



## Chief Executive's Management Report – July 2020

### Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements for Council Meetings During Covid-19



The reopening of services and public access continues to be dealt with in accordance with the Government's phased return to work roadmap and the roadmap for local authorities set out at national level. Changes are happening over the phases in a managed and controlled way with all necessary safeguards in place.

A Covid-19 Team made up of safety representatives and led by Mr Michael Hurley, Health and Safety Officer is in place to implement the Return to Work Safety Protocol. Lead worker representatives have been appointed by the unions and the executive continue to work with the unions and these representatives in relation to staff working arrangements, protocols and procedures. The Business Continuity Group continue to support management team to continue service delivery.

Council offices and libraries reopened to the public on 29 June on an appointment basis. Members of the public must pre book appointments with relevant services. Public counters in all areas have been adapted to provide a safe environment for customers and staff to conduct business. The appointment system will assist in controlling attendance at the offices in a safe and managed way and guaranteeing the availability of relevant staff for the service area to deal with the public in a timely manner. People are able to book appointments online or by phone. The new system has been advertised on radio, website and in the local papers.

The Municipal District meetings continue to be held in the Council Chamber. The Plenary Council continue to meet in Newbridge Town Hall. These are statutory meetings that cannot legally be held in a virtual space and arrangements are in place to hold them in a socially distanced space and within a 2 hour timeframe. All other meetings, where possible, should be held remotely.



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### **Kildare Community Call Helpline**

Freephone 1800 300 174

Email [covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie).

Text KILDARE to 50555

The helpline opened on Monday 30 March operating on a 9am to 5pm basis 7 days a week but following a request from national level we moved to an extended service on Friday 03 March (8:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. 7 days a week)

On Monday 01 June the opening hours of the Kildare Community Call Helpline changed to 9:00a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

This was done as we know that many of those most in need have now been linked to community supports, which they access on an ongoing basis. We also know that with the easing of restrictions people are moving more freely and family and friends are supporting those in need.



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The helpline has been diverted to mobile phones now so that we can see if there are any calls outside of the helpline hours. We are happy to report that there has not been demand outside of the new operating hours (9:a.m. to 5:.pm.). In fact, the number of people ringing the helpline has dropped to an average of 1 call per day. However, as stated here previously, the Helpline team will continue to monitor local needs and respond appropriately.

It should be noted that nationally all community helplines opening hours have now been changed to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

Contact details for general council services are:

- **Email:** [customercare@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customercare@kildarecoco.ie)
- **Post:** Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare
- **Telephone:** 045 980 200
- **Out of Hours:** 1890 50 03 33
- **Homeless Out of Hours:** 1800 804 307

Protection from Coronavirus – It's in our hands #ItsInOurHands #Covid19.



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## News Items

### **Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach**

At the annual meeting of council on 29 June, Councillor Mark Stafford was elected as Cathaoirleach of Kildare and Councillor Tim Durkan as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

### **Built of Heritage Investment Scheme 2020**

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht allocated €79,000 for four thatched cottages (see page 12).

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

The CARO is currently working on a number of fronts to support its constituent local authorities to drive climate action projects in their counties with a particular focus on implementing the actions contained within their climate adaptation strategies (see page 38).

### **Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans**

Kildare County Council has received confirmation of the availability of a loan facility of up to €10 million for 2020 (see page 27).

### **Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections**

It has been agreed by the National West Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) that no time limit will apply to the collection of household kerbside waste during the current period to allow for the continuity of refuse services by operators (see page 34-35).

### **Community Grants**

136 community grant awards with a value of €229,500 have been approved by all five municipal districts and payments to groups are being processed (see page 51).



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### **Carton Avenue Masterplan**

Archaeologists have been appointed to carry out a geophysical survey of the amenity lands along Carton Avenue (see page 62).

### **Play Day**

Play Day 2020 took place on the 04 July with the theme 'Playful communities, playful homes.' Distribution of 800 play packs was arranged in lieu of the major public event that usually marks the occasion (see page 62).

### **€3.1 Million of Support Approved for Business Community Year to Date**

Supporting our towns and villages business retail and business communities is a core focus for Kildare County Council over the coming months in order to support economic recovery for the county (see page 65).

### **The Just Transition Fund (JTF) REF Allenwood Business Centre**

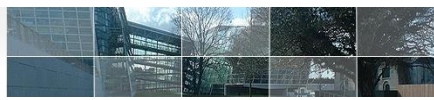
A 2020 fund of €11 million will be available for projects focusing on retraining workers and proposals to generate sustainable employment in green enterprise in the region supporting communities to transition to a low carbon economy (see page 68).



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## Corporate Services

Council offices and libraries reopened to the public on June 29th on an appointments only basis.

A new appointments system is in place to enable members of the public to pre-book appointments with relevant services. This system assists in controlling attendance in a safe and managed way, eliminating queues and guaranteeing availability of relevant staff.

**Kildare County Council  
Access by Appointment ONLY**

<b>Book Online</b>  <a href="http://www.kildarecountycouncil.ie">www.kildarecountycouncil.ie</a>	<b>Phone</b> 045 980 200 
<b>For Motor Tax</b>  Book Online or Phone 045 980 591	<b>For Housing Services</b>  appointments by phone only at 045 980 200.

- 1 BOOK APPOINTMENT
- 2 ARRIVE JUST IN TIME
- 3 FOLLOW SIGNAGE
- 4 REPORT DIRECTLY TO APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT
- 5 LEAVE BUILDING PROMPTLY AFTER APPOINTMENT

**If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.**

**How to Prevent**

- Wash:** your hands well and often with soap and water.
- Cover:** your mouth and nose with an elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoid sneezing.
- Avoid:** touching your nose, eyes, mouth, hands, face and hair.
- Clean:** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stop:** shaking hands or hugging others, staying in close proximity, greeting others.
- Distance:** yourself, avoid close and both face-to-face and eye-to-eye contact with others.

## Bye Laws

It is intended that public consultation on proposed Alcohol Bye Laws for the county will commence in August. More information will follow in local media, on the council website and through social media.

## Meetings of Council

The annual meeting of council took place on Monday 29 June.



Councillor Mark Stafford was elected as Cathaoirleach of Kildare and Councillor Tim Durkan as Leas Cathaoirleach.



Councillor Mark Leigh was co-opted to the Labour seat vacated by former Councillor Mark Wall.



The Green Party have indicated the process to elect a replacement for Councillor VP Martin has commenced. Co-option is likely to be at the September council meeting.

Cllr Brendan Weld was appointed as Chair of the Housing SPC at the June meeting. The Chair of the Climate Action SPC is now vacant following former Councillor VP Martins election to the Senate.

**Standing Orders** for full council were approved at the June monthly meeting. The start time of full council meetings is now 3:00pm. The review of standing orders for municipal districts and SPC's is now underway.

**SPC's** - Training for SPC members took place on Tuesday 07 July and was attended by 44 people. This training was delivered via webinar by the Dr Philip Byrne, IPA and the feedback has been positive. All SPC's have now met and a schedule of meeting dates agreed for the remainder of the year.

## **Facilities**

Sections within Áras Chill Dara have been reconfigured and safety measures put in place to allow staff to return to work while maintaining social distancing. A number of additional staff have returned to office based work in the last couple of weeks.

Staff continue to work remotely either full time or part time as is encouraged by Government. All customer facing council services will continue to be provided through Áras Chill Dara and the Athy Customer Service point.





## Finance and Information Technology

### 2019 Audit

The Local Government Auditor has indicated that he will commence the audit of the 2019 Annual Financial Statements in September 2020. The Finance Department has been advised that the commencement date of the 2019 audit is currently scheduled for 25 September. Members will be emailed with the confirmed date once formal notification has been received.

### Financial Reports

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).

Council should note that details of the Rates Waiver Scheme have yet to be issued by the Department of Finance. It is likely that these details will form part of the July Stimulus Package. The rates figures to June are based on

accrued income. The working assumption is that these will be paid either by central government or by the rates payer – if this changes council will be advised at the earliest opportunity.

### Local Property Tax – Notice of Consideration of Setting a Local Adjustment Factor

In accordance with SI 296/2014 Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014, whereby the 'local authority shall consult with the public in its administrative area in relation to its consideration of the setting of a local adjustment factor...' Kildare County Council has included the prescribed notification in three local newspapers, on the council website and through its various social media channels. The closing date for submissions is 14 August 2020 at 5:00 p.m. A report, summarising the written submissions, shall be brought to the September full council meeti



## Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

### County Development Plan

Variation No 1 was made on 09 June 2020 and, in line with legislation, came into immediate effect. This incorporated

the population allocation projected for the region (Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy) to Kildare County Council.

