



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 changed significantly as a result of Covid 19. Council offices are remain closed to the public. Council staff are focused on the delivery of essential services. While the offices are currently 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. The reopening of services and public access is being dealt with in accordance with the Governments phased return to work roadmap and the roadmap for local authorities set out at national level and changes will happen over the five phases in a managed and controlled way with all necessary safeguards in place. It is important to maintain discipline and follow all public health advice.

Outdoor staff returned to work on 18th May. A Covid 19 team has been set up made up of safety representatives and led by Michael Hurley, Health & Safety Officer to implement the Return to Work Safety Protocol. The business continuity group is working with all directorates on a Covid 19 recovery plan.

It is planned to hold the May Council meeting in the council chamber with a reduced number of members and staff to comply with social distancing requirements. A decision will be made at this meeting in relation to the arrangements for future council meeting to be held elsewhere if necessary to accommodate attendance by all members and staff while complying with social distancing requirements. MD meetings will resume on the normal schedule in the Council Chamber in June with social distancing measures in place. There continues to be interaction between the executive and staff of the council and the Councillors, to ensure that all efforts are on delivering services to our citizens and coordinating the community response. Members receive briefings on activities through the Cathaoirleach, SPC Chairs, and Directors of Services. Members reps continue to be dealt with throughout the revised working arrangements.



The dedicated community support helpline 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 continues to operate. The confidential phonenumber service established by the new COVID-19 Kildare Community Response Forum includes over a dozen agencies and organisations working with the community. 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

The helpline has dealt with 1033 queries and requests in the period 30/3/2020-14/5/2020.
See Appendix 1 for details

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/county council/coronavirusinformation/>
Protection from coronavirus – It's in our hands #ItsInOurHands #Covid19.



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Corporate Services

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 focused on the essential services which 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

New COVID-19 and Council Services Webpages

Information on services continue to be updated on the dedicated COVID-19 webpages, which also contain useful links for vulnerable groups, official information sources and links to the new Community Call initiative:

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

Finance Department

Rent Accounts

Kildare County Council continues to encourage tenants 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 KCC website

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/housing/HousingRents/> alternatively a form can be requested 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 has been completed 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.

There are **4,422** Local Authority rent accounts in Kildare County Council. Since the beginning of this emergency:

- Housing have issued over 300 rent assessment forms (based on enquiries received); Finance have issued a further 46
- Finance have agreed 111 reduced payments based on income details provided, which are subject to a revised rent assessment being completed. These are exclusive of rent assessments carried out by Housing.





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.

Circular 9 2020 issued on 10 April 2020 and provides guidance on approach to Local Authority mortgages. Kildare County Council has 470 borrowers with Housing Loan Accounts.

To date,

- 41 borrowers have requested a reduced payment plan
- 5 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan borrowers
- 7 converted shared ownership borrowers (i.e. these were originally shared ownership

loans, but have recently converted to standard annuity)

- 4 affordable loan borrowers
- 18 shared ownership loan borrowers
- 7 standard annuity loan borrowers (HPLs)

The reduced payment agreements (borrowers must continue to pay MPI), whilst a short term practical solution, are likely to cause difficulties and adversely affect the good progress being made with our Housing Loan collection rates. They will also have negative effects on borrowers as the borrowers need to make up the shortfall within the term of the loan – i.e. repayments will be increased.

Rates Accounts

A Deferred Rates Payment was announced by Minister Murphy on Friday, 20 March, and re-iterated by Minister Donohoe on Tuesday 24 March.

Customers who required their direct debits to be deferred had to rates@kildarecoco.ie and the following direct debit will be amended. Kildare





County Council is dependent on customers advising them of the need to defer direct debits as there is a requirement for advance notice of 14 days for KCC to make any changes. For clarity this was not a rates alleviation scheme involved at this stage, simply the ability to defer payments for a period of 3 months.

Minister Murphy on Saturday, 2 May announced two rates alleviation measures to help businesses deal with Covid 19. Circular Fin 06 2020 issued from the Dept in regard to these two measures.

The first measure was a 3 month waiver of rates for all business that have been forced to close due to public health measures from 27 March 2020.

The second measure is a Restart Fund targeting small businesses who have suffered a dramatic loss of income due to Covid 19. It is intended that this fund would recognise business who have maintained staff and would be linked to ongoing employment of those staff. Businesses will receive no more than

the equivalent of their 2019 Rates bill capped at €10k per business.

Further technical details on both measures announced by the Minister on Saturday 2 May are still to be issued to LA's.

Kildare County Council has 5,092 rates accounts. To date:

- 267 have requested a deferral of between 50 and 100% for three months.

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.

Payments continue to be processed and are being made within the timescales agreed.

AFS 2019

The draft AFS 2019 was submitted to the Department. This will be brought to the next available meeting of Council for noting.





Revenue and Capital 2020

Finance and Management Team are continuing to monitor Revenue and Capital expenditure.

However, due to Covid 19, it is likely that a number of businesses will be closed, or have limited opening, for most, if not all of the year 2020 and that others may end up closing altogether. Pending clarity from the Department re the rates alleviation measures, Management Team and senior staff are looking at where savings/cuts may need to be made.

These will, of course, be brought to Council if and when they crystallise for approval. This is unlikely to be within the next few weeks as there needs to be more certainty around the quantum of savings/cuts required and any supports from the Department.

Management Team is also looking at KCC own-funded projects. Cash Flow may require a prioritisation, and therefore a delay on commencement, of own-funded projects. Once again Council will be advised if there are any changes to the Capital Programme and expected timescales.

Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

Order under new Section 251A of the Planning and Development Act, as amended.

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government has extended the S251A Order made on 29 March 2020 up to Saturday 23 May 2020.

A Frequently Asked Questions document prepared by the Department was circulated to the members and

uploaded onto the Planning Department webpage with an associated Social Media post. This shall be updated if a new version is received.

County Development Plan

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





two informal briefing sessions took place on 12 March 2020.

Leixlip LAP: The LAP came into effect on 4 February 2020.

