



**Chief Executive's Report
January 2019**

THIS MONTH: News and Highlights

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL)

Naas was placed fourth overall in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Litter League.

Playgrounds

A Part 8 for Castledermot Playground (Ref P82019.02) and associated landscaping has been advertised. A Part 8 (Ref P82019.03) for Caragh Playground and associated landscaping has been advertised.

Purple Flag Award for Naas

Naas has won a purple flag award for its nightlife and joins Maynooth as the two towns in Kildare to receive the flag.

Arts Service Arts Grants, Bursary Award and Commission Opportunities 2019

See page 18.

Dates for Your Diary

What now for Brexit?

A business breakfast in conjunction with the County Kildare Chamber will be held on 31 January 2019 from 7:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m. in the Osprey Hotel, Naas.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

A draft RSES for the entire Eastern and Midland Region is currently on display and the deadline for submissions to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) is 23 January 2019.

Launch of the Mid East Action Plan for Jobs and MERITS Development

Minister, Heather Humphreys will launch the Mid East Regional Action Plan for Jobs, on 07 February 2019 at 3:00p.m. in the council chamber.

Reminder - register for free alerts on <https://kildare.mapalerter.com/>



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Corporate Services

Kildare County Council Survey of Members

In preparation for the new council, Corporate Services are asking for feedback from members in relation to current facilities, training, support services, etc. provided to assist members in performing their role. In this regard a survey is being sent out to members and a request that completed surveys be returned by 30 January, 2019.

Ethics

The Ethics Registrar, Karen Keane, advises that the Annual Declaration forms have issued to the elected members and relevant employees as required under Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001. These Declarations must be completed and returned to the Ethics Registrar by 28 February 2019.

Local Electoral Area boundary changes

Circular Letter, F.17/18 issued on 23 November, 2018, advised that

Statutory Orders to give effect to the boundary changes contained in the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 2018 are being drafted and are due to signed shortly. In the meantime, maps have been prepared and sent to members showing the boundary changes. Members will also receive a copy of the draft Electoral Polling Scheme shortly.

Proposed Reform of the Electoral Registration Process

Public consultation on proposals to modernise the Electoral Registration Process was launched on 17 December 2018 – details available on: www.registerreform.gov.ie.

Submission to be made by 15 March 2019.

Finance and Information Technology

Financial Reports

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for 2018 is currently being prepared.

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1)



Planning and Strategic Development

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) has prepared and published a draft RSES for the entire Eastern and Midland Region, which includes County Kildare, for the period 2019-2031. It is on public display until

23 January 2019. Submissions or observations on the draft strategy should be made in writing directly to EMRA within the stated period.

The EMRA held special briefings on the draft RSES specifically for elected members during December 2018.

An informal workshop with the members was held in the council chamber on 14 January 2019.

Planning applications received:			Applications decided: December 2018	
	December	Year	Total Granted:	55
2016:	131	1,376	Retention:	9
2017:	137	1,494	Extension of Duration:	3
2018:	144	1,596	Total Refused:	17

Significant Planning Decisions:

18/517 Oakway Homes

Permission has been granted for 42 houses at Rathangan Demesne.

18/565 Ardstone

Permission has been granted for 52 units at Kill.



18/1280 Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Permission has been refused for turf cutting/peat extraction at Coolree Bog, Robertstown.

171484 Marchford Ltd

Permission has been granted for extension to Lawler's Hotel, Naas.

Strategic Infrastructure Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SID)

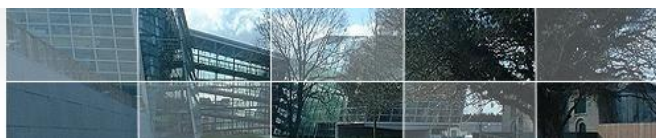
Drehid Waste Management Facility - An oral hearing by An Bord Pleanála began in September 2018 and was

adjourned by the Inspector to consider a request by Bord na Móna to prepare a Natura Impact Statement. The oral hearing is expected to resume in early 2019.

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála Strategic Housing Development (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	ABP 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.	Morrinstownbiller, Newbridge	281	Granted	
18-302141	Ardstone	Kilbelin, Newbridge	343	Granted	
Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
18-302922	Glan	Ballymany,	180	02/11/18	06/03/19



	Developments	Newbridge			
18-303023	Ardstone	Bluebell, Naas	125	16/11/18	20/03/19
18-303295	O'Flynn Construction	Shackleton Road & Oldtown Road, Celbridge	251	19/12/18	23/04/19
18-303298	McCourt Investments	Kill Hill, and Earl's Court, Kill	136	21/12/18	25/04/19

Part 8 Developments

Ref	Lead Dept.	Details	Launched	20 wks	Decision
P82018.01	Transport	Car Park at Maynooth, Rd, Kilcock	30/01/2018	18/06/2018	Agreed 06/04/2018
P82018.02	Community	Park at Cherry Avenue, Kildare Town	06/02/2018	25/06/2018	Agreed 16/05/2018
P82018.03	Housing	77 social houses at Nancy's Lane, Clane	20/02/2018	09/07/2018	Agreed 04/05/2018
P82018.04	Enterprise	Mid-Eastern Regional Think Space (MERITS), Naas	13/02/2018	02/07/2018	Agreed 17/04/2018
P82018.05	Housing	29 social housing units at Castlefen, Sallins	27/03/2018	13/08/2018	Agreed 17/07/2018
P82018.07	Community	Community Playground at Chapel Lane, Sallins	24/04/2018	10/09/2018	Agreed 17/07/2018
P82018.08	Community	Playground at Eadestown GAA Club	10/07/2018	26/11/2018	
P82018.09	Community	Environmental Improvement Works, Emily Square, Athy	17/07/2018	03/12/2018	
P82018.10	Housing	20 residential units at Mountain View, Athgarvan	14/08/2018	01/01/2019	



P82018.11	Housing	10 residential units at Coill Dubh	12/09/2018	22/01/2019	
P82018.12	Planning	Grand Canal Greenway	28/11/2018	16/04/2019	
P82018.13	Libraries	Naas Town Hall	06/11/2018	26/03/2019	

Exempt Developments (2018 Q4 Report)

Exempt Developments (Section 5)					
	Received	Decided	Outstanding (Overdue)	Withdrawn	With ABP
2018	53	34	11 (7)	0	4

Local Area Plans (LAP'S)

Leixlip Local Area Plan (LAP)

Ministerial Direction issued in March 2018 confirming that the Leixlip LAP is not in compliance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act. A new LAP is to be prepared for Quarter 1, 2019. Public consultation is taking place regarding existing social infrastructure and future requirements with a public session scheduled for 31 January 2019 in Leixlip library.