Planning applications received			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided June 2020	
	June	Year	No.	Total Granted:	102
<b>2018:</b>	138	1,601	1,026	Retention:	19
<b>2019:</b>	124	1,452	1,883	Extension of Duration:	2
<b>2020:</b>	143	695	1,298	Total Refused:	20

### Significant Planning Applications June 2020

Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
19/1282	Aterna Developments Ltd.	51 two-storey houses, 24 apartments at Phase 3, Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	Granted	05/06/20
20/227	Padraic Ryan	18 dwellings, conversion & refurbishment of Glebe House (to create 4 apartments), the refurbishment of detached Coach House (currently divided into 3 dwellings) at Glebe House, New Road, Straffan.	Refused	15/06/20
20/292	The Roche Group	A Pharmacy Drive through incorporating a canopy, ancillary alterations to existing footpath, car parking spaces, basement ventilation grill and existing access ramp to the medical centre at Vista Medical Centre, Ballymore Road, Naas.	Refused	22/06/20



## Strategic Infrastructure

### Development (SID) Applications to An Bord Pleanála – Ongoing

#### Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506)

The oral hearing concluded on 13 March 2019 and a decision is awaited from the Board. According to the ABP website a decision was due by 23 April 2020.

### Application by Bord na Móna

#### Powergen Limited and ESB Wind Development Limited (ABP Ref.

18/303249) for a 110kV onsite

#### Electric Substation at Timahoe East

A decision is awaited from the Board.

According to the ABP website, a decision was due by 13 March 2020.

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

Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
19/305701	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Naas West and, Jigginstown, Naas	314	16/10/19	Granted 11/02/20
19/305905	Westar Investments Ltd.	Capdoo, Clane	305	19/11/19	Refused 11/03/20
19/306068	Ladas Property Company Unlimited Company	Mill Street, Maynooth	120	03/12/19	Refused 30/03/20
20/306504	Ardstone Homes Ltd.	Crodaun, Celbridge	372	24/01/20	14/05/20
20/306777	Windlynn Ltd.	Kilmalum Road, Blessington	360	03/03/20	22/06/20
20/306826	Rycroft Homes	Boycetown, Commons West, (adjoining the Brayton Park estate), Kilcock	345	06/03/20	25/06/20
20/307013	McCourt Investments Limited	Kill Hill and Earl's Court, Kill	167	30/03/20	20/07/20
20/307100	Crodaun Development Company Ltd.	Crodaun, Celbridge	467	24/04/20	13/08/20



20/307223	ES Leixlip Greenfields Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Kilmacredock, Leixlip	239	25/05/20	14/09/20
20/307258	Randelswood Holdings	Devoy Quarter, Naas West	152	29/05/20	17/09/20

### Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht allocated €79,000 for four thatched cottages at Carbury Church, 7 Canning Place, Newbridge and two Mausoleum in Maudlins Graveyard, Dublin Road, Naas.

### Historic Structures Fund 2020

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht allocated €55,000 for Donadea Castle Tower House (€40,000) and Newbridge College (€15,000).

### Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures

It is proposed to include the following structures onto the record of protected structures over the coming weeks;

- Two Mausolea Pyramids,  
Maudlins Cemetery, Naas
- 31 and 33 Main Street, Leixlip
- Kildare Castle Gatehouse,  
Kildare Town
- New Abbey House, Gate Lodge  
and Demesne, Kilcullen
- Thatched Cottage, Carnalway,  
Kilcullen
- Yew Cottage, Mountrice,  
Monasterevin



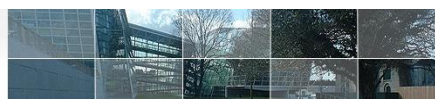
## Vacant Sites Update 2020

195 sites are being surveyed for 'Vacant Site Levy' purposes.

There is ongoing work to identify other possible vacant sites. The current breakdown is set out below:

<b>Vacant Sites</b>		
<b>Surveyed Town*</b>	<b>Number of Sites Surveyed</b>	<b>To date, the potential number of sites to be included on the Vacant Sites Register having regard to feedback from Area Engineers (Water &amp; Wastewater) and internal discussions</b>
Newbridge	23	3
Celbridge	9	7
Kilcock	8	6
Kildare Town	32	10
Maynooth	21	7
Sallins	12	6
Clane	17	6
Leixlip	10	6
Athy	23	0
Monasterevin	16	10
Kilcullen	10	2
Naas	14	To be determined, survey work being finalised

A request was made to Irish Water on 22 June for feedback on a selection of surveyed sites to be received by 17 July. It is proposed to commence the process of issuing Section 7(1) notices in early August for 3 of the 12 surveyed towns. Land registry searches are being undertaken currently.



## Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team Update

Those projects with activity in June 2020 are highlighted in green below.

### Concept

**Athy** - Athy-Athy Urban Design analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Not yet commenced

**Athy** -Athy-Regeneration Strategy-Ongoing though Athy Town Team.

**Kildare-Newbridge** - Kildare-Laneways Project-Included in RRDF Application submitted.

**Kildare-Newbridge** - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received.

**Clane-Maynooth** - Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan- Included in the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) application submitted 29 May 2020.

**Clane-Maynooth** - Maynooth-Town Branding and Signage - On hold until funding source is identified.

**Naas** - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.

**Naas** - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding source to be identified.

### Part 8

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 drawings being finalised.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kildare - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking underway.



**Kildare-Newbridge** – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 drawings finalised.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 complete and ready for publication. A municipal district briefing prior to Part 8 was held 05 June 2020.

### **Tender Consultants & Design**

**Athy/ Kildare-Newbridge** - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works commence in July 2020 at Miltown Bridge (3km North of Athy). Ecological Clerk of Works Appointed.

**Athy** - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Tenders in respect of (i) detailed design and construction supervision currently being assessed and (ii) Interpretative exhibition design has been assessed.

**Athy** – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete.

**Celbridge-Leixlip** – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete.

**Celbridge-Leixlip** - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete.

**Celbridge-Leixlip** - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete.

**Clane-Maynooth** - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete.



**Clane-Maynooth** – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence August 2020.

**Clane-Maynooth** - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete.

#### **Tender Consultants**

**Athy** - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants currently being assessed.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. The Paul Hogarth Company appointed and project inception meeting held on 26 June.

**Naas** - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €1.7 million funding approval. Tender assessed and detailed design is now commencing.

**Athy**- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard - Funding terms and conditions received and accepted 02 January 2019.

#### **Tender Works**

**Athy** – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Newbridge - Newbridge Library - Advisory role.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Newbridge – Riverbank -Tender assessment - advisory role

#### **Design**

**Athy** - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.





<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with urban designers.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Included in URDF application submitted on 29 May 2020.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan being finalised with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA).</p>
<p><b>Detailed Design</b></p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Kilcock-Community Centre. Fire Cert application and DAC application submitted.</p>
<p><b>On Hold</b></p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - on hold until funding source identified.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Town Branding and Signage - on hold until funding source identified.</p>
<p><b>Construction</b></p>



**Clane-Maynooth** – Prosperous - Landscape enhancement and car park -Tender for construction completed. Contractor appointed and works commence in July 2020. Tender for playground equipment complete.

**Naas** - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.

**Naas** – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Official start date on site 11 November 2019.

**Complete**

**Athy** - Narraghamore-Complete-Completed.

**Celbridge-Leixlip** – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.

**Advisory**

Naas - Naas Library - Advisory role.

**Grand Total €40,632,290**



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## Housing

### Covid-19 Phases 1-3

#### Challenges and Progress

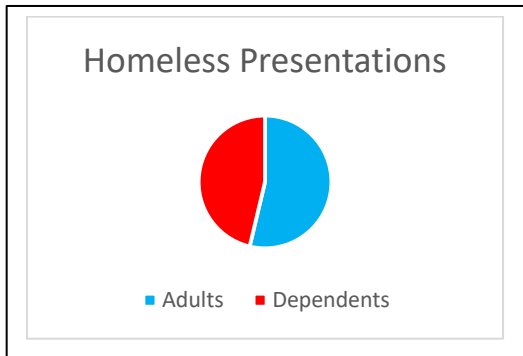
##### Homeless Services

Engagement with the Mid-East Regional Homeless Local Authorities (Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is ongoing, in addition to fortnightly engagement with the national leads for

homelessness through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Increasing presentations of single people continues to challenge Homeless Services, however, progress is being made in moving individuals and families on from private emergency accommodation.

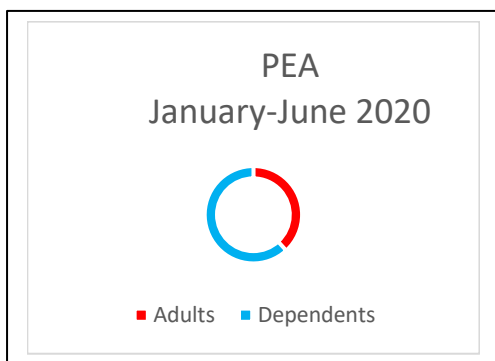


**Figure 1: Homeless Presentations**



***A total of 202 adults and 174 dependents presented as homeless between January and June 2020***

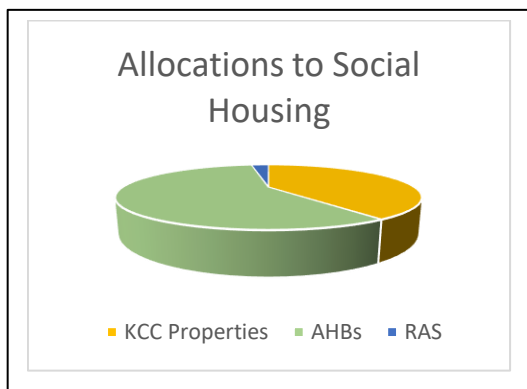
**Figure 2: Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)**



***There are 68 adults and 110 dependents currently in Private Emergency Accommodation, including Supported Temporary Accommodation and Family Hubs***

**Number of Allocations:** 402 allocations were made in the first two quarters of the year, which represents 1,318 individuals and dependents.