Local Area Plans

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: April 2020	
April	Year		No.	Total Granted:	51
2018:	151	1,601	1,026	Retention:	12
2019:	1138	1,452	1,883	Extension of Duration:	1
2020:	108	476	1,125	Total Refused:	6

Significant Planning Applications: April 2020

Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
19/1123	Lidl Ireland GmbH	(1) The demolition of existing single-storey Discount Foodstore (with ancillary off-licence use) measuring 1,746sqm gross floor space with a net retail sales area of 1,286 sqm; (2) The construction of a two-storey mono-pitch Discount Foodstore (with ancillary off-licence use) measuring 2,415sqm gross floor space with a net retail sales area of 1,650 sqm at Lidl, Athgarvan Road, Newbridge.	Granted	27/04/2020
19/824	Knoxpark Developments Ltd.	54 semi-detached dwellings at Kilcullenbridge, Naas Road, Kilcullen.	Refused	07/04/2020
19/841	Ardstone Homes Ltd.	Demolition of an existing habitable dwelling within the curtilage of Johnstown Lodge (a protected structure) and the construction of 33 dwellings at Johnstown, Naas.	Granted	07/04/2020
19/967	Glengolden Builders Ltd.	11 residential units at Four Seasons, Greenhills, Kill.	Refused	08/04/2020
20/143	Value Retail Dublin Ltd.	Amendments to 17/539 (ABP Ref 300795-18) (i) Revisions to the permitted car park including revised layout, location, levels and lighting plan; alterations to the car park access points; minor relocation to the internal access road; and the relocation and enlargement of the car park pavilion building to create a canopied structure.	Granted	09/04/2020





		<p>(ii) Public realm improvements at the entrance square and amended landscaping works;</p> <p>(iii) Revisions to the permitted service yards</p> <p>(iv) The provision of photovoltaic panels on the rear roofline of Units 61a, 61b and Units 105-115;</p> <p>(v) Minor modifications at roof level to Units 60, 93, 102, 105 and 106 and an increase in height (c. 1200mm) to Unit 61a;</p> <p>(vi) The removal of Condition No. 18(a) of the ABP decision 300795-18 relating to the holding of special events during the construction phase; at Kildare Tourist Outlet Village, Nurney Road, Kildare Town.</p>		
19/824	Knoxpark Developments Ltd.	54 semi-detached dwellings at Kilcullenbridge, Naas Road, Kilcullen.	Refused	07/04/2020

Strategic Infrastructure Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SID)

- Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506) - The oral hearing concluded on 13 March 2019 and a decision is awaited from the Board. According to the ABP website, a decision is 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 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 &, 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	03/03/2020	22/06/20
20/306826	Rycroft Homes	Boycetown, Commons West, (adjoining the Brayton Park estate), Kilcock	345	06/03/2020	25/06/20
20/307013	McCourt Investments Limited	Kill Hill and Earl's Court, Kill	167	30/03/2020	20/07/20
20/307100	Crodaun Development Company Ltd.	Crodaun, Celbridge	467	24/04/2020	13/08/20

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

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

Historic Structures Fund 2020

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





Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team Update

Concept

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

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

CBLX-Ardclough-Community Facility Phase 2-

KDNB-Kildare-Laneways Project-Included in RRDF Application submitted.

KDNB-Kildare-St Bridget's Well redevelopment-Draft concept received.

MAYN-Maynooth -Main St and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan-URDF application currently being prepared.

MAYN-Maynooth-Town Branding & Signage-On hold until funding source identified.

NAAS-Lantern Building--Yet to commence

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

Part 8

KDNB-Kilcullen-Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 Drawings being finalised

KDNB-Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared.

KDNB-Rathangan-Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 Drawings Received.

MAYN-Maynooth-Harbour Field Development-Part 8 documents nearing final draft in preparation for MD briefing prior to Part 8.

Tender Consultants & Design

ATHY/KDNB-Athy-Barrow Blueway- Tender brief being prepared for detailed design.

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 & TRP-Draft working document received.

CBLX-Ardclough-Health Check/Urban Design & TRP- Draft working document received.

CBLX-Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design & TRP- Draft working document received.

CBLX-Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design & TRP- Draft working document received.

KDNB-Athgarvan-Health Check/Urban Design & Town Renewal Plan- Draft working document received.

MAYN-Derrinturn-Health Check/Urban Design & TRP- Draft working document received.

MAYN-Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design & TRP- Draft working document received.





MAYN-Kilcock-Town Branding & Signage-Tender for detailed design to be issued once funding terms and conditions have been received

MAYN-Prosperous-Town Branding & Signage-Tender for detailed design to be issued once funding terms and conditions have been received

MAYN-Straffan-Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Draft working document received.

Tender Consultants

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

KDNB-Kildare-Curragh Plains - Develop Plan-Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process-Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Joint Tender assessment with Dept of Defence currently being carried out. MoU between KCC and DoD drafted for agreement.

NAAS-Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins-€1.7 million funding approval. Tender advertised.

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 02.01.2019

Tender Works

ATHY-Athy-Upgrade to public realm Emily Square-Tender docs for construction work almost finalised.

KDNB-Kildangan-Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92k funding under T&V Renewal Scheme

KDNB-Newbridge-Newbridge Library-Advisory role

KDNB-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.

KDNB-Kildare-Town Renewal Plan-Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.

KDNB-Monasterevin-Healthcheck and Urban Design & Masterplan-Work ongoing with Urban Designers.

KDNB-Newbridge-Creation Cultural Qtr - to include Part 8s for Library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square incl 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.

KDNB-Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan-Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into Town Renewal Plan.

MAYN-Maynooth-Harbour Field Works-Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. To be included in URDF application to be submitted.

MAYN-Robertstown-Masterplan-Work progressing well with architect in collaboration with RCAA.

Detailed Design



KDNB-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 new RRDF application.

MAYN-Kilcock-Community Centre-Pre-qualify main contractors December 2019-February 2020.

On Hold

MAYN-Clane-Main St Accessibility Improvements-On hold until funding source identified.

MAYN-Clane-Town Branding & Signage-On hold until funding source identified.

Construction

MAYN-Prosperous-Landscape enhancement, & Car park -Tender for Construction completed. Tender for Playground equipment currently being assessed.

