



Chief Executive's Management Report – March 2020

THIS MONTH: News and Highlights

Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

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

The delivery of services by Kildare County Council has had to change significantly in recent weeks and, as required by Government, all Council Offices are now closed to the public until further notice. Council staff are now focused on the delivery of **critical essential services** that must be maintained through this Pandemic. While the offices are closed council staff are available to deal with queries relating to essential services and members of the public are encouraged to make contact by phone and email.

In line with requirements associated with social/physical distancing, and in order to focus efforts on service delivery, the elected members of Kildare County Council decided to cancel all meetings of the council up to and including 31 March. The elected members have been working with the council executive and staff to support our citizens during this very difficult and stressful time for us all. On Friday, 27 March, An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD, asked that everybody stay at home for a two week period up to Sunday, 12 April, barring some very specific exceptions. In tandem with this the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy TD, asked each local authority to establish a Community Response Forum to coordinate a community response across the country. In light of these events the elected members have agreed to further postpone meetings of the local authority up to Friday, 24 April. This will be reviewed on a continuous basis over the coming weeks. Despite the fact that the elected members are not meeting in the usual structure, there is continuous interaction between the executive and staff of the council and the Councillors, to ensure that all efforts are on delivering essential services to our citizens and coordinating the community response.

A dedicated community support helpline has been established in Kildare County Council to assist at risk members of the public in accessing non-emergency and non-medical supports and advice during the current public health emergency. The confidential phonenumber service is being established by the new COVID-19 Kildare Community Response Forum, which includes over a dozen agencies and organisations. The helpline is focused primarily on ensuring that vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries of groceries, medicine and fuels. The role of the Forum is to ensure that there is a coordinated community response and to enable all voluntary statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly of our most vulnerable members. Included in the Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum are:



Contact details for the community support line are: **Freephone 1800 300 174** or **045 980 202** or email **covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie**.

All other essential services are available through one of the following communication channels:

- **Email:** 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

A list of essential services that will continue to be serviced as a priority is published on our website here: <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/coronavirusinformation/>

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



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Corporate Services

Members Services

Meetings - Covid 19

All meetings of council are currently suspended due to restrictions in place related to Covid 19.

Co-option of Elected Member

Councillor Noel Connolly was co-opted to the council at a special February meeting of full council. The filling of vacancies on committees of council and other bodies arising from former Councillor Patricia Ryan's election to Dáil Éireann, will be listed for the next meeting of full council.

Oireachtas Members

Contact details for the recently elected Oireachtas Members has been added to the Members Information Portal (MIP) under the Notice Board.

Statutory Declarations and Ethics Declarations

Political Donation statements for 2019 for both sitting and former councillors are now available on-line and in hard copy for public inspection in the Corporate Services Department.

Ethics Declaration of Interest Forms are available in hard copy for public inspection in the Corporate Services Department.

Alcohol Bye Laws

Public Consultation – postponed

Kildare County Council wishes to announce that, arising from restrictions upon access to a range of public buildings, that the public consultation process for the making of Alcohol Bye Laws has been postponed.

The public consultation will be rescheduled for a later date when the current COVID-19 related restrictions no longer apply.

Customer Service

Áras Chill Dara and all other council facilities are currently closed to the public, in the interests of public health.

The council is advising customers and citizens not to physically call to council offices for any reason as they will not be able to gain access.



Council staff are now focussed on the critical essential services that must be maintained through this Pandemic and in accordance with the Council's Business Continuity Plan.

While the offices are closed council staff are available to deal with queries relating to essential services and members of the public are encouraged to make contact by phone and email. If you need to contact us, please avail of one of the following communication channels:

Email: customercare@kildarecoco.ie

Post: Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park,
Naas, Co.Kildare

Telephone: 045 980 200

Out of Hours: 1890 50 03 33

A list of essential services that will continue to be serviced as a priority is published on our new dedicated COVID-19 wepages, that also contain useful links for vulnerable groups, official information sources and links to our new Community Call initiative:
<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/coronavir usinformation/>



Finance and Information Technology

Finance Department

COVID-19

Motor Tax Office

The Kildare Motor Tax Office at Áras Chill Dara, Naas was closed to the public with effect from Wednesday 18 March, 2020. This measure was taken to avoid unnecessary face to face interaction and facilitate social distancing, as recommended by government guidelines.

The Motor Tax Office is, however, still operating a postal service

Rent Accounts

Kildare County Council encourages tenants to continue to make repayments towards their rent every week to avoid going into arrears. It should be noted a “rent freeze” means rent will not increase, not that tenants may stop paying their rent. The council is very sympathetic to the difficulties facing tenants, however, as rent is assessed based on income, a rent

assessment form needs to be completed and returned without delay. This can be downloaded on Kildare County Council’s website: <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/housing/HousingRents/> alternatively you can request a form by emailing rents@kildarecoco.ie or phoning Finance at 045 980 654 or Housing at 045 980 705. As a **temporary** measure the Finance Rents’ Team may discuss the tenant’s new financial situation over the phone before estimating and agreeing a rent payment according to the revised circumstances of the tenant. If a tenant **under declares** their income during this estimate process, this will create an arrears situation, which will need to be promptly addressed by the tenant once Housing have completed the Rent Assessment.

The current rent charge continues to accrue until the rent assessment is done by Housing and any revised rent charge will then be back-dated to reflect the changes in circumstances, as Finance are only agreeing a temporary change to rent payment.



Tenants can estimate the change to their rent on-line, however, they need to make contact with the Finance Rents Department before changing their payment. - the schedule of rents can be downloaded at

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/housing/>

[HousingRents/](#) . The primary income should be identified on the schedule of rents and the corresponding rent is the base rent. €10 should be added for every additional earner in the family and €1.50 deducted for each child under 18.

Tenants will need to provide proof of reduced financial circumstances, eg - a letter from an employer/proof of social welfare before payment reduces.

Loan Accounts

Borrowers are advised to contact the loans team by email at loans@kildarecoco.ie or by phoning 045 980 652 to discuss revised **temporary** repayments. We advise borrowers to continue to pay as much as they can afford.

Revised repayment arrangements will only be agreed by submitting proof of reduced financial circumstances, for example, a letter from an employer/proof of payment from Department of Social Protection.

Rates Accounts

Procedures are now in place to deal with the Deferred Rates Payment announced Friday, 20 March by Minister Murphy, and re-iterated by Minister Donohoe on Tuesday, 24 March. For clarity - there is no rates alleviation scheme involved at this stage, simply the ability to defer payments for a period of 3 months.

Customers who would like their direct debits to be deferred must e-mail rates@kildarecoco.ie and following this, the direct debit will be amended.

Processes have been put in place to monitor closures due to Covid 19 and arrangements have been made to take photos of closed premises.



Accounts Payable

The Accounts Payable Team is working with all sections in Kildare County Council to ensure payments to suppliers continue to be made within the usual timescales.

Budget 2020

At this stage the council do not have clarity on the likely full consequences of the closures etc of businesses with COVID-19. There is no ability, yet, to quantify consequences of the economic situation on housing requirements.

Central Government has, as of 25 March 2020, only indicated a Rates deferral scheme, and have not yet

formally indicated if there will be a mechanism to enable a reduction of rates by reimbursing the Local Authorities.

It is, however, less than 2 weeks into this crisis, and as such while the Finance Department is in discussions with the other services in Kildare County Council and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), they are not yet in a position to address probable budgetary concerns.



Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

Order made under Section 251A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) on 29 March 2020

The Minister made an order which results in an extension of time for a range of specified/appropriate periods and timelines under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and a number of other related Planning Acts such as the Derelict Sites Act 1990, Part 2 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, and Chapter 1 Part 2 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016.

This order means that the time periods specified for any statutory process in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and related Planning and Building Control legislation are in effect extended for the duration of 23 days as being the time specified in the order. Planning applications and submissions can still be submitted during this period, and will continue to be validated and made available to the public online. The

deadline for submission of applications to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) has been extended to 29 May 2020.

In order to protect members of staff and in line with the Minister's Order, the Planning Department has implemented the following procedures and advised the public as follows:

Pre-Planning Meetings

All pre-planning meetings have been suspended temporarily pending the availability of video conferencing facilities.

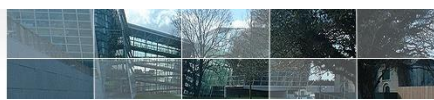
Making a Planning Application

Kildare County Council request that all planning applications being lodged be sent through An Post or placed in the post box at the offices of Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara. An e-mail will be issued to the applicants to confirm receipt of same.

Viewing a Planning Application

To view a planning application, please go to the Kildare County Council website where you can access the planning applications which have been submitted:

www.kildarecountycouncil.ie



Submissions/Observations

If you wish to place a submission or observation to a planning application please be advised that your letter outlining your submission/observations should be issued to the following e-mail address plandept@kildarecoco.ie. Please ensure you submit a phone number to enable this the Planning Department to contact you for payment over the phone by credit/debit card. Objections received late and/or without the prescribed fee of €20 are invalid. Alternatively, please lodge a submission through An Post with the prescribed fee of €20 enclosed.

Retrieval of Planning Files

Request for retrieval of all planning files should be emailed to the Planning Department: plandept@kildarecoco.ie. All requests will be kept on file and you will be contacted at a later date.

Unauthorised Development

In relation to Unauthorised Development, please complete the Unauthorised Development complaint form which is available at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Forms/Planning/> and email the completed form to planningcontrol@kildarecoco.ie

or send it by post to Kildare County Council Offices, Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

Development Contributions

If you have any queries in relation to the calculation or application of Development Contributions, please contact the Planning Department at plandept@kildarecoco.ie. If you would like to make a payment towards Development Contributions please contact the Development Contributions Section in the Finance Department at devcontrib@kildarecoco.ie

Site Suitability Assessments

All Site Suitability Assessments have been suspended until further notice.

County Development Plan

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the Draft Variation No 1 was issued to the members.



Local Area Plans (LAP's)

Leixlip Local Area Plan (LAP)

The Leixlip LAP came into effect on 04 February 2020.

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: Jan. 2020
	Feb	Year	No.	Total Granted: 99
2018:	114	1,601	1,026	Retention: 10
2019:	100	1,452	1,883	Extension of Duration: 2
2020:	129	203	817	Total Refused: 16

Significant Planning Applications February 2020

Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
19/1229	Esprit Investments Ltd.	An aviation industry maintenance station south of M4 and north of R405 in Moortown, Celbridge.	Granted	06/02/2020
19/1359	Keshmore Homes Ltd.	64 new dwellings at Loughminane Green, Green Road, T/D's Loughminane, Knocksborough Glebe and Whitesland West, Kildare.	Refused	04/02/2020
19/1150	Ciara and Harvey Appelbe	A craft micro-distillery at the Old Mill, Ballymore Eustace.	Granted	17/02/2020
19/1379	Brook Advantage Ltd.	6 self-catering units in a 3 storey block and all associated site works on site to the rear Hawthorn House B&B, Old Greenfield, Maynooth.	Refused	28/01/2020
19/523	Punchestown Racecourse	Extension of the existing racetrack by approximately 660m and raising track ground levels.	Granted	21/02/2020
19/1442	Commissioner of Public Works	Alterations to access arrangements at the 'Brewer's House', the 'Long Hall', the 'Upper Courtyard', and the 'Bleacher's Green'; new replacement gates/doors to the ground floor archways (Lower Yard), internal modifications within the curtilage of Protected Structure no. B11-13; B11-14 Farm Buildings at, Castletown House and Demesne, Celbridge.	Granted	24/02/2020



Strategic Infrastructure

Development (SID) Applications to An Bord Pleanála

- Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506) - The oral hearing concluded on 13 March 2019 and a decision is awaited from the Board. According to the ABP website, a decision was due by 24 March 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 and a decision is awaited from the Board. According to the ABP website, a decision was due by 13 March 2020.

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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	13/03/20
19/306068	Ladas Property Company Unlimited Company	Mill Street, Maynooth	120	03/12/19	01/04/20
20/306504	Ardstone Homes Ltd.	Crodaun, Celbridge	372	24/01/20	14/05/20

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

Applications have been assessed and nominated to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for their approval.

Historic Structures Fund 2020

Applications have been assessed and nominated to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for their approval.



Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team Update	Sum of Estimated Value €
Concept	440,000
ATHY- Athy Urban Design analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Not yet commenced.	70,000
ATHY- Athy-Regeneration Strategy- ongoing through the Athy Town Team.	-
Celbridge-Leixlip - Ardclough-Community Facility Phase 2.	-
Kildare-Newbridge -Kildare-Laneways project- funding application being prepared for submission in early 2020.	-
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare -St Bridged's Well redevelopment - draft concept received.	-
Clane-Maynooth - Main Street and Courthouse Square, Public Realm Improvements – Masterplan not yet commenced.	200,000
Clane-Maynooth - Maynooth -Town Branding and Signage - on hold until a funding source identified.	125,000
Naas-Lantern Building - yet to commence.	
Naas-Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design-Funding source to be identified.	45,000
PART 8	4,143,858
Kildare-Newbridge - Kilcullen-Market Square redevelopment - draft Part 8 drawings being finalised.	1,300,000
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared.	1,523,858
Kildare-Newbridge - Rathangan-Market Square redevelopment - draft Part 8 drawings received.	1,300,000
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 documents nearing final draft in preparation for a municipal district briefing prior to Part 8.	20,000
Tender Consultants and Design	10,997,816
Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - funding terms and conditions are awaited. A tender brief is being prepared for detailed design.	6,757,254
Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum - tenders in respect of (i) detailed design and construction supervision and (ii) interpretative exhibition design currently being assessed.	3,673,003



Athy- Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	73,585
Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	60,974
Kildare-Newbridge - Athgarvan-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Clane-Maynooth -Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued once funding terms and conditions have been received.	125,000
Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage - Tender for detailed design to be issued once funding terms and conditions have been received.	125,000
Clane-Maynooth - Straffan-Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Tender Consultants	2,345,000
Athy – Athy - Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants ongoing.	100,000
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.	260,000
Naas - Grand Canal Greenway - Alymer Bridge to Sallins – (€1.7 million funding approval).	1,700,000
Naas - Naas-Canal Quarter - Scope of project under review.	260,000
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.	25,000
Tender Works	1,786,327



Athy - Athy-Upgrade to public realm Emily Square - Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.	1,682,327
Kildare-Newbridge - New-Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92k funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.	104,000
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library-Advisory role.	-
Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Riverbank - Tender assessment - advisory role.	-
Design	6,034,289
Athy – Athy - Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.	-
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.	126,500
Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with Urban Designers.	150,000
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Creation of 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.	656,412
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan.	61,377
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval so that project is shovel ready for the Urban Regeneration and Development Funding (URDF) application.	5,000,000
Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown – Masterplan - Work progressing well with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA).	40,000
Detailed Design	9,105,000
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park- Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with parks Dept to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Funding (RRDF) application.	7,000,000
Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock - Community Centre - Pre-qualify main contractors December 2019 - February 2020.	2,105,000
On Hold	275,000