Naas LAP

It is anticipated that a Draft Naas LAP will be published and put on public display early in 2019.

Athy LAP

Work on the preparation of the Draft Athy LAP is ongoing.

Newbridge LAP

At the December 2018 meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District the members extended the life of the Kildare-Newbridge LAP by two years to December 2021.

Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

A list of successful Urban Regeneration and Development Fund



projects/proposals was received on 27 November 2018 and has been circulated to the members.

Conservation

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are inviting applications for conservation projects for buildings contained on the record of protected structures and in architectural conservation areas within County Kildare under the following schemes:

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019 (BHIS 2019)

This scheme will support small-scale, labour intensive conservation projects. The minimum level of funding awarded will be €2,500 up to a maximum of €15,000 per application.

Historic Structures Fund 2019 (HSF 2019)

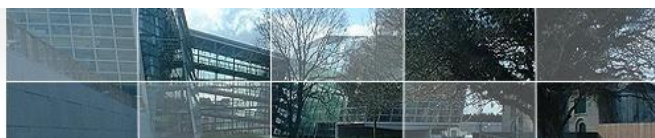
This scheme replaces the Structures at Risk Scheme and offers funding in two streams;

Stream 1 offers grants from €15,000 - €50,000 aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures.

Stream 2 offers a smaller number of grants from €50,000 to €200,000 for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where a clear community or public benefit is demonstrated.

Both schemes operate on a match funding basis and details have been publicised on the council website.

The closing date for submission of applications for both the BHIS 2019 and the HSF 2019 is 4:00 p.m. on 31 January 2019.



Housing

Quarterly Update

Activity Levels

The following outlines the number of applications processed to the end of Quarter 4, 2018 in a number of services areas. Details of the previous year is also included for comparison:

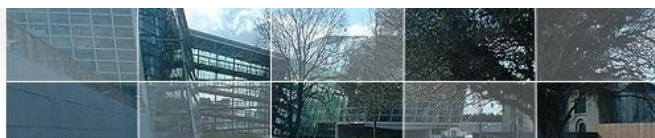
Social Housing Applications

	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
2017	836	119	1,330	24	87

2018	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Quarter 1	130	25	217	8	23
Quarter 2	86	24	211	6	35
Quarter 3	127	20	240	6	53
Quarter 4	142	13	261	3	77
Total	485	82	929	23	188

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Applications

	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2017	1,200	18	748
2018	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Quarter 1	337	9	179
Quarter 2	240	8	158
Quarter 3	210	7	180
Quarter 4	238	11	189
Total	1025	35	706



2017 House Purchase Loans 2018 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	Applications Received	Approvals issued	Value of Loans Approved
2017	104	25	€2, 976, 460

2018 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

Month	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount	Remaining Approval No.	Remaining amount approved
April	1	€ 145,000	0	0	0	0	1	€ 145,000
May	4	€ 844,100	0	0	0	0	5	€ 989,100
June	10	€ 2,340,820	0	0	0	0	15	€ 3,329,920
July	13	€ 2,595,347	1	€ 150,000	0	0	27	€ 5,775,267
August	7	€ 1,463,000	4	€ 880,500	0	0	30	€ 6,357,767
September	7	€1,558,900	3	€568,750	0	0	34	€7,347,917
October	14	€3,147,830	3	€598,950	1	€145,000	44	€9,751,797
November	7	€1,786,570	1	€130,500	0	0	50	€11,407,867
December	0	€0	3	€588,000	2	€478,000	45	€10,341,867

Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016

	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
2017	41	8	29

2018	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Quarter 1	6	1	2
Quarter 2	6	1	2
Quarter 3	10	1	2
Quarter 4	7	1	0
Total	29	4	6



Housing Grants

	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2017	475	340	5	5	236	200

2018	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Quarter 1	107	50	2	0	71	12
Quarter 2	125	95	0	0	85	25
Quarter 3	99	79	0	0	38	50
Quarter 4	103	71	1	0	54	56
Total	434	295	3	0	248	143

Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

	LA Rents	LA HAP
2017	2,485	341

2018	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Quarter 1	211	247	
Quarter 2	395	315	
Quarter 3	381	283	
Quarter 4	334	318	Oct 18: 151
Total	1321	1163	



Housing Maintenance

	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Mtnce Requests Logged	Number of Response Mtnce requests completed	Number of Self Help Grants Approved
2017	123	123	5, 631	4, 667	55

2018	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Mtnce Requests Logged	Number of Response Mtnce Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Quarter1	23	20	1, 702	948	0
Quarter 2	31	26	1,411	1,189	69
Quarter 3	31	25	1,692	1,472	0
Quarter 4	27	33	1,776	1,702	0
Total	112	104	6,581	5,311	69

Homeless Presentations

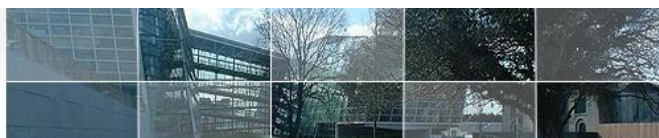
	Cases	Adults	Children	Single Parents	Single Males	Single Females	Couples
2017	1, 163	735	721	166	174	57	169

2018	Cases	Adults	Children	Single Parents	Single Males	Single Females	Couples
Quarter 1	316	123	94	23	40	20	20
Quarter 2	313	148	135	30	34	20	32
Quarter 3	296	135	96	23	42	36	15
Quarter 4	286	152	101	38	45	88	27
Total	1211	558	426	114	161	164	94



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status January 2019
Completed		
The Paddocks, Kilcock	19 units	19 units completed and allocated December 2017/February 2018.
Athgarvan Road, Newbridge	13 units	Works complete and units have been allocated.
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 2019. Commenced on site 7 January 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.
Approval Stage 4		
Approval Stage 3		
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. Tender documents are currently being prepared.
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Tender assessment completed. Awaiting Stage 4 approval from DHPLG in order to progress contract award.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3)	Demolition of 21 units, refurbishment of 19 units, construction of 16 units.	Following feedback from the DHPLG revised Stage 2 approval request being prepared.