**Figure 3: Allocations to Social Housing**



***1,318 people were provided with social housing: 531 accommodated in KCC properties, 755 accommodated by Approved Housing Bodies, and 32 people were accommodated in RAS properties***



## Number of Housing Applications

275 applications were received of which 88 were refused.

## Housing Projects Delivered

104 new houses in Rathangan, Prosperous and Naas.

## Housing Projects on Site

12 units at Anne Street Prosperous are due for completion week commencing 20 July.

12 units at Bundle of Sticks, Naas (Homeless Care CLG) are due for completion Quarter 4, 2020.

28 Units at Castlefen, Sallins (Tuath Housing) are due for completion Quarter 2, 2021.

## Housing Response and Planned Maintenance

3,031 response maintenance tasks complete. The refurbishment works summary is set out below:

- 85 units complete
- 108 units ongoing
- 119 units being prepared

## Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) Tenancies

357 tenancies have been set up, with an average weekly set up of 13.

Nationally, Kildare County Council is in the top five counties for new HAP tenancies. The other counties include Dublin City, Cork City, Cork County and Louth.

## Traveller Community

The Covid-19 emergency has identified travellers as an at-risk group and additional funding has been made available for the provision of basic welfare services such as water and sanitation. The social work team are maintaining daily contact with traveller families particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable. Traveller accommodation continues to demand significant resources in terms of both the halting sites and the roadside encampments. Demands on the council's social work service is very high with a notable increase in issues throughout the county.



### **Capital Projects Covid-19 Update Anne Street, Prosperous**

Following suspension of works due to Covid-19 restrictions, it is now anticipated that the units will be completed on 20 July 2020, subject to both ESB and Irish Water connections.

### **Mountain View, Athgarvan**

Stage 4 approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for the award of contract for construction of 18 units. Based on recent Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Guidance caution will need to be exercised before the award on any new capital work contract. The tender validity period has been extended.

### **PPP Bundle 1 Site at Craddockstown**

The social housing project at Craddockstown, Naas, delivered 36 of the total 74 units in June, with the remaining units to be completed by the end of July 2020. This project was delivered through a Public Private

Partnership (PPP) model.



The scheme comprises a mix of one, two, three and four-bedroomed A-Rated properties which have been allocated to families and individuals on the council's social housing list. The scheme will be managed by Choice Services, in conjunction with Oaklee Housing an Approved Housing Body (ABH).



### PPP Bundle 2 Site at Nancy's Lane, Clane

Works are underway following the recent suspension due to Covid-19. The original programmed completion date for 77 units was April 2021. No revised programme is available yet. All other capital projects are at design stage and are progressing with staff

working from home and liaising with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG). A number of Stage submissions have been lodged with the DHPLG.

### Part Vs and Turnkey Developments

Works recommenced following the recent suspension.

### Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status Ju/y 2020
<b>Completed</b>		
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Substantial completed expected completion week commencing 20 July 2020.
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Stage 4 approval for award on contract received. Notice letters to issue to tenderers. Award of contract on hold. Tender validity period has been extended.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Workshop meetings with residents took place 11 and 12 March 2020. Final amendments agreed with Housing to advance completion of Part 8. Original design team re-engaged and briefed to develop scheme to Part 8.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Building services consultant tender issued.



Approval Stage 1		Status July 2020
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units	Approval in principle received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for a revised scheme of 65 units. Approval Stage 2 to the DHPLG expected Quarter 3, 2020.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	37 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to DHPLG Quarter 3, 2020. Serviced Sites Fund (SSF) site will deliver some affordable units.
Carbury	5 units	Revised Stage 1 application for 5 units submitted to the DHPLG.
Ambassador Site, Kill	35 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2020.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Stage 1 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 2, 2020.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Stage 1 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2020.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2020.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status July 2020
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Approval Stage 1 received. Proposed commencement of Part 8 once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from the DHPLG in September 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Stage 1 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2020.





## PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status July 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Initial 36 units allocated in June 2020. Completion of remaining 38 units expected the end of July 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Prior to Covid-19 restrictions scheme due for completion Quarter 2, 2021. Revised programme to be advised.
Andrew, Athy	50/60 units	Design brief for 50-60 units submitted to Dublin City Council as lead authority and procurement of design team has commenced.

## Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status July 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Contract tender being assessed.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020.
ESB site Leixlip	24 units	Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site. Feedback on initial proposals sent to Cluid.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Amended proposal awaited from the AHB.

## Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status July 2020
KARE	3 Units Craddockstown	Part 8 planning application prepared and will be lodged Quarter 3, 2020.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	Due for completion Quarter 4, 2020.
Sofia Housing	28 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	Stage 2 approval application expected Quarter 3, 2020.
Cluid	30 units	Stage 1 Approval received July 2020. Approval Stage 2 submission due to the DHPLG Quarter 4, 2020.



	Dominican Lands Athy	
The Peter McVerry Trust	5 units Sallins	Stage1 and 2 being assessed by architects prior to submission to the DHPLG.

### Acquisitions January - June 2020

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	11	12
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	13	174
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	4	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>264</b>

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2020	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
January	1	€165,000	1	€220,000	0	0
February	3	€655,000	1	€170,000	0	0
March	4	€967,900	1	€202,500	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	1	€237,800	0	0
June	1	€158,000	2	€319,500	0	0

	2019	2020
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>€19,692,336</b>	<b>€1, 945,900</b>
<b>Total Drawn down</b>	<b>€10,160,922</b>	<b>€1,149,800</b>
<b>Total currently committed in loan offers</b>	<b>€4,579,784</b>	<b>€1, 945,900</b>

Extensions of 3 months have been granted to loan offers that expire during the Covid-19 crisis with the condition that an up to date payslip

and bank statements be provided prior to the drawdown.

Kildare County Council has received confirmation of the availability of a loan



facility of up to €10 million for 2020.  
All applicants must now complete a  
declaration of unchanged

circumstances prior to the final loan  
offer.

### Tenant Purchase Scheme

2019	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Total	35	7	16
2020	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Quarter 1	8	1	2
Quarter 2	4	1	0

### Grants

2019	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Total 2019	484	320	0	0	268	251
2020	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	68	71(2019) 17 (2020)	0	0	50	42
Quarter 2	66	60	0	0	37	51

### Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

2019	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Total	1,186	775	677
2020	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Quarter 1	312	124	115
Quarter 2	231	144	147

### Social Housing Applications



2019	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	310	82	998	20	219
2020	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
January-June	90	25	275	3	88

### HAP Applications

2019	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Total	778	200	714
2020	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
January-June	345	20	340

### Housing Maintenance

2019	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance requests completed	Number of Self Help Grants Approved
Total	92	144	6,602	6,333	77
2020	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Quarter 1	23	32	1, 839	1,788	0
Quarter 2	11	18	1, 278	1, 248	79

### Homeless Presentations



<b>2019</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Unique</b>	<b>Repeats</b>
Total	1,141	435	706
<b>2020</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Unique</b>	<b>Repeats</b>
Quarter 1	340	245	95
Quarter 2	245	85	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>255</b>

### Homeless Presentations:

#### Unique Presentations Breakdown

<b>2019</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Total	431	359
<b>2020</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Quarter 1	108	103
Quarter 2	94	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>174</b>

#### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 June 2020

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	12	14	36
6 - 12 Months	15	25	32
12 - 18 Months	9	16	23
18 - 24 Months	6	10	13
24 - 30 Months	1	2	2
30 – 36 Months	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>110</b>



**Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 June 2020**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	0	0	0
6 - 12 Months	2	4	5
12 - 18 Months	1	2	4
18 - 24 Months	3	6	9
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
30 – 36 Months	3	6	12
36 – 42 Months	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>



## Water Services

### Infrastructural Projects

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

This contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on 20 February 2019 and it had a 24-month construction programme. The works are currently being commissioned. The sewerage network is due to be handed over to operations in August/September while the pumping stations will be operated by the contractor for a 12-month proving period before being handed over to operations. Murphy International Ltd., on behalf of Lidl (subject to an Irish Water agreement), has laid part of the Newbridge 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 being commissioned before being handed over to operations.

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

This 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 and are advancing well. New work fronts are being opened on the Clane to Sallins road and in Newbridge Town.

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

Veolia Water Ireland is advancing works on this variation to the Design Build Contract (DBO) contract, with an expected completion date in Quarter 3-4, 2020. Operational commissioning is continuing the THP Plant.

#### **Osberstown Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)**

The upgraded Osberstown WWTP was handed back to Irish Water/Kildare County Council operations in January 2020.



### **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. Site investigation works are due to commence this month. Irish Water has commenced engagement with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

### **Capital Projects**

#### **Kilmeague WWTP Upgrade**

The plant was commissioned in late September 2019. Following completion of the process proving period, the plant was handed back to Irish Water/Kildare County Council operations in January 2020.

