public Realm Upgrade for Newbridge

A working draft has now been completed and was presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 16 October and will now progress to formal statutory consultation stage.

Management of The Curragh Plains

An agreement has been reached with the Department of Defence and is now progressing to tender stage.



Parks

Eadestown Playground

The official opening of the Eadestown Playground took place on 09 October.



The opening was performed by the Mayor of the Naas Municipal District, Councillor Carmel Kelly. The playground has been open for use since June. It cost €180k which was funded by Local Property Tax.

Sallins Playground

The official opening of Sallins Playground will take place on 22 November. The opening will be performed by the Mayor of the Naas Municipal District, Councillor Carmel Kelly. Work on the playground was completed in July. The project cost €230k which was funded by Local

Property Tax and Development Levies collected in the area.

Tree Works Programme

Tenders have been issued for tree works in Celbridge/Leixlip and Naas Municipal Municipal Districts. The closing date for receipt of tenders was 15 November for Celbridge/Leixlip and 22 November for Naas. It is planned to have the Maynooth Municipal District tendered by the middle of November and Kildare/Newbridge by the end of the month.

Spring Bulb Planting

A small programme of bulb planting will be carried out in early December to add Spring colour to the Sallins Road Roundabout. A pollinator friendly mix of Crocus, Anemones and Muscari. Some daffodils will be planted in Kilkea Village also.



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Pride in your Place Awards

Prize-winners gathered at Maynooth University on 30 October for the County Kildare Pride in your Place and Tidy Towns competitions. Kildare County Council hosted a prize-giving ceremony for the winners who included young people, gardeners, Residents' Associations and Tidy Towns committees from across the county. The Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, Councillor Suzanne Doyle presented prizes to the various individuals and groups.



She thanked the groups and individual citizens who had taken part, for their work and achievements in their communities. Prizes were also presented by the Leas Cathaoirleach, Kildare County Council, Councillor Seamie Moore and by the Mayors/Cathaoirligh of the municipal districts.



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	183	€242,978
Festival Grant	78	€131,656
LPT Grants (groups nominated by councillors)	153	€771,022
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
	817	€1,708,895

Local Community

Development Committee

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

An audit of Healthy Ireland 2 took place over 29-30 October by Pobal on behalf of the Department.

Healthy Ireland

The submission for funding under Healthy Ireland 3 is still being considered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Health. An announcement is expected shortly.

Social Inclusion Community

Activation Programme (SIACP)

The SICAP sub group met with County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) to discuss the draft SICAP plan 2020. The plan is due for submission on 15



November. This will be reviewed and presented to the next LCDC meeting.

Heads Up (Mojo)

The Heads Up Programme in Maynooth is underway. Referral levels were high, with very positive engagement.

Kildare Fáilte

In October training and a full orientation took place for a new starter with introductions to key stakeholders. A number of events took place in October. Kildare Fáilte representatives attended a photo call at the statue of Shackleton in Athy to launch the first go plastic free conference in the County and Nationally. The official accreditation certificate was signed and presented and this great initiative was communicated to the press and media. The launch of the opening of the 19th Shackleton Autumn School took place on 25 October and the event was attended by over 50 people. Kildare Fáilte organised the official reception in Athy Library including presentations, refreshments, music and a video of Shackleton which was

Rural Development LEADER

The LCDC Rural Development sub group is meeting on Thursday 14. This meeting will prepare for the upcoming LCDC meeting.

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

commissioned from 2018 school.

The Cathaoirleach of Kildare, Councillor Suzanne Doyle addressed the audience and other key members of council also attended.



A Shackleton cup and pen was given to guests to use during the event. A press release was issued with official photographs. The Shackleton Autumn school continues to be a significant contributor to tourism in the area during this off-peak shoulder period.