Rathasker Road, Naas	50 units	Following further site investigations carried out, a revised Stage 2 application will be submitted to DHPLG Quarter 1 2019.
Athgarvan Village	30 units	Part 8 approved at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District meeting in November 2018. Approval Stage 3 to be submitted to the DHPLG Quarter1 2019.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Preparing tender documentation.

Approval Stage 1		
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build 50 units	Design Team tender issued November 2018. Tender return 21 December 2018.
Clogherinkoe	14 units	Preparing Approval Stage 1 submission for the DHPLG for Quarter 4, 2018.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	30 units	Approval Stage 1 received from the DHPLG on the 27 November 2017. Design team tender to be prepared.
Carbury	2 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2019.
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	35 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2019.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	TBC	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2019.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status January 2019
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Preferred Consortium Tenderer confirmed. Expect to be onsite early 2019.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Part 8 approved by Maynooth Municipal District on 01 June 2018. Tenderers identified and project currently at competitive dialogue stage. Anticipated contract award. Quarter 2/3, 2019.

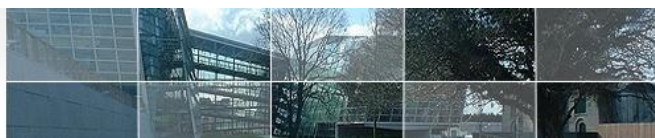


Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status January 2019
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 1 approval received. Architectural services being provided in-house. Tender for remaining consultants being prepared. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 1, 2019.
Narraghmore	4 units	Stage 1 approval received. Architectural services being provided in-house. Tender for remaining consultants being prepared. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 1, 2019.
Glandore, Athy	TBC	Proposed Stage 1 approval submission to DHPLG to be prepared Quarter 1, 2019.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 existing refurb and 1 new-build	Approval Stage 1 submission received from DHPLG July 2018.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status January 2019
Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Respond Housing Association: Part 8 approved at Athy Municipal District meeting 24 July 2017. On-site archaeological assessments carried out and reports with DHPLG. Tender report and funding application currently being prepared by an Approved Housing Body (AHB).
Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Tuath Housing Association: Part 8 approved at Naas Municipal District on 17 July 2018. Tenders are currently being prepared.
Dominican Lands Athy	25 units	Stage 1 approval received July 2017. Following the assessment of expressions of interest received from AHB's, Cluid Housing Association has been nominated to progress the development of the site.
ESB site Leixlip	TBC	Following the assessment of expressions of interest received from AHB's, Cluid Housing Association has been 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 DHPLG for consideration.



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status January 2019
KARE	3 Units	At pre-Part 8 stage. Part 8 planning permission 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 to be lodged shortly.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	CAS - Stage 3 approval received on 20 July 2018. Planning permission granted 01 May 2018. Tender report submission expected January 2019.

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2017	Completed Units 2018	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	114	186	96
Housing Turnkeys	7	39	42
Part V Acquisitions	14	30	198



Library and Arts Service

Right to Read Award

Kildare County Council has achieved the Right to Read Award 2017 in recognition of its implementation of the core programme of Right to Read literacy support services throughout the local authority for 2017, co-ordinated by the public library service and delivered with the support of the Right to Read Network of partners.

Collaboration with Maynooth University

Kildare Library Services are delighted to work together with Maynooth University to bring an Exhibition entitled “Ringling the Ogoni Bells” to Athy Community Library from 22 January, running to the end of February. The exhibition includes letters, postcards and photographs from the University’s Len Saro-Wiwa Archives.

January Events Highlights

Plans are in place for rolling out the 2019 programmes including STEAM (Science Technology Arts Engineering and Maths), Support for Secondary Schools Programme, Work Matters at the Library, Parenting and Age Friendly Programme. There are plenty of events taking place in libraries across the county in January including creative writing, Smart Tech classes, iPad classes, Irish language groups and book clubs. For the most up to date information on events visit: www.kildare.ie/library

Toys Technology and Training (TTT)

The final series of talks/workshops, designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties concluded in December. In 2018, almost 1000 parents, teachers and professionals attended over 60 talks and workshops as part of this programme.



Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Kildare Library Services have continued to participate in this national programme. Events due to take place in early 2019 include talks on food and nutrition for optimal digestive health and children's nutrition including tips for managing fussy eaters, children's mindfulness workshops and school events with boxer Eric Donovan. In addition to events, there is an extensive range of resources available including books on topics of health and wellbeing and online resources such as eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines.

Decade of Commemorations

There has been phenomenal demand for copies of the World War I Commemorative booklet including the online version. A number of speakers have been confirmed for the third Irish Military Seminar which will take place from 14-15 June 2019. Plans for 2019 have featured in supplements in both the Leinster Leader and Kildare Nationalist Newspapers. For more information visit www.kildare.ie/library/ehistory

Creative Ireland

As part of Kildare's 2019 Creative Ireland programme, the council is inviting applications for bursary awards that will develop bodies of work with a public interface/engagement. Applications are invited from individuals and groups to make applications to creatively explore themes of

- Well being
- Sense of place
- Heritage (which may include historical exploration)
- Music
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)
- Irish language
- Climate change

Application forms and further information are available from Kildare County Council Creative Ireland Programme, Riverbank, Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Email: creativekildare@kildarecoco.ie
www.kildare.ie/artsservice



Arts Service Arts Grants, Bursary Award and Commission Opportunities 2019

Artists and arts collectives and community groups may apply for the following grant and award opportunities

- Arts Act Grant Scheme
- Artist in Schools Residency Bursary Award
- Artistic Entrepreneur Bursary Award with LEO
- Dennis O'Driscoll Literary Bursary Award
- Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary Award
- Emerging Artist Solo Exhibition Award
- Executive Coaching for Creative - Professionals Bursary Award
- Local Publishing Award
- @Platform4 Recording Studio Bursary Award
- Short Grass Short Film Bursary Award
- Short Grass Short Film Commission Award
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Bursary Award
- Youth Arts Residency Bursary Award

Information sessions on *'how to apply for an arts award'* will be held in Leixlip, Newbridge and Athy during February 2019.