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

While funding constraints have emerged on the part of Irish Water in

light of the current Covid-19 crisis, the council continues to work with the utility to progress a temporary solution which involves:

- The laying of a 40 metre pipe to connect to the nearby gravity system
- Some small level of land acquisition
- Pumping arrangements

The benefits of the above would be elimination of the need for tankering. Accordingly, as there are expected to be cost savings, it is still anticipated that these works will progress, and the members will be kept informed. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-term solution.

#### **Timolin WWTP Upgrade**

This project was being assessed by Irish Water Asset Planning under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP) process by Irish Water's consultants. A funding source still has to be identified.





## **Water Networks Management Projects**

### **Newbridge Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works – Pairc Mhuire, Newbridge Back Yard Services Scheme (BYSS)**

Works resumed on 07 July 2020.

To date, all public side works have been completed where customer consent has been provided. There are approximately 100 premises remaining within this scheme, whereby, private side service connection works have still to be completed. Permanent road reinstatement works have now also resumed as part of this scheme.

### **Kildare Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works**

Works resumed 09 of July 2020 on Cleamore Road, consisting of, the decommissioning of the now redundant watermain section which was previously replaced as part of the Cleamore Terrace Back Yard Services Scheme (BYSS). The completion of this element of work will result in the completion of this project.

There are currently 11 customers/premises whereby consent has not yet been provided throughout Lourdesville, Assumpta Villas and Rowanville BYSS. Works will recommence on these schemes when the necessary customer consent has been obtained.

### **Taghadoe to Maynooth Watermain Replacement**

Permanent road reinstatement works have recently been completed as part of this project. The remaining works involved in the completion of this scheme consist of minor items which have been highlighted within a recent snag list.

### **Maynooth Bottleneck Mains Scheme**

Works involving the testing and commissioning of the new 1,013 metre section of watermain are ongoing and it is expected that the new section of mains will be put into operation during July 2020.

Permanent road reinstatement works are scheduled to commence on 10 August 2020 as part of this scheme.



## Environment Services

### Covid-19

**With the current COVID-19 restrictions some services will be operating differently to comply with the new restrictions.**

### Civic Amenity Facilities

The opening hours for the two civic amenity sites have now returned to normal pre-Covid-19 arrangements. Members of the public are asked to continue to prioritise payment by contactless cards and to exercise social distancing at all times onsite. <https://www.aesirl.ie/civic-amenities/>

### Recycling Banks

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued into June. In May 2019, 338 tons of glass were recovered from the recycling banks. This year, the figure is 563 tons - an increase of over 40%. Staff and contractors continue to maintain existing sites to an acceptable standard, but the co-operation of the public is vital in this regard. As the community-based sports facilities reopen for the public, this is beginning to reduce pressure on the recycling infrastructure.

### Burial Grounds

All the council's cemeteries remain open to the public. The HSE's social distancing guidelines should be observed when visiting cemeteries. Please note that vehicular access may at times be restricted.

### Environment Complaints

Pollution complaints (litter, waste and water) should be made by email: [customercare@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customercare@kildarecoco.ie) or writing to the Environment Section, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the HSE's guidance regarding social distancing and the safety of staff and the public.

### Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. To reduce the potential for cross contamination, customers are asked to follow the advice of their collector when putting out bins for collection. Check their website and social media for updates. For details of approved operators, check the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)



It has been agreed by the National West Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) that no time limit will apply to the collection of household kerbside waste during the current period to allow for the continuity of refuse services by operators. This is a temporary measure.

### **National Spring Clean/Tidy Towns**

Grant allocations have been approved by each Municipal District Committee in June for 39 local Tidy Town Groups (€284,155). The National Tidy Town's Competition has been cancelled for 2020.

The Council's 'Lily White Clean Up Day' (National Spring Clean) has been postponed. It is intended that this will be rescheduled to take place at a later date, when public health restrictions have been relaxed.

### **Environmental Education**

All educational talks and events are suspended until further notice in the interests of public health and will be rescheduled at a later date where feasible. Information and services normally provided are referenced at:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/EnvironmentalEducation/>

### **Waste Permit/ Water Discharge Licences**

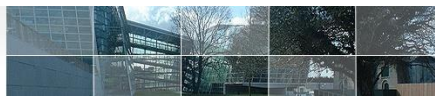
The Environment Section will continue to process applications. These should be submitted by post where possible.

### **Dog Control**

The council's Dog Warden Service is operating subject to the HSE's guidance at this time. The public are not permitted to visit the dog pound without an appointment. Telephone 059 8623388/045 980588 to make an appointment. Dog Licences should be purchased online, where possible at [www.licences.ie](http://www.licences.ie)

### **Environment Construction Projects/ Schemes**

All construction schemes have been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions until further notice.



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## 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 consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the CFRAMS programme are commenced.

### Morell Flood Management Scheme

Issues underlying the Judicial Review have been resolved and the scheme can now progress. Construction of the scheme is scheduled to begin in July 2020.

### Athy Flood Relief Scheme

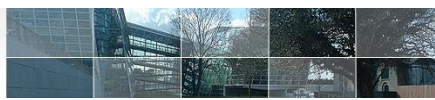
The Kildare County Council/OPW Steering Group has commenced developing the scope of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage will be the procurement of consultants to carry out the design of the scheme.

### Hazelhatch

The contract for a further hydrological study into flooding at Hazelhatch has been awarded to RPS Ireland. The scope of the study has been extended to allow for a blockage scenario in the catchment, as this has been an issue in previous flood events. The study will be completed in mid-Quarter 3, 2020. The revised mapping will be used by the OPW to update flood extents on their website: [www.floodinfo.ie](http://www.floodinfo.ie).

### Naas Flood Relief Scheme

Tenders have been received for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme. Assessment of these tenders is ongoing. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. Following approval from the OPW, consultants will be appointed in July 2020.



## **Kerdiffstown**

Construction works on the L2005 realignment is continuing with traffic management in place. New stone boundary walls have been constructed as part of the accommodation works with the existing houses. Drainage and utilities are being laid, including a section of new riser main on behalf of Irish Water. It is now anticipated that realignment of the L2005 will be completed at the end of September this year. The other advance works included in Kerdiffstown House grounds are now complete. The tenders for the main works have been received and are currently being assessed by the Tender Assessment Board. Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas is ongoing. The 3D visualization Model of the Proposed Park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website at:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/KerdiffstownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualisation/>

## **Cemeteries**

### **Churchtown Cemetery**

Public lighting is to be commissioned with the ESB subject to a funding agreement.

### **Kildare Town Cemetery**

The updated design for upgrade works is under consideration and will be progressed subject to funding.

### **Newbridge Cemetery**

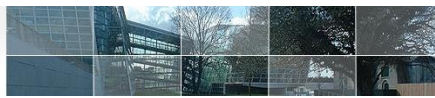
Following the tender assessment, it is hoped to commence works on the car park subject to funding.

## **Columbarium Walls**

### **Derrinturn**

A preferred tenderer has been identified and works will progress subject to funding.

## **Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown, Celbridge**



Temporarily on hold, pending funding being identified.

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

The CARO is currently working on a number of fronts to support its constituent local authorities to drive climate action projects in their counties with a particular focus on implementing the actions contained within their climate adaptation strategies. A number of projects are ongoing across the Eastern and Midlands region, including:

#### **Sustainable Energy Communities**

The CARO is working with Meath, Kildare and Wicklow County Councils to pilot SECs in partnership with the local authority. In Kildare, 2 SECs (Clane and Maynooth have begun preparation of their Energy Master Plan) with Kilcullen and Monasterevin next in line to engage with this process.

#### **Forestry**

The CARO's initial involvement in this area was to work in collaboration with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture to identify a number of pilot counties and appropriate landholdings, for afforestation, in the region. All constituent local authorities were since represented at a recent webinar and received presentations from CARO and the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine. There was very positive feedback for progressing this project and the CARO is now working to support a number of counties as they begin the process of identifying suitable lands.

#### **Just Transition**

The CARO is engaging with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment on the Just Transition Fund for the Midlands region. Following on from the initial application to the SMART process, a more detailed application for funding is now being prepared for community training and capacity building across the 21 identified communities in the greater just transition



area. If this application is successful, this project will develop in collaboration with Westmeath, Longford, Laois, Kildare, Roscommon, Galway, Longford and Offaly County Councils and will leverage existing structures (such as the PPN, Cohmairle na nÓg, Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) and municipal districts) to engage with the relevant communities.

### **Capacity Building**

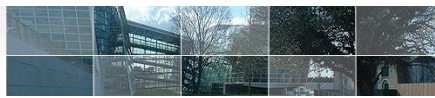
The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners (such as Climate Ireland, Met Eireann, The Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Public Works (OPW), The Department of Communications, Action and Environment (DCCAE), The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) etc.) to develop a suite of training for all elected members and local authority staff. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it has been decided to prioritise the development and delivery of online training in 2020 and this will be available for roll out in Quarter 4 of this year. It is now expected that the online training and 3-day Climate Action Team

training programmes will be piloted in early October and rolled out thereafter pending further refinement if so required. The CARO is also working closely with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and the County and City Management Association (CCMA) to arrange a joint launch of this ambitious training programme and this is expected to take place in September or October.

