



## Chief Executive's Management Report – December 2020



### Christmas Wishes

The Chief Executive, Management Team and staff of Kildare County Council wish the Cathaoirleach and elected members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



### Christmas and New Year Service Arrangements

Kildare County Council will continue to operate essential and emergency services throughout the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Some services will be subject to restrictions, as per service arrangements on page 2.

Our customers are encouraged to conduct business via the following methods.

Online services  - <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/OnlineServices/>

Email  - [customer care@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customer care@kildarecoco.ie)

Phone  - 045 980 200

The Council's COVID-19 Team working with the council's Business Continuity Group continue to support Management Team to ensure service delivery in a safe and sustainable business environment across all council premises.



Thursday 24 – Tuesday, 29 December inclusive	Offices closed.
Wednesday 30 – Thursday, 31 December inclusive	Offices open – <b>by appointment only</b> . Exception: Motor Tax Office is closed Thursday, 31 December (Annual stock-take)
Friday, 1 January – Sunday, 3 January 2021 inclusive	Offices closed.
Monday, 4 January 2021	Offices open - <b>by appointment only</b> .

### Emergencies

Should you need to contact us in an emergency or if you need our services outside of our opening hours, you can reach us on **1890 500 333**.

#### **Homeless Services Emergency Number - Out of Hours (1800 804 307).**

Monday, 21 December	17:00 - 21:00
Tuesday, 22 December	17:00 - 21:00
Wednesday 23 December,	17:00 - 21:00
Thursday, 24 December – Tuesday, 29 December	12:00 -17:00
Wednesday, 30 December	17:00 - 21:00
Thursday, 31 December	17:00 - 21:00
Friday, 1 January	12:00 -17:00

### Libraries

**Library Headquarters and all main libraries: Athy, Castledermot, Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge by appointment.**



**Book an appointment at** <http://kildare.ie/library/OnlineBookingSystem/>

Thursday, 24 December – Tuesday, 29 December.	Closed.
Wednesday, 30 December.	Open to public 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, 31 December.	Open to public 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, 1 January 2021.	Closed.
Saturday, 2 January 2021.	Open to public <b>by appointment.</b>

For Contact and Collect arrangements for part-time libraries please contact your local library directly or visit the council website [www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library)

### Kildare Community Call Helpline

Freephone 1800 300 174

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

Text KILDARE to 50555.



Community Call transferred to Customer Services from Monday 05 October. **Current opening hours are 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. 7 days a week.**

**Contact details for general council services are:**

**Email:** [customercare@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customercare@kildarecoco.ie)

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

**Telephone:** 045 980 200.

**Out of Hours:** 1890 500 333

**Homeless Out of Hours:** 1800 804 307

For full Christmas and New Year Service arrangements follow this link

Kildare County Council's out of hours service provider has taken up calls outside normal work hours Monday to Friday and at weekends.



<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/PressReleasesAdverts/ChristmasandNewYearArrangements2020.html>

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





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## News Items

### **Prosperous Town Park**

Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public on Wednesday 04 December 2020.

### **Keep Well Campaign in Kildare**

The Cathaoirleach, Mark Stafford and the Chief Executive Peter Carey have welcomed the launch of the new 'Keep Well' campaign, by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD and ministerial colleagues (see page 67).

### **COVID-19 Business Supports**

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID-19 (see page 93).

## Dates for Your Diary

### **Riverbank Reopens**

Riverbank Arts Centre is delighted to announce its reopening from Monday, 07 December until 23 December (see page 81).

### **Look For Local Day Look For Local Campaign**

The LEO are organising a *Look For Local Day* on Monday 14 December (see page 86).

### **Irish Water Councillor On-line Clinic**

The next on-line clinic is scheduled for Kildare County Council members on Monday 21 December 2020 from 1:00 p.m to 2:00 p.m.



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## Corporate Services

### Irish Language Scheme

Kildare County Council's Irish Language Scheme for 2021-2024 is under development following the conclusion of the public consultation phase in early December. The Council would like to thank the public for their engagement in the process. Due to the high level of submissions it is now intended that the Draft Scheme be brought for the information of members to the January 2021 Plenary Meeting. The draft Scheme will then be submitted to the Minister in February 2021.

### Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2020

On 30 November 2020 Kildare County Council adopted County-wide bye laws to control the consumption and possession of alcohol in all public places. The bye-laws will be enforced by An Garda Síochána and will come into effect on 30 December 2020.

### Value Your Vote

There are 248 claims for correction in the Draft Register of Electors 2021 - 2022. The Claims (Revision) Court shall be held in Naas Courthouse on Friday 18th December at 11am.

The Claims list is available for public inspection at

- Kildare County Council, Head Office  
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare W91 X77F.
- Athy Customer Service Point,  
Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare.

It can also be inspected at Post Offices and in Athy, Castledermot, Celbridge, Kilcock, Kildare, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge Garda Stations.

### Members Services

The Full Council passed its 2021 Budget on the 23 November 2020.

At their plenary meeting on the 30 November, Full Council agreed to remote meetings and adopted revised standing orders to enable remote meetings to take place. The December meeting of full council will take place fully remotely on Microsoft Teams.



## Appointment Booking System

**Council offices and libraries are open by appointment.**

Details on how to make appointments are above. Most appointments can be made online here

<http://kildare.ie/county council/OnlineBookingSystem/>

The council ask that anyone attending please adhere to public health measures and follow directions when at the council offices, in the interest of everyone's health. The council would like to thank their customers who have used our online services and the 26,000 People who have made

appointments to use our services in the last 5 months.



**Remember avoid disappointment, make an appointment.**

On entering a mobile number and email address and making a booking, users get:

- Booking text/email confirmations with links to Council COVID-19 guidelines.
- A facility to cancel or reschedule appointments.
- Directions to attend the specific location of their appointment (to avoid queuing)
- Reminder text the day before appointment.

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



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## **Finance and Information**

### **Technology**

#### **Restart Grants Scheme**

The first Restart Grant Scheme resulted in 1,170 Kildare ratepayers receiving approximately €5 million in grants. The Restart Grant Plus Scheme which closed on 31 October 2020 resulted in 1,884 Kildare ratepayers receiving approximately €15 million in grants.

To date €20 million has been paid out to Kildare ratepayers under these two schemes.

A further 30% top up grant totalling €3.2 million approximately was also paid out to Kildare ratepayers in early November 2020.

#### **Rates Waiver Scheme**

A six-month waiver scheme was announced in the July Stimulus Package. At the end of October 2020, 4,046 Kildare ratepayers who met the scheme's criteria had a waiver applied automatically to their rate accounts which totalled €14.6 million approximately.

A further three-month waiver scheme was announced in Budget 2021 and at the end of November 2020, 4,048 Kildare ratepayers who met the schemes criteria had a waiver applied automatically to their rate accounts which totalled €7.4 million approximately.

#### **Financial Reports**

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).



## Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

### County Development Plan (CDP)

The review of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2017-2023 will commence in January 2021 with the publication of an Issues Paper. This will commence the statutory 99 week period for the development plan review and preparation of the County Development Plan 2023-2029. Ongoing work is being carried out in preparation of the development plan review.

### Local Area Plans (LAP's)

The Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) as well as a suite of accompanying evidence based documents (including a Social and Physical Infrastructure Assessment, Urban Regeneration Framework, Flood Risk and Environmental Assessments) are expected to be published before the Christmas break. The Draft Naas LAP is nearing completion and is now expected to be published in Quarter 1, 2021.

With respect to both of the above LAP's, consultation arrangements are currently being worked out in order to adhere to public health guidance and will, for the most part take the form of online consultation.

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: November 2020	
November	Year		No.	Total Granted:	91
<b>2018:</b>	132	1,456	4,140	Retention:	19
<b>2019:</b>	113	1,337	2,614	Extension of Duration:	1
<b>2020:</b>	146	1,462	2,681	Total Refused:	21



### Strategic Infrastructure

**Development (SID) Applications to An Bord Pleanála – Ongoing**  
Drehid Waste Management Facility  
(ABP Ref. 17/300506) increase in

waste material at disposal facility –  
**Refused** by An Bord Pleanála on 11  
November 2020.

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

Pre-application Consultation					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
SHD 202008	2	Briargate Development Newbridge Ltd.	Ballymany, Newbridge 348 dwellings. Access via R445 as permitted under planning reference 16/658.	348	Pre-application decision due 04/01/2021.
SHD 202009	2	Cairn Homes Ltd.	349 Apartments at Mariavilla – Phase 3 at Dunboyne Road, Maynooth.	349	Pre-application decision due 06/01/2021.

Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
20/226	Robert J Goff and Kildare Hotel.	3 storey 50 bedroom hotel, restaurant and bar at Goffs Bloodstock Sales, Greenhills, Kill.	Valid	Granted 07/12/20.
20/808	Westar.	Permission for 58 no. houses at Capdoo, Clane.	Clarification of Further Information	Decision due 09/01/21.



20/1066	Lidl.	Discount Foodstore Supermarket with ancillary off-licence at Straffan Road, Maynooth.	Further Information	Requested 11/11/20.
20/1098	John Gill.	Change of use of existing buildings from horticultural use to a materials recovery facility at Ballinderry, Carbury.	Valid	Decision due 19/12/20.
20/1143	Musgrave Ltd.	Extension to distribution centre at Boycetown, Kilcock, an increase of 12,785 sqm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted.	Further Information	Requested 26/11/20.
20/1166	Donnington Property Ltd.	Permission for 50 residential units at Derrinturn.	Refused	30/11/20.
20/1175	Cutbush Developments Ltd.	Permission for 12 residential units at Brownstown Manor, The Curragh.	Further Information	Requested 27/11/20.
20/1261	Patrick and Thomas Leeson.	Permission for 20 residential units at Piercetown, Station Road, Newbridge.	Valid	Decision due 17/12/20.
20/1284	Ballymore Newbridge Developments.	Amendments to previously granted permission 16/975 to increase the number of units from 385 to 395 at Roseberry, Newbridge.	Valid	Decision due 22/12/20.
20/1325	BNRG Neoen Holdings.	Ground mounted solar photovoltaic farm on a site area	Valid	06/01/21.



		of 49.74 hectares within Dunmurry Springs Golf Club at Dunmurry West, Kildare.		
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### Historic Planning Registers

The Historic Planning registers are now available to view online at

<https://esearch.informa.ie/kildare/>.