Application forms and further information are available from Email: arts@kildarecoco.ie, or www.kildare.ie/artsservice

The closing date for these awards is Tuesday 19 March 2019, 12 noon.

First Fortnight Showcase

Now in its' tenth year, First Fortnight is an arts-based mental health charity who organises a festival in the first two weeks of the year aimed at challenging stigma. To promote Kildare County Council's leading role on arts, health and well being programmes and initiatives for over a decade. A First Fortnight will be led by John Conway who will host a panel talk with artists, theatre makers, and musicians who deliver, arts, health and wellbeing projects with the support of Kildare County Council's Arts Service on Wednesday 16 January at Riverbank Arts Centre. The presentation of projects will explore the link between



arts and wellbeing from a number of unique perspectives. The projects, which range from theatre, film and photography, are focused around three specific communities: children, young people, and people with intellectual disabilities. They will be discussed in a panel talk between the participants who make them, and the artists who produce them. Together, they will explore the layered connections between arts, participation, wellbeing and personal development.

The panels will comprise:

John Conway, a visual artist and producer who works extensively in community arts and health settings, will host the night and present Kildare Young Filmmakers: a youth group that supports young people to devise and produce award winning short films.

Aisling Byrne, a theatre artist, director and educator who works extensively in the fields of arts and disability, community drama facilitation and socially engaged theatre practice, will present Singing for Survival: a theatre piece devised and performed by an ensemble of actors with intellectual

disabilities which explores power, politics and place in our world.

Brian Cregan, a lens based artist who explores the potential of photography to represent our relationship with landscape, natural history and the built environment, will present his current project set in St. Patrick's Primary School Hazelhatch: exploring identity with sixth class students as they transition from primary to secondary school.

"I'm delighted to be able to bring such interesting artists together to discuss their works, alongside the perspectives of the participants, whose voices and talents these projects seek to foreground and develop" John Conway.

Run of the Mill Theatre present SINGING FOR SURVIVAL

Kildare based Run of the Mill Theatre in collaboration with St. John of God services present their largest and most ambitious show to date "Singing for Survival" at Draiocht, Blanchardstown for three performances only running from 29- 30 January. Singing for Survival sees a group of actors with an



intellectual disability collaborate with an award-winning team of theatre-makers and a cast including Lauren Larkin (Split Ends, Druid's *Shelter*) supported by the Arts Council of Ireland's Arts Participation Project Award and Kildare County Council Arts Service. A dystopian drama, set in a near-future; *Singing for Survival* offers a satirical exploration of the place and space created for people with disabilities in a rapidly changing world. You can read more about the piece in this recent article from TheJournal.ie <https://www.thejournal.ie/singing-for-survival-4388597-Dec2018/.0>

The show runs 29 and 30 January, 8:00 p.m. with a 1.30 p.m. matinee performance on 30 January. The show is suitable for ages 11+ and ideal

for secondary school students studying politics and society course.

For info: contact Aisling Byrne runofthemilltheatre@gmail.com

'Made of Athy' Music Trail

The Arts Service continues to assist curator Colm Walsh and the Athy Municipal District to enable a 'Made of Athy' music trail in the town. A number of plaques, marking significant musical connections with the town have been commissioned. A plaque celebrating renowned singer Jack L was unveiled on Sunday 13 January with a large crowd in attendance. The plaque is placed on 'Garter Lane', the name of a well known Jack L song, which he sang on the day, accompanied by the '4 Strings and the Truth' ukulele band.



Water Services

Major Infrastructural Projects

Contract 2B (Network)

Irish Water has published the CPO and has notified Coffey Construction that it is the preferred tenderer. It is anticipated that the works contract will be signed in Quarter 2, 2019.

Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)

Murphy International Ltd., on behalf of LIDL, 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 sewer works are already well advanced. Irish Water has notified Roadbridge that it is the preferred tenderer for the scheme. It is expected that the main works contract will be signed in February.

Minor Capital Projects

Red Bog Watermain

This project is now complete.

Allenwood to Kilmeague watermain

The contract is now substantially complete.

Suncroft to Brownstown watermain replacement

The contract is now substantially complete. Final road restoration works will be carried out at a later stage.

Kildare Town watermain rehabilitation works

Watermains have been laid in Lourdesville, Claemore Terrace, Assumpta Villas and Campion Crescent.

Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

Part 8 approval was received in December 2017. The design can now be progressed further by Irish Water.

Calverstown WWTP Upgrade

Works are now substantially complete.

Kilmeage WWTP Upgrade

A contractor is now on site and works are progressing well and due for completion in Quarter 2, 2019.



Newbridge Sewer Relining Contract

Irish Water is appointing a contractor to do these works.

Rathangan WWTP Upgrade

Irish Water has appointed a consultant to prepare the tender documents for this contract. The consultant is currently carrying out survey works and preparing the design.

Environment

Award of Excellence

Kildare County Council secured the overall grade of excellence in the 2017 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Performance Assessment.

Langton Road, Newbridge

The scheme has now been completed with final seeding of the green area to take place in February, depending on weather conditions.

Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMS)

Meetings have taken place with the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding the prioritisation of works. A workshop with the OPW to progress the consultants briefing for the Naas study is scheduled for the end of January.

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.

Athy Flood Modeling

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



Kerdiffstown

The Environmental Protection Agency Waste Licence for the proposed works is still awaited. Contract pre-qualification has commenced.

Cemeteries

Athy Cemetery

Further phase of work (footpath improvements) have been identified for Athy cemetery and are likely to take place later in the year.

Churchtown Cemetery

Works are substantially complete.