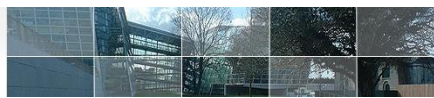


The Kildare Fáilte Chief Executive Officer, Ms Áine Mangan attended the International Golf Travel Market (IGTM), an annual international trade show as a guest of the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO). Other Kildare members in attendance were Carton House and The K Club as well as Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland.

A final planning meeting was held with the convention bureau in advance of Kildare Fáilte's event in Windsor in the UK. Kildare at the Races took place at Windsor Racecourse and was a great success. A brochure was produced for the key buyers at this event promoting Kildare and all trade members in attendance. Those who attended from Kildare were Ms Áine Mangan, Chief Executive Officer, Kildare Fáilte and the Chairman, Dublin Convention Bureau, Kildare Village, Irish National Stud, Punchestown Racecourse, Naas Racecourse, Carton House, Kilkea Castle and Golf Resort, Glenroyal Hotel and Leisure Club, Cliff at Lyons, Kllashee House Hotel, The K Club, Dynamic Events and Orangeworks.

Face to face meetings took place with 20 key business and incentive buyers. Kildare Fáilte also presented to the group and showed a short film of other attractions in the county. Follow up is in action and feedback to date is excellent.

Kildare Fáilte's board meeting was held in advance of the launch of the new virtual reality experience in Kildare Heritage Centre and all board members and the chairman attended to support and promote. Meetings took place regarding social media, public relations and print and design as well as follow up on a film commissioned on Kildare. Membership enquiries and fee collection were followed up and ongoing meetings supporting tourism providers and members in the county. Ms Mangan visited the new Ardclough Visitor Center and met with the team looking at tourism support and incorporated Arthurs Trail in this. She also attended the Naas Town Team meeting and met with the Naas Christmas Market team in relation to re-funding and exploring the possibility of working together for 2020.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road (incl. Celbridge Second Liffey Crossing) - Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) Scheme

The tender process has commenced to engage an engineering consultant for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road (incl. Celbridge Second Liffey Crossing). Kildare County Council secured URDF funding to progress this scheme through the initial planning and design stages. It is expected that a consultant will be appointed in Quarter 1, 2020.

Maynooth North - South Corridor, Phase 6, Moyglare Road

Construction works began on the Moyglare Road in April 2019 and are progressing well on site. The majority of underground works for services etc. have been completed. It is hoped that the southern section of the scheme, from the Kilcock Road to the Cairn Homes site will be substantially completed by the end of this year. The overall contract is due to be completed in Quarter 1, 2020.

Coghlanstown Slope Remediation Project, Ballymore Eustace

Construction works began on the Coghlanstown Slope Remediation project in September 2019. Works are progressing well on site. A temporary diversion of the River Liffey has been implemented to facilitate slope stabilisation works. Works are due to be completed in Quarter 1/Quarter 2, 2020.

M7 Widening, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins Bypass Project

SIAC Construction Ltd/Colas Ltd. is the contractor. The contractor has opened 3 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 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 – At 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 Bishops court, 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 now complete. 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 construction stage. It includes the following works locations:

- Section A: Main Street, Ballymore Eustace
- Section B: Tipper Road, Naas
- Section C: Abbey Bridge, Naas

The fourth package of road improvement projects (Works Package 4) is at tender stage. It includes the following works locations:

- Section A: R407, 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.

Naas Surface Dressing Works

The Naas Municipal District have 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 Watchouse 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.

Low Cost Safety Scheme

The Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for Corbally Crossroads is at construction stage. It is proposed to complete the works by the end of the year.