Users are required to register to use the system. This project carried out by the Planning Department and the IT Department will make planning searches easier with the indexes and mapping dating back to 1964 available to view without the need to visit the Planning Department.

Planning searches on more recent applications are available on the online planning system at:

<http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/public/planningsearch/171>.

### Section 254 Licences

As a continued response to COVID-19, the licence fee in respect of tables and chairs outside of a hotel, restaurant, public house or other establishment where food is sold for consumption on the premises has been waived until 28

February 2021 subject to compliance with all other aspects of the licence.

### Conservation Update

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has recently announced the following schemes for 2021 with respect to structures on the Record of Protected Structures or within Architectural Conservation Areas:

- (i) Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) (€2,500 - €15,000 per application).
- (ii) BHIS Routine Maintenance and Minor Repairs (<€2,000).
- (iii) Historic Structures Fund (Stream 1 €15k - €50k aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital

works and Stream 2 €50k - €200k for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures where



a clear community or public benefit is demonstrated).

- (iv) Pilot Stream for Vernacular Structures (not on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) or within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's).
- (v) Pilot Stream for Historic Shopfronts.

A public advertisement for the above, inviting applications for same, has been placed in the Leinster Leader and Liffey Champion newspapers.

The Kildare County Council Thatching Grant Scheme for 2021 is now open for applications with a closing date of 29 January 2021. A budget of €10k has been set aside for this grant scheme.

### **Vacant Sites Update 2020**

223 sites were surveyed throughout County Kildare in 2020 as follows:

Leixlip (10); Kildare (32); Maynooth (21); Newbridge (29); Sallins (12); Celbridge (13); Monasterevin (16),

Clane (17), Kilcock (8), Kilcullen (10); Naas (33); Athy (22).

Having considered each of the surveyed sites against the 'tests' as set out in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended), a total of 34 Section 7(1) Notices have now been issued to landowners. No further 7(1) Notices will issue in 2020. Of the 34 notices issued, it is intended to issue 7(3) Notices (formally placing sites on the Vacant Sites Register) on at least 12 of these sites. It is not intended to issue 7(3) Notices on 7 of the 34 sites with a determination on all remaining sites yet to be made.

The submission period on a number of these remaining sites has not yet passed. It is intended to issue 7(3) Notices on all sites in early December. It should be noted however that landowners will have an opportunity to appeal any 7(3) Notices to An Bord Pleanála.

### **Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2021-2031**

A report is now being prepared outlining the findings of the extensive public consultation exercise for this strategy, which included:



- An online User Satisfaction Survey (735 responses).
- An Issues Paper which received 55 no. submissions.
- Online workshops with Kildare County Council elected members, staff and external stakeholders.
- Schools and Sports Clubs Questionnaires.

The next step is to carry out analysis of the findings and prepare the final strategy.

#### **Department of Education and Skills**

Ongoing consultations take place between Kildare County Council and the Department of Education and Skills.



## Public Realm

### Public Realm Funding Applications and Other Items

#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID-19) Round 2

The Following are Almost Complete:

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Grant Awarded
<b>Ballymore Eustace</b>	Cycle Café	€27,500	€25,000
<b>Punchestown, Eadestown</b>	Cycle Café	€27,500	€25,000
<b>Castledermot</b>	Cycle Café	€27,500	€25,000

#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID-19) Round 3

Design work has commenced on the following projects, with physical works underway at Poplar Square, Naas:

Location	Total Estimated Project Cost	Amount of Town and Village Grant Funding Requested for this Project
<b>Leixlip Town Centre</b>	€45,000	€40,000
<b>Celbridge Town Centre</b>	€45,000	€40,000
<b>Newbridge Town Hall Environs and George's Street</b>	€45,000	€40,000



<b>Main Street, Naas and Environs</b>	€60,000	€40,000
<b>Main Street, Maynooth and Environs</b>	€45,000	€40,000
<b>Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council</b>	€11,000	€10,000

Special Projects and Public Realm Team

Those Projects with an Update are highlighted below in **Blue**

<b>Concept</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Athy Urban Design analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Not yet commenced.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Collaboration with AE on design of Academy Street.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan - Included in the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) application submitted 29 May 2020.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Maynooth-Town Branding and Signage - On hold until funding source is identified.
<b>Naas</b> - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.
<b>Naas</b> - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding source to be identified.
<b>Naas</b> – Land use survey and survey of businesses to determine the need for us of the Public Realm (queueing, outdoor seating, parklets etc) during COVID-19 now completed. Findings currently being drafted. Parklet concept and Public Realm social distancing requirements being reviewed for a number of businesses in Naas and Sallins.
<b>Part 8</b>
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents finalised. Part 8 to be published in January 2021.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated



carparking underway. Temporary closure of Market Square carp ark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.

**Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 finalised and will be published in December 2020.**

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

### **Tender Consultants and Design**

**Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works have commenced with almost 11km of the 48km will be completed before Christmas. Section 85 agreement with Laois County Council not now required. Advance Funding of €2.5 million has been approved and will be received in the coming week.**

**Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP - online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Athy Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.**

**Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.**

**Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.**

**Celbridge-Leixlip – Celbridge - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.**

**Celbridge-Leixlip – Leixlip - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.**

**Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.**



<p><b>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn</b> - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge</b> - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock</b> -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous</b> - Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan</b> - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process</p>
<p><b>Tender Consultants</b></p>
<p><b>Athy – Athy</b> - Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare</b> - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. The Paul Hogarth Company has been appointed and project inception meeting was held on 26 June. A joint site visit took place on 02 September.</p>
<p><b>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway</b> - Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design is now commencing. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in early 2021 and will take 9 months to complete.</p>
<p><b>Athy- Ballitore</b> - 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. Onsite meeting with the Tanyard Committee being scheduled.</p>
<p><b>Tender Works</b></p>
<p><b>Athy – Athy</b> - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>



<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan</b> - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge</b> - Newbridge Library – Part 8 and detailed designed being prepared.</p>
<p><b>Design</b></p>
<p><b>Athy – Athy</b> - Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare</b> - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin</b> - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with urban designers. Meeting with key landowners (Cassidy Distillery Buildings) held 22 July 2020. Draft document under review. Public consultation will recommence in Jan 2021.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge</b> - Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge</b> - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth</b> - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Included in URDF application submitted on 29 May 2020.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown</b> - Masterplan - Plan finalised with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA). Masterplan published on K website. Town and Village application submitted for carpark and planning applications for phase 1.</p>
<p><b>Detailed Design</b></p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare</b> - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for a local authority led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>



**Clane-Maynooth** - Kilcock-Community Centre. 5 no. tenders received. Tender report to be considered by Bawnogues Steering Group on 17 December 2020.

**On Hold**

**Clane-Maynooth – Clane** - Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - on hold. Town and Village funding application submitted.

**Clane-Maynooth – Clane** -Town Branding and Signage - on hold until funding source identified.

**Construction**

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

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

**Complete**

**Athy – Narraghamore** - Completed.

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

**Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December 2020.**

**Housing**

**COVID-19 Update**

**Homeless Services**

Engagement with the Mid East Regional Homeless Local Authorities (Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is



continuing, in addition to fortnightly engagement with the national leads for homelessness through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DLGH). Presentations of single adults continues to be a challenge however, progress is being made in moving individuals and families on from private emergency accommodation through allocations and through the work of the Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Placefinder service. The incidence of COVID-19 in Homeless Services nationally remains very low and this is also the case in Kildare and the Mid East Region. Kildare County Council continues to have 8 isolation units available for use should the need

arise. The Cold Weather Initiative was commenced in Kildare on 30 October

with 24 bed spaces available, and currently in use by those in need, and in particular rough sleepers.

### **Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage visits Naas**



Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Councillor Mark Stafford, Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, Mr Darragh O'Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Councillor Fintan Brett Mayor of the Naas Municipal District and Ms A Aspell, Director of Service for Housing and Corporate Services.

The Minister for Housing, Mr Darragh O'Brien, TD, visited the Eustace Demense (Public Private Partnership) PPP housing development in Naas on Friday 27 November 2020.

The 74 units have been delivered and the scheme is now fully occupied with one unit undergoing modification works.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status December 2020
<b>Completed</b>		
Anne Street Prosperous.	12 units	Complete July 2020.
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village.	18 units	Retendered. Tender return date 16 December 2020.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3).	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Workshop meetings with residents took place 11 and 12 March 2020. Final amendments agreed with Housing to advance completion of Part 8. Original design team briefed and amended fee being agreed to develop scheme to Part 8.
Coill Dubh.	10 units	Architectural and quantity surveyor services being provided in-house. Building Services Engineering and Civil/Structural Engineering consultants appointed. Preparation of tender documents commenced.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin.	16 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) Quarter 1, 2021.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge.	37 units	Tender for design team being prepared to progress scheme to Part 8.
Dispensary Site Carbury.	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultants tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		<b>Status December 2020</b>



Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units	Tender assessment for appointment of design being completed.
Ambassador Site, Kill.	35 units	Tender for appointment of design team received 26 November 2020.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	57 units	Stage 1 approval received 30 November 2020
Caragh Road, Naas.	73 units	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 4, 2020.
Group Housing Andrew, Athy.	5 units	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 4, 2020.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status December 2020
Newtown House, Leixlip.	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received April 2020. Part 8 application in preparation with launch anticipated in Quarter 4, 2020.
Narraghmore.	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from the DHLGH in September 2019. Part 8 launched Thursday 10/12/2020
Glandore, Athy.	4 units	Stage 1 Approval received from the DHLGH in September 2019.
Patrician Ave, Naas.	1 unit	Brief being finalised with Housing to allow Stage 1 application to be prepared.
Shamrock Stores.	1 unit	Stage 1 application being prepared
Iniscarra, Athy.	4 units	Survey work complete. Brief to be agreed with Housing.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status December 2020
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Craddockstown Road, Naas.	74 units	74 units complete (36 in June, 38 in August)
Nancy's Lane, Clane.	77 units	Completion expected Quarter 2/Quarter 3, 2021. Revised programme to be advised.
Andrew, Athy.	50/60 units	Design team appointed and initial design proposal circulated for comment.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status December 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy.	35 units	Transfer of site to Respond has concluded and Respond are in the process of concluding their contract with MDY Construction with a commencement notice scheduled to lodge week commencing 14 December 2020.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins.	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Due for completion Quarter 3, 2021.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip.	24 units	Tender issued for design team. Feasibility issued to Kildare County Council for comment.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas.	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Cluid is tendering for appointment of design team.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status December 2020
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KARE.	3 Units Craddockstown	Part 8 planning application prepared and will be lodged Quarter 4, 2020.
Camphill Communities of Ireland.	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG.	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	Due for completion Quarter 1, 2021.
Sofia Housing.	35 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	Revised proposal to increase development from 28 to 35 units received from Sophia Housing.
Cluid.	29 units Dominican Lands Athy	Stage 1 Approval received July 2020. Design team appointed and initial design proposal received.
The Peter McVerry Trust.	5 units Sallins	Stage1 and 2 being assessed by architects prior to submission to the DHLGH.