### **Spatial Planning**

The CARO continues to work closely with the three regional assemblies to assist local authority planners to translate regional climate objectives into local policies for inclusion in county development plan reviews.

A workshop has been held for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) area. Further events will be held for the southern and western regions as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow. Furthermore, the CARO is also working closely with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to ensure that the content of proposed training for elected members aligns with the



requirements of current spatial planning policy.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

The CARO is currently working on a draft set of indicators to measure local authority performance against the requirements of the All of Government Climate Action Plan 2019 and subsequent Climate Action Charter, as signed by all county councils. The draft set of indicators will be presented to the CCMA for review and discussion in the coming weeks.

### **Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting**

The CARO is currently drafting a national reporting template for use by all 31 local authorities to report on progress in implementing their climate change adaptation strategies. This template will also be used to collate the information required for the sector to report on its climate action charter commitments in relation to adaptation planning.

### **Kildare Climate Action Team**

Kildare County Council's arrangements to recruit a Climate Action Officer and Energy Efficiency Officer are currently on hold due to the current Covid crisis.

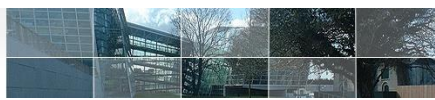
The Kildare County Council Climate Action Team will resume meetings on Thursday 16 July 2020.

### **New Initiatives**

#### **Green Kilometre Scheme 2020**

Fifteen groups have signed up to this scheme so far in 2020 and a total of 800 saplings have been planted by the groups this year. A community-based litter removal scheme for rural areas has also become a good biodiversity project with native species such as holly, hazel, spindle and alder buckthorn being planted into Kildare hedgerows. It is hoped the scheme will gain momentum over the course of the year.





### **Civic Amenity Site North**

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee. The council is in the course of putting together an expression of interest invitation for a Concession/Public Private Partnership (PPP) type contract.

### **Dog Pound**

The dog pound extension and upgrade works are now complete. The facility is now fully reopened. Public access is by appointment.  
Telephone 059 8623388/045 980588.

### **Rathangan Public Realm**

The Part 8 will be published as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

### **Kilcullen Public Realm**

The Part 8 will be published when the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

### **Monasterevin Public Realm**

This is now progressing to the next stage of design. A second round of public consultation is to be arranged once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

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

The Part 8 in respect of The Square (first phase) has now been prioritised (a traffic plan needs to be progressed to facilitate phase 2).

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

It is proposed to progress to a further round of public consultation before progressing to the next stage of design.

### **The Barrow Blueway**

Works commenced on the Barrow Blueway at Milltown Bridge (3km north of Athy) on 15 July.

### **Management of The Curragh Plains**

The Paul Hogarth Company have been appointed, a project inception meeting was held on 26 June. Work has commenced on a stakeholder engagement plan.



## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

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

SIAC Construction Ltd/Colas Ltd. is the contractor. The contractor has opened 3 lanes both eastbound and westbound from Junction 8 Johnstown to Junction 11 (M7/M9 merge). Works on Newhall Interchange are almost complete. Works on Osberstown Interchange and the R407 Sallins Bypass recommenced on 18 May, following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. An updated finishing programme is awaited from the contractor.

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

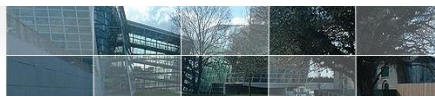
The 'M4 Maynooth to Leixlip' section is listed as a section of the transport network to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning and prioritised for delivery under the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor

and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective.

The project is currently in the early stages of Phase 1, Concept and Feasibility. Arup have been appointed as technical advisors to support the delivery of the project through Phases 1 to 4. These phases include:

- Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) which will determine if an intervention (project) is required and if an intervention is feasible.
- Phase 2 (Option Selection) will examine feasible options for intervention that could address the aim of the project.
- Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) will



develop the design of the preferred option from Phase 2 for further assessment including evaluation of environmental impacts;

- Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) will include undertaking the Statutory Processes

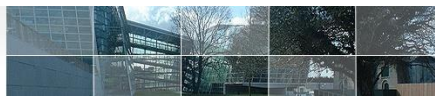
The project is currently in the early stages of Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) and will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Due to the recent announcements for restricted movements the Design Team for the N4 Maynooth to Leixlip Upgrade Scheme have been working remotely and continue to progress Phase 1 of the scheme.

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

The preferred route option, (C), was presented in committee to the Maynooth Municipal District Committee on 05 April 2019. 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.

The next phase of the project will be the completion of design and procurement of the main contract. However, Kildare County Council is currently endeavoring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme as a prerequisite to the contract going ahead. The preparation of CPO documentation is near completion and the documentation for the procurement of valuers is under way. Discussions are ongoing with landowners, the LIHAF, Irish Water, Waterways Ireland and Iarnród Éireann. The procurement of a NOBO consultant (an independent consultant to assess adequacy of the proposed design in relation to the EU



Interoperability Directive) is currently under way.

### **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 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 is complete. The Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) lands have been secured from trespass and the main contract commenced tender on 25 March. The procurement is under the restricted procedure and involves a two-stage process. The first stage return will be due at the end of May. The consultants are currently focused on document preparation for Stage 2 and

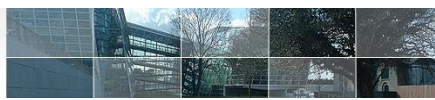
dealing with queries for stage 1. The agreements with CIE and Waterways Ireland are a necessary pre-requisite to commencement of construction and are being progressed. Land acquisition is also progressing. The team are currently closing out archaeology before the main contract is awarded. Work to achieve a Bridge Agreement with Iarnród Éireann continues with the submission of various technical reports. The following procurements are currently under way:

- Main Contract,
- Category 3 check by independent consultant

### **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 road is expected to open in Quarter 2, 2020.



### **Newbridge Outer Orbital Route**

Naas Road to Great Connell Road

Newbridge: Construction has progressed well to date. The estimated completion date is Quarter 2, 2020.

### **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 have been considered and the Route Selection process will reach a conclusion in Quarter 2, 2020.

The project is unlikely to proceed to statutory procedures until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy has been completed due to the reservations of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee.

### **Naas Municipal District 2020**

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

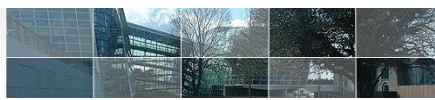
The Naas Municipal District has recently completed its first package of footpath works at the following locations:

- Sarto Park, Naas
- Jigginstown Park, Naas
- Kerdiff Lawns, Naas
- Johnstown Manor, Johnstown
- The Gables Kill
- Glendara Kill

The footpath/cycle track extension on the Kilcullen Road, Naas (at Kilashee) to the multi-denominational school is complete.

#### **Bus Shelters**

Three bus shelters have been constructed in the Naas Municipal District. One in Johnstown Village and two on the Newbridge Road, Naas (near Sheehy motors).



## Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

The first package of road improvement works (WP1) is now substantially complete. It includes the following works locations:

- R411 Ballymore Road
- L2008 Clownings (Ardclough)
- L2019 Huttonread/Farmvale
- L6049 Morganstown
- L20221 Athgarrett
- L2019 Beggars End to Arthurstown

The second package of road improvement works (WP2) is now substantially complete. It includes the following works locations:

- L6047 Coughlanstown
- L6048 Mullaboden Road
- L5050 Elverstown/Glenmore

The third package of road improvement works (WP3) is due to go to construction by the end July. It includes surface improvement to discrete sections the following roads:

- R407 Sallins Road, Naas
- R445 Dublin Road, Naas
- R410 Blessington Rd, Naas

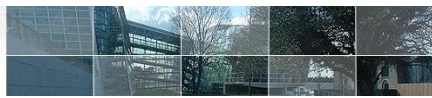
## Surface Dressing Works

The Naas Municipal District have commenced the surface dressing works programme for 2020. The works include:

- R411 – Ballymore Eustace Road (south of Watchouse Crossroads)
- L2010 – Sherlockstown to Painstown
- L6056 – Ballymore Eustace towards Blessington

## Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

The LPT/Carpark funded works programme for 2020 has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee. The road works are currently at construction stage. The footpath works will go to construction in Quarter 3-4 2020.

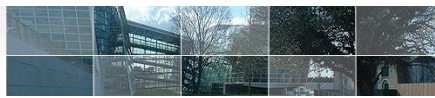


## Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence as a Voluntary Emergency Service has been working to support the response of the local authority and the HSE as requested and where the requests fall within the Civil Defences ability and training to deliver. Some of the supports provided to date include food delivery to vulnerable communities and support to the Blood Transfusion Service in their local clinics.