Clane-Maynooth – Clane - Main St Accessibility Improvements - On hold until a funding source is identified.	150,000
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage - On hold until funding source identified.	125,000
Construction	5,765,000
Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous - Landscape enhancement, and car park -Tender for construction completed. Tender for playground equipment currently advertised	650,000
Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - Project curtailed, project completion costs requested from Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association.	115,000
Naas -MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Official start date on site 11 November 2019.	5,000,000
Complete	
Athy – Narraghamore – completed.	
Celbridge-Leixlip - Ardclough-Community Facility – completed.	
Advisory	
Naas - Naas Library- Advisory role.	-
Grand Total	40,892,290

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) Cat 2 Applications Submitted

Kildare Town

€3,715,440 has been sought to progress the Kildare Town Renewal Plan to detailed design stage in preparation for the delivery of projects contained in the Kildare Town Renewal Plan completed in 2019, , with the following three projects being the key priorities:

- The redevelopment of Market Square and environs including alternative carparking
- Pedestrian linkage from Kildare Village to Market Square
- Pedestrian and cycle networks to the Train Station (with an improved forecourt) and from Cherry Avenue to the end of Claregate Street to include Public Realm Improvements.



Robertstown Amenity Lands

€90,053 has been sought to deliver the detailed design for the proposals contained in the Masterplan for Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA) CLG lands, which provides for the appropriate development of 18.4 acres of land which was donated by Fáilte Ireland to the Community of Robertstown along with €500,000 capital seed funding, which is currently being held in trust by

Kildare County Council. Proposals include an ecologically sensitive community park to include a multi-purpose sports green field, a community green field area, an artificial lake, a playground and a raised walk-way.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

An application has been submitted on behalf of the LEO.

Housing

Update on COVID -19 Measures

The three areas identified by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) as critical services in housing are set out below:

- Homeless Services
- Housing Assistance Payments
- Traveller Accommodation

Engagement with the Mid-East Regional Homeless Local Authorities (Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is ongoing, in addition to weekly engagement with the Housing Agency and Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG).

Homeless Services – Provision for Self Isolating

Kildare County Council is currently making provisions in the event that homeless clients require to self-isolate and/or members of the traveller community who reside in caravans/mobile homes, and the requirement to self-isolate arises. The council are working with their service provider, The Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT), and 10 units from Kildare County Council stock have now been set aside and are being fully fitted out for the purposes of temporary isolation



(one and two bedroomed accommodation and two houses). A further 8 units (one and two bedroomed properties) have also been identified and we anticipate that they will also be available shortly for use as isolation units. Two houses have also been identified for use. The units will be managed by the PMVT in consultation with the HSE. All of these isolation units will be returned for allocation to social housing applicants when the COVID-19 period has ceased. The council is also engaging with Kildare Civil Defence to provide support if necessary and is operating an appointment-only presentation system for those who are homeless or likely to become homeless. Private emergency accommodation services are operating as normal and the Supported Temporary Beds and Family Hubs are also operating.

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) COVID-19 Update

The Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) and Homeless HAP Sections, assisted by the RAS Section, continue to accept and process HAP applications. Priority is being afforded to homeless HAP cases. The council is receiving a

large volume of calls from HAP tenants experiencing reduced income, such tenants are entitled to apply for a rent review (please see further information under the headings of rents).

The following new legislative measures are now in place:

- Any rent increase which was to take effect during the emergency period will no longer take effect
- Any notice of termination which was to take effect during the emergency period will no longer take effect

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.

Following an assessment of Kildare County Council halting sites and roadside families, no additional needs were identified on the council sites. One roadside encampment was deemed as in need, and basic services



have been provided on this site for the duration of this emergency period. The eviction of travellers from any location is prohibited under COVID-19 emergency legislation.

Other COVID-19 related Issues

Rent Reviews

Due to the employment losses and changes in working situations, a significant number of tenants have requested rent reviews. This work is carried out by the Traveller

Accommodation Team who have been deemed essential staff, therefore this work should progress over the coming weeks. Covid-19 reviews will be prioritised.

Rent Supplement

The following information has been provided by the Department of Social Protection regarding private renters who do not qualify for the housing list, are not in receipt of HAP and are experiencing difficulties meeting rent payments:

Changes are being made to Rent Supplement to relax some of the rules and a new form will be issuing shortly. Rent Packs are available at Reception in the Intreo Centre in Newbridge, if a

customer can not attend the office the pack can be posted. Intreo can be contacted by telephone at 01 6732155 or email:

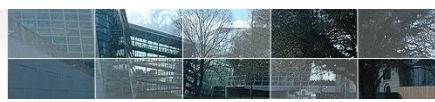
Rentskildaresouth@welfare.ie or
Rentsdublincentral@welfare.ie

One of the main changes is customers applying for Rent Supplement will not be referred to the local authority for Housing Needs Assessment until after COVID-19 emergency.

Response Maintenance

Response Maintenance is providing an emergency response service only. Emergencies and urgent requests include the following:

- Any electrical issues
- Plumbing including heating, boilers, leaks, shower not working, no water supply
- Blocked sewers
- Locked out of house
- Exterior doors that will not open or close
- Fallen boundaries or trees
- Major roof repairs
- Fire damage



Capital Projects Update

Beechgrove, Rathangan

Works currently suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work. Units complete and awaiting Irish Water foul and mains water connection which were scheduled for Monday 30 March. A request has been issued to Irish Water to prioritise this work.

Anne Street, Prosperous

These works have currently been suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work. The last reported programmed completion date was 06 April subject to both ESB and Irish Water connections.

PPP Bundle 1 Site at Craddockstown

Works have currently been suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work. The last reported programme completion date was mid-April but this site is running a number of weeks behind. The Allocations Team has completed its work for this development.

PPP Bundle 2 Site at Nancy's Lane, Clane

Works have currently been suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work. The programmed completion date is April 2021.

All other capital projects at design stage 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

Units in developments which have Irish Water, ESB, and where relevant, gas connections and only require minor snagging are progressing to completion with permission from Kildare Council Grants to contractors to complete this work.

Grants

Disabled Persons Grant projects are only progressing where works are necessary to allow a tenant to return home from hospital. Housing Aid Grants (inspections) are suspended.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2020
Completed		
The Paddocks, Kilcock	19 units	19 units completed and allocated December 2017/February 2018. Defects liability period to conclude shortly.
Athgarvan Road, Newbridge	13 units	Works complete and units have been allocated. Final account and post project review being prepared.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan, Remedial Works (Phase 1)	Refurb of 34 Units (23 social and 11 private)	Lot 1 (6 units): completed Lots 2 - 5 (28 units) completed
Dunmurray Rise Kildare [Phase 3]	32 units	Units completed 25 October 2019.
In Progress		Status March 2020
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 units	Contractor on site. Irish Water issues on site. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
Approval Stage 3		Status March 2020
Athgarvan Village	19 units	Part 8 approved at the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting in November 2018. Expect to award tender Quarter 1, 2020
Approval Stage 2		Status March 2020
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3)	Demolition of 21 units, refurb of 19 units, construction of 16 units.	Revised Stage 2 options discussed and agreed in principal with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in mid-October. Revised Stage 2 application to be submitted. Briefing meeting held with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee. Briefing meeting with residents took place on 11 and 12 March 2020. Propose to commence Part 8 at the end of Quarter 2, 2020.
Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Dept)	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an Approve 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 an AHB.



Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Civil/structural/engineering services appointments due Quarter 1, 2020.
Approval Stage 1		Status March 2020
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 70/75 units	Design Team appointed February 2019. Revised proposal to increase density to 70/75 units under consideration prior to completing Approval Stage 2 - expected Quarter 1, 2020.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	36 units	Information submitted to the DHPLG re SSF application – Quarter 1, 2020.
Carbury	4 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2020.
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	35 units	Revised Stage 1 approval submitted to the DHPLG Quarter 1, 2020.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	55/60 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2020.
Caragh Road Site, Naas	TBC	Feasibility study/economic assessment in relation to potential for provision of affordable units conducted on this site and established that the site is suitable for consideration for an element of affordable housing. Design studies commenced Quarter 4, 2019.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2020
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Approval Stage 1 received. Proposed approval Stage 2 Quarter 1, 2020.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from DHPLG in September 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 1, 2020.
Glandore, Athy	TBC	Stage 1 approval received. Approval Stage 2 proposed Quarter 1, 2020.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 existing refurb and 1 new-build	Stage 2 approval received from the DHPLG Quarter 4, 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 1, 2020.



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Expected completion Quarter 2, 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Contract awarded November 2019. Commenced on site 28 November 2019.
Ardrew, Athy	TBC	Confirmation that the Ardrew site is included in the PPP Bundle 3 and that Dubic City Council will be the managing authority for Bundle 3.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Part 8 approved at 24 July 2017. Respond have re-tendered for contractors.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Part 8 approved at the Naas Municipal District meeting on 17 July 2018. Land transfer completed. Contractor due to commence on site 16 March 2020
Dominican Lands Athy	30 units	Stage 1 approval received July 2017. Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site.
ESB site Leixlip	24 units	Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status March 2020
KARE	3 Units	Part 8 planning application to be lodged Q1 2020.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	CAS - Stage 2 approval received on 3 October 2017. Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	CAS – Planning granted May 2018. Construction underway. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2021.



Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	229	5	22
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	2	87
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	1	182

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2018	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
Total	67	€14,480,997	15	€2,989,150	3	€623,000
2019	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
January	1	€270,000	8	€1,920,947	3	€462,500
February	2	€365,600	6	€1,455,055	6	€1,031,200
March	2	€415,800	0	0	1	€288,000
April	0	0	6	€1,240,470	7	€1,665,130
May	0	0	4	€898,050	0	0
June	1	€220,000	2	€415,800	0	0
July	0	€0	3	€605,600	0	0
August	0	€0	2	€449,800	0	0
September	2	€305,000	0	0	1	€226,000
October	6	€1,207,100	0	0	0	0
November	8	€1,336,439	0	0	0	0
December	5	€1,091,400	0	0	1	€140,000
January	1	€165,000	1	€220,000	0	0
February	3	€655,000	1	€170,000	0	0

	2019	2020
Total Approved	€19,692,336	€820,000
Total Drawn down	€10,160,922	€390,000 (2019 approvals)
Total currently committed in loan offers	€4,579,784	€820,000



Families in Emergency Accommodation [including supported temporary accommodation and family hubs] as at 31 March 2020

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	21	29	40
6 - 12 Months	20	31	43
12 - 18 Months	14	25	36
18 - 24 Months	5	8	12
24 - 30 Months	1	1	4
30 – 36 Months	1	1	4
Total	62	95	139

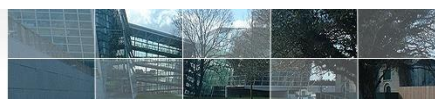
Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as at 31 March 2020

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	2	3
6 - 12 Months	1	1	4
12 - 18 Months	2	4	8
18 - 24 Months	2	4	5
24 - 30 Months	2	4	5
30 – 36 Months	3	5	11
Total	11	20	36

Homeless Update

The contract for the operation of the Housing First Service for the Mid-East Region was signed on 06 March 2020 with 6 tenancies currently in place for the region. Targets for the first year are 17 for the region and both the Contractor (The Peter McVerry Trust)

and the local authorities will continue to identify one- bedroom units to achieve this. Wrap around services are in place with the existing housing first tenants and this will be extended as the service expands throughout the year.



Pictured at the signing of Housing First Contract for the Mid East Region at Áras Chill Dara: (seated) Justin Parkes, HSE; Peter Carey CEO, Kildare County Council., Pat Doyle, CEO, Peter McVerry Trust, and Ann O'Shea, HSE. (standing) Elaine Flannery, Peter McVerry Trust, Ollie

Brady, Kildare County Council, Richard Price, Peter McVerry Trust, Barry Lynch, Meath County Council., Jackie Carroll and Joe Lane, Wicklow County Council, and Emma McMillen, Peter McVerry Trust.

Midlands Deep Energy Retrofit Programme

The Midlands Energy Retrofit is a new approach by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DPHLG), the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and Sustainable Energy

Authority Ireland (SEAI), in conjunction with 5 local authorities, to put in place a source of funding in 2020 to the

midland Local Authorities to upgrade existing housing stock in the midland areas to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2. The scheme is 100% funded subject to individual capped amounts for specific works. Kildare County Council has commenced the identification and surveying of houses in the initial phase of the scheme and the works are planned to commence in the second quarter of 2020.



Library and Arts Service

COVID-19 Impacts and Innovations

Following public health advice in relation to the global pandemic, all public libraries have been closed since Friday 13 March and will remain closed until Monday 20 April.

The council's online library services remain open 24/7, including eBook, eMagazine, eComic & eAudiobook lending, music streaming, online educational courses and language learning. Libraries Ireland have temporarily made library membership fully available online to facilitate remote access for new members.

Library programme curators are working with the library facilitators to move some of the library's planned events to online platforms, this will include events relating to the TTT and Let's Talk About Parenting programmes and our STEAM programme for primary school children. These will be a mix of online talks, tutorials delivered via video link or interactively via Zoom conferencing.

Irish public libraries and Irish publishers have agreed a deal to facilitate online story time sessions while libraries and schools remain closed. Kildare Library staff have been producing and posting story time sessions for our social media platforms and will continue to do this. Library staff have also published craft and eService tutorials to help patrons remotely.

The Library service has launched a new blog with lots of book reviews, interest pieces and recommendations, highlighting titles available through our online services and more.

Due to the sudden demand for remote working capabilities, the library service deployed 40 public lending laptops to Kildare County Council's IT Section for distribution to essential staff. Some library staff have been re-deployed to work on the Community Response Helpline.



Library staff who are working remotely have been utilising library communications tools to promote key health and social guides from the HSE and Kildare County Council.

Cruinniú na nÓg Kildare

The national day of creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú na nÓg takes place on Saturday, 13 June. It aims to celebrate and encourage children and young people's participation in culture and creativity by providing free, activity-based action in their own locality.

In March, Kildare's Creative Ireland Team sought proposals from creatives, practitioners and organisations to host and facilitate creative engagements for and with children and young people across the county for Cruinniú na nÓg 2020. This call out has been amended in light of the Covid-19 emergency and to ask creatives to amend proposals to suit delivery via online platforms.