### Acquisitions January – December 2020

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	26	19
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	79	88
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	32	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>197</b>

Acquisitions by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge- Leixlip	Clane- Maynooth	Kildare- Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions YTD	15	3	25	59	35
Leased Properties YTD (includes AHBs)	8	1	6	19	0

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans



2020	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawn Down Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
January	1	€165,000	1	€220,000	0	0
February	3	€655,000	1	€170,000	0	0
March	4	€967,900	1	€202,500	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	1	€237,800	0	0
June	1	€158,000	2	€319,500	0	0
July	0	0	3	€385,865	0	0
August	0	0	1	€30,645	0	0
September	5	€1,151,650	1	€165,300	5	€965,239
October	3	€620,500	4	€775,900	1	€245,000
November	8	€1,558,650	1	€286,468	0	0

	2019	2020
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>€19,692,336</b>	<b>€5,563,468</b> (includes 2019 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€10,160,922	<b>€2,793,978</b> (includes 2019 approvals)

### Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA)

The 2020 SSHA has been completed and submitted.

### Rental Standards Inspections

In accordance with Local Government Agency (LGMA) Guidance and following the lifting of Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions the inspection of

occupied properties can now resume. During the Level 5 period inspectors completed work on the inspection of properties for inclusion in the leasing programme.

### Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)



Year to date, a total of 640 HAP tenancies have been created, this is the fifth highest number nationally. As a result of processing improvements,

the turnaround time for HAP files has been reduced to 3-4 weeks.

**Families in Private Emergency Accommodation including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 November 2020**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	23	34	39
6 - 12 Months	5	6	8
12 - 18 Months	11	19	26
18 - 24 Months	6	11	17
24 - 30 Months	5	9	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>101</b>



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

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	0	0	0
6 - 12 Months	1	1	4
12 - 18 Months	3	7	6
18 - 24 Months	1	2	4
24 - 30 Months	2	4	6
30 – 36 Months	0	0	0
36 – 42 Months	3	5	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>



## Water Services

### Infrastructural Projects

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

This contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on 20 February 2019 and it had a 24-month construction programme. The works are currently being commissioned. The sewerage network is due to be handed over to operations by the end of Quarter 1, 2021 while the pumping stations will be operated by the contractor for a 12 month proving period before being handed over to operations.

Murphy International Ltd., on behalf of Lidl (subject to an Irish Water agreement), has laid part of the Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer along the route of the Newbridge Outer Orbital Relief Road between the dual carriageway and the Great Connell Road. These works are now being commissioned before being handed over to operations.

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

This contract was signed by Irish Water and Coffey Construction Ltd on 08 August 2019 and it has a 30-month construction programme. Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well.

The current major network improvement works are continuing on the Clane Rising Main adjacent to Alexander Bridge in Clane where the contractor is directionally drilling under the River Liffey to connect the pipelines either side of the river. Works have been completed on the R445, Newbridge Road in Naas and the contractor has moved into Pacelli Road/St. Martin's Avenue housing area to replace further sections of gravity sewer. In Newbridge, pipeline works continue on the L7037, Standhouse Road and Páirc Mhuire Housing Estates.

#### **Foul Pumping Station**

upgrade/improvement works are continuing at Sallins Pumping Station (additional storm tank/new foul pumps and controls), Clane Pumping Station (new pumping station under construction) and Monread Pumping



Station (new pumping station under construction).

### **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 4, 2020. Operational commissioning is continuing at the Thermal Hydrolysis Process Plant. The Exely's THP is intended to be fully operational by the end of Quarter 1, 2021.

### **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 WWTP. This project is at planning and detailed design stage. Site investigation works are due to be

completed on public roads and in private lands in early December. Irish Water is negotiating with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

## **Capital Projects**

### **Kilmeague WWTP Upgrade**

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

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

While funding constraints have emerged on the part of Irish Water in light of the current COVID-19 crisis, the council continues to work with the utility to progress a temporary solution which involves:

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



- In order to progress the agreed temporary solution to negate the need for ongoing tankering, Irish Water is currently seeking to

acquire the land needed to develop the new foul pumping station at the buffer tank site.

- This will then allow Irish Water/Kildare County Council operations to construct the temporary solution to install a temporary foul pumping station at this location which will pump into the existing gravity sewerage system at Powerstation Road and on to the Allenwood WWTP for treatment and disposal.
- It is hoped that the land acquisition can be finalised reasonably quickly so that these works can be completed in Quarter 1, 2021 and deliver expected cost savings.

The benefits of the above would be elimination of the need for tankering. Accordingly, as there are expected to be cost savings, it is still anticipated that these works will progress,

and the members will be kept informed. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-term solution.

### **Timolin WWTP Upgrade**

This project has been included in the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (STVGP) which will be subject to Irish Water approval. Irish Water agreed to the priority list submitted by the council following a workshop held recently. This scheme was ranked high in the council's priority list due to commitment made to locals and public representatives in 2017 and the approval of planning process Part 8. Irish Water need to hold workshops with the rest of the local authorities before they progress the council's priority list.



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## **Water Networks Management Projects**

### **Newbridge Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works**

#### **Pairc Mhuire, Newbridge Back Yard Services Scheme (BYSS)**

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme. Permanent road reinstatement works are now complete. It is expected that works regarding the decommissioning of the old watermains will commence in 2021.

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

#### **Academy Street/Cleamore Road**

All service connections along this route have now been transferred from cast iron mains to UPVC mains. The decommissioning of the existing cast iron main along Academy Street/Cleamore Road is now expected to commence in 2021.

#### **Lourdesville BYSS**

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme. The decommissioning of the existing Cast Iron Mains in Lourdesville is now expected to commence in 2021.

#### **Campion Crescent BYSS**

All necessary customer consent has now been obtained. Decommissioning works have still to be completed, this work will commence when all consent from customers in Assumpta Villas have been provided.

#### **Assumpta Villas BYSS**

There are currently 4 premises whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained throughout Assumpta Villas. Private side service connection works need to be carried out on each of the remaining properties prior to decommissioning works commencing in both Assumpta Villas and Campion Crescent.



### **Rowanville BYSS**

There is currently 1 property remaining within this scheme, whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained. Decommissioning works have yet to commence. This work will commence once consent from the final customer has been provided and the properties service connection is installed.

### **St. Patrick's Terrace, Naas BYSS**

Works will be carried out as part of Irish Water's Stimulus Package. This scheme involves the installation of 115 metres of new watermain together with associated assets on St Patrick's Terrace, Naas. The works also include the transferring of all existing service connections from the existing cast iron watermain to a new HDPE watermain within the public road. Construction works commenced on 02 November 2020. This scheme was successfully completed on 23 November 2020.

### **Irish Water Updates**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage recently launched a Stimulus Package which includes a €30 million fund allocated to the Water Conservation Programme and €13 million for capital maintenance. Minister O'Brien stated that "It will lead to activity across all 26 counties addressing leakage, water scarcity and drought."

Irish Water recommenced Councillor Clinics in September. They are held online for approximately one hour and the next one scheduled for Kildare County Council members is 21 December 2020.



## Environment Services

### COVID-19

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

### Civic Amenity Facilities

The opening hours for the two civic amenity sites have now returned to normal pre-COVID-19 arrangements.

Members of the public are asked to continue to prioritise payment by contactless cards and to exercise social distancing at all times onsite.

<https://www.aesirl.ie/civic-amenities/>

### Civic Amenity Site – Silliot Hill

The Environment Section organised a successful 'mattress amnesty day' at the Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Site (Kilcullen) on Wednesday, 30 September. Almost 1,000 mattresses were taken for recycling on the day, with the total cost of the Amnesty coming to just over €15,000.

The event was supported under the Anti-Dumping Initiative by the Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment

(DCCAE) in co-operation with local authorities and the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities WERLA's.

The public are fully informed through the Council's website and Facebook page that mattresses are still accepted for recycling at both the Athy and Silliot Hill facilities on a year-round basis (Fee: single €20, double €30).

### Recycling Banks

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued through to November. In 2019, 338 tonnes of glass were recovered in this month from the recycling banks. This year, for the same month, the figure is 441 tonnes – a continued increase of over 20%. Staff and contractors continue to maintain existing sites to an acceptable standard, but the co-operation of the public is vital in this regard.

### Christmas Tree Recycling

The Athy and Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Centres will open over the Christmas and New Year period. Christmas tree recycling will be facilitated in Athy, Clane, Naas and Newbridge from



Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
January.

Details are being advertised in press  
and social media.

### **Burial Grounds**

All the council's cemeteries remain  
open to the public. The HSE's social  
distancing guidelines should be  
observed when visiting cemeteries.

### **Environment Complaints**

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

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

Domestic and commercial waste  
collections are continuing as normal.  
Domestic waste collectors have  
however been granted permission by  
the NWCPO to carry out collections  
outside of their conditioned WC hours  
due to Covid restrictions.

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

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

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

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

### **Environmental Education**

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



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

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

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

### **Dog Control/Dog Pound**

The Dog Warden Service is promoting responsible dog ownership this Christmas – *‘Be a responsible dog owner this Christmas’*.



The service is now operating as normal, subject to the public visiting the Pound by appointment only.

Dog Licences should be purchased online, where possible at

[www.licences.ie](http://www.licences.ie)

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

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

### **Draft Litter Management Plan**

The Draft Litter Management Plan is currently under consideration by the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

### **New Initiatives**

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

Covid has delayed promotion of this scheme in 2020 given the varying levels of restrictions throughout the year. The scheme is being revised with a greater focus on it being a community-based activity that can be done while social distancing. Sixteen groups have signed up to this scheme so far in 2020 and a total of 800 saplings have been planted by the groups. It is a voluntary litter removal scheme for rural areas that has also become a good biodiversity project with native species such as holly, hazel, spindle and alder buckthorn being planted into Kildare hedgerows



by the participants. It is hoped the scheme will gain momentum early next year, particularly as it is difficult to plan for the National Spring Clean given that it typically involves larger groups of people.