NAAS-Ballymore Eustace-Looped Walk-works almost complete.

NAAS-MERITS--Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Official start date on site November 11th, 2019.

Complete

ATHY-Narraghamore-Complete-Completed

CBLX-Ardclough-Community Facility-Completed

Advisory

NAAS-Naas Library--Advisory role

Grand Total

€40,632,290

Climate Action Fund EOI:

Kildare Town – Cycling route and Pedestrian network/upgrade.

Naas – Cycle/Greenway Network

Maynooth & Naas Sustainable Urban District (energy efficiency zones)

URDF – Deadline 29/05/20 – possible projects:

Naas – St. David’s Castle – Cultural Quarter

Newbridge – Second River Crossing (detailed design/Part 8)

Celbridge – Second River Crossing

Maynooth – Harbour Field Park/Main Street.





Housing

UPDATE ON COVID-19 MEASURES

The three areas identified by the LGMA as critical services in Housing are set out below:

- Homeless Services
- Housing Assistance Payments
- Traveller Accommodation

Homeless Services

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.

Kildare County Council has made provisions for accommodation 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. We are working with our service provider, The Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT), and 10 units from KCC stock have now been set aside and are fitted out for the purposes of temporary isolation

(one and two bedroomed accommodation and two houses). A further 10 units have also been refurbished and are now available for use as either isolation units should they be required for this purpose or for general allocation.

The units are being managed by 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. We are also engaging with Kildare Civil Defence to provide support if necessary. An appointment-only presentation system is being operated 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 Update:

Year to date 268 HAP tenancies have commenced. HAP applications are being received by post and eventual sign-ups are completed either by post or email. Rent reviews due to Covid



19 are ongoing, as part of this process we check the affordability of rent top ups, the affordability of top ups is not emerging as a significant issue.

Traveller Community

The Covid 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 KCC Halting Sites and roadside families, no additional needs were identified on KCC 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 social work team are maintaining daily contact with Traveller families particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable. An information pack has been prepared and circulated to provide information on social distancing and Traveller support groups.

Traveller accommodation continues to demand significant resources in terms of both the halting sites and the

roadside encampments. The encampment in Naas was successfully resolved this week. Demands on our social work service is very high with a notable increase in issues throughout the County.

Other COVID-related Issues:

Rent Reviews:

Due to the employment losses and changes in working situations, a significant number of tenants have requested rent reviews and work is progressing. Covid 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't attend the office it 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 Local Authority for Housing Needs Assessment until after COVID-19 emergency

Response Maintenance

Response Maintenance was initially providing an emergency response service only has now returned to include most response tasks.

Planned Maintenance

Works to vacant units to recommence on Monday 18 May.

Capital Projects Update

Anne Street, Prosperous

Works currently suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work and expected to recommence on 18 May. Revised programme indicating substantial

completion on 17th June subject to both ESB and Irish Water connections.

Mountainview, Athgarvan Village

Stage 4 approval received from DHPLG for the award of contract for construction of 18 units but based on recent OGP guidance caution will need to be exercised before the award on any new capital work contract. Notice letters being drafted to successful and unsuccessful tenderers. The tender validity period may have to be extended on this project to allow time to assess the risk associated with the award of this contract.

PPP Bundle 1 Site at Craddockstown

Designation for this site as an essential project received on 17th April. Works have recommenced and initial 36 units due for completion on 29th May with remaining 38 units due to complete on 26th June.

PPP Bundle 2 Site at Nancy's Lane, Clane

Works currently suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work but works due to



recommence on 18 May. Original programmed completion date for 77 units was April 2021. No revised programme available.

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. A number of Stage submissions have been lodged with the Department.

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 KCC to contractors to complete this work.

Grants

DPG projects are only progressing where works are necessary to allow a tenant to return home from hospital. Housing Aid Grants inspections have recommenced where these can be

conducted externally. Applications continue to be processed and approvals are being provided, this is primarily in cases seeking walk-in showers and stairlifts. Occupation Therapists are preparing for a return to work in accordance with the Government's roadmap.

Leasing

21 leased properties were taken into stock in April, the leased properties have the benefit of being delivered to the council fully furnished. The properties are located in: Allenwood, Kildare and Newbridge.

Rent Pressure Zones:

The Athy Electoral Area was designated as a rent pressure zone from 22 April 2020, as a result rent increases are limited to 4% per annum. Please note that no rent increases can take place during the emergency period



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status May 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.
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 units	Reached substantial completion 9 April 2020. Inductions and keys issued to tenants 16 April 2020
In Progress		
Status May 2020		
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Works to recommence on site on 18 th May with latest reported completion date 17 th June.
Approval Stage 4		
Status May 2020		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Stage 4 approval for award on contract received. Notice letters to issue to tenderers. Award on contract on hold. Tender validity period to be extended.



Approval Stage 2		Status May 2020
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 th and 12 March 2020. Final amendments agreed with Housing to advance completion of Part 8. Original design team to be reengaged. Propose to commence Part 8 once Covid-19 restrictions lifted.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Award of Civil/Structural contract being prepared. Building services tenders to commence May 2020.
Approval Stage 1		Status May 2020
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 70 units	Design Team appointed February 2019. Revised proposal to increase density to 70 units under consideration prior to completing Approval Stage 2 - expected Q2 2020. Revised scheme of 70 units forwarded to DHPLG for consideration before submission for stage approval.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	36 units	Information submitted to DHPLG re SSF application - Q1 2020.
Carbury	5 units	Revised Stage 1 application for 5 units prepared for submission to DHPLG
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	33 units	Revised Stage 1 approval submitted to DHPLG April 2020.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	59 units	Revised scheme for 59 units forwarded to DHPLG for consideration. Expect to submit formal Stage 1 approval Q2 2020.
Caragh Road Site, Naas	TBC	Site is suitable for consideration for an element of affordable housing. Draft scheme for 71 units forwarded to DHPLG for consideration before formal submission of for Stage 1 approval.
St Evins Park, Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 1 approval received 5 May.



Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status May 2020
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Approval Stage 1 received. Proposed approval Stage 2 Q2 2020.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from DHPLG in September 2019. Proposed commencement of Part 8 once Covid-19 restrictions lifted.
Glandore, Athy	TBC	Stage 1 approval received. Approval Stage 2 proposed Q2 2020.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status May 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Designation as essential project received Friday, 17 April for completion of initial 36 of the 74 units by 29 May 2020. Completion of remaining 38 units expected on 26 th June.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Contract awarded November 2019. Commenced on site 28 November 2019. Currently suspended and expected to recommence on 18 May. No revised programme received.
Ardrew, Athy	50/60 units	Confirmation that Ardrew site included in PPP Bundle 3. Design brief for 50-60 units submitted to DCC as lead Authority for Bundle 3 for procurement of design team.



Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status May 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Part 8 approved at 24 July 2017. Contract Tender being assessed.
Tuath HA Castlifen, Sallins	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Work now suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions.
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. Feedback on initial proposals sent to Cluid.
Cluid 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 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 AHB.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status May 2020
KARE	3 Units	Part 8 planning application prepared and will lodge as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
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. Commenced November 2019, Currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	7	25
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	11	89
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	2	182
Total	255	379	20	

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

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
Feb	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
Sept	2	€305,000	0	0	1	€226,000
October	6	€1,207,100	0	0	0	0
Nov	8	€1,336,439	0	0	0	0
Dec	5	€1,091,400	0	0	1	€140,000
January 2020	1	€165,000	1	€220,000	0	0
Feb	3	€655,000	1	€170,000	0	0
March	4	€967,900	1	€202,500	0	0

	2019	2020
Total Approved	€19,692,336	€1,787,900
Total Drawn down	€10,160,922	€592,500 (2019 approvals)



Total currently committed in loan offers	€4,579,784	€1,787,900
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Extensions of 3 months have been granted to loan offers that expire during the Covid crisis with the condition that an up to date payslip and bank statements to be provided prior to drawdown. Confirmation of our annual allocation is awaited.

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	18	25	34
6 - 12 Months	22	35	46
12 - 18 Months	10	19	25
18 - 24 Months	6	9	12
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
30 – 36 Months	1	1	4
	57	89	121



Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 April 2020

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	2	3
6 - 12 Months	1	2	2
12 - 18 Months	1	2	4
18 - 24 Months	3	6	9
24 - 30 Months	1	2	3
30 – 36 Months	3	5	11

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Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library Service

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library Service

Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world. - Lauren Ward

Social Media Channels

Our social media platforms have enabled public libraries to provide

ongoing communication with our users about resources and services available to them. It is so important to keep the public informed, active and connected at this time. The libraries are a trusted source of accurate information for people and provide a huge number of resources, as well as links to other free amenities that the community can avail of.

Through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to name a few, our public libraries have been able to remain at the forefront of providing the most up to date information, whilst also



providing individuals and families with the skills, activities and educational content to keep adults and children fit, entertained, active, calm, happy and most importantly connected to each other.

Instagram

On the Kildare Library Instagram account 26 storytimes were posted in April. The most popular were a reading of an Eavan Boland Poem in her honour and a series of Viking storytimes, both with over 100 views. 15 Arts and Crafts workshops were posted throughout April with 1280 views, and 149 total likes.

Facebook

Our Facebook page reached 4,000 likes on the 20 April. There have been over 24 storytimes posted with a total of 8,153 views. An online book club has also been set up through Facebook, which has over 50 members so far and continues to grow.

Twitter

Kildare Library tweets were up 82.6% in April, with over 2,000 visitors and over 200 tweets over the month to our nearly 3,000 followers.

Library Blog

A Kildare Library Services blog was created by staff members to meet the needs of the public and is also doing very well, with over 670 visitors in April, from a total of 19 different countries with 2,235 page views. We've published over 50 posts so far including book reviews, reviews of online resources and craft tutorials.

New Innovative Approaches

Community Response Helplines

Community Response Helplines have been established around the country including in Kildare County Council by the Covid19 Kildare Community Response Forum, which includes over a dozen agencies and organisations. The helpline was set up to ensure a co-ordinated community response and to enable all voluntary statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities. Library staff are working in shifts at community call centres to answer the queries of those most vulnerable or in isolation, helping them to keep in contact with the outside world and providing them with accurate information. The helpline staff also pass on relevant information to groups that are working to deliver



groceries, medicine, fuel and other necessities to those in need.

Housebound Delivery Service

A number of public library authorities around the country, including Kildare Library Service have developed a free Housebound book delivery service for elderly and vulnerable residents who are cocooning due to the Covid-19 emergency, whether they are members of the library or not. A wide variety of books, audiobooks, large print titles and DVDs are available.

The service is co-ordinated through Kildare County Council's Community Response Helpline. When a person calls the helpline, they will be asked some questions about their preferred reading material, and a selection of five library items will be delivered to their home and collected by a member of the library team. Launched on Friday 1 May, it garnered 65 referrals over that weekend alone.

It is hoped that the service will provide some form of escapism to those dealing with challenging and isolating circumstances and help to keep them mentally fit and happy.

It has been met with a very positive response from both library staff, patrons and the media with a huge level of interest from those providing and availing of the service. It has really highlighted the importance the community places on the library service and the impact our services have on patron's overall wellbeing.

Butterfly Bookclubs

Another strand of this is the Butterfly Bookclubs for those cocooning. Books will be delivered via the housebound service to those that sign up and the bookclub meeting will be hosted on KFM, allowing people to ring or text in questions if they wish, whilst also raising awareness of the service.

eServices

We currently have a wonderful collection of over 400 eMagazines with a range to suit all tastes and interests from HELLO! , Ideal Home and Simply Knitting to The Economist, Rolling Stone and New Scientist and everything in between! Again it is no surprise that they have seen an exponential increase in usage over the



last number of weeks compared to the same period last year. Our social media team have been busy letting people know what is available but we have also had a short slot recently on KFM and advertisements in the Leinster Leader and Kildare Post we aim to let the Kildare public know about all the eServices.