Decade of Commemorations Irish Nurses – A Celebration Event to be Held on Saturday 25 April

Unfortunately this event has been postponed due to the COVID-19 emergency.

4th Irish Military Seminar Taking Place in June 2020

Unfortunately this event has been postponed due to the COVID-19 emergency.

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Facebook page continues to be used to promote free resources and content, including recommended podcasts and media articles, along with links to free to view online content.

An updated publication on the World War 1 dead of County Kildare is nearing completion at present and will be launched in the early Autumn. This important publication is supported by the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee

Local Studies and Archives Department

A large volume of free to view digitised content has been uploaded online in recent weeks. This includes digitized pdfs of long out of print publications including booklets on Ballitore, St Brigid's Cathedral, Brooke's manufacturing business which established the Village of Prosperous in 1780; and Rawson's Statistical



Survey of Kildare from 1807. These are available for free through our electronic history journal.

www.kildare.ie/ehistory

A selection of historic postcards from the Library Service Local Studies collections that depict County Kildare in the early decades of the twentieth century have also been added to www.kildare.ie/ehistory and to social media also. Further content continues to be added.

The first eight volumes of the minute books of Kildare County Council covering the volumes from 1899 to 1924 are due to be digitised. This Decade of Commemorations Committee supported project is to ensure the future preservation of these historic minute books, along with making them available to view and search for free on the Library website for researchers and future generations.

Local Studies, Genealogy & Archives continues to answer research queries. Family history/genealogy queries can be sent to:

cildaragenealogy@gmail.com

Local history research queries can be emailed to localhistory@kildarecoco.ie or leave a message on 045448351.

COVID-19 and the Arts

Riverbank Arts Centre

Following the measures announced by An Taoiseach, Mr Varadkar on Thursday, 12 March, the Riverbank Arts Centre will be complying with the directive to close from 12 March until Sunday, 19 April. This sudden closure means that the centre will postpone numerous events which were planned for the coming weeks. The Riverbank Arts Centre box office team can be contacted on info@riverbank.ie and this email will be operational during office hours throughout the closure period.

Arts Grants and Awards 2020

The original deadline of 18 March for grants was maintained, with appropriate supports for artists and arts organisations to submit their applications safely and within undue stress, given the rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19. While there will be some delay in delivering the grants and awards due to new Government direction, the Arts Service is committed to progressing the assessment process shortly, to support artists, arts organisations and voluntary cultural projects in the county.



Support for Artists

Many artists have modest incomes and rely on project work with communities, much of which has now been postponed or cancelled. The council will continue to support artists and arts organisations in the county as best they can.

Past Times Choir - Staying Connected

Choir Director, Ms Sadhbh O'Sullivan is helping elderly members of the Past Times Community Choir with an online singing a long. It gets a mention in the HSE Bulletin '#OurHealthService: Social Media illustrates creative and dedicated efforts of Health Service staff responding to COVID-19: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/our-health-service/making-it-better/social-media-illustrates-creative-and-dedicated-efforts-of-health-service-staff-responding-to-covid-19.html>

4th Irish Military Seminar Taking Place in June 2020

It is hoped that the 4th Irish Military Seminar will take place in June 2020, with the main programme of events taking place in Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 June 2020.

The Festival will begin in early June, with the launch of a new publication with a complete detailed listing of those from County Kildare who died in World War 1. Mr Ronan McGreevey of author, from the Irish Times will formally launch the book in Newbridge Library. The following week, an evening of short history talk featuring local historians will also take place in Newbridge Library. There will also be an event taking place in Celbridge in June, as part of the Military Seminar this year (details to follow).

On Friday evening, 12 June, the 'Irish Army Veterans' event will mark the 60th Anniversary of the Niamba Ambush in the Congo that took place in 1960 with a panel discussion. Saturday 13 June will see prominent historians deliver illustrated talks on a variety of interesting topics, including Strongbow, Lord Edward Fitzgerald and different aspects of the War of Independence. The full festival programme will be available shortly.



Digitisation of First Eight Volumes of Kildare County Council Minute Books

Following a tendering process, the first eight volumes of the minute books of Kildare County Council are due to be digitised in the coming weeks. This Decade of Commemorations Committee sponsored project is to ensure the future preservation of these historic minute books. The Local Studies and Archives Department in Newbridge also intended to publish the digitised version in pdf format on the Library website. These volumes date from 1899 to 1924.

Short Grass Film Festival

The Short Grass Film Festival took place in the Riverbank Arts Centre on Saturday 07 March.

An action packed programme of 25 short films were screened – documentary, experimental, drama, comedy and animation, with 5 premiere screenings, which were warmly received by large audiences. Many of the films had local themes – documentaries inspired by Mariga Guinness in Castletown House, an interview with renowned artist Mr Martin Gale and an introduction to the

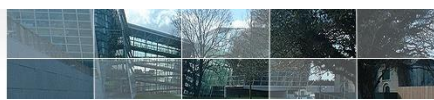
first supermarkets in Ireland, led by Newbridge man, Mr Mattie Melia. Others were topical, with themes of homelessness and depression, captured through the camera lens. A film by the Kildare Young Filmmakers was also screened. Locations used included Donadea Forest and St Patrick's College, Maynooth. The aim of the festival was to showcase Kildare County Council's support for film making in and from County Kildare.

International Women's Day 2020 - Lunchtime talk with Sue Rainsford

On 05 March, Maynooth University and Kildare County Council's Writer in Residence, Ms Sue Rainsford held a lunchtime talk for International Women's Day 2020, discussing the exhibition, Glimpses of Escape: your monochrome, my technicolour, currently on display outside the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.

Kildare Young Filmmakers – Screening at National Film Festival

A selection of films made by Kildare Young Filmmakers successfully made it through the qualifying heats for the Fresh Film Festival, and will be



showcased at the full festival, taking place in Limerick at the end of March.

Maynooth Film For All

The monthly Maynooth Film For All screening took place in Maynooth University with 40 people in attendance. A Bump Along the Way is a new Irish film which tells the story of Pamela, a free-spirited, fun-loving 44-year-old single mother who becomes pregnant from a one-night stand. Pamela is shocked! But not as shocked (and horrified) as her straight-laced teenage daughter Ally, who finds her mother's behaviour embarrassing at the best of times. A charming, warm, authentic film about family and

the unexpected challenges life throws at us all. "★★★★ ... the dialogue throbs with an authenticity that never gets in the way of the light comedy"- Donald Clarke, The Irish Times.



Water Services

Infrastructural Projects

Update – Covid-19

All construction work has ceased as of 30 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)

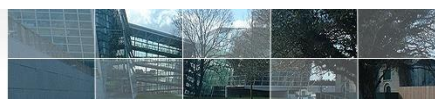
The contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on 20 February 2019 and it has a 24-month construction programme. Works are progressing well on site. Murphy International Ltd., on behalf of Lidl (subject to an Irish Water agreement), is laying part of the Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer along the route of the Newbridge Outer Orbital Relief Road between the dual carriageway and the Great Connell Road. These works are now substantially complete. All construction work has ceased as of 30 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. All sites have been secured and plant de-mobilised to the main site compound.

Contract 2B (Network)

The contract was signed by Irish Water and Coffey Construction Ltd on 08 August 2019 and it has a 30-month construction programme. Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. All construction work has ceased as of 30 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. All sites are being/have been secured and plant de-mobilised to the main site compound.