Road Safety

European Road Safety Summer School Road Safety

The following is a summary of works carried out by the Road Safety Section in October 2019:

- Cycle Safety initiatives
- School Visits on Road Safety and Cycling
- RSA/Garda/RSO Conference, Athlone
- Local Authority RSO's receive 15 Virtual Reality goggles from Aviva Insurance Road Safety Unit
- Road Safety Week
- Annual Road Safety Academic lecture
- AXA Road Safety Roadshow
- School Visits on Road Safety and Cycling
- 'Get a Grip' – Tyre Safety campaign
- Project EDWARD



Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence assisted at the following events in October 2019:

- Tony Donoghue Memorial Run – Moone/Timolin
- Lions Club Sponsored Walk – The Curragh
- Barretstown – St. Kevin’s Way Challenge – Assisting Dublin and Wicklow

Fire Service

Up to 31 October 2019 Kildare Fire Service responded to 1,261 operational incidents which resulted in

1,541 station responses (see breakdown below). Some incident types required more than one station to respond.

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2018	Total Calls October 2019
Newbridge	460	375
Naas	503	364
Athy	266	180
Maynooth	322	269
Monasterevin	214	155
Leixlip	245	198
TOTAL	2,010	1,541

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2018	88	85
2019	67	64



	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2018	18
2019	13

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2018	204
2019	150
	No. Planning File Comments
2018	518
2019	378

Building and Development Control

Building Control (figures to end of October 2019)

	2018	2019
Commencement Notices		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	662	541
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	618	527
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	44	14
No. of Inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	109	188

	2018	2019
Certificates of Compliance on Completion		
Total Number of Certificates received:	644	498
Number Valid	629	497
Number Invalid	15	1
Awaiting processing	-	-
Additional Information		



Number of Inspections carried out	23	126
Disability Access Certificates	2018	2019
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	139	98
Number granted:	130	117
Number refused:	0	0
Number of Inspections carried out	35	17

Building Control Active Sites	2018	2019
Number of units inspected	107	1477

Development Control

Active Sites	At 31/12/2018	2019
Number of Sites with house construction	64	83
Number of Sites where all units complete but snags not complete	36	36

Estates that require Monitoring/Maintenance	19 (Ballintine Park – Waste Water Treatment Plant up and running)
----------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Elected members please advise your constituents that the 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

Funding Applications Awarded From 10 September – 08 November			
Export Marketing Grant	Web Development Grant	Start-up/Expansion/Priming Grants	Shopfront Approved
€6,941	€16,400	€94,981	€6,117

Local Enterprise

Development Services

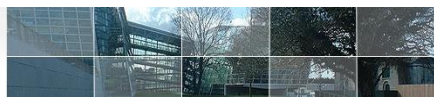
National Women's Enterprise Day

On Thursday 17 October, the annual LEO Office initiative, National Women's Enterprise Day took place at the Curragh Racecourse. 148 local entrepreneurs and businesswomen participated in the networking event. The keynote speaker on the day was founder of global skincare brand and National Enterprise Award 2019 winner, Newbridge woman, Ms Sonia Deasy of Pestle and Mortar. Other speakers included RTÉ Radio and TV Broadcaster Ms Lottie Ryan, Ms Maureen McCowen of Soft Skills Success, Ms Tracy O'Brien of The People Password Ltd. and Intertrade Ireland's Ms Deirdre Maguire. The

event also featured panel speakers from Enterprise Ireland, Carlow IT, Micro Finance Ireland, DCU Ryan Academy and the County Kildare Leader Partnership

Mid-East Regional Innovation Conference

On Thursday 31 October, Kildare County Council's LEO partnered with Meath, Wicklow and Carlow Enterprise Offices to present the Mid-East Regional Innovation Conference on at the Osprey Hotel, Naas. The event aimed to celebrate the thriving culture of innovation that exists throughout the Mid-East Region, and to recognise the increased demand



from small businesses for support in innovation, and the increase in demand on the Mid-East Local Enterprise Offices from the emerging technology sector for support in their development. The event hosted world renowned speaker, innovation expert and author of best-selling *Non-Bullshit Innovation: Radical Ideas from the World's Smartest Minds*, Mr David Rowan and disruptive e-commerce and social media entrepreneur Mr Seánie Walsh. The event also featured panel speakers from Maynooth University, Enterprise Ireland, Carlow IT, UCD and Grant Thornton.