Our music lovers who have signed up to our music streaming service FreeGal have played almost 4000 songs in the period. In Universal Class online learning we got 200 new registrations, 320 new courses were started and over 5000 lessons viewed.

More good news is that we added a couple of new eServices in March. We have now Transparent Language Online where you can learn up to 100 different languages and since its inception there has been over 280% increase in user registration from beginning of March – with the most popular language lessons taken, somewhat ironically, Spanish, French and Italian. We also introduced the Press Reader app last month where you can access local, national and international newspapers and magazines. In the last 5 weeks we

have seen 250% increase in usage of PressReader as people keep up to date on the developments at home and abroad. PressReader is not just news but also has magazines such as our very own Hot Press and the RTE Guide.

Cruinniú na nÓg Kildare - Saturday 13 June

Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people. This year events will be done differently, and everything is going online. There are many free and exciting events from around the country to join and take participate in.

Kildare are proud to host some of the following events: Podcasts from members of Clane Tennis Club, Online Children's Traditional Song Workshops, Mini Online Festival of Digital Creativity, Science of Ice Cream Making, Athy Sing and Sign (featured on RTE Home School Hub) and more.

Kildare's events can be viewed at:

<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/kildare/>



Local Studies & Archives Decade of Commemorations

An article on the cancellation of Punchestown Races in April 1920, submitted by Local Studies staff, was published in The Leinster Leader last month. The Liffey Champion newspaper will be publishing an article on the blowing up of Maynooth Courthouse and Town Hall in 1920 written by Local Studies staff in the coming weeks also.

June 2020 is the centenary of the County Council elections of 1920 and content will be added to www.kildare.ie/ehistory and to the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations social media pages to mark this event. The minute books of the first twenty five years of Kildare County Council are also being digitised at present, with the support of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee and it is planned to publish these online in the near future.

A new online exhibition in flipbook format featuring content from the

Éamon Ó Modhráin Exhibition created in 2016 will be available online in the coming weeks.

The planned Decade of Commemorations event in late April to mark the contribution of nurses in County Kildare over the past one hundred years was understandably postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A small exhibition of historic photographs of nurses was published online to acknowledge the contribution of nurses

<http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory/index.php/the-contribution-of-nurses-to-kildare-life/>

The Local Studies & Archives Department continue to add free digitised content to www.kildare.ie/ehistory including long out of print publications, newspaper articles and historic postcards. *The Curragh of Kildare Acts* of 1868 and 1870 were recently added, along with the long out of print *Lest We Forget: Kildare and the Great Famine* book.

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Facebook and



Twitter pages continue to promote the history and heritage of County Kildare.

Local Studies, Genealogy & Archives continues to answer research queries, although staff are currently working on the Community Call helpline. Family history/genealogy queries can be sent to cildaragenealogy@gmail.com and local history research queries can be emailed to localhistory@kildarecoco.ie or leave a message on 045448351.

Kildare Arts Service

Maynooth Film For All Film Club. Online

The Maynooth Film For All Film Club moved online for the second month in a row. This month the Film Club showed 'When All is Ruin Once Again', directed by Keith Walsh. Patrons could access the film for a discounted rate online. The film was then followed by an online discussion. This was the last scheduled screening for the Film Club until September.

Kildare Arts Service - COVID19 Creative Responses from our Writers in Residence.

Kildare County Council have commissioned this year's Writers in Residence Sue Rainsford and Annemarie Ni Churreain to write an artistic response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Sue's response titled 'false starts from Circadia' was presented in our online newsletter on the 27 April and Annemarie's will be presented at the end of May.

Writers in Residence: Call for applications

Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service and Maynooth University advertised an open call for applications for 2 Writer in Residence posts for the academic year 2020-21. The closing date was the 8 May and the successful applicants will be announced in the coming weeks.

Feature film, shot on location in Naas receives World Premiere online

The quirky Irish coming-of-age comedy drama Danny Boy, which was part



funded and supported by Kildare Arts Service received its World Premiere via the film's Facebook event page on Friday 1 May. Filmed in Naas and set in small town Ireland in 1981, Dannyboy tells the story of a young man trying to find love among New Romantics, Post Punks, Goths and other tribes.

Kildare's Dance and Movement Summer School / Dance & Health Seminar is postponed until 2021

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and to do our part in keeping our communities, artists and team safe and well during these difficult times we have made the difficult but correct decision to postpone our upcoming summer school to next summer. Our next summer school will be hosted from Maynooth University, Co. Kildare from the 19 – 24 July 2021.

'One Minute. One take' – Filmmaking competition for Kildare young people aged 10-18.

At the end of April, Kildare Arts Service launched the 'One Minute. One Take' filmmaking competition aimed at young

people from Kildare aged 10 – 18 who are currently isolating due to COVID-19. The competition will have two categories, one for young people aged 10-14 and one young people aged 15 – 18. All films will be screened online via Facebook Live on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/kildareartservice on the 13 June at 3.00 pm as part of Cruinniú na nÓg 2020, where the winners will also be announced.

Kildare's Cruinniú na nÓg programme launched online.

For 2020 Cruinniú na nÓg, taking place on the 13 June, will be going online and virtual. Cruinniú na nÓg has become a key point in the calendar for children and young people to try something creative, develop an appetite for discovery and acquire new skills – and 2020 will be no different!

Online supports and resources are being provided by the Creative Ireland Programme in partnership with Áirc Damhsa, The Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, Great Lighthouses of Ireland, Fighting Words, Whizz Kids Training and RTÉ to enable children and young people to unleash their creativity. In addition, Kildare County



Council are hosting a range of cultural and creative activities and online events for Cruinniú na nÓg from podcasts, to photography workshop and traditional song workshops and from environmentally-themed visual arts workshops and youth theatre showcases. You can view the 2020 Kildare Cruinniú na nÓg programme here

<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/kildare/>

Water Services

Infrastructural Projects

Update – Covid-19

Construction Sites are due to re-open on the 18 May following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions for construction workers.

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.



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.

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 Covid-19 restrictions until further notice.

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 pm



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

Recycling Banks

A number of recycling bank facilities are 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 council is working with the contractor to service the sites as frequently as possible bearing in mind the Covid-19 restrictions.