### **Civic Amenity Site North**

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. The process of procuring a consultant, subject to funding is being progressed. Tenders are on OJEU/Etenders with a tender return date of 11 January 2021. The project is likely to be progressed as a Design Build Operate Finance Concession Contract.

### **Anti-Dumping Campaign**

The council is participating in a recently announced national Anti-Dumping Initiative campaign beginning in December. This campaign consists of multiple social media posts with the message:

“Your Country/County/Town/Village-Your Waste? Let’s all Take Responsibility #stopillegaldumping.”



### **Air Quality and Ban on Smoky Coal**

Under the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012-2016 it is illegal to burn bituminous or “smoky” coal and other prohibited fuels within specified areas or Low Smoke Zones (LSZ’s). In County Kildare there are currently LSZ’s in Newbridge/Athgarvan, Maynooth/Celbridge/Leixlip and Naas/Sallins. A local media campaign is being undertaken in December by the Environment Section.



Liffey Champion 15x3 111mm  
Nationalist 15x3 98mm

AC

General information about the ban, including PDF maps of the Low Smoke Zones in which it applies, is now available at

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/26f183-environmental-policy/#air-quality>

Air pollution complaints under the regulations should be reported to the Environment Department 045-980588.

## Catchment Flooding

### Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

Meetings have taken place with the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding the prioritisation of works. A Steering Group with the OPW has been established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the CFRAMs Programme commence.

### Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of the scheme is now underway, beginning with Phase 1 embankments and walls.

### Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

### Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first



stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping.

### **Kerdiffstown**

Wills Bros Ltd were appointed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park. The contract period is for 54 months but this timeline is expected to be improved upon by the contractor. The Contractor has mobilised to site and a press release was issued regarding the appointment and commencement of work.



The community will be kept informed through the Community Liaison Group meetings and the wider public will have access to updates on the council's website:

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

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management

of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the EPA Licence. The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website at:

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

### **Cemeteries**

#### **Churchtown Cemetery**

Awaiting final connection by the ESB.

#### **Kildare Town Cemetery**

A tender has been awarded for the renovation of the front wall and gates, the removal of the old bunker, and the resurfacing of many of the internal roads and pathways. It is expected that works will commence towards the middle of December.

#### **Newbridge Cemetery**

The preferred contractor withdrew his tender. Therefore, it is intended to readvertise a new tender in early January 2021.



## Columbarium Walls

### Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown, Celbridge

A consultant has been engaged and is working on the design of new columbarium walls at each of these three cemeteries. It is expected that the works will advance in Quarter 1, 2021.

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

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

A number of projects are ongoing across the Eastern and Midlands Region, including the following headings:

## Sustainable Energy Communities

### (SEC's)



LOCAL AUTHORITY  
**Climate Action**  
Training Programme

A Sustainable Energy Community webinar was hosted by CARO on the 08 October to inform all constituent local authorities about the Sustainable Energy Community initiative, with speakers from Kildare County Council, Meath County Council, community groups and the SEAI. This event informed elected members and local authority staff how they might assist community groups to benefit from this scheme and how county councils can assist to remove any barriers that may exist from a community perspective.

### Forestry

The CARO's initial involvement in this area was to work in collaboration with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) to identify a number of pilot counties and appropriate landholdings, for afforestation, in the region.



All constituent local authorities were since represented at a recent webinar and received presentations from the CARO and the DAFM. This scheme was published by the DAFM on the 12 August and the CARO is working to support a number of counties as they begin the process of identifying suitable lands.

### Just Transition

The CARO's application to the Just Transition Fund for community training and capacity building across the 21 identified communities has been granted initial approval in the sum of €255,000. The application has now moved onto stage two of the process which includes a state aid assessment review.. If this application is successful, this project will develop in collaboration with Westmeath, Longford, Laois, Kildare, Roscommon, Galway, Longford and Offaly County Councils and will leverage existing structures (such as the PPN, Cohmairle na nÓg, Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) and municipal districts to engage with the relevant communities.

### Capacity Building



The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners (such as Climate Ireland, Met Eireann, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the Department of Communications, Action and Environment (DCCA), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) etc.) to develop a suite of training for all elected members and local authority staff. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it has been decided to prioritise the development and delivery of online training in 2020 and this will now be rolled out to all local authority indoor staff from mid-January 2021. The 3-day CARO training programme for Climate Action Teams was piloted online on the 06, 07, 12, 13, 20 and 21 October and rolled out in 2021 pending further refinement if so required. Limerick IT have also been appointed to develop the climate action leadership training programme for elected members and senior staff and this programme was piloted in



Sligo County Council on 27 November last. CARO is now working with the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) to compile a programme of delivery across all training pillars for 2021 and beyond. It is also to be noted that the proposed training programme launch by Minister Eamonn Ryan, as arranged for 02 October, has yet to be rearranged.

### **Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action**

The CARO are working with Maynooth University School of Business and a number of strategic partners such as the CCMA, Enterprise Ireland, Chambers Ireland, IBEC, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Environment, Communications and Climate to establish practical measures for the local government sector to exploit potential economic and enterprise opportunities arising from climate action. This project involves research into current policy and funding instruments at European, national & local levels to identify where potential opportunities may arise. A detailed survey has been issued to

Directors of Enterprise and LEO Heads of Enterprise in order to ascertain current levels of knowledge across the sector and to identify potential opportunities for building on this base.

### **Spatial Planning**

The CARO continues to work closely with the three regional assemblies to assist local authority planners to translate regional climate objectives into local policies for inclusion in county development plan reviews. Workshops have been held in all three regional assembly areas. . Furthermore, the CARO is also working closely with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to firstly ensure that the content of proposed training for elected members aligns with the requirements of current spatial planning policy and secondly to develop more detailed training for planners who are embarking on county development plan reviews over the coming months.



### **Key Performance Indicators**

The CARO is currently working on a draft set of indicators to measure local authority performance against the requirements of all of the Government Climate Action Plan 2019 and subsequent Climate Action Charter, as signed by all county councils. The draft set of indicators has been approved by the Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning subcommittee of the CCMA and will be piloted across four counties, one in each of the climate action regions, in 2021.

### **Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting**

All local authorities completed their first annual progress report on the implementation of their Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and these have been submitted to the Department. The Eastern and Midlands CARO is co-ordinated this work on behalf of the other CARO's and all 31 local authorities.

### **Local Climate Action Initiative for the Elected Members**

The CARO, in collaboration with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) have created a presentation,

aimed at encouraging elected members to lead local climate action initiatives at municipal district level in each of the 17 constituent local authorities. The Climate Action SPC of Kildare County Council has provided invaluable feedback and input into the presentation to date having facilitated two iterations of the piece at SPC meetings

It recognises the leadership role played by our elected members in our communities and within our MDs and the untapped expertise that exists at local level. It explores how we might connect with our communities. It looks at the framework provided by the Climate Action Charter and some of the important actions it contains, particularly the building of a sustained localised citizen engagement model and engaging with young citizens.

The CARO will be rolling this presentation out to all interested MDs in the Eastern & Midlands region, over the coming months with pilots now planned in both Kildare & Kilkenny County Councils.



## **Kildare County Council Climate Action**

### **Kildare Climate Action Team (CAT)**

The Climate Action Officer has completed the first review of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) as referred to in the CARO summary on Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting above. This will further inform progress on the mainstreaming of climate change resilience and adaptation through the Council service delivery.

The October /November Climate Action Team meetings took place and associated thematic work groups have been set up. It is worth restating that the role of the CAT is in mainstreaming and embedding Climate Action across the functions of the council. The Energy Efficiency Officer has been appointed on 09/11/20 and has commenced work on reinvigorating the Councils Energy Management Team. A first deliverable of the Energy Officer will be the Sustainable Energy Action Masterplan (SEAP) for the County, a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors. The Energy Management Team will be a de-facto subgroup of the wider Climate Action Team.

### **Corporate Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Covenant of Mayors, Climate Action Charter, Climate Bill and Climate SPC.**

From a strategic point of view, significant progress has been made with the Corporate Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Climate Charter and the Climate Action SPC. However, the Climate Bill and the membership of the Covenant of Mayors requires significant inputs in the form of a new Climate Action Plan and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the county is now required.

### **Sustainable Energy Communities/Energy**

Kildare has made good progress on sustainable energy communities in the county.

During 2020 a support model for Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) was implemented. This was to financially support communities in developing energy masterplans. Four Sustainable Energy Communities (Clane, Maynooth, Kilcullen and Monasterevin) have either started



working with or are almost finished with Kildare County Council's energy consultants, ORS, to get their energy master plans completed. COVID-19 has impacted the timeline in terms of how long each one has taken to get completed but it is envisaged 2 SEC's will have their Energy Masterplans (EMP's) completed by the end of this year and the remaining 2 by end of March 2021. Additionally, a further 14 town and villages have registered with the Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland (SEAI) County Mentor as Sustainable Energy Communities and are progressing from that registration process to developing their own Energy Masterplans, a process that the council will continue to support.

The council is looking to be a leader in this area, to show the way for other local authorities, so it is important to have a sufficient budget available for this. All funds used for SEC EMPs are fully recoupable from SEAI. The SEAI fund retrospectively which has been a huge barrier for community groups. The council's support in bridging this financial gap to support such communities has been very well received. The overall benefit is the

level of climate action that SEC's can undertake towards the national transition objective to become a net zero carbon and climate resilient society.

Kildare's new Energy Officer will be an added resource for Sustainable Energy Communities.

### **Electric Vehicles**

Some good work has recently been done on the provision of two car charging units in the Áras Chill Dara car park for use by staff and with two new Electric Vehicles (EV's) forming part of the council fleet, one on trial by the machinery yard and the other with the fire service. However, there is huge scope to improve on these initiatives. The Climate Action Officer/Energy Officer is working with the parent departments on the identification and feasibility of multiple EV locations in the county.

### **Climate Action Training**

As the council enters 2021, there are a number of key priorities and initiatives to consider. During the year, the council, will engage in the full roll out of very significant training initiatives as



developed by the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office.

### **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Initiative**

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has provided LPT funding of €25,000 for a Climate Innovation Fund. A call for proposals has issued by the Climate Action Office using the Consultation Portal, in an innovative move to reduce paper applications. The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Climate Innovation Fund is now live and will run until the end January 2021.