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 2/3, 2020. All construction work has ceased as of 30 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Operational commissioning is continuing on 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. Irish Water has also commenced engagement with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

Capital Projects

Kilmeague Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

The plant was commissioned in late September 2019. 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

Irish Water's consultants are reviewing the Design Review Report and preparing new land acquisition/wayleave maps for the project to facilitate the construction of a new pumping station.

Timolin WWTP Upgrade

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

Rathangan WWTP Upgrade

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

Water Networks Management Projects

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

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



Kildare Town Watermain

Rehabilitation Works

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

Taghadoo to Maynooth Watermain Replacement

All construction schemes have been suspended by Irish Water due to

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 Athy and Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Facilities are currently operating as follows:

Gallows Hill, Athy: Thursday and Friday only, 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Silliot Hill, Kilcullen: Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Both sites will be closed at weekends until further notice.

For the safety of staff and the public in preventing the spread of COVID-19 the following measures will be in place: contactless card payments should be made, where possible, the public should assist staff in complying with social distancing guidelines when using the facilities and minimise their visits to both locations.



Bottle Banks

Nine recycling bank facilities are now closed to the public, as the GAA and other sporting groups have been asked to close their facilities. This means there will be increased usage at the other sites in the county. Public updates are placed on the council's website and the full listing can be accessed at www.mywaste.ie

The Environment Section is working with the contractor to service the sites more frequently. The public is asked to telephone 045 980588/freephone 1800 243 143 to report banks which are full and arrangements will be made to have them emptied as soon as possible.

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, air, noise and water) should be made by email, phone or writing to the Environment Department. 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, please follow the advice of your 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 website at www.nwcpo.ie

National Spring Clean/Tidy Towns

The council has postponed the upcoming National Spring Clean Month in April. Many groups and individuals have already expressed an interest in participating in clean ups, so it is hoped to reschedule a large-scale clean-up of Kildare later in the year. In the meantime, everyone is being encouraged to play their part in preventing littering. The litter report freephone number is 1800 243 143.

The council would like to thank the many voluntary groups, businesses, schools and individuals who work so



hard to keep the county tidy, and hopefully the work will continue later in 2020.

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 Department will continue to process applications. These should be submitted by post where possible.

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

Meetings have taken place with the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding the prioritisation of works. A Steering Group with the OPW has been established to progress the consultants brief for schemes within

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 www.licences.ie

Environment Construction Projects/ Schemes

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

Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed on the emerging CFRAMS Programme.



Morell Flood Management Scheme

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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The Kildare County Council/OPW Steering Group has started 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 study is due to be completed in Quarter 2, 2020. The revised mapping will be used by the OPW to update flood extents in the catchment.

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.

Consultants are to be appointed in Quarter 2, 2020.

Kerdiffstown

Currently all works are paused due to the COVID-19 Pandemic save for a security presence to secure the site (security on site daily 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). Our team will continue to monitor the site remotely and only attend site if essential. Leachate levels were brought down to a low level in anticipation of the lockdown, however tankering may need to resume next week subject to weather conditions. The flare is operating normally and has been serviced recently so there should be no odour issues as a result. The Community Liaison Group have been notified and contact details have been given to them. The tender process is proceeding as normal.

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. It is anticipated that works will commence in late Quarter 2, 2020.

Newbridge Cemetery

Following the tender assessment, it is hoped to commence works on car park improvements in late Quarter 2, 2020.

Columbarium Walls

Derrinturn

Following tender, a contractor will be appointed shortly.

Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown

It is hoped to begin construction in Quarter 3, 2020.

Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

A sectoral training plan is now being rolled out. The following packages are now at tender stage:

- Elected members and senior staff (following pilots in Kildare and Monaghan County Councils) – tenders issue this week and the date for receipt of tenders is 28 April
- Climate Action Team (3 day intensive course) - courseware has been developed and is now subject to peer review. Pilot sessions planned for April have been cancelled due to COVID - 19 restrictions
- The ESTG Conference on Climate Action in Local Government has been cancelled due to COVID -19 restrictions

Other relevant issues are as follows:

- All Sub Regional Working Group meetings have been cancelled due to COVID -19 restrictions
- Work on developing sectoral level KPI's to be piloted in the Eastern Midlands Region is ongoing

Kildare Climate Action Team

A second meeting of the (reconstituted) team took place on 28 February 2020. The following key tasks were prioritised:

- Driving the 121 actions for the Adaption Strategy



- Initiating a climate awareness day within the organisation

Shortlisting has taken place for the position of a Climate Action Officer. The closing date for applications for Energy Efficiency Officers was 19 March 2020. The new Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) held its first meeting on 11 March 2020. Progress made with three Kildare Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) (Clane, Maynooth and Kilcullen) about to receive approval from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to complete Energy Master Plans. Work is ongoing to support others such as Monasterevin and Naas SEC's.

Tidy Towns Network

A Tidy Towns Networking event took place in Áras Chill Dara on 03 March. There was a large turn out from the County Kildare Tidy Towns Network members, who were welcomed by the County's Tidy Town's Ambassador, Mr Johnny Doyle. Presentations were made by Dr Fiona MacGowan and Dr Christy Boylan.

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 these 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

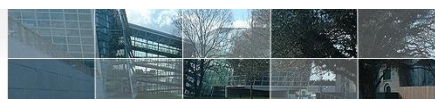
The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee. The council is in the course of putting together an expression of interest invitation for a Concession/Public Private Partnership (PPP) type contract.

Dog Pound

The dog pound extension and upgrade works are now complete. The facility is now full reopened. Public access is by appointment.

Rathangan Public Realm

The Part 8 will be published shortly.



Kilcullen Public Realm

The Part 8 will be published shortly.

Monasterevin Public Realm

This is now progressing to the next stage of design and the fee proposal has been accepted. A second round of public consultation is to be arranged.

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

A working draft has now been completed and was presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee. It is proposed to progress to a further round of public consultation before progressing to the next stage of design.

The Barrow Blueway

A Project Team has been established.

Management of The Curragh Plains

The tender for consultants closed on 12 March 12 2020.

Parks

COVID-19

All Playgrounds, Outdoor Gyms and Skateparks have been closed for use until further notice. All Park users are requested to observe the social distancing guidance when accessing Parks and open spaces.

Medieval Garden, Kildare Town

A detail design for the wall retaining wall which forms part of the plans for the medieval garden has been completed and it is hoped to tender

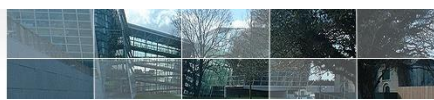
the works in the next 6 weeks.

Tree Pruning and Removal Works

A programme of tree works in the Naas Municipal District has been completed. Work is ongoing on similar works in the Kildare-Newbridge and Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal Districts.

Tree Planting Works

A tree planting programme for the county has been completed. A total of 2,800 trees were planted. This consists of a mixture of semi-mature



trees and saplings. 1,800 hedging plants were also planted at various locations throughout the county.

Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

All 2020 grant schemes have been advertised. The closing date for community, festival, residents' associations and Drecht grants applications was Friday 06 March. Two public grants information nights were held in February; one in Clane

and one in Kildare. Applications are being processed currently and it is hoped to have all applications assessed by the end of March. Lists of proposed grant awards will be presented for approval to each next municipal district committee at their next meeting.

Kildare Fáilte

Key activities February 2020

Following on from the Destination Newbridge Event in January after meeting with the facilitator a report was issued to all who attended including the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Manager. The next group meeting was scheduled for 02 April 2020 but due to current COVID-19 restrictions, the next group meeting

has been postponed and all parties have been informed.