## Fire Service

<b>Operational Calls</b>		
<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls 2019</b>	<b>Total Calls 2020</b>
Newbridge	422	201
Naas	435	178
Athy	223	107
Maynooth	321	144
Monasterevin	181	88
Leixlip	240	113
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>831</b>



## Fire Safety

	<b>No. Inspections</b>	<b>No. Premises Inspected</b>
2019	75	72
2020	19	17

	<b>No. Fire Safety Complaints</b>
2019	16
2020	4

	<b>No. Fire Safety Certificates</b>
2019	179
2020	87





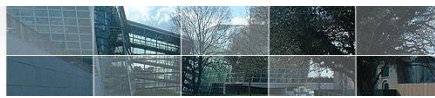
## Building and Development Control

### Building Control (figures to end of June 2020)

	2019	2020
<b>Commencement Notices</b>		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	191
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	190
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	1
Number of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	211	97

	2019	2020
<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>		
Total Number of Certificates received:	646	175
Number Valid	645	174
Number Invalid	1	1
Awaiting processing /Additional Information		0
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	63

	2019	2020
<b>Disability Access Certificates</b>		
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	122	53
Number granted:	131	56
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid		2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	26



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<b>Building Control Active Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of units inspected	18,81	1,049

<b>Development Control Active Sites</b>		<b>2020</b>
Number of Active Sites		77



## Health and Safety

During the month of June, the Health and Safety Section carried out the following:

- 12 Covid-19 Compliance Inspections
- Circulated new contact tracing log to all staff
- Supported libraries in development of risk assessments for reopening
- Covid-19 briefings were given to a number of sections
- Distributed Covid-19 specific first responders kits (150 for indoor and outdoor)
- Updated Induction Presentation for new starters
- Health and Safety Management Committee meeting
- Safety Committee Meeting
- Lead Worker Representative meetings.



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## **Economic, Community and Cultural Development**

### **Community Grants**

136 community grant awards with a value of €229,500 have been approved by all five municipal districts and payments to groups are being processed. All groups which were not approved for grants on Covid-19 related grounds have been contacted and invited to submit alternative projects by Friday 17 July. Payment of grants to both local authority and private residents associations are ongoing.

These payments include LPT top-ups where notified. Payment of LPT awards to nominated groups are ongoing also. The Community Enhancement Scheme has been allocated only €66,570 for 2020 and no decision on funds has been made to date. The Education Bursaries Scheme has been advertised with a closing date of Friday 04 September.



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## **Local Community Development Committee**

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via teleconference on Wednesday 01 July 2020.

### **Covid-19 Community Response Forum**

The Kildare Covid-19 Community Response Forum has had twelve meetings to date via teleconference. The purpose of the forum is to lead the co-ordination of Covid-19 community supports and resilience. A dedicated Covid-19 support helpline was established on 30 March by Kildare County Council and operates from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday. As restrictions have lifted, demand through the helpline has reduced.

### **Healthy Ireland**

The Healthy Ireland project partners continue to make great progress given the Covid-19 restrictions they are working under. They continue to run a wide range of online activities from work out classes from home to

movement programmes for older people and those with limited mobility. Pobal have announced the allowance of flexibility for change to the original applications in light of Covid-19.

An adjusted plan has been submitted for approval to allow for changes due to Covid-19.

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

Work is progressing to roll out the SICAP Programme in Kildare under Covid-19 restrictions. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme implementers and have submitted a SICAP Covid-19 Local Response Plan. The mid-term review will take place following submission of information on 14 July.

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

While Heads Up Kildare continue to engage remotely with men, they have commenced face to face engagement in line with return to work protocols.

A new intervention is planned for Kildare Town in September following



the cancellation in March due to Covid-19.

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. Four applications were approved at the last LCDC/LAG meeting totalling €166,717.50.

### **Library and Arts Service**

*Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is, that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.*

*Laura Bush*

### **Libraries Re-open to the Public**

Kildare Libraries re-opened their doors to the public for browsing and PC usage on 29 June by appointment. The online booking system, Supersaas, has been developed in conjunction with Kildare County Council IT Section.

Over 80% of the budget is now allocated with a clear plan to commit all funding by the end of the year.

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

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

### **Summer Stars 2020**

The annual Summer Reading Challenge will take place throughout July and August. As well as borrowing from local libraries, families can also download eBooks from an enhanced campaign list of books from the library website.

Children are encouraged to send in their book reviews and every week one will receive a prize of €25 book token.

There is also a national creative writing competition and Kildare Libraries have developed an online programme of events to include coding, creative writing, online storytelling and podcasting.



## **Cruinniú na nÓg**

Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, took place on Saturday 13 June. It was celebrated very differently this year due to Covid-19. All events were hosted virtually through the Kildare Arts YouTube channel. There was a wide range of cultural and creative activities for everyone to enjoy. Athy Sing and Sign created numerous videos in both English and as Gaeilge to mark this special occasion. The teenage members of ISL played a very significant role in teaching signs for many everyday life situations and topics. They wore GAA jerseys representing the counties of Ireland to present the weather forecast. This did not go unnoticed as the committee received a letter of appreciation, congratulating them on their performances from the President of the GAA, Mr John Horan. Online Children's Traditional Song 'The Song of Brigid's Cloak' workshop presented by Ms Aileen Lambert was approached by The RTE Home School Hub, who were interested in featuring Ms Lambert and her daughter on their website. 'The Song

of Brigid's Cloak' was performed beautifully by mother and daughter. Other projects showcased on the day were; Anyone 4 Science how to make ice-cream, Ms Aideen Cross and the young people from Rathangan created A Tree House in fabric and fiber. An environmentally themed visual arts workshop 'Hold Your Horses' was led by Ms Audrey Walsh, inspired by The Curragh and there was also a film showcase by Griese Youth Theatre 'Let's Keep the Ball Rolling' A podcast of 'Kildare Speaks Podcast' with Mr Eoghan Rua Burke and young people from Clane Tennis Club. There was also a premiere film screening of the 'One Minute-One Take' as well as an online check in with the Book Doctor from Children's Books Ireland at Riverbank Arts Centre. Kildare's overall virtual audience for Cruinniú na nÓg reached a staggering 4,063.

## **Library IT update**

Our new library app from Solus is available for Android. It allows patrons to search catalogue, log into your library account as well as links to all our eServices such as eBooks and eMagazines, eReference, news and



alerts. It is a unique feature, a self-service module which allows patrons to use their smartphones to check out library items. It uses NFC technology which works with the RFID tag to turn off security when items are checked out to the patron, so RFID security gates will not alarm as they leave. This self-service module is very welcome at this time of Covid-19 as it means no interaction between the public and staff if patrons prefer this. The iOS version of the app is not ready just yet as it is still being reviewed before adding to the Apple Store, but it is expected to be ready shortly.

### **Online Programming**

Let's Talk About Parenting Programme:

3 webinars were provided online in June as part of the Let's Talk About Parenting Programme – 'Reflective Practice' and 2 on 'Trauma informed Practice'. These offered continuous professional development opportunities for those working with children, young people and families in County Kildare and were facilitated by Barnardo's in partnership with the Library Service and Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC). In these

workshops' participants learned about adverse childhood experiences and how to help foster resilience in children. Over 80 professionals participated and they came from a broad cross sector e.g. Social Workers, Teachers and Principals, Family Resource Centre Workers and members of An Garda Síochána working with young people, amongst others. A talk was also provided online by Dr Mary O'Kane on the 'Transition to Secondary School' for parents of sixth class students, which has had 585 views on Facebook so far.

### **(Face) Book Club**

An online book club has been running quite successfully called the Kildare Libraries (Face)Book Club, with 135 club members on Facebook and 10-12 people at a time attending the book club meetings via Zoom.

### **Online Creative Writing**

A weekly Creative Writing video for teens will be posted on social media. The videos include a range of topics including prompts for writing, getting over writer's block and various





competitions currently running for young adult writers.

### **Story time**

Ms Helena Byrne, Irish storyteller and singer hosted a Zoom interactive story time.

### **Naas Library and Cultural Centre**

On 26 June the Department of Rural and Community Development issued the Stage 4 Approval for Naas Library and Cultural Centre, Naas Town Hall. The Library Service will shortly be issuing letters to the successful and unsuccessful contractors who tendered for the construction contract. The council is awaiting an update from the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) in relation to Covid-19 public health measures around signing contracts before the council can progress the project to the construction phase.

## **Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department**

### **Donation of Local History Material from Family of Late Local Historian**

The family of the late Mr Pat Given, local historian with Clane Local History Group, have recently donated a large quantity of material to the Kildare Local Studies and Archives collections in Newbridge. This donation includes research notes and journals of relevance to the heritage and history of County Kildare. Much of this material will be catalogued and included in the collections of Kildare Library and Arts Service for future researchers to access. The Local Studies Department would like to thank the Given Family for this very kind donation, while the council is also grateful to Councillor Pádraig McEvoy with his assistance in arranging the donation. A reminder also that the Library and Arts Service continues to seek and collect items of interest to County Kildare to add to their Local Studies collections in Newbridge.



### **Centenary of Burning of Athy Courthouse and Other Decade of Commemorations Events**

A new article has been added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) detailing the burning of Athy Courthouse during the War of Independence in July 1920. It will also be published in the local media. Further content will be added to mark the centenary of the Kill Ambush in August 1920 and consequent reprisals in Naas.

### **Ferrets of Kildare Song from Curragh Internment Camp Video**

The Decade of Commemorations Committee have created a video to accompany the 'Ferrets of Kildare' song from the Curragh Internment Camp. It features digitised images from original photographs and archival material from the Internment Camp. It can be found through [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) and the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations social media pages.