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued into April. In April 2019, 372 tonnes of glass were recovered from the recycling banks. This year, the figure is

571 tonnes- an increase of over 50%. Staff and contractors continue to maintain existing sites to an acceptable standard, but the cooperation of the public is vital in this regard.

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 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 In light of the current public Health Covid-19 Emergency, the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) has advised that no time limit applies to the collection of household kerbside waste for the duration of the current Covid-19 health crisis.

National Spring Clean/Tidy Towns

The council has postponed the 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 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 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.

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

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Issues underlying the Judicial Review have been resolved and the scheme can now progress. Construction of the scheme is scheduled for Summer 2020, subject to the lifting of current restrictions.

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The Kildare County Council/OPW Steering Group has started developing

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



The council's 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 tenders have been received for the main works and are currently being assessed.

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)

The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), on behalf of local authorities, and the GAA have announced a new initiative to work together to lead their communities in promoting sustainability and climate action.



A steering group composed of representatives from the local authority sector, including the CARO's, the GAA, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and the Camogie Association, have begun work on the development of a Green Club Toolkit, which will be piloted in 2020 ahead of the roll-out of a National Green Club Support Plan in 2021. The Green Club Toolkit, which will be piloted across a small number of clubs throughout the country. It will focus on the key action areas of energy and water efficiency, biodiversity, waste management and the use of plastic and transport. Sustainable club and community partnership projects include:

- Development of a sustainable club
- Sustainable club workshops

- Promotion and support of sustainable energy communities
- A sustainable development goal action module in the GAA/PDST TY Future leaders programme, with contributions across GAA/LGFA/the Camogie Association
- Association input at all levels of the mainstream education system (with the Department of Education and Skills)
- Green procurement guidelines and support
- Further developing Croke Park as a world exemplar stadium in a sustainable development
- Alignment to statutory funding streams

This partnership will capitalise on the leadership roles both organisations have within their communities and the potential they have to engage with citizens of all ages to promote sustainable local development, environmental awareness and climate action. The CARO has established a sub-regional working structure and meetings with 2 sub-regions have been completed, with the remaining 2 to be completed in February. This



structure will assist implementation of the adaptation strategies across each of the 17 counties in the eastern and midland regions.

A sectoral training plan has been finalised and approved following presentation to the County and City Management Association (CCMA). Funding for the sectoral training plan has been approved by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and Kildare County Council will lead on its delivery across all 31 Local Authorities and in collaboration with the Environment Services Training Group (ESTG), Climate Ireland, the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and other stakeholders and strategic partners. Pilot training events for elected members and senior staff were held in Kildare and Monaghan on 21 and 22 of January and these workshops will be further delivered to each of the 31 local authorities following the completion of a tender process which is currently at submission assessment stage. It is expected that, subject to CV19 restrictions, this training will be further

developed and delivery will commence in Q3 2020.

In addition to senior staff and elected member training, climate action awareness training has been developed and peer reviewed prior to piloting to a selection of local authority staff. This training is a three day programme and has been developed by CARO and Climate Ireland in collaboration with the CCMA, IPA, OPW, DCCAE, SEAI, Met Éireann and the energy agencies.

The development of 'on-line training' has also commenced and it is envisaged that this training will be piloted during in May / June and will be ready for roll out towards the end of the summer or early autumn. Scoping of training for outdoor and frontline staff has also commenced and will be subject to delivery in 2021 and beyond.

The CARO has also commenced working with the constituent local authorities in relation to the actions



contained within the Government's Climate Action Plan.

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 crisis.

The team is not currently meeting for the same reason.

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 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

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 2020. The tender assessment will be carried out jointly between Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence.



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 continued the Newhall and Osberstown Interchanges and the R407 Sallins Bypass until further restrictions were announced by the Taoiseach, Mr Varadkar 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.

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.

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:

- 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 for intervention that could address the aim of the project.
- 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



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 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 Córás 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 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.

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 works programme for 2020 has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee. These works will be developed to construction stage in the coming months (subject to the current COVID-19 restrictions being removed).

Works Ongoing

The footpath/cycle track 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 are off-site due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Three bus shelters are being constructed in the Naas Municipal District. One in Johnstown Village and two on the Newbridge Road, Naas (near Sheehy motors). Works commenced but were stopped due to the current COVID-19 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 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

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

Building and Development Control

The Building and Development Control Section has been identified by Government as an essential service and the staff in this section have been ensuring that the BCMS system continues to be monitored and responded to. Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificates continue to be received and processed. Currently the section is only accepting these applications by post as all public counters are closed and electronic applications are not being processed.

Health and Safety

Kildare County Council now have in place an Employee Health and Wellbeing webpage to offer support to our employees around maintaining their physical and mental health and wellbeing. The page is packed full of useful tips and advice on topics such as:

- Physical Health – Fitness Tips and Advice
- Mental Health- Tips and Advice
- Nutritional – Tips and Advice
- Online Resources- Lending and Learning



- Free Online Courses

We lead a Covid-19 Transportation Working Group, consisting of MD Engineers, GSS Supervisors and prepared a '*Covid-19 Recovery Phase Plan for Outdoor Work*' guidance document. The purpose of this document is to provide a standard methodology for working safely across all our outdoor operations in a COVID-19 environment. This document is seen as an overarching document which will sit on top of our existing Risk Assessment/ Method Statement (RAMS) Folder. Each of our risk assessments and method statements have been reviewed and

identified additional risks have been addressed in this document. Our document was written in line with the governments Return to Work Safely Protocol.

Following a request from the Health and Safety Operational Committee and with instruction from the CCMA Kildare County Council have agreed to be part of a small working group which will help in the development of operational guidelines to support the sector in restarting the various work activities in a phased approach in line with the Government's roadmap. Sixteen initial guidelines have been identified for recommencement of works on the 18th May.



Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2019	Total Calls 2020
Newbridge	422	133
Naas	435	115
Athy	223	72
Maynooth	321	81
Monasterevin	181	63
Leixlip	240	63
TOTAL	1842	527

Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2019	75	72
2020	18	16

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	1



	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	49

Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

This is a dynamic situation and the council are considering how best to process grant applications considering current restrictions under COVID-19.