Mr Mongey, the Chairman of Kildare Fáilte and Ms Mangan the Chief Executive Officer presented a review of tourism, activities in 2019 and key

activities for 2020 to full council. Great interest was shown in relation to tourism in the county and a Q & A



session took place after the presentation.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Athy Municipal District meeting at their request and answered questions in relation to motorway signage.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidelines were outlined and it was suggested that a review of all tourism signage in the county and a strategic plan for future tourism signage in the county be carried out.

Kildare Fáilte met and directed the Taste of Kildare volunteer committee in planning for the event in September 2020 at The Curragh. We conducted a site visit to The Curragh and met with Mr Keogh, the Chief Executive Officer of The Curragh Racecourse.

AGM communication was sent out to members in both digital and hard copy format regarding the AGM which was to be held on 31 March 2020.

Invitations were also sent out to Kildare Fáilte's networking and a communication event and a guest speaker has been booked. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the current situation this meeting has been postponed and all involved have been notified.

Kildare Fáilte attended Ireland's Ancient East Steering Group meeting with Mr Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Kildare County. Fáilte Ireland presented the accommodation Investment Strategy Toolkit and also one specifically for County Kildare.

Kildare Fáilte attended a meeting organized by the Director of Service, Mr Boland. A delegation was welcomed from Limerick County Council and Adare regarding the Ryder Cup which took place in Kildare in 2006 to assist with learnings for the Ryder Cup in 2026.

Kildare Fáilte met with the Chief Executive Officer for Carlow Tourism in Burtown House to discuss joint opportunities for the year ahead.

At the request of Fáilte Ireland Kildare Fáilte met with Mr Mark O'Connell - consultant for Sport of Kings VEDP and shared learnings from a pilot exercise.

Kildare Fáilte represented Kildare County Council at a Waterways Ireland meeting in Mullingar in



relation to the Royal Canal
Greenway.

Kildare Fáilte attended the
Shackleton Steering group meeting
in Áras Chill Dara and had a
meeting with Ms Annette Aspell,
the District Manager of the Athy
Municipal District in relation to the
Athy Town Plan to explore a
workshop on developing vision and
a plan for a fundraising for project.

Following a successful conversion
from the sales mission Kildare Fáilte
organised to Windsor in 2019 for their
tourism partners in association with the
Dublin Convention Bureau they met to
discuss plans for 2020 - year 2 out of
their 5-year commitment.

Kildare Fáilte met with the Heritage
Officer to look at plans for 2020 and
collaborating more in 2020 in a
strategic way, looking at best use of
budgets.

Kildare Fáilte continue with monthly
social media and PR agency meetings
regarding Quarter 1 and 2. Meetings
took place with a number of agencies
in relation to developing an information
brochure.

Meetings are ongoing supporting
tourism providers and members in the
county and meetings with the Chair of
the Board and Honorary Secretary to
ensure all correspondence are correct
in relation to AGM.



Local Community Development Committee

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on Wednesday 25 March 2020. Six projects were approved for LEADER funding to the value of €400,000.

COVID-19

The LCDC are currently playing a key leadership role in the establishment and support of the COVID-19 Community Response Forum.

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland in Kildare was launched on 26 February as part of the Kildare Sports Partnership “Back to Basics” seminar, chaired by Mr Ray D’Arcy. This was a great success with over 350 people attending the event held in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. All project partners attended. The seminar, organised by the Kildare Sports Partnership funded under Healthy Ireland, focused on the barriers and challenges of engaging teenage girls in sport through a panel discussion with four successful sports women. A presentation by Dr Steven Behan on physical literacy based on a

recent high profile study that highlighted the huge decline in basic physical activity by children in recent years. Talks were also given on volunteering and accessing funding. Those who attended were primarily teachers, sports coaches, sports group members and other interested parties from across the county. There was very positive publicity both locally and nationally of the event. This commenced the implementation of Healthy Ireland in Kildare

The next meeting of the LCDC meeting is due to be held at 10:00 a.m. on 27 May but will be subject to any restrictions in place at that time due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Work is progressing to roll out the SICAP Programme in Kildare. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme implementers and will report progress at the next LCDC meeting.



Heads-up (Mojo)

A full programme is currently underway in Athy, with recruitment taking place for a four-week Mini HeadsUp Programme which will take place in Kildare Town.

Rural Development Leader

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. Seven applications are being prepared for approval at the next LCDC/LAG meeting. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership- 045 89545.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

COVID-19 Measures

In relation to the recent Government announcement, the Municipal District Engineer's Offices continue to provide essential services as listed below:

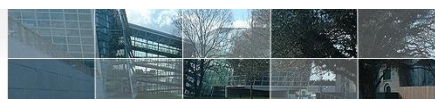
- Emergency and Winter maintenance
- Emergency call-outs
- Street cleaning

In addition the maintenance of the following essential services, is co-ordinated from Áras Chill Dara:

- Traffic signals
- Public lighting
- Parking enforcement (in relation to illegal parking)

Kildare Win Gold at Prestigious Community Awards

Kildare County Council in partnership with local access groups from Naas, Newbridge, Celbridge, Maynooth and Athy have been announced as winners at this year's All Ireland Community and Council Awards. The ceremony presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA (Local Authority Members Association) took place on Saturday, 15 February 2020 in Croke Park Stadium, Dublin. The prestigious awards recognise and celebrate community groups and councils working together across Ireland. They highlight the extraordinary work carried out within communities and reward unsung heroes for the phenomenal contribution they make throughout the year. With over 200 entries received, there were 24 well deserving winners crowned in the various categories. In the category for Best Disability Access and Inclusion Initiative the Kildare group came away as winners with their initiative:



Working to Make County Kildare Inclusive and Accessible to All

The initiative involved the development of:

- A County Kildare Access Strategy – a Universal Access Approach 2020-2022
- Rollout of Public Awareness Campaigns to raise awareness around disability
- Development of County Kildare Access Network – to share best practice and give guidance to local access groups

The wining did not stop there for the group when they were presented with the main award of the night, the Grand Prix Award. This prestigious award

was presented to the group as their initiative ***Working to make County Kildare Accessible to All*** received the highest average marks from the esteemed judging panel.

The Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, Mr Peter Carey said *“This award is an acknowledgment of the excellent partnership across many towns in our County, between the Council and local access groups, working together to make our county inclusive and accessible to all.”*



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 continued on the Newhall and

Osberstown Interchanges and the R407, Sallins Bypass until further restrictions were announced by the An Taoiseach on 27 March 2020. The site is now closed until further notice and the contractor is maintaining the



security and traffic management on the site.

for intervention that could address the aim of the project.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The 'M4 Maynooth to Leixlip' 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.

- Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) would develop the design of the preferred option from Phase 2 for further assessment including evaluation of environmental impacts; and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) would include undertaking the Statutory Processes.

The project is currently in the early stages of Phase 1, Concept and Feasibility (see image below), Arup have been appointed as Technical Advisors to support the delivery of the project through Phases 1 to 4. These Phases include:

As highlighted, 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 announcement by An Taoiseach for restricted movements the design team for the N4 Maynooth to Leixlip upgrade scheme have been working remotely

- Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) which would determine if an intervention (project) is required and if an intervention is feasible.
- Phase 2 (Option Selection) would examine feasible options



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 endeavouring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme as a prerequisite to the contract going ahead.