### **Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department in Newbridge**

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives continues to answer research queries and visitors are welcome to undertake research of the collections in our premises in Newbridge by appointment only. Family history/genealogy queries can be sent to [cillardaragenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:cillardaragenealogy@gmail.com) (or phone 045 448350) and local history research queries can be emailed to [localhistory@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localhistory@kildarecoco.ie) (or phone 045 448351). Digital content continues to be added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) with additional content planned in the coming weeks and months.

### **Kildare Covid-19 Notebook Project**

Kildare County Council has invited anyone living in County Kildare to record their thoughts and ideas at this time in an A5 moleskine notebook provided by Kildare Library and Arts Service, free of charge. When the notebook is complete, the Library Service have asked that people share the content of their notebook (or some of it) with us for our digital archive, to capture everyday lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.



A selection of works from the notebooks collected will be included as part of our Culture Night 2020 programme alongside our Kildare Covid-19 Heroes portrait project.

### **Kildare Covid-19 Heroes – A portrait Exhibition**

In June Kildare Library and Arts Service put out a call to commission up to 10 portraits of the people who helped to get Kildare through the Covid-19 Pandemic. The council has asked members of the public to nominate their Kildare Heroes. As of the closing date over 30 nominations have been received for this project, all really deserving of the chance to be included. The council also put out a call for Kildare artists to be included in the project by painting the hero's portraits. As of the closing date 27 applications have been received from Kildare artists for inclusion. The 10 selected heroes will have their portraits painted and hung outside the council chamber as part of Culture Night 2020.

### **Kildare Library and Arts Service and Maynooth University Writers-in-Residence Appointed for 2020/21**

Maynooth University and Kildare County Council's Arts and Library Services are thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr Nathan O'Donnell and Ms Susan Tomaselli as Writers-in-Residence for 2020/21.

Dr Nathan O'Donnell is a writer, researcher, and one of the co-editors of an Irish journal of contemporary art criticism, Paper Visual Art. His writing has appeared in magazines including The Dublin Review, Gorse, 3: AM, The Manchester Review, Southword, The Tangerine, and Banshee (forthcoming), amongst others. A former winner of the Irish Writers' Centre Novel Fair, he has been awarded artist's bursaries from the Arts Council of Ireland and Dublin City Council, as well as artist's commissions from IMMA, Dublin City Council, the Arts Council of Ireland, and South Dublin County Council.



Ms Susan Tomaselli is founder and editor of the ground-breaking Gorse Journal. She is former co-editor of 3:AM Magazine and editor at 3:AM Press. She has written for The Guardian, The Irish Times, The Stinging Fly, Bookmunch, CultureNI, and contributed to Little Black Book of Books, The Beat Anthology, and We'll Never Have Paris, amongst others. She edited Dogmatika from 2005 until 2009. Ms Tomaselli has participated in numerous literary festivals (West Cork Literary Festival, Cúirt, Doolin Writers' Weekend, Listowel, Mountains to Sea), and provides consultation to arts organisations (Temple Bar Gallery + Studios Dublin, The Arts Foundation UK) and literary publishers. Both authors will be involved with the Kildare Readers' Festival, and a programme of events open to the public will be announced in the autumn.

### **Kildare Arts Act Grants 2020**

At the June meeting of Kildare County Council, councillors approved over €40,000 in in the Arts Act Grants Scheme. This investment in local arts is very welcomed by Kildare Arts Service

as many artists and arts organisations have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

## **Kildare Fáilte**

### **Key activities June 2020**

Sector group Zoom meetings were held for Kildare Fáilte members on 17 and 24 June. Ms Caroline Henry from Fáilte Ireland – Ireland Ancient East joined as a guest speaker, with over 30 members logging into this video meet up. The Dublin Convention Bureau also spoke in relation to business sustainability and provided further training for the Kildare Tourism Network on this topic. 15 members availed of this opportunity. Mr David McWilliams guest speaker has been confirmed for Kildare Fáilte's July networking event for members and guests. Mr McWilliams is ranked the tenth most influential economist in the world.

The Taste of Kildare committee met in June through Zoom and also met in a small group to discuss alternative festival ideas and the viability of the festival going forward. It was decided



that the festival will go forward but with reduced capacity and festival activity- all dependent on the Covid-19 situation. A further meeting will take place after 20 July when the final phase of instructions is released by the Government.

An application was submitted for the LEO's Trading Online Voucher to create an online app for members directory which displays offers from local businesses and attractions. This voucher was granted to Kildare Fáilte at the end of June. This work will commence in late July. The digital directory will benefit guests, host, attractions and businesses with a range of digital vouchers, coupons offers and digital interactions sharable on all platforms and accessible on phones, tables and PC's. This will help cater for future tourism and local economy trends in real time by instant updating of directory listings and content.

Kildare Fáilte launched a campaign called 'We Care in Kildare' aimed at reassuring the local community and visitors that businesses throughout the

county which have implemented adequate health and safety measures during the Covid-19 pandemic. A promotional leaflet and a sticker were created and provided for the businesses who signed up to the initiative. To date 91 businesses have registered for this initiative. Kildare Fáilte also created social media buttons to be used in social media posts and blogs for 'We Care for Couples', 'We Care for Families', 'We Care for Girly Getaways' and 'We Care for Golfers'. Extensive press and media coverage were secured, and Fáilte Ireland approached the council to work together on this in advance of the launch of the national safety mark. Fáilte Ireland are awaiting official confirmation regarding a number of funding applications to LEADER for developing the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and for a marketing an initiative. The work for these projects cannot commence until a contract is received which we hope will be by the end of July.



Ms Mangan, the Chief Executive Officer attended the Royal Canal Greenway meeting and a number of seminars and online workshop including AIPCO's Tourism event and Fáilte Ireland's destination recovery steering group meeting which she attended with Mr Carey, Chief Executive.

A full board meeting was held in June with a progress report and proposals for a tourism recovery plan and task force presented and agreed. Meetings and contracts will be agreed with relevant agencies throughout July/August.

Social media activity and engagement remained steady throughout the month of June highlighting various businesses announcing the reopening of their doors/premises. Also various blog posts were created, including 'Kildare Launches 'We Care in Kildare' Campaign', 'Make a Break for it with a Romantic Escape in Kildare', 'Make a Break for it with a Family Escape in Kildare', 'Business Supports from Fáilte Ireland', 'Kildare Highlights it's Top Self-Catering Holidays for 2020'

and 'Ireland's Fittest Family 2020 - Applications Open!'. All these items received very high engagement rates through the social media channels. Ongoing online meetings supporting tourism providers and members in the county. Ms Mangan visited a number of stakeholders throughout the county.

## **Parks**

### **Covid-19**

All playgrounds except Celbridge Abbey Playground are open for use. The council is working to have the remaining playgrounds open as soon as possible. Guidelines remain in place for the use of the playgrounds.

All park users are requested to continue to observe the social distancing guidance when accessing parks and open spaces. Designated hours are still in place for cocooners. These are from 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. in council parks around the county.



### **Tree Surgery Works**

Work has been completed in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. Works in Athy, Kildare-Newbridge and Clane-Maynooth Municipal Districts are due to be completed by early August.

### **Castledermot Playground**

Work on phase 1 of the masterplan for the Fairgreen is due to commence the first week of August as previously advised. A review of capital projects has been completed and the installation of the playground is planned to commence in September once phase 1 is complete.

### **Allenwood Playground**

Work on a final design for the site is being completed and it is hoped to advertise a Part 8 for the project at the end of October.

### **Play Day**

Play Day 2020 took place on 04 July with the theme 'Playful communities, playful homes.' Distribution of 800 play packs was arranged in lieu of the major public event that usually marks

the occasion. Each pack contained paper, dice, crayons, stickers, chalk, a tennis ball and a Kildare Sports Partnership activity sheet.

400 packs were distributed through the library network (collection at seven branch libraries). These packs ran out in one day due to strong public interest. 400 packs were distributed through the Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (family resource centres, County Kildare LEADER Partnership, school completion programmes, and Tusla family/education support including direct provision centres). Children were asked to use the contents to make something playful and/or to enter a competition to win prizes in three age groups up to 18 (portable DVD player, Fitbit, AirPods). 45 entries were received for the competition. The initiative was promoted through a press release, KFM interview and frequent social media posts on Kildare Community Stories Facebook page and on the main Kildare County Council Facebook page. The post announcing the competition reached over 15,000 people on its own. Feedback was positive with many



appreciative comments and e-mails from the groups and families who received the packs.

The event cost approximately €5,000 and was part funded by a grant of €2,000 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

### **Anti-dumping Initiative**

Applications to carry out clean ups at Woodstock Castle in Athy and Silleachain Lane in Leixlip both received funding of €15,000 to facilitate the clean-up of both locations. Dumping of green waste has been an ongoing issue in Silleachain Lane for some time. Similarly at Woodstock Castle dumping of domestic rubbish has been an ongoing issue. Work is due to start on the site at Woodstock Castle before the end of the month. Work on Silleachain Lane is due to commence in August.