Rathangan Cemetery

Works have now commenced and are close to finalisation.

Kildare Town Cemetery

The 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 prioritised.

Columbarium Wall at Laraghbryan

Works have commenced.

Columbarium Wall at Derrinturn

Tenders will be invited in February 2019.

Climate Action Team

A presentation will be given to full council at the January meeting.

New Initiatives

Countywide Green Kilometer

Nine applications were received and all groups were rewarded for their participation. It is hoped to host a formal event to acknowledge their efforts.

Civic Amenity Site North

Part 8 documents have now been prepared and will be published in the coming month. A presentation was made to the Celbride-Leixlip Municipal District on the 14 December 2018.



Dog Pound

Tenders have been received and works are to commence shortly.

Tidy Towns

Ten medals, including five gold, have been secured.

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL)

Naas was placed fourth overall in the IBAL Litter League.

Rathangan Public Realm

The Part 8 is to be published in mid February.

Kilcullen Public Realm

The Part 8 is to be published shortly.

Kildare- Newbridge Municipal District

Public Realm Upgrade for Kildare Town

Consultants have been appointed and consultation process to commence in the coming weeks. Public consultation event planned for 01 February 2019.

Public Realm Upgrade for Newbridge

The consultants have been appointed and a presentation was given to the members on works to date and on the application for Urban Regeneration and Development Funding (URDF). It is proposed to host a number of public consultation evenings in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) traffic management flow proposals.



Economic Community and Cultural Development

Purple Flag Award

Naas has won a purple flag award for its nightlife and joins Maynooth as the two towns in Kildare to receive the flag. The award recognises Naas as a must visit location and will be beneficial as a marketing and promotional tool.

Community Grants 2019

All grants schemes have been advertised week commencing Monday, 14 January 2019. The closing date for all schemes is Tuesday 12 March 2019.

Public Service Superannuation (Age of Retirement) Bill 2018

Please be aware that this Bill extending the retirement age for certain civil (and public) servants to 70 years of age was signed by the President on 26 December 2018 and has become law from that date i.e. 26/12/2018.

We have been informed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government that further information covering the new retirement age will follow in due course. When that is received the information will be circulated to all Kildare County Council Staff; both indoor and outdoor

Local Community Development Committee

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on 28 November 2018.

Healthy Ireland

Work is commencing to roll out the initiatives funded to promote health and wellbeing under Healthy Ireland across the county. The Kildare Programme was launched as part of the Operation Transformation walk on Saturday 12 January. This was very successful with over 400 participants attending. The walk commenced from Áras Chill Dara. A leaflet outlining the range of activities funded through



LCDC/CYPSC Healthy Ireland funding has been distributed to the members.

Heads-up (Mojo)

The Heads Up Programmes targeting young people 18-24 years and a general programme held in Celbridge concluded in December. A range of programmes are scheduled for 2019.

Rural Development

Applications are being sought under LEADER funding. For further information contact: Brian Kelly or Helen Mulhall County Kildare LEADER Partnership - 045 895450.

Tourism

Key Activities

December:

- Completed final 10th session of digital training for the members.
- Lunch with our Chief Experience Officer Stephen Maher
- Presentation to Clongowes Wood College Career Clinic Day on Tourism in County Kildare

- Fáilte Ireland Workshop – Attended on behalf of Chief Executivr of Kildare County Council
- Meeting with Tourism Island regarding marketing plans
- Meeting with the members
- Naas Historic Road Signs Meeting with Naas Tidy Towns, Failte Ireland and Signatec
- Ireland’s Ancient East Regional Steering meeting
- Visited the Fram Museum in Oslo and attended the Ronald Amundsen Memorial Dinner. Directors of Athy Heritage and Council Council also attended.
- Meeting with Kildare Chamber in Kildare Village to discuss Feile Bhride 2019
- Arranged tour for Hungarian Ambassador Palify and meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor Power



-
- Attended turning on of lights and Christmas event at Carton House
 - Launch of Ciara and Jons Road trip Reality – Online TV series
 - Great success with a reach to date of over 900,000
 - Turning on of the Christmas lights in Kildare, Athy, Naas and Newbridge
 - Meetings regarding St. Brigid's Day
 - Meeting with the members Cliff at Lyons, K Club, K Village and Newbridge Silverware, Carton House, Solas Bhríde
 - Hosted Chinese delegation and attended meeting with Mayor and council officials. Escorted them to Kildare Village afterwards
 - Budget and planning for 2019
 - Attending Tourism Live Conference in Tholmon Park
 - Twinning meeting and meeting with the Arts officer
 - Attending Tourism Dinner in Belfast and Awards dinner in Dublin
 - Notice of AGM to issue

January:

- Meeting with Leader regarding potential projects for 2019
- Review of plans and meeting with agencies



Parks

Castledermot Playground

A Part 8 for Castledermot Playground (Ref P82019.02) and associated landscaping has been advertised.

The development will consist of landscaping and the development of a playground within the Fairgreen off Keenan's Lane. The landscaping will consist of a new paved entrance area with a coffee dock or canopy, kick about area with perimeter planting, access path and seating. A playground will be developed for 1-12 year old children and will contain a range of equipment suitable for this age group (e.g. swings, slides, seesaws, rockers, multi-play units, adventure trail, sand play, seating and landscaping features). The plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during the period from Tuesday 08 January 2019 until Friday 08 February 2019 at Teach Diarmada, Community Centre, Abbeyview Castledermot, Co. Kildare.

The opening hours are:

Monday - Thursday 9:00a.m.-5.30 p.m.

Friday - 9:00 a.m.- 4.30 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday- Closed

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will also be available to view on Kildare County Council's website at:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/PublicConsultations-Part8Schemes/Community/CastledermotPlayground/>

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development and dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made by email to parks@kildarecoco.ie or in writing to Simon Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Kildare County Council, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare before 4:00 p.m. on Friday 22 February 2019. Submissions should be clearly headed "Castledermot Community Playground and Landscaping."