### **Forestry**

The council has commenced identification of a number of sites across the county on the Property Interest Register potentially suitable for the Woodlands on a Public Lands funding scheme. A long list is being drafted and each site will subsequently be assessed by a qualified forester.

A framework for tendering the different elements of this scheme is currently being drawn up. This project is in response to an item on the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Work Programme.

### **Ezine**

The Climate Action Office (CARO) has published a draft Ezine/Newsletter with a view to assessing the feasibility of compiling a quarterly online version, to commence in Quarter 1, 2021. This will be available widely.



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## **Roads, Transportation and Public Safety**

### **Reckless Driving for Tik-Tok Fame**

Local Authority Road Safety Officers continue to highlight the dangers following disturbing videos of young drivers speeding down a road with their hands and eyes glued to their phone, video-calling people and performing dance routines while driving was highlighted on national media.

### **Safe Routes to School**

Extensive works were undertaken by Municipal District Engineers recently to provide additional space on pathways for students outside schools. Barriers were removed, footpaths widened and raised, and zebra crossings reinstated. This allows for a safer route to school for students and it also provides for a safer working environment for school wardens in works areas. The raising of footpaths also deters drivers from parking on footpaths outside schools. A video highlighting these works was promoted on the council's social media website. The Road Safety Officer continues to work with An Taisce's Green Schools co-ordinators for a

number of Walkability Audits and cycle route initiatives for schools.

### **Cycle Cafés**

Due to social distance concerns and restrictions it was not possible to launch a Cycle Café as initially planned. However, bicycle shelters and repair units have been installed in some of the cycle café locations so far and when all cycle cafés are established, a more suitable launch will be done, when it is deemed safe to do so.

### **'Lock It or Lose It'**

So far this year, 3,800 bicycles were reported stolen to An Garda Síochána. Many of these thefts occurred in public service areas. A joint initiative between Kildare County Council, An Garda Síochána and Irish Rail was undertaken to encourage cyclists to ensure they lock their bicycles safely and securely in a public place. A video was produced and shared on social media.



### **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) and substantial completion has been issued on this section on 19 November 2020. Works continue on the Osberstown Interchange and the R407 Sallins Bypass. Kildare County Council is liaising with the contractor with regard to a revised completion date for the remaining works. An update will be issued shortly.

### **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. 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.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) deliverables for Phase 1 are now complete and signed off by both Kildare County Council and TII.

The scheme has now moved to Phase 2, Option Selection. The scheme 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.

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

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 2019.

The next phase of the project will be the completion of the design and procurement of the main contract. 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 Compulsary Purchase Order (CPO) going ahead.

The preparation of the CPO documentation is near completion. Valuers have been appointed.

Discussions with Waterways Ireland, Iarnród Éireann and CIE are ongoing in relation to the design of the bridge structure which will span the Royal Canal and Dublin/Sligo railway line. The procurement of a NOBO consultant in respect of the design of the bridge structure (an independent consultant to assess adequacy of the proposed design in relation to the EU Interoperability Directive) is currently under way.

Detailed design of the scheme, including drainage design, is at advanced stage.

### **Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road**

Engineering Consultants RPS have been engaged for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Project. Their brief is to bring it from scheme concept and feasibility through to statutory processes. Kildare County Council was successful in securing funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) under Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). An application for further funding under Call 2 of the URDF is currently being considered by the



DHLGH. The scheme, which will connect Celbridge Town and the Hazelhatch Train Station, will include a second bridge over the River Liffey. The project is currently at Route Selection stage and is progressing well.

### **Kildangan Railway Bridge Footpath Scheme**

The scheme has been completed and the road has been reopened

### **Newbridge Southern Relief Road/ Second Bridge Crossing**

The section of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road (NSRR) between the Newbridge to Naas dual carriageway (R445) and the Great Connell Road is now substantially complete and the Roads Planning Section is currently engaging with the developer on the completion of the snag list, the transfer of lands and the submission of the taking in charge documentation.

An application for funding under Call 2 of the URDF for the remainder of the NSRR is currently with the DHLGH. Results of the application are expected by the end of the year.

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

This scheme has been completed with the exception of a number of snag items which are outstanding

### **Athy Distributor Road**

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October, 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist and Leinster Leader on 28 November 2017. No objections/Judicial Reviews were received by the deadline on 23 January 2018.

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 rails and sleepers is complete. The Córás Iompair Éireann (CIE) lands have been secured from trespassers.

Tendering for the main contract commenced on the 25 March 2020.



The procurement is under the restricted procedure and involves a two-stage process.

The first stage is now complete with six contractors short listed for tendering. The consultants have completed the tender documents for Stage 2 – the ITT. These documents have been submitted to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) for approval.

The CIE/Irish Rail Bridge Agreement and Waterways Ireland Licence are being progressed. Land acquisition is also progressing.

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River has been substantially completed by Cairn Developments Plc. The Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section is engaging with the developer on the opening of the street to traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. The road safety audit stage 3 is being carried out on the completed works.

### **Kildare Town Northern Link Road and South Green Area Access Improvement Scheme**

The Route Selection Report is substantially complete.

This project will not proceed further until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy is completed.

### **New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn**

Part 8 approval in respect of the New Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn Project was confirmed on 13 May 2019.

The development will replace the existing Machinery Yard in Newbridge and will include a new Regional Salt Barn. This Barn will provide storage for approximately 23,000 tonnes of salt for use by Kildare County Council and a number of other local authorities in the region.

An Enabling Works Contract comprising earthworks, drainage and boundary treatments is currently on site with works being undertaken by Clonmel Enterprises Ltd. The anticipated completion date is the end of the year.



### **Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy**

The Final Transport Strategy for Naas/Sallins is being reviewed before publication.

### **Kildare Town Transport Strategy**

The draft Transport Strategy for Kildare Town is currently being finalised. It is anticipated that a phase 2 non-statutory public consultation will be undertaken in Quarter 1, 2021 after which the strategy will be finalised.

### **Athy Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)**

Kildare County Council is currently undertaking an Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) for Athy. The ABTA is intended as a supporting document to inform the upcoming review of the Athy Town Local Area Plan (LAP). The ABTA is being undertaken in-house. The Draft Assessment Report is being finalised.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme**

€365,000 in funding was made available to Kildare County Council by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) in 2020 under this programme to repair and rehabilitate

bridge structures throughout the county, which have been identified as needing maintenance.

Works were completed during 2020 on the following bridges:

- Old River Bridge
- Stephenstown Bridge
- Halverstown Bridge
- Wheelam Bridge

### **Newhall Junction Improvement**

Newhall Crossroads is located on the R445 dual carriageway between Naas and Newbridge. It is the junction of three roads: the R445 the L2031 local road and the L6064 local road.

The existing junction is considered unsafe as it is a cross-roads junction on a busy dual carriageway.

An Options Selection Report to determine the most appropriate junction type to replace the existing arrangement was completed in June 2020. This report determined that a roundabout was the preferred option.

The preliminary design is now being progressed to detailed design.



It is anticipated that the scheme will proceed to Part 8 in early 2021.

### **Royal Canal Greenway – Maynooth to Moyvalley**

The Royal Canal Greenway provides a dedicated and substantially off-road recreational cycle facility from Dublin to Galway along the route of the Royal Canal. The Greenway from Maynooth to Moyvalley is now substantially complete and operational.

### **Broadband Connection Points (BCP's)**

Kildare County Council is progressing the Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) in Kildare. These sites will provide high speed broadband to the public until the NBI fibre broadband is available:

- Bigstone Community Hall, Castledermot. This site is now live. Tenders being sought to decorate the room to provide working desk space.
- Lullymore Heritage Centre – Vodafone to make live shortly.
- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre – Ready for

NBI to install the broadband connection.

- Back Gate Lodge, Kilkea Castle – ready for NBI installation.

### **School BCP Sites**

- Rathmore National School.
- St David's National School, Pipers Hill, Naas.

These sites are being dealt with by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Education.

### **National Broadband Ireland (NBI) Fibre Broadband Rollout**

NBI have indicated that the first area to be fibre broadband enabled will be in the Castledermot area. Survey works around Athy/Kilberry/Kilkea commenced in November.

### **Athy Municipal District November 2020**

### **Pedestrian Works**

Pedestrian works have commenced in housing estates which have had surveys carried out. Pairc Bhríde and McDonnell Drive have had works carried out.



## **National Transport Authority (NTA)**

### **– Active Travel Measures Updates**

- **Moone School works:**  
Preparatory drainage works are complete. Phase 1 of works are complete.
- **Castledermot School works:**  
phase 1 are complete.  
Preparatory drainage works are complete.
- **Crookstown School works:**  
phase 1 are complete.  
Preparatory drainage works are complete.

## **The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) – Climate Adaptation Projects**

No funding has been allocated to the Athy Municipal District in 2020.

### **Bus Shelters**

Funding has been allocated to the Athy Municipal District for two bus shelters in Castledermot for 2021.

### **Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020**

- R428 - Brackney to Cardenton.
- R418 - Gallowshill to Russelstown.

- L8037 - Timolin to Wicklow bounds.
- L8100 - Graney to Plunketstown.
- L7071 - Ironhills to Eagle Hill.
- L4010 - Newtownallen.
- L4011 - Mill Road, Castledermot.
- L8009 - Broomfield to N-78.

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

- Kilberry Housing Estate - drainage/footpaths/roads.
- Mount Hawkins/Kirwans Lane - drainage/roads/footpaths.
- Garter Lane - drainage/roads.
- L4009 - Abbeylands, Castledermot.

### **Drainage works**

- R417 – Athy/Carlow Road.
- Calverstown.
- Crookstown near R-415.

### **Signage works**

- R-418 – Castledermot/Tullow Road.



## **Municipal District Road Surface Dressing Works 2020**

- R415 - Booleigh to Fontstown.
- R417 - Kildangan to Cloney.
- R415 - Walterstown to Mullane.
- L8007 - Ballyshannon to Martinstown.
- L8006 - Martinstown to Crawnglass.
- L8073 - Russelstown to Inch.
- L7055 - Duneany to Walterstown.
- L7066 - Walterstown to Nurney.
- L7072 - Martinstown to Newtown.
- L8809 - Tippenan to Whitehouse.

Aftercare works are being undertaken on a number of the above works.