Parks

News & Highlights

Covid-19

Designated hours for Cocooners have been provided from 1.30-3.30pm in our parks around the County.

Works on the completion of the Tree Works Programmes in all the Municipal Districts are due to recommence with the lifting of work restrictions. Exact dates are subject to confirmation with the various contractors.

Local Community

Development Committee

All Playgrounds, Outdoor Gyms and Skateparks remain closed for use until further notice.

All Park users are requested to continue to observe the social distancing guidance when accessing Parks and Open Spaces.

Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces continue as part of essential services. This includes grass maintenance and litter control.

Sallins Amenity Land

The completion of a tender to appoint consultants to prepare a masterplan is being finalized at present. The completion of this is subject to finalizing tender information and budgetary considerations.



The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via teleconference on Wednesday 25 March 2020.

Covid-19 Community Response Forum

The LCDC played a pivotal role in establishing, supporting and informing the Kildare Covid-19 Community Response Forum. The purpose of the Forum is to lead the co-ordination of Covid-19 community supports and resilience. The Forum have had seven meetings to date via teleconference. A dedicated Covid-19 support helpline was established on the 30th of March by Kildare County Council and operates from 8.00am to 8.00pm, 7 days a week.

Healthy Ireland

The Healthy Ireland project partners continue to make great progress given the Covid-19 restrictions they are working under. They are running a wide range of online activities from Work Out classes from home to Movement programmes for older people and those with limited mobility.

A positive mental health video series is underway, a physical activity booklet for older people has been circulated via local newspapers and a physical literacy animation video for children is being developed.

Pobal have announced the allowance of flexibility for change to the original applications in light of 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 they have submitted a SICAP Covid-19 Local Response Plan to the LCDC SICAP Subgroup for review. Progress will be reported at the next LCDC meeting.

Heads-up (Mojo)

All current participants and those from other programmes are being supported by regular phone calls and zoom. Staff are uploading resources to the facebook page to promote positive mental health. A Be Well pack is



distributed weekly to current and some of their past participants.

Rural Development LEADER

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. Seven applications were approved at the last LCDC/LAG meeting. Applications for the next LCDC/LAG meeting were reviewed by the LCDC LEADER Subgroup via teleconference. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership- 045 895450.

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 May 2020 via teleconference.

Kildare Fáilte

Key activities April 2020

Kildare Fáilte organised a Zoom webinar for members and tourism stakeholders to network, update them on actions and distribute and share knowledge of COVID-19 support options. Over 40 members attended and great feedback was received. Those who had not used the zoom meeting platform previously were

trained that morning and joined in on the call also. As a result of this and requests, we will continue industry based webinars to support the tourism industry particularly at this time. We also showcased supports and training available through the Local Enterprise Office.

We invested a large amount of manpower in completing the application for LEADER funding for a number of projects which include Development of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and a broad county Marketing project and a digital campaign for the county to help with recovery plans. The decision for funding will be announced on 1st July.

A design brief for Taste of Kildare was created, and the work for this has commenced. A number of meetings took place with committee members.

Kildare Fáilte attended a number of training workshops. One was organised by InterTradeIreland with regards to tenders. We also attended a number of Destinations and Marketing Online Summits internationally and shared this with our network. These summits and networks are continuously exploring the state of destinations today due to COVID-19 and the best way forward



from an international and National perspective. We also shared information from IATA which assessed the prospect for domestic markets due to COVID-19 and how they are planning for an eventual re-start of the air transport industry. We also shared a state of the market report on where Europe is currently with reopening the hospitality industry and the different guidelines from each Government.

Kildare Failte attended an online training sessions with Fáilte Ireland and linked in with our Failte Ireland contacts to share supports to the Kildare Industry.

CEO also represented Kildare on behalf of the local authority at a video meeting regarding Greenway in Irelands Ancient East and will continue to work with Failte Ireland on this.

Social media activity was very high in April due to COVID-19 highlighting the outdoors and beautiful scenery of Kildare to keep it at the forefront of people's minds. Also various blog posts were created to keep people engaged, including the ultimate Kildare history quiz, and also a post highlighting online shopping options available in Kildare. All these items received very high engagement rates through the social media channels.

A number of update meetings were held with the Chairperson and Secretary of the board and individual board members throughout the month. We continue our one to one calls with tourism and hospitality providers through this time and share information and best practice as it is now more than every they need our support.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Responding to COVID19 – Supporting Kildare Businesses					
Support:	Ecommerce Funding Trading on line	Business Continuity Voucher	Microfinance Ireland Loans	Remote interactive training workshop	Expert Mentoring Support
No. of businesses supported: From 16th March – 11th May	45 TOV grants approved since mid-March totaling €99,848.10	369 application processed since mid March Approx. 700,000 euros	15 In excess of 400,000 of investment in to Kildare SMES	Over 60 courses supporting 720+ Kildare businesses	79

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has left many businesses in Kildare facing into an uncertain future. Many businesses are facing critical challenges, including temporary ceasing of trading, cash flow and financial difficulties, critical staff continuity options and an uncertain future.

we have worked with all sectors of the business community through the following three phases

- **Stabilise ,focusing on support for remote working and liquidity into the business**

- **Reset ,Looking at new ways of operating and funding to take businesses online**
- **Restart ,Now a lot of our work is around support with Finance ,Health and Safety and HR**

RECENT UPDATES:

Return to work Safely Protocol

On Saturday 9 May, Minister Heather Humphreys launched The Return to Work Safely Protocol which is designed to support employers and workers to put measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The Protocol is to be used by all workplaces to adapt their



workplace procedures and practices to comply fully with the COVID-19 related public health protection measures identified as necessary by the HSE.

The Return to Work Safely Protocol document can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/22829a-return-to-work-safely-protocol/>

Note: Kildare Local Enterprise Office is currently offering expert mentoring and training support in Health and Safety to ensure Kildare businesses can reopen as soon as possible, whilst having the capability to adopt government safety measures. Additionally, in the coming weeks, the Department is due to release further financial support for the purchase of PPE and safety gear for small businesses in Kildare.