Caragh Playground

A Part 8 (Ref P82019.03) for Caragh Playground and associated landscaping has been advertised. The development will consist of landscaping and the development of a playground within the Parish Field, Caragh. The playground will be developed for 1-12 year old children and will contain a range of equipment suitable for this age group (e.g. swings, slides, rockers, multi-play units, adventure trail, seating and landscaping features). A meeting point, kick about area, pump track and outdoor exercise equipment are proposed for the open space outside of the playground.

The landscaping will consist of planting around the existing car park. Tree planting, landscape mounding and bulb planting will also be carried out around the open space surrounding the proposed playground site.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during the period from

Tuesday 08 January 2019 until Friday 08 February 2019 at Applegreen, Caragh Village, Co Kildare. The opening hours are:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday - 7:30 a.m.-10:00

p.m. Plans and particulars of the

proposed development will also be

available to view on Kildare County

Council's website at

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/PublicC>

[onsultations-](#)

[Part8Schemes/Community/Caragh](#)

[Playground/](#)

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development

and dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the

area in which the development would

be situated, may be made by email to

parks@kildarecoco.ie or in writing to

Simon Wallace, Senior Executive

Parks Superintendent, Kildare County

Council, Devoy Park, Naas, Co.

Kildare before 4:00 p.m. on Friday 22

February 2019. Submissions should

be clearly headed "Caragh Community Playground".



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Launch of free Alert text system - MapAlerter

Citizens of county Kildare are now able to receive alerts about severe weather, road works, road closures, water service disruptions, flooding and community events throughout the county via MapAlerter system - <https://kildare.mapalerter.com/>

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Project

The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department continue to work with Roughan & O'Donovan, Consulting Engineers, in the design of a road scheme in Maynooth which links the R148 Leixlip Road and the R405 Celbridge Road. This scheme will include the construction of a bridge over the railway and Royal Canal. The ground investigation works have commenced. The Appropriate Assessment screening and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) screening processes are ongoing.

Once these works are completed the council will be in a position to announce the preferred route option. The council is aiming to make this announcement in March/April.

Celbridge Southern Relief Road and Second Liffey Crossing

The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department applied for funding for the construction of the Celbridge Southern Relief Road and Second Liffey Crossing under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). Kildare County Council received notification that funding was approved for 2019. Details of the 2019 allocation has yet to be confirmed.

Maynooth North–South Corridor, Phase 5 - Leinster Street to Kilcock Road

The final design revisions for Phase 5 of the North South Corridor are being undertaken by the consultant for this scheme. The council intend, that subject to funding approval being granted by the National Transport Authority (NTA), it will go to tender in



April/May for a July/August construction phase.

**Maynooth North–South Corridor,
Phase 6 - Moyglare Road
Improvement Scheme**

The contract for the construction of Phase 6 - Moyglare Road Improvement Scheme will be awarded within the next few weeks with construction commencing during the school summer holiday period.

**Prosperous Town Park – Town and
Village Renewal Scheme**

The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department is preparing tender documents to engage the engineering services required to design the drainage of the site, the car parking area with entrance and the earthworks associated with design of the park features. A pre-works contract to install the surface water drainage to facilitate this scheme commenced on 03 December 2018 and will continue until the end of January.

**Other Maynooth Municipal District
Projects**

The full Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance allocation for 2018 has been fully completed and claimed.

Royal Canal Greenway

The construction of the greenway ramp at Moyvalley is currently being fabricated off site with a March 2019 completion date. Contractors are also currently on site constructing the 2 kilometer Greenway section from Cloncurry to Fernslock.

Main Street Maynooth

The Design of potential future Irish Public Bodies (IPB) funded scheme for Maynooth Main Street is now complete and it is intended to go to tender in February/March 2019.

Dublin - Galway Greenway

This project is progressing satisfactorily and the council expect to complete the final design and tender



documents by May for the Maynooth to Dublin boundary section.

Kildangan Railway Bridge Footpath Scheme

The Kildangan Railway Bridge Footpath Scheme is being considered for approval by the board of CIE / Iarnród Éireann. This approval will take the form of a licence with insurance and engineering conditions attached. It is proposed to proceed to the tender process following consideration of the particulars of the licence, subject to National Transport Authority (NTA) agreement on a funding contribution.

Kildare Town Northern Link Street and South Green Area Access Improvement Scheme

The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department has appointed Aecom Consulting Engineers to design the Kildare Town Northern Link Street and South Green Area Access Improvement Scheme. The route selection process is ongoing. Consultation with Iarnród Éireann has commenced regarding the design of an upgrade/replacement bridge over

the railway. The application to secure funding for this project under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) was not successful in 2018 in the first round of applications.

Kilcock Park and Ride Facility

Kilcock Park and Ride Facility, which is located on the Maynooth Road, Kilcock, was officially opened on Friday 23 November 2018. This new pay by phone and pay and display car park is located in very close proximity to Maynooth Train Station and will facilitate commuters and long term parking in Kilcock. The signs contractor under the supervision of the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department has erected the new parking signs in Kilcock and Kildare County Council Community Wardens are issuing information notices of imminent enforcement of Kilcock Parking Bye-laws which include two hour maximum stay in the town centre to facilitate business.



Naas Transport Strategy

The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department has completed the tender process to identify a preferred consultant for the Naas Transport Strategy. The preferred consultant has been identified as Aecom Ireland Ltd. and a project inception meeting with Aecom was held in December 2018. The Naas Transport Strategy will contain recommendations for traffic, public transport, cycling and walking facilities in Naas. It is anticipated that the strategy will be completed within an approximate eight month timeframe. The first wave of public and stakeholder consultation associated with developing the strategy will be undertaken in February 2019.

Naas Municipal District 2019

The Naas Municipal District Road Works Programme for 2018 is now substantially complete.

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 Gable, Kill (footpath improvements) - Construction Stage
- The Park, Naas (footpath improvements) – Tender Stage.
- Sallins Road, Naas (footpath improvement) – Tender Stage.
- St. Brigid’s Avenue, Kilcullen (road and footpath improvements) – Tender Stage.
- Relocate Bus Stop, Sallins – Design Stage
- Controlled Pedestrian Crossing improvements in Sallins – Design Stage

Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2019

The roads programme for the Naas Municipal District will be finalised following receipt of grant allocations for 2019 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS).