National secondary resurfacing works South of Athy have been completed.

4 Community Improvement Schemes (CIS) have been completed:

- Ballybough, Athy.
- Belan, Athy.
- Pit lane, Kildoon.
- Brennan's Lane, Kilcrow.

Hedge cutting works are taking place to junctions on regional roads.

Drains and gullies are been cleaned out.

Drainage works have taken place at:

- Abbeylands, Castledermot.
- Gallowshill Lane.
- Narraghmore.
- Moone.

## **Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District November 2020**

### **Cycleway Works/Pedestrian Works**

#### **Newbridge**

Road resurfacing and footpath reconstruction works are ongoing in Pairc Mhuire. These works are being carried out in stages following completion of Irish Water sewer upgrade works.

#### **Rathangan**

Three pedestrian crossing were installed this month, one at the GAA field, one at the girls school and one outside the Garda Station. This will improve the connectivity throughout



the town for pedestrians. The GAA and the tennis club now have a footpath and a crossing directly to their premises

### **NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates**

Funding received under the NTA Active Travel Scheme from Drogheda Street and Main street in Monastrevin: Footpath upgrade including 3 pedestrian crossings and surface overlay. A tender has been awarded and works are ongoing at present.

### **Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020**

The Roads Programme for 2020 is now complete.

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

A tender was awarded for LTP schemes at Loggstown and Avondale, Kilcullen, Grangemore, Brannockstown and Brannockstown Village. These works are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.

### **Low Cost Accident Schemes**

A number of the low-cost accident schemes went to site this month at the following locations:

- Brannockstown works include the installation of speed ramps and minor realignment of the junction.
- Cribbin's Lane works include minor realignment of the junction, resurfacing and installation of signage.
- Pollardstown works include removal of hedge, new fencing, moving ESB pole and awaiting Eir to remove telecom pole.
- Rosetown works include removal of hedging, new fencing and signs.
- Brownstown works included, raised tabletop at the junction, road markings and signage.
- Kineagh Cross works include road marking and awaiting signage.
- Halverstown works include lining and awaiting signage.



## Drainage

The drainage contract has commenced at the following locations:

- Raheens: upgrading of existing surface water drainage.
- Castlekeeley : upgrading of existing surface water drainage pipe.
- Two Mile House : Slipform kerbing and upgrading to existing drainage.

## Naas Municipal District November 2020

### Naas Municipal District Footpath Works

The Naas Municipal District Office has completed its first package of footpath works (FP1) at the following locations:

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

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath

improvement works (FP2) at the following locations:

- Church Avenue-Canal Avenue, Sallins – complete.
- Morell Road-Oldtown Green, Oldtown Court, Naas – complete.
- Ashgrove Park, Naas – at construction stage.
- Hollywood Park, Naas – at construction stage.
- Hilcrest, Ballymore Eustace.
- Bishopshill Ballymore Eustace.
- Johnstown Manor, Johnstown.

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (FP3) at the following locations:

- Lakelands to Sundays Well, Naas – complete.
- Jigginstown Drainage Works – complete.
- Roseville, Naas – at construction.



- St. Martins Avenue, Naas.
- Woodlands, Naas.
- Friary Road, Naas.
- Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas.
- L6047 - Coughlanstown.
- L6048 - Mullaboden Road.
- L5050 - Elverstown/Glenmore.

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

### **Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020**

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

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

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

The third package of road improvement works (WP3) is now complete. It includes surface improvement to discrete sections the following roads:

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

The fourth package of road improvement works (WP4) is now complete. It includes the following works locations. Construction to commence in October 2020:

- L2999 - Lough Bui/Corbans Lane, Naas.
- L10005 – Fairgreen, Naas.
- L6010 – Canal Avenue, Sallins.
- L6032 – Hartwell, Kill.



## **NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates**

In addition to the above the Naas Municipal District applied for funding under the recently announced July Stimulus Package Funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA). Kildare were successful in securing funding for a number of schemes.

The timeframe for using these funds is extremely tight but the Naas Municipal District Office will endeavour to progress them in a timely fashion.

The progression of these schemes is subject to the adequate resources being made available. The schemes are as follows:

- Castlefen, Sallins – Footpath Improvement Project.
- 

## **Surface Dressing Works**

The Naas Municipal District has completed the surface dressing works programme for 2020. The works include:

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

- L6056 – Ballymore Eustace to Bishopshill.

## **Bus Shelters**

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

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

The LPT/Carpark funded works Programme for 2020 has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee. These works are currently included within the roads and footpaths works packages that are progressing through the design/tender/construction stages and will be delivered over the coming months.

## **Clane-Maynooth Municipal District November 2020**

The Clane Maynooth Municipal District Office has undertaken and completed the following works during November.



### **Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works**

- Beaufiled, Maynooth – footpath repairs.

### **National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measures Updates**

A number of schemes are progressing under the funding from the NTA. The following were completed in November:

- Survey and design works at Robertstown, Killina and Derrinturn National Schools.
- Barrington Court, Prosperous – footpath repairs.
- New footpath Kilmeague.
- Footpath repairs Kilcock Road, Clane.
- New footpath on The Ballinagappa Road, Clane .
- Priority system and footpath repairs on Millicent Road, Clane.
- Footpath link between The Cellbridge Road and Lawrence Avenue.

### **Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020**

#### **General Works**

- Drainage repairs at Broadford Recycling Bins.
- Drainage works Ballygoran, Maynooth.

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

Purchase of sweeping equipment for Clane.

#### **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District November 2020**

#### **Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works**

The Royal Canal Greenway design is being finalised and it is planned to go to tender later this year with a view to starting construction in Quarter 1, 2021 subject to funding being available from the NTA.



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**NTA – Active Travel Measures  
Updates**

€380,000 has been allocated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities in the municipal district. The Municipal District Engineer and his team have completed most of the works on these schemes with minor works carried forward into December.

**Municipal District Road  
Improvement Works 2020**

All resurfacing works in the municipal district for 2020 have been completed.

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

Footpath repairs have been carried out in St Marys Park, Riverforest and Glendale in Leixlip. The pedestrian phase has been installed on the traffic signals outside Tesco on the Shackelton Road in Celbridge. Design and tendering works on further footpath and roads improvements in the municipal district are ongoing.

**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 Defence's ability and training to deliver. Some of the supports provided to date include food delivery to vulnerable communities and support to the Blood Transfusion Service in their local clinics.



## Fire Service

<b>Operational Calls</b>		
<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>Total Calls</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Newbridge	422	387
Naas	435	344
Athy	223	172
Maynooth	321	250
Monasterevin	181	136
Leixlip	240	181
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>1,470</b>

## Fire Safety

	<b>No. Inspections</b>	<b>No. Premises Inspected</b>
2019	75	72
2020	30	30

	<b>No. Fire Safety Complaints</b>
2019	16
2020	7



	<b>No. Fire Safety Certificates</b>
2019	179
2020	195



## Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 30 November 2020:

### Building Control

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Commencement Notices</b>		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	437
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	430
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	7
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	211	190

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>		
Total Number of Certificates received:	646	409
Number Valid	645	408
Number Invalid	1	1
Awaiting processing		0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	184



<b>Disability Access Certificates</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	122	117
Number granted:	131	122
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	0	2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	61

<b>Building Control Active Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of units inspected	1881	1840

<b>Development Control Active Sites</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of Active Sites	86



## **Health and Safety**

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

- 29 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Lead Worker Representative meetings.
- Business Continuity meetings.
- Local Authority Safety Officers Group meetings - Your Health, Fitness and Emotional Wellbeing in Times of Transition and Change.
- Accident and incident reports and investigations.
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments.
- Support to Water Services and the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) on the development of risk assessments and health and safety documentation.

## **Accessibility**

200 copies of County Kildare Access – The pack included a strategy document, a County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) face covering and a CKAN Flag which will be flown for the week. Numerous businesses were liaised with, and organisations returning landmarks purple for the week leading up to the 03 December to mark the day. A press release was completed to communicate and raise awareness of the day.

A Universal Access Approach 2020-2022 were distributed to all relevant stakeholders in advance of the launch of the strategy on the 03 December which coincided with International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Promotional packs were distributed to a number of businesses, schools, public sector organisations in advance of the launch.



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

### **Economic Forum**

In October 2017 the Economic Forum had its inaugural meeting. The Forum is Chaired by Mr. Padraig McManus and comprises of key stakeholders from IDA, Enterprise Ireland, County Kildare Chamber of Commerce, Maynooth University and leaders of Industry that are based in Kildare. The Forum is supported by the Chief Executive, the Director of Services for Economic Development and the Head of Enterprise. The work of the Forum is ongoing but a Draft Economic Strategy for the County (Kildare 2025) has now been brought to the Economic Development and Planning SPC for consideration. This 5 year plan will set out clear economic objectives for the County and will be aligned to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Subject to SPC and CPG approval, it is hoped to bring

this draft strategy to the Plenary Council meeting in January.

### **Keep Well Campaign in Kildare**

The Government Plan for Living with COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 highlights the important role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to COVID-19.

The Cathaoirleach, Mark Stafford and the Chief Executive Peter Carey have welcomed the launch of the new 'Keep Well' campaign, by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD and ministerial colleagues. This 'Keep Well' campaign builds on the 'in this Together' campaign that happened earlier this year and aims to support people and communities in being resilient through minding their physical and mental health and wellbeing over the coming months.



## Community Grants

<b>All Grants Awarded 2020</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Community Grants	179	€281,233
Festival Grants	49	€28,225
Local Property Tax	233	€920,557
Private Estates Residents Associations	264	€213,842
Local Authority Residents Associations	78	€63,956
Drehid Grants	31	€217,581
Community Enhancement Programme	32	€287,800
Community Mental Health Fund	9	€35,800
Education Bursaries	37	€21,750
COVID-19 Emergency Fund	67	€94,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>€2,165,134</b>

## Parks



### Castledermot Playground

It was planned the playground would be completed by the end of the year. However, due to weather conditions this has not been possible. It is now anticipated the works will be completed in January.

### Allenwood Playground

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during the period from Tuesday, 24 November 2020 until Tuesday, 22 December 2020 at:

- Kildare County Council Offices, Level 1, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare. W91 X77F.

The opening hours are:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Texaco Spar, Allenwood Cross, Allenwood Cross, Co Kildare.