MAKEIT Food and Craft Christmas Fair

Following the success of last year's event, the Christmas culinary and craft expo returns to Áras ChillDara on Thursday 28 November. The LEO Kildare are seeking expressions of interest from craft and food producers in County Kildare who wish to be considered for the opportunity to showcase their business. **If you know of any municipal district constituents who may be of interest, Expressions of Interest forms can be found at:**

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/MAKEIT-Food-and-Gift-Fair-2019.html> (Closing date 15 November 2019).

The LEO Kildare would also like to invite you and your families to attend the fair. MAKEIT is a place to pick up homemade Christmas gifts and promises to be a festive evening, featuring a live performance from the Kildare County Council Choir, a live feed with KFM as well as a visit from Mr Claus.

National 'Start' Campaign

The National 'Start' Campaign was launched at the beginning of October, 'Start' is a national campaign developed by the LEO's aimed at ensuring innovative startups get the funding and supports they need to develop their business or grow a business idea. It was developed to generate new leads for the LEO's, with the anticipation to convert into viable grant fundable enterprises. **Please encourage any municipal districts constituents you feel may be interested, to visit the Start website at <https://startupnow.ie/>**



National Productivity Voucher

This month saw the launch of the Productivity Challenge. The Productivity Challenge is a national programme which supports Ireland's small businesses and enterprises, by providing them with advisory and training resources to enhance productivity and efficiency. Small Irish businesses can apply for one of 200

productivity vouchers valued at €2,500 each, to help develop a more efficient and productive business operation. **If you know of any municipal district constituents who may be interested, please encourage them to visit the following website:**

<https://www.productivitychallenge.ie/>

(Closing date 22 November).

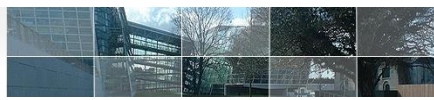
Economic Development Services

Pride of Business Premises Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony for the Pride of Business Premises competition will take place on Tuesday 03 December in the Kildare County Council Chamber. Launched in July, the competition aims to recognise local property owners who maintain a high level of visual appearance to their premises. Five winners and five runner ups will be selected from across the five municipal districts in County Kildare as well as one overall winner. The ceremony evening will offer light refreshments and all elected members are invited to attend.

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 Duggan Lynch are the successful contractors. Construction is starting on site on the week of the 11 November and the building is due to be completed by November 2020.



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 at the end of September. The application was assessed, and the project team delivered a presentation to the Enterprise Ireland evaluation team on 22 October. A final decision on funding is expected from Enterprise Ireland before the end of the year.

Donnachadh O'Brien Engineers worked with the team on the feasibility study design for the project and application and a pre planning meeting is due to take place in November.

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 which 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. Three stakeholder meetings and a consumer focus group have also taken place in October. A food survey was also launched on www.localfoodviews.com 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. 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 the 02 September and closed on Friday 11 October. Over 2,800 people 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 by the end of the year.

Further information in relation to the survey can be found on:

www.kildarecoco.ie/business/commutersurvey



Ongoing Entrepreneurship Support Services

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 businesses will need to adopt when trading with a country which is outside the Single Market and Custom Unions.

Please encourage SME owners of your municipal district to fill out the Brexit Scorecard to assess exposure.

Brexit Scorecard:

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

Full list of Brexit supports:

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

Soft Supports Summary

The LEO will be launching the new season of Spring training courses in mid-December. Please advise your municipal district constituents of the Start Your Own Business, Digital Marketing, Taxation, Customs Training, Management Development and LEAN approach to management courses that are on offer. All courses can be booked at:

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



Grant Aid

If your constituents are interested in any of the grant aid below, please advise them to contact 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*) 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), 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 - open to all businesses.

MFI – Works with small businesses with less than 10 employees and turnover of up to €2 million, by providing unsecured business loans from €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 045 980967, or localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Peter Carey
Chief Executive