New Online Programme Open to Kildare Food Producers

An innovative new online food programme, open to entrepreneurs across Kildare has been launched to boost the number of Irish food start-ups. The Digital School of Food is the first of its kind in Europe and gives food entrepreneurs expert advice and guidance, from their home, office or kitchen. In conjunction with Enterprise

Ireland and Bord Bia, the online programme is an e-learning initiative that brings producers from idea right through to start-up and grow stages. For more information:

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

Call for Funding to Support Retail Companies in Enhancing Digital Capability

Enterprise Ireland have launched the Covid-19 Online Retail Scheme for retail businesses with more than 10 employees. This scheme is complementary to the Online Trading Voucher provided by Local Enterprise Offices for companies with less than 10 employees. Full details of the application process and eligibility criteria can be found here:

<https://enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/online-retail/online-retail-scheme/online-retail-scheme.html>

COVID-19: An Employer's Guide

The HR Suite in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland have launched the COVID-19 Employer's Guide. This guide is available for download here:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/COVID-19-An->



[Employer%E2%80%99s-Guide-Supporting-you-through-Covid-19.html](#)

Supporting Kildare Businesses Through:

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID19.

1. Financial Supports

Business Continuity Voucher -

Businesses may also be eligible for a Business Continuity Voucher worth €2,500. This initiative provides advisory specialists in fields including finance and HR to help develop a lean, robust business strategy as enterprises face an extended period of great uncertainty. As of 11 May, over 370 Kildare businesses have availed of the voucher. Kildare has processed the highest amount of vouchers across all Local Enterprise Offices in the country. Applications are available here and should be submitted to localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie. <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Porta/Response/Business-Continuity-Voucher/Business-Continuity-Voucher.html>

MicroFinance Ireland Loans

Changes have been made to the MicroFinance Ireland loans available through LEO Kildare. The maximum loan available through the programme has been doubled to up to €50,000 as an immediate measure to deal with the impact on micro-enterprises. The interest rate for loans has been reduced from 6.8% to 4.5%. LEO Kildare are working with clients on applications to expediate the process. As of 11 May, Local Enterprise Office Kildare has processed 15 applications. value of €400,000 For more information <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan/>

Trading Online Voucher

The Trading Online Voucher provides funding of up to €2,500 towards improving online training capabilities. This scheme is crucial at this time as it allows businesses to bring their business online. Recent expansions to this support means that now, businesses who previously benefitted from the Trading Online Voucher Scheme can apply for a second



voucher of up to €2,500. Another significant expansion to this support is that co-funding is available for 90% of eligible costs up to the maximum of €2,500 where in the past co-funding was 50%. As of 11 May, 45 Kildare businesses have been able to conduct business online through the use of this support.,Last years full total was 30.

To avail of this support, businesses must attend a mandatory information seminar. Where in the past these seminars were run every six weeks, to meet the overwhelming demand of new applicants, these sessions are now running twice a week.

For more information:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/>

Suspended Repayments

Local Enterprise Office Kildare have offered all clients the opportunity to suspend any grant repayments to the office for the next 3 months.

Repurposing Shop front Grant

Plans are in place to put a purposely to council to use funds for more

immediate use ,details will be circulated when finalized .

ShopCountyKildare website

A brand new website to support local retailer and restaurants etc will be launched

To allow every busy the opportunity to have a presence on line details circulated separately

Specialist Programmes

Health and Safety Expert Mentoring Kildare Local Enterprise Office is currently offering expert mentoring and training support in Health and Safety to ensure Kildare businesses can reopen as soon as possible, whilst having the capability to adopt government safety measures.

Online interactive training

workshops programmes – Kildare Local Enterprise Office have reacted quickly and pivoted and designed a suite of programmes specifically to support Kildare businesses through the current challenges and changes to the business environment for example, *‘Leading your business*



through Covid 19, ‘Cashflow Management in a Crisis’, ‘Preparing your Business for a New Economy’ an entire suite of Digital Marketing courses ect. From 16 March – 11 April, Local Enterprise Office Kildare has supported over 700 Kildare businesses through the delivery of 60+ courses. For more information: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Bespoke Sector Specific Programme

Local Enterprise Office Kildare have partnered with Business Consultants to offer a broad business solution to businesses in the retail, manufacturing, professional services and beauty sector to ensure clients receive the right advice and tools to Stabilise, Reset, & Recover with a Business Continuity Strategy. <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/>

Bringing Kildare Businesses Online

In response to the need for businesses to begin trading online, Kildare Local Enterprise Office has delivered a suite of digital marketing

courses to allow businesses get the most out of their online activities and successfully build and further develop their brand and online presence. As mentioned above there is also funding of up to €2,500 towards improving online training capabilities of Kildare businesses with co-funding of 10%.

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

Free of Charge Advisory and Mentoring Supports

Local Enterprise Office Kildare are offering free of charge mentoring in HR and Finance to all existing businesses in Co. Kildare. As of 11 May, 79 Kildare businesses have been supported in these advisory services since the beginning of the crisis. More information and how to apply here:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Kildare-LEO-launch-FREE-COVID-19-Business-Advisory-Service.html>

Communication with Clients



New supports are announced daily. To help with some practicalities and to keep clients informed of the evolving situation, the Head of Enterprise Updates are available here.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/HOE-Updates.html>

LEO Esign – Each week this Esign is sent directly to the inbox of over 3,500 Kildare business owners. This Esign features advisory articles around topics of interest such as cashflow management, business survival, government updates etc. as well as an outline of current and new supports. All elected members have been added to this mailing list. Please advise constituents, the sign up form can be found here:

<https://localenterprise.us8.listmanage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&id=87063fc48c>

Kildare LEO News page – The ‘News’ section on the LEO Kildare website is updated daily with articles relating to supports, government announcements affecting business, sector news and more.

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

Press and Online

There is a strong presence and a significant increase in the visibility of Kildare Local Enterprise Office and the supports available to businesses across the media both on and offline.

Peter Carey
Chief Executive