The opening hours are:

Monday- Saturday 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

- Bright Sparks Crèche, Allenwood Community Development Centre, Allenwood during normal working hours.
- ACDAL, Allenwood, from 01 December 2020 during normal working hours.
- Allenwood GAA, Seán Tierney Park, Allenwood during operational hours.

All viewing locations and display availability are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Plans and particulars of the proposed development will also be available to view on Kildare County Council's Consultation Portal at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/allenwood-community-playground-0>

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development and dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be submitted electronically on the Consultation Portal as per the link above or in writing to Mr Liam Dunne,



Senior Executive Officer at the address below before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, 14 January 2021. Submissions should be clearly headed "Allenwood Community Playground."

### **Tree Works Programme 2021**

Tenders have been issued for Kildare Newbridge and Athy Municipal Districts. It is hoped to have contractors in place in early 2021 to carry out the proposed programme of tree works in each municipal district.

### **Tree Planting Programme 2022**

Work has started on locations for proposed tree planting. It is hoped to carry out the planting in February and March.



## **Local Community Development Committee**

### **December 2020**

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting 2020 was held in Áras Chill Dara on 25 November 2020.

### **COVID-19 Community Response Forum**

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had eighteen meetings to date via teleconference. The purpose of the forum is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. A dedicated COVID-19 support helpline was established on 30 March by Kildare County Council. Recent announcements under the national Keeping Well Campaign are being progressed

### **Healthy Ireland**

The Healthy Ireland project partners continue to make progress. The LCDC approved €30,000 under the Community Mental Health Grant Scheme which prioritised applications for low/no cost counselling particularly from the North and North West of the

county. There were seven successful applicants each receiving funding of between €3,000-€5,000.

### **Community Enhancement Programme (CEP)**

The LCDC approved 32 applications for the CEP 2020.

63 applications worth €824,626.88 were received. This is over three times the budget available. Priority was given to applicants working in or with socially excluded areas/groups.

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

Work is progressing to roll out the SICAP Programme in Kildare under COVID-19 restrictions. The SICAP Programme 2020 will exceed the community based Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the year and it is working to meet the individual KPI. The end of year report will be submitted in line with national guidance for review in early 2021.



The first Draft SICAP Plan 2021 was circulated to the LCDC. The SICAP Subgroup reviewed the draft and members were asked to feedback any final comments before the final plan was uploaded on 30 November. This plan will be assessed by Pobal and presented at the January LCDC meeting. The funding available for 2021 remains the same as 2020.

### **Heads-up**

While Heads Up Kildare continue to engage remotely with men, demand for their programmes is very high. Increasing referral levels are experienced. This is expected to continue due to the impact of COVID- 19.

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 January 2020.

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. Seven further projects were approved at the LCDC/Local Action Group (LAG) meeting. A final meeting is scheduled for December, this will conclude the current funding programme. While a transition programme is in the current Programme for Government, details are not available. Work continues to support applications.

A special meeting of the LAG to consider projects for approval is scheduled for 16 December 2020.



## **Kildare Fáilte**

### **Key Activities**

A Zoom meeting was held for the Kildare Fáilte tourism and hospitality sector members with guest speaker Mr Eoghan Corry, travel writer, who talked about the future of the tourism industry and its recovery, in particular the impact for Ireland. This sector also exchanged experiences and future plans with each other.

There were ongoing online meetings and calls supporting tourism providers and members in the county, in particular concerning assistance with funding applications and digital promotion.

Kildare Fáilte attended consultancy workshops for the Barrow Blueway where interested parties had an opportunity to provide feedback to the working group. They also attended a post-consultancy meeting with the marketing group.

Due to the current restrictions, the official launch of the Royal Canal Greenway is postponed. Signage for the Kildare Greenway has been produced in partnership with Kildare County Council.

Kildare Fáilte attended the AIPCO workshop, An Astronaut's View of Ireland's Position, where guest speakers from Ireland and internationally discussed the business tourism outlook for 2021 and beyond.

Kildare Fáilte also attended various Fáilte Ireland webinars.

At the November meeting of the Kildare Destination Recovery Task Force, Kildare Fáilte received confirmation from Fáilte Ireland that the additional funding allocated to Kildare has been ringfenced in the Fáilte Ireland 2021 Budget to facilitate a Kildare specific campaign. Kildare Fáilte continues to request information and input on this.



During the COVID-19 restrictions, the marketing focus for the county was shopping local. “Support Sunday”, which launched in October, continues to drive engagement with video and images from behind the scenes at a business. Kildare Fáilte’s Chief Digital Officer visited tourism providers adhering to COVID-19 Guidelines.

Taste of Kildare Hampers were launched to support the tourism and hospitality businesses. A Taste of Kildare hamper was created with a selection of the products produced in Kildare, and each business was encouraged to create their own hamper to further promote the shop local message.

A number of film shoots were carried out for the Taste of Kildare at the Christmas virtual event which took place. The event was launched on 06 December by Ms Rachel Allen and featured cooking demonstrations from the county’s chefs and food and beverage producers.



**Mark Moriarty, Mickael Vilanen and Jordan Bailey.**



**Councillor Fintan Brett, Mayor of the Nass Municipal District.**

Kildare Fáilte also organised for twinning groups to take part by sending a message to their counterparts overseas.

Planning meetings have taken place for 2021 to develop a new website and tourism brochure for the county. Social media activity and engagement grew in November with Facebook reach growing by 3%. The most



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popular page on the website in November was the blog highlighting online shopping in Kildare followed by the Christmas hampers.



## Library and Arts Service

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.” – **Henry Ward Beecher.**

### Re-opening of Library Services

The library service welcomed the recent COVID-19 announcement from Government, which allows libraries to re-open services. Libraries in Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge are now providing a browsing by appointment service and all other services are providing a Contact and Collect service. These services are being provided during original service hours.

The housebound service will continue, and library staff are currently preparing wellbeing packs to accompany book selections.

### Mathematics Support to Secondary Schools

The Library Service is developing a pilot in conjunction with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Maynooth University to deliver online maths tutorials to students in the post primary school in

Kildare Town. The tutorials will aim to bridge the gap in curricular learning as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is hoped to commence these tutorials early 2021 and to extend the reach of the programme following the pilot.

### Age Friendly Online Tutoring

Age Friendly Ireland in partnership with Libraries Ireland are running a pilot peer to peer training programme to help older people access online library resources, starting with BorrowBox. Fourteen staff from Kildare Libraries have begun training trainees from all over Ireland via Zoom or phone. It is going very well and the participants are delighted with the chance to gain training face to face and improve their I.T. skills.

### County Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEAM) Workshops:

A Rock Detectives workshop with Dr Anthea Lacchia from the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences in University College Dublin exploring Ireland’s fabulous rocks and the creatures that lived on our planet millions of years ago.



An Imagination Exploration workshop with Brilliant Events combining magic and imagination to encourage children to develop their critical thinking skills.

A Pedal Power Lab workshop with Mr Paul Finch exploring energy creation and looking at the laws of physics and science.

### **Irish Language**

A very special collaboration with Maynooth University and Kildare Library Services – introducing the 3 category winners of the Gradaim Liteartha an Oireachtais 2020 aimed at Primary School children, Leaving Certificate students, 1<sup>st</sup> year university students and everyone interested in the Irish language. It is hoped this will be the first in a series of such events.

### **Irish Language Online Workshops for Primary Schools**

Libraries hosted a series of workshops via Zoom for the local schools during November in order to support various areas of the curriculum.

These included:

- A Star Wars themed workshop as Gaeilge exploring the history

of Sceilig Mhíchil and the men and women who lived there.

- A workshop with Sadhbh Devlin author of Irish language picture book Geansaí Ottó.
- A Drama workshop as Gaeilge with Clíona de Brí.

### **Family Time at Your Library**

Events and activities will take place online via the Kildare Libraries social media platforms and Zoom during the month of December to support a family-focused approach to reading with children and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children.

More information and advertising for Family Time at Your Library events will be through the Kildare Libraries Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

### **Spotlight on Newbridge Library Community Outreach Collaboration with the Family Resource Centre**

Newbridge Library put together a collection of children's Christmas craft packs for the Family Resource Centre. These were delivered to children



locally on the night of the Late Late Toy Show to help make the evening extra special. With the Library Service and the Late Late Toy Show sharing a mascot in the form of an owl, the craft was owl themed and the bags were jam packed with fun for the evening.

### **Dormant Accounts Funding Project: My Place in Space**

Newbridge Library was successful in an application for Dormant Accounts Funding for a project focused on encouraging an interest and enthusiasm in STEM amongst girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. The project was run in conjunction with two classes in the Curragh Girls National School which is designated a DEIS school. The programme was delivered by Dr Niamh Shaw who is an engineer, a former science academic and a theatre maker as well as one of Ireland's leading science communicators and STEM specialists. Over the course of five weeks Niamh met with the classes once a week via Zoom and they explored topics such as space and space travel, positive female STEM role models and the students' own dreams and aspirations for the future. The programme

concluded with a STEM training workshop for the library staff in Kildare Libraries, focused on giving them the tools, resources and confidence to run their own STEM groups for girls through their own libraries.

### **Capital Projects**

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

Mr Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Kildare County Council signed the contract with the main contractor Duggan Lynch in Naas Town Hall on Tuesday 17 November.



A press release and photographs of the official signing were issued on the day. Duggan Lynch will be taking possession of Naas Town Hall officially on 14 December. The Commencement Notice has been issued and works will commence from that date.

Duggan Lynch will be issuing a Construction Programme for the project this week.



### **Clane Library**

The design for the new library and preparation for Part 8 Planning is now underway with support from the Architects Department. The council hope to be at the construction phase of the project by early summer 2021.

### **Kildare County Library and Archives**

The Strategic Project and Public Realm Team are currently working on the tender for a design team for the Kildare County Library and Archives Capital Project which is a Part B Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) project.

### **Creative Ireland – Kildare Keep Well 'Switching Off and Being Creative'**

Kildare County Council's 'Switching Off and Being Creative' Programme 2020 will provide a range of resources and programmes to support local wellbeing and assisting Kildare's citizens to get through the COVID-19 crisis through a range of initiatives. A public call out to individuals and organisations, invited proposals to deliver online programmes with a public engagement (which may include

presentations, lectures, interactive workshops, or other iterations).

Applications were invited for bursary awards to deliver projects having Christmas themes, Growing Your Own (fruit and veg)/gardening, Climate Change, Being Creative, Exploring Heritage on Your Doorstep and Biodiversity in Your Garden - Winter and Spring.