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Car parking Funded Works 2019

The LPT/Car parking funded works programme has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District members. The Naas Municipal District is commencing to develop a works programme to deliver the projects in 2019.

Leinster Aquaduct - Canal Road Closure

Waterways Ireland has completed the canal, parapet and associated roadworks and the road was reopened on the 21 December 2018.

Road Safety

School Visits and Programmes Delivered

The Road Safety Officer visited schools over the past two-months and

delivered the standard road safety programmes to the different student types. The following is a break-down of student numbers and the programmes which have been delivered to them:

School Type	Class/Year	Students	Road Safety Programme
Pre-School/Crèche		82	Simon & Friends
Primary School	Junior & Senior Infants	122	Seatbelt Sherriff & Hi-Glo Silver
Primary School	3 rd Classes	360	Safe Cross Code, Safe Routes to School L1, Seatbelt Sherriff and Hi-Glo Silver
Primary School	4 th Classes	348	
Primary School	5 th Classes	366	Be Safe Programme and Safe Routes to School L2
Primary School	6 th Classes	384	
Secondary Level	Transition Year (TY)	512	Streetwise, Your Road to Safety and AXA Road Safety Show
Secondary level	Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)	73	
Secondary Level	5 th Year/6 th Year	288	Drive for Life



AXA and Kildare County Council Road Safety Roadshow

The AXA Road Safety Roadshow was held on 18 December in Newbridge. 585 TY and LCA students attended the show. The Roadshow involved members of An Garda Síochána, Roads Policing Unit from Naas, The National Ambulance Service and Kildare Fire Service. The Road Safety

Officer set up two exhibition and promotion areas with brake reaction testers, beer goggles and alco-readers which were used to interact with students.

School Warden Review Programme

Kildare County Council undertook a review of the school crossing programme. There are 25 school warden crossings in the county. Fourteen out of twenty-five school crossing times were changed, in accordance with best practices and to reflect new changes in school opening and closing times.

The school wardens are assigned to the five municipal district areas.

- Athy Municipal District
 - two school wardens
- Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District - nine school wardens
- Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District - five school wardens
- Maynooth Municipal District
 - four school wardens
- Naas Municipal District -
 - five school wardens

Recent Road Safety Campaign Promoted in Kildare.

- BeSafe-BeSeen Day
- AXA Road Safety Roadshow
- Winter Ready
- Beep Beep Day
- Your Guide to Tyre Safety



Road Safety promotions on Social Media

Eight road safety posts and three road safety videos were posted to the council's social media platforms.

These posts collectively generated 60 Likes, 18 comments and 75 Shares on the councils Facebook page. The

Road Safety Officer also provided a video to Kildare Gardaí Division and local media outlets for distribution.

The following is a breakdown of one of the recent road safety videos posted on social media:

Media Type: Social Media – Speeding and Designated Driver video	Facebook Video				Twitter Video				FB Posts			Website	Total Impressions
	Views	Shares	Likes	Comments	Views	Retweets	Likes	Comments	Likes	Shares	Comments	Was Press release Published on Website?	
Stakeholders													
Kildare CoCo	3,373	18	48	3	442	5	5		10	3	0	Yes	3,907
Kildare Garda	4,500	38	64	8					45	6	13	N/A	4,674
Media Outlets													
Kildare Now	9,400	36	45		0	0	0					Yes	9,481
iRadio	0	0	0		0	0	0					No	0
KFM Radio	0	0	0		0	0	0					Yes	0
Nationalist	0	0	0		0	0	0					Yes	0
Kildare Post	0	0	0		0	0	0						0
Leinster Leader	315	12	17		0	0	0		6	5	0	Yes	355
Liffey Champion	0	0	0		0	0	0					No	0
RUNNING TOTAL	17,588	104	174	11	442	5	5		61	14	13		18,417



Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence

assisted at December 2018

The Big Switch in Athy in December 2018.

Fire Service

Operations

In 2018 Kildare Fire Service had 2,010 station responses to 1,672 incidents (some incidents required more than one station to respond)

The top five incident types in 2018 were as follows:

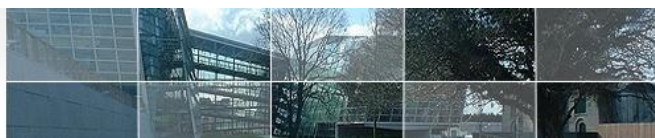
1. Forest/ bog fires (239 incidents)
2. Outdoor/ rubbish fires (209 incidents)
3. Chimney fires (180 incidents)
4. Motor vehicle incidents (including RTCs) (133 incidents)
5. Fires in domestic premises (101 incidents)

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2017	Total Calls 2018
Newbridge	437	460
Naas	456	503
Athy	258	266
Maynooth	279	322
Monasterevin	153	214
Leixlip	234	245
TOTAL	1817	2010



	Operational Calls 2018					
Station	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Newbridge	30	52	44	29	30	44
Naas	28	49	53	27	31	44
Athy	13	23	25	13	21	23
Maynooth	18	27	23	17	29	32
Monasterevin	16	24	19	7	16	17
Leixlip	15	16	10	13	19	33
TOTAL	120	191	174	106	146	193

	Operational Calls 2018					
Station	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newbridge	69	32	25	47	31	27
Naas	47	35	41	74	37	37
Athy	46	21	23	23	20	15
Maynooth	40	22	25	30	26	33
Monasterevin	35	14	17	19	15	15
Leixlip	35	19	18	34	20	13
TOTAL	272	143	149	227	149	140



Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2017	106	103
2018	88	85

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2017	21
2018	18

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2017	154
2018	204

	No. Planning File Comments
2017	485
2018	518



Building and Development Control

Building Control

Commencement Notices	2017	2018 (end of year)
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	703	662
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	518	618
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	185	44
No. of Inspections carried out on Commencement Notices		109

Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2017	2018 (end of year)
Total Number of Certificates received:	539	644
Number Valid	503	629
Number Invalid	36	15
Awaiting processing Additional Information		
Number of Inspections carried out	N/A	23



Disability Access Certificates	2017	2018 (year to date)
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	128	139
Number granted:	126	130
Number refused:	0	0
Number of Inspections carried out	N/A	35

Building Control Active Sites	2017	2018 (December only)
Number of units inspected		107

Development Control

Active Sites	2017	2018
Number of Sites with house construction	48	64
Number of Sites where all units complete but snags not complete		36

Estates that Require Monitoring/Maintenance	20
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Taking in Charge

The taking in charge policy is currently being updated and is at draft stage.