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 current health emergency is going to effect progress on the scheme as some of the Kildare County Council Team lack connectivity with their road design files when working remotely. It may be



possible to rectify this. The consultants can continue to work remotely.

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

With the current COVID-19 restrictions, the Naas Municipal District outdoor crew are available for winter maintenance, emergency and street cleaning works. The crews have also been informed of potential requirements in assisting the “Community Response” helpline – 045 980202.

Roads, Footpaths and Drainage

The Naas Municipal District has developed a programme of works for roads, drainage, footpath and low-cost safety improvement works for 2020. This is based on funding made available to the Naas Municipal District. These works will be developed to construction stage in the coming months (subject to the current COVID - 19 restrictions being removed).



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

The LPT/Carpark funded road and footpath works programme for 2020 is to be agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee. Subject to approval, this will be included in the Naas Municipal District Programme of Works for 2020.

Works Ongoing

The Footpath/Cycletrack extension on the Kilcullen Road, Naas (at Kilashee) to the multi-denominational school is currently at construction stage. This is being funded by LPT monies. The works are substantially complete and contractors off site due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Three bus shelters are being constructed in the Naas MD. One in Johnstown Village and two on the Newbridge Road, Naas (near Sheehy motors). Works commenced but were stopped due to the current Covid19 restrictions.

A contract has been awarded for footpath improvements to Sarto Park, Naas (Canal walk). The construction works have not commenced due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

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 their 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

All Kildare Fire Stations remain available. The service has a Business Continuity Plan which outlines the specific risks and control measure necessary to ensure continuity of service during the COVID-19 crisis. The Senior Officers within the service have been working in conjunction with the Senior Managers across Kildare County Council to develop business continuity arrangements for the wider organisation.



Health and Safety

The following risk assessments were circulated:

1.
 - Travelling in work vehicles, operation of mobile plant
 - Exposure to COVID19-in Graveyards
2. A checklist was circulated for completion by all remote workers/home workers to keep in line with the council's legal obligations in relation to working on VDU's (Visual Display Units)
3. Circulation of COVID-19 Posters and Leaflets

4. Reviewing Training Material around COVID-19

5. Working closely with operational teams to ensure the council continue to function in a safe manner

Kildare Civil Defence assisted at the following events in February:

- Assisted at Athgarvan Community Fun Run
- Assisted at Flat Out Duathlon in Athy
- Attend All Services Exercise in Waterford Cit

Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2019	Total Calls 2020
Newbridge	422	70
Naas	435	72
Athy	223	38
Maynooth	321	39
Monasterevin	181	37
Leixlip	240	29
TOTAL	1,842	285



Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2019	75	72
2020	11	17

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	1

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	18

	No. Planning File Comments
2019	455
2020	91



Building and Development Control

Building Control

The Building Control Section has been identified by Government as an essential service and the staff in this section have been ensuring that the Building Control and Maintenance System continues to be monitored and responded to. Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificates

continue to be received and processed. Currently the Building Control Section are only accepting these applications by post as all public counters are closed and the section is unable to process electronic applications.

The following figures are cumulative up to 29 February 2020

Building Control

Commencement Notices	2019	2020
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	71
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	71
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	0
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	211	40

Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2019	2020
Total Number of Certificates received:	646	66
Number Valid	645	65
Number Invalid	1	1
Awaiting processing		0
Additional Information		



Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	21
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Disability Access Certificates	2019	2020
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	122	16
Number granted:	131	25
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid		2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	11

Building Control Active Sites	2019	2020
Number of units inspected	1881	479

Development Control

Active Sites	At 31/12/2019	At 31/12/2019
Number of Sites with house construction	92	92
Number of Sites where all units complete but snags not complete	36	36
Estates that Require Monitoriong/Maintenance	19 (Ballintine Park – Waste Water Treatment Plant up and running)	



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

COVID-19 and Kildare Small Businesses

The Local Enterprise Office network stands ready to assist businesses to address the critical challenges presented by the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

The LEO understand that this time of uncertainty is concerning for businesses and want to assure business owners that the DEJI and the LEO's are working to develop and deliver a range of supports to business owners through this rapidly evolving situation.

It is LEO's priority to ensure that the service of the LEO remains in operation for as long as possible. They will ensure your constituent's enquiries are responded to as efficiently as possible. If you have any further queries, please email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie and they will revert to you as soon as possible.

Immediate Supports

Business Mentoring

The LEO are offering complimentary mentoring in HR and Finance for all existing businesses in County Kildare which is available at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/News-and-Events/Checklist-of-actions-in-response-to-COVID-19.html>

if your constituents wish to avail of this support. This mentoring support will be delivered by a Finance/HR Consultant via phone.

Business Advice

For all early stage companies, LEO's business advice service will remain operational and all appointments will be dealt with via phone. In order to organise an appointment free of charge please complete an [application form](#) and return to localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Micro Finance Loans Increased

The maximum loan available from Micro Finance Ireland has been increased from €25,000 to €50,000 as an immediate measure to specifically deal with exceptional circumstances that our clients are facing. If a business owner requires help, the LEO will work with them on the application to expediate the process.



Business Continuity Planning

A checklist of preparatory actions in responding to COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/News-and-Events/Checklist-of-actions-in-response-to-COVID-19.html>

Training Programmes Events and Courses

It has been decided that all training courses, programmes and events will be suspended until 29 March pending further notice.

Business Continuity Voucher

Businesses which are seeking support to assist with business continuity and preparedness connected to the COVID-19 outbreak, may be provided with a Business Continuity Voucher subject to certain conditions and criteria. This offer is in addition to the current range of business supports for microenterprises. Full details of this support will be finalised shortly.

References and Links

A checklist for business continuity planning has been updated in consultation with the HSE with specific references to COVID-19.

Please advise constituents of this document available here:

[https://dbej.gov.ie/en/Publications/Business](https://dbej.gov.ie/en/Publications/Business-Continuity-Planning-A-checklist-of-Preparatory-Actions-in-Responding-to-the-COVID-19-Outbreak.html)

[s-Continuity-Planning-A-checklist-of-Preparatory-Actions-in-Responding-to-the-COVID-19-Outbreak.html](https://dbej.gov.ie/en/Publications/Business-Continuity-Planning-A-checklist-of-Preparatory-Actions-in-Responding-to-the-COVID-19-Outbreak.html)

All Business Supports

Please advise constituents of the following page outlining all business supports during this time of uncertainty. **Please Note these pages are updated frequently as the situation progresses.**

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/COVID%E2%80%9319-Business-Supports.214093.shortcut.html>

See also, link to LEO Kildare website where more information is updated frequently, by clicking on the COVID 19 Business Supports Tab

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/>

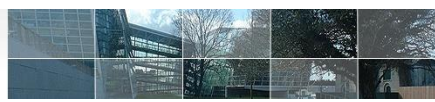
Important Documents

See below link Government supports for COVID-19 impacted businesses

<https://dbej.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/Government-supports-to-COVID-19-impacted-businesses.html>

See below link for public information on COVID-19

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/News-and-Events/COVID-19-Public-Information-Leaflet.pdf>



See below for FAQs for the Business Sector

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Portal/News-and-Events/FAQs-for-Business-Sector-COVID19-v0-1.pdf>

Contact LEO

The LEO also invite clients to fill out the following enquiry form and a member of the office will be in touch as soon as possible

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/contact>

Peter Carey
Chief Executive