### **Carton Avenue Masterplan**

Archaeologists have been appointed to carry out a geophysical survey of the amenity lands along Carton Avenue. This work will be completed before the end of the Summer and will help to inform the development of a Masterplan for lands.

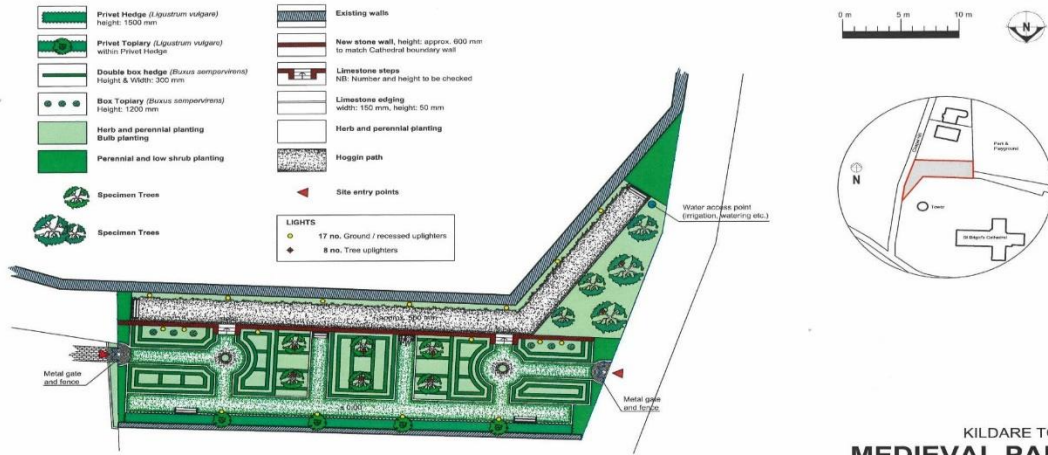
### **Cherry Avenue Park, Kildare Town**

Archaeologists have been appointed to carry out a geophysical survey of the lands in Cherry Avenue. This will assist with the implementation of the masterplan for the site. The work is due to be completed before the end of the summer.

### **Medieval Garden, Kildare Town**

Archaeologists have been appointed to carry out an archaeological assessment of the site for the medieval garden at the rear of the Kildare Cathedral. This will inform the plan commissioned by Kildare Tidy Towns for the site (see below). This work will be complete by the end of the summer.





KILDARE TOWN  
**MEDIEVAL PARK**  
scale 1:250 (A3)  
date: 16th February 2017

*Elma fenton*  
Landscape Architecture & Garden Design

www.elmafenton.ie  
info@elmafenton.ie  
+353 85 812 2395



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## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

### €3.1 Million of Support Approved for Business Community Year to Date

Supporting our towns and villages business retail and business communities is a core focus for Kildare County Council over the coming months in order to support economic recovery for the county.

Since the initial lock down in March, the Local Enterprise Office and Economic Development Team have approved and delivered over €3.1million worth of services and supports for companies in order to support the road to recovery. This investment in supports for the business community includes the provision of free training to over 1,850 business people, €278,000 worth of direct financial assistance to companies for investment in expansion, €290,000 in MFI Loan approvals, 723 Continuity Vouchers approved, 480 Specialist Advisory Sessions and €670,000 awarded to businesses to assist businesses create

an online presence using the Trading Online Vouchers.

During the coming months the LEO will:

1. Continue to operate a Local Enterprise Office and Economic Development Programme which is designed for pre-start, start and established companies
2. In partnership with industry and key stakeholders, launch and co-ordinate the delivery of a Covid-19 Response Plan with a series of 5 actions to support our business community which complement the local, regional and national supports already in place.
3. Promote local shopping and retail experiences in partnership with County Carlow Chamber and KFM.

**[ShopcountyKildare.ie](https://www.shopcountykildare.ie)**

**#ShopLocalcampaign**

To cater for a changing need of businesses retailers in particular during the Covid-19 pandemic, Kildare



County Council in association with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce have created 'Shop County Kildare', an online ecommerce platform providing Kildare businesses the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way. Kildare County Council now is calling on Kildare businesses to register for the website. The website will go live for consumers the last week in July. Kildare County Council's mission is to create hubs for local retailers and businesses to reopen their businesses to the local community. This Kildare hub will curate products and services by town and village. Whether a business has a website or not, working together with technology partners COVA Technology, this platform can get businesses back up and running, selling products and services within minutes and free of charge. Business can also sell their vouchers. This opportunity is also of benefit to businesses who have already a functioning ecommerce website already, as the *category* function on website allows their products and the businesses itself even greater

exposure. The council will be encouraging the public to #ShopLocal with an ad campaign on bus shelters, digi-panels and on social media. This aim of this campaign is to champion small, local businesses that have been allowed to open in recent phases and to encourage people across the county to support them. The campaign runs from 24 July through to September 2020.

### **Economic Development Capital Projects**

#### **MERITS Update**

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 the county and wider region. Recruitment for the manager post took place on Thursday 09 July and the successful candidate will take up the position in September 2020. Marketing of the MERITS to recruit tenants is in progress and a call out is due to be launched in



September 2020 with an opening date of January 2021.

## 2.2 Equine Tech Innovation Hub

Through the structure of the County Kildare Community Network (CKCN) the Business unit of Kildare county Council plans the establishment of Equine Tech Innovation Ireland as a sectoral stimulus to develop an equine innovation hub of enterprise, innovation, applied research, commercialization and learning. Uniquely, it will offer a single access source of equine technical and entrepreneurial innovation.

- Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise submitted an application for pre-approval of funding to LEADER for €79,837.50 (75% allowed based on costs) which has been approved pending certain conditions.
- CKCN tendered for conversion of conversion of the Museum Building (143m<sup>2</sup>) to offices at the Irish National Stud on Monday 29 June, the submission deadline is

**Tuesday 21 July 3:00 p.m.**

The building is due to open for tenants January 2021.

## Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub

In 2019 Kildare County Council was the benefactor of €500,000 from Coca Cola on their departure from Athy as a contribution towards the development of the old Model School in Athy into the Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.

## Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub Update

The CKCN/Kildare County Council was awarded €476,250.00 under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) category 2 funding to support the appointment of an architect-led design team to perform professional services for the delivery of Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. The council is awaiting a decision from the Department of Community and Rural Development on funding.

In the interim, CKCN/KCC tendered on 16 June to engage a consultant comprising a multi-disciplined



competent and suitably experienced architect-led design team to provide relevant consultancy services in respect of the design and delivery of Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. The closing date for receipt of tenders is **Wednesday 29 July 14, 2020@12:00 p.m.** There has been 45 expressions of interest up to 06 July. Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise hopes to appoint a team by the end of August and to have a Part 8 completed by December at which point the council will have submitted an application for category 1 RRDF funding.

to fund innovative projects that contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Wider Midlands region and which have employment and enterprise potential. It will support projects that take a whole-of-Midlands strategic approach and complement other sources of public funding.

The LEO is currently preparing an application to support the development of Allenwood Business Centre and associated grounds.

### **The Just Transition Fund (JTF) REF Allenwood Business Centre**

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a key pillar of the Government's Just Transition Plan for the midland's region. A 2020 fund of €11 million will be available for projects focusing on retraining workers and proposals to generate sustainable employment in green enterprise in the region and supporting communities to transition to a low carbon economy. The objective of the Just Transition Fund 2020 call is



## Supporting Kildare Businesses

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to Covid-19.

Objective	Support	Link
<b>Financial</b>		
Immediate Cashflow	<b>Restart Grant</b> – for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through Kildare County Council’s Rates Department).	<a href="http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/">http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/</a>
	<b>MFI Covid-19 Business Loan</b> The first 6 months interest and repayment free, reduced rate of 4.5%. A LEO mentor has been assigned to complete the loan application form.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html</a>
Generate Revenue with Online Sales	<b>Shop County Kildare</b> A new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html</a>
	<b>Trading Online</b> Pending the opening of the second phase, please encourage constituents to	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/</a>



	submit completed application forms to the LEO to localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie. The LEO have 70 plus applications currently under review.	
Upgrade Shopfronts and Implement Outdoor Covid-19 Signage	<b>Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme</b>	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail-/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessability-Grant-Scheme.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail-/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessability-Grant-Scheme.html</a>
<b>Advisory</b>		
Expert Strategic Mentoring	A free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with a panel of specialist mentors.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE</a>
Health and Safety Guidance	A free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a specialist to ensure businesses have tools and knowledge to implement health and safety measures in line with Government guidelines to allow them to open as soon as possible.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a>
Managing Employees In line with Government Guidelines	A free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a Human Resource specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a>



	with managing and brining staff back to work in line with Government guidelines to allow them to open as soon as possible.	
Re-Designing Businesses for Social Distancing	Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve/implement social distancing.	Email <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> to apply
Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales	A suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a>
<b>Communications</b>		
Frequent Updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and Services as Well as Support Documents and Publications	Available on the LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update and online knowledge hubs.	HOE Note: <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html</a>  Sign up to newsletter: <a href="https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c">https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c</a>





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Access to LEO Team and Specialists	Available at the LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry.	<a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> 045980838
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**Peter Carey**  
**Chief Executive**