It is expected to be presented to the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) at the end of February 2019.

A list of estates that are to be taken in charge for the first six months of 2019 will be presented to each of the municipal district meetings commencing with the Maynooth Municipal District meeting on 01 February 2019.

The Development Control Section has seen a surge of activity over the past 12 months notably:

There has been an increase of 33% in the active development sites in County Kildare which gives an indication of the volume of housing being developed in the county. The Building Control Section has seen an increased amount of activity and there is also an emphasis on announced and unannounced inspections being carried out. There has been a 19% increase in the amount of valid commencement notices received in 2018 and a 25% increase in the total number of certificates of compliance on completions submitted in 2018. There has been an 8.5% increase in the number of Disability Access Certificates submitted in 2018.



Local Enterprise Office

National Ploughing Association (NPA)

The Chief Executive Officer of Kildare County Council and the Head of Enterprise met with Anna May McHugh in relation to the National Ploughing Championship 2019 which takes place in Ballintrain, Carlow. Given its proximity to the south of the county, commercial opportunities were discussed which would benefit accommodation providers, it was agreed a campaign will be prepared to publicise these opportunities to the register providers and members of the public who may wish to offer accommodation for the 2019 championships. The World Championships which are to be held in Ireland were also discussed, as of yet no decision has been made on the location and while there are many offers of land across the country, it was agreed by the Chief Executive Officer that a bid would be prepared by Athy to host the World Championship in the coming weeks.

Shop Front Grants 2019

A new marketing campaign will be launched early February across the county for the 2019 Shop Front Scheme, in addition details of a Best Shop Front Completion to acknowledge all those who have invested in their street scape.

Launch of the Mid East Action Plan for Jobs and MERITS Development

Minister, Heather Humpreys will launch the Mid East Regional Action Plan for Jobs, on 07 February 2019 in at 3:00p.m. in the council chamber. The Plan is that one of eight regional jobs plans to be published over the coming months, as part of a new regional jobs strategy led by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. In addition the Minister will turn the sod on the new €3million MERITS development



Brexit supports for Kildare Businesses

What now for Brexit? and how to prepare ... 31 January at 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. – Osprey Hotel

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office will host a business breakfast in conjunction with the County Kildare Chamber on 31 January 2019 from 7:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m. in the Osprey Hotel, Naas. The council will be hosting a panel discussion to include Lucinda Creighton, Chief Executive Officer of Vulcan Consulting Ltd., Sasha Kerins, a Tax Partner at Grant Thornton and A. Manus from the Brexit unit in Enterprise Ireland.

This event will focus on identifying exposure to Brexit, strategies to address Brexit challenges and opportunities and also the opportunity to pose your own questions. This seminar promises to be a must attend for those serious about preparing and planning for Brexit. This event is suited to companies who may have an exposure to Brexit on the export or supply side or those who are

concerned about competition in the market place.

Attendance is free but SPACES ARE LIMITED – registration is necessary through Kildare LEO website

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/What-now-for-Brexit-and-how-to-prepare-upcoming-Breakfast-Seminar>

This is just one of a number of interventions available from Kildare County Council to support businesses through Brexit.

Six Kildare companies funded to Exhibit at Showcase as Buyers from 26 countries set to visit

The Local Enterprise Showcase at Showcase opens up a whole world of opportunity for Local Enterprise Office clients. Showcase, Ireland's Creative Expo® returns to the RDS, Dublin from Sunday, 20 to Wednesday, 23 January 2019. Now in its 43rd year, Showcase is one of Ireland's most important international trade fairs and will welcome trade buyers from 2,580 retail



businesses from 26 countries worldwide. In 2018, attending buyers placed B2B sales orders of €23.9 million over the four days, an increase of 12.7% on the previous year, equating to annual revenues of €152.5 million for the exhibitors. The Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI), which organises trade buyers of fashion, jewellery, home and giftware attend the Showcase at the RDS to source new and exciting products designed and made in Ireland, many of which are unique to the show. This year there will be six Kildare Local Enterprise clients supported to exhibit at Showcase for the first time.

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has officially launched the Kildare stage of the Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur programme for 2019

The Local Enterprise Office Kildare team is looking for dynamic, innovative young business people from across Kildare to enter the Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur 2019 competition, hosted by Local Enterprise Offices around the country. The competition is

staged in conjunction with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities of Ireland. Now in its fifth year, this nationwide competition invites 18-35 year olds who have a business idea, a start-up or an already established business to enter. Applying is quick and simple; it takes about fifteen minutes, is free of charge, and can be done at www.IBYE.ie. Applicants are then invited to participate in an Enterprise Day hosted by the Local Enterprise Office. Shortlisted applicants take part in business boot camps and compete in the county final. In Kildare, the Local Enterprise Office has an investment fund of €50,000 to share between the winners of the Best Business Idea, Best Start-Up and Best Established Business categories. From there, the county winners will go on to compete at regional finals and, if successful, all the way to the national finals at Google Head Quarters. Matt Mc Cann, Access Earth, Maynooth was a national winner in 2018.



Kildare County Council LEO support to breeders and the Irish thoroughbred industry

Kildare County Council LEO supports the first Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA) Management Development Programme, which is taking place at ITBA Headquarters. The programme runs over six weeks and includes group sessions and one to one mentoring. Following consultation with the ITBA, the LEO Office developed the programme tailored to breeders and the Irish thoroughbred industry.

Note:

Elected members please advise your constituents that the LEO Office is always open to discuss their ideas, business needs or grant availability. Weekly business advice clinics continue across the county in 2019 in addition to Start your own business and management development programmes.

Peter Carey
Chief Executive