Successful projects include a live broadcast of Monasterevin Gospel Choir, bespoke choral performances to nursing homes, online drawing and sewing workshops, Christmas Willow Weaving, biodiversity videos, mindfulness and alternative farming, 'Joy to the World' Christmas storytelling, a Latvian networking programme and an outdoor audio drama project inspired by the Kildare landscape.



## **Kildare Arts Service**

### **Body of Work Dance Project**

The council is delighted to announce the Kildare Body of Work Dance Research Project 2020-21. The project will be led by Philippa Donnellan and will explore stories of work - past, present and future with communities in Kildare. Work, home, family - is it a delicate balancing act? Do you have a tale to tell? Body of Work is an open invitation for people in Kildare to take part - to explore, share stories and participate in live/online creative dance/drama workshops ... jump in as you wish!

For information, contact Philippa at [bodyofworkdance@gmail.com](mailto:bodyofworkdance@gmail.com)

The [Millicent Singers Virtual Concert](#) like many organisations in the cultural sphere, the Millicent Singers are going on line with their annual Christmas Concert, which goes live on Saturday 12 December at 8:00 p.m. on Facebook and Youtube. Guests are Ms Sorcha Fenlon, Mr Darren Brereton and Ms Megan O'Neill. Further details can be found at:

[www.millicentsingers.ie](http://www.millicentsingers.ie)

## **Kildare Music Generation**

As the Kildare Music Generation Programme gears up for full roll out next year, an introductory course on music production takes place in December. This free course is aimed at young people who are interested in learning more about song-writing, recording, editing, producing, sound engineering and more from some of the amazing musician educators. Meanwhile, the development of an Instrument Bank is well under way, through a tendering process.

### **Christmas Recording, St. Brigid's National School Kildare Town**

The Arts Service supported the production of a school Christmas CD and in so doing, hope to raise the spirits of the 1,000 families who have children attending St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town.

This follows on from the support of the Arts Service for the purchase of percussion instruments for children who attended school in the Autism Unit in 2019.



### **Riverbank Reopens**

Riverbank Arts Centre is delighted to announce its reopening from Monday, 07 December until 23

December. Children and adults alike will love the beautiful festive window designed by Kildare artist, Ms Gráinne Bath Enright. Art Feeds ... by Kildare Art Collective and Friends, a collaborative exhibition by 31 artists explores themes we have all become familiar with in recent times such as isolation, home, and the natural world.

The online event programme and December highlights include: Ms Niamh Kavanagh will be in conversation with Mr Keith Walsh (18 December, Facebook livestream), Sunday, 20 December, [Rockin' Christmas Rhymes](#) – a family concert of Christmas classics by Branar.

Throughout December you can download the award-winning Lyngo Theatre's Gift of Winter, a 30-minute show and step-by-step instructions on how to make all the props and sets, and learn the songs, to create your own show.

### **Riverbank Whiteboard Schools' Programme**

By the end of this term, more than 2,000 children in Kildare schools will have taken part in a Riverbank online event, from #ScienceWeek workshops with Super Paua, The University of Wonder and Imagination with Cahoots NI, author events with Mr Shane Hegarty and Mr Graham Tugwell, Treehouse 360 an immersive music show by Ceol Connected and Fighting Words Workshops.

### **Decade of Commemorations Programme Highlights 2020**

As a consequence of COVID-19, the Decade of Commemorations Programme for 2020 was re-orientated to ensure all activities followed Public Health Guidelines. The committee would like to thank all municipal districts for their continued support both in financial contributions and engagement.

Among the highlights achieved during 2020 were:



### **Brigid 1500**

Abarta Heritage have been awarded the tender to develop a heritage audit, cultural strategy and business plan to progress the commemoration of the death of St. Brigid in 523 AD. This project has tremendous potential in terms of cultural tourism and economic development and has national and international implications.

### **Irish Military Seminar 2020 – Online Interviews**

A number of interviews were recorded in Riverbank Arts Centre as the Irish Military Seminar 2020 moved online. These were subsequently made freely available on the Decade of Commemoration’s YouTube channel and promoted on social media. Among the highlights were Ms Liz Gillis on Irish Revolutionary Women, Mr James Durney on the Curragh Internment Camps, Mr Michael Murphy on Terror in Kildare and Mr Wayne Fitzgerald on the Irish Rangers. Ms Cauvery Madhaven, living in Straffan, was interviewed about her book *The Tainted* as part of the Kildare Readers Festival. A monthly programme of online talks is planned for the first half of 2021.

### **Covid Notebook Project**

A major legacy project was undertaken in 2020 to document the social stories of Kildare people through COVID-19. Over 90 notebooks were compiled and will be digitised to enable future generations to explore and understand the Kildare COVID-19 experience.

### **Chambers Ireland Local Government Award**

Kildare Decade of Commemorations was nominated in 2020 for its work on the 1919 All-Ireland Football Final.

### **Partnership with Irish Academic Press**

The committee have engaged with IAP to publish a comprehensive and unique history of Kildare from 1913 to 1923, covering all aspects of this pivotal period in our nation’s history. This legacy project charts the social, economic, cultural and political history of the time.

### **Centenary of Bloody Sunday**

The Decade of Commemoration’s Programme marked the centenary of the events of Bloody Sunday November 1920 with a particular focus



on the Kildare links to this tragic day, with the match referee Mr Mick Sammon being an All-Ireland winner with Kildare in 1919 and Dublin player Mr Frank Burke being from Carbury originally.

An interview with author of *The Bloodied Field*, Mr Michael Foley was recorded in Riverbank Arts Centre and broadcasted online, with huge viewership figures.

*The History Show* on RTÉ Radio 1 broadcasted a special piece on the Kildare links on Sunday 22 November. Further content was added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory). The Local Studies Department has also been working with the Clane man, Mr Mick Sammon, Commemorative Programme on some of their activities also.

### **Other Centenaries During 2020 (including June 1920 Local Elections)**

A number of other key anniversaries were also marked during the year, with articles in the local media, appearances on KFM Radio etc. These included the historic June 1920 Local Elections, the Knockbounce

Incident, the Kill Ambush and subsequent reprisals in Naas by Crown Forces. Key centenary events in 2021, will include the Hill of Allen Ambush, the Barrowhouse Ambush, the role of Ned Broy and the Truce period. Of particular interest is the social history of the period and the impact on women, children and civilians.

### **Digital Content**

The minutes of Kildare County Council from the 1899-1924 period were digitised during the year (both for preservation and access reasons) and were added to [www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library) in December 2020.

A digital flipbook of an exhibition on the cultural nationalist, republican activist and County Councillor, Mr Éamonn Ó Modhráin was also published on the library website in May. Other content which was added during 2020 included material on the Irish Language Movement/Conradh na Gaeilge during the 1912-23 period. These online resources complement *The Kildare Observer* newspaper and the Journals of the County Kildare Archaeological Society.



### **Timeline Booklet of Key Events In County Kildare During 1918-21**

A timeline booklet highlighting the key events that took place in County Kildare through the War of Independence period is in production. This will be distributed to local secondary schools and to history groups across the county in early 2021.

### **History Ireland Podcast**

The Decade of Commemoration's Committee commissioned a Hedge School Podcast with *History Ireland* on County Kildare during the War of Independence which is due to be released in early January 2021. Historians, Ms Fionnuala Walsh, Ms Ida Milne and Mr James Durney are among those who will feature.

### **Digital History Programme Co-Ordinator**

The committee has recently recruited a digital history programme co-ordinator who will work with the Decade of Commemoration's Committee and with local heritage and history groups in 2021. An emphasis will be put on training and development of local

groups and individuals on digital technologies and platforms.

High quality film and sound recording equipment has been purchased and will be made available on application. The Decade of Commemorations Committee are now working on an exciting programme of activities for 2021, including further online talks, exhibitions, digital content, along with continuing to work with local heritage and community groups throughout the year. The council will also continue to assist the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in ensuring that Kildare continues to play its part in delivering the national Decade of Centenaries Programme.

### **World War I – Kildare Book of the Dead**

Extensive research has almost concluded with the hope that this seminal work will be published early in 2021. Biographical details of over 750 Kildare men and women are documented alongside photographic evidence of participants monuments, gravestones and plaques.



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### **Looking Forward to 2021**

The programme is entering into the final phase of the Decade of Commemorations, with the War of Independence and Civil War. The council hold true to its original strategy approved by Full Council in 2015 which is to consider the most appropriate

method to mark the centenaries locally; to devise a series of cultural, historical and educational events and commemorate the period in an inclusive appropriate and sensitive manner. The council look forward to working with all municipal districts and encourages active participation of its citizenship



## Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Kildare

### Look For Local Day

The LEO are organising a #LookForLocal Day on Monday 14 December. The hope is that all the stakeholder in the Look For Local Campaign, including local authorities, will tweet support for the campaign

that day using the hashtag ahead of the busiest weeks for Christmas shopping.

For more information please visit: [shopcountykildare.ie](http://shopcountykildare.ie) or the National Web address at: [Localenterprise.ie/lookforlocal](http://Localenterprise.ie/lookforlocal)

## 2020 Report of Activities

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2020 – Supporting Kildare Businesses

#### Phase 1: REACT

- First LEO in the country to provide '**Leading your business through COVID-19**'
- **Immediately Kildare Head of Enterprise liaised directly with Tánaiste, Mr Leo Varadkar** during 2 x local lockdowns working with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment to develop **supports specifically for Kildare businesses.**
- **904** businesses availed of expert mentoring, in financial management and marketing.
- Supporting Mental Health of the business community. **466** businesses attended weekly virtual coffee networking mornings gaining support and guidance through phases of crisis and gaining peer support.
- The **Mindfulness Business Series Programme.**
- **Daily Accessibility of Head of Enterprise** - for business and emotional support.



### Phase 2: RESILIENCE

- **€1 million invested** in COVID-19 Business Continuity Support, helping over 700 businesses in Kildare.
- Kildare Good News' social media campaign championing Kildare entrepreneurs with focus on COVID-19 as an opportunity.
- **Over 570 businesses brought online with €1.32 million** investment in eCommerce funding.

### Phase 3: REOPEN

- Kildare was the only LEO in the country to provide sector specific COVID-19 programmes e.g. beauty and hairdressing, hospitality, retail, professional services.
- **250** businesses attended COVID-19 Supports webinar in August 2020 following local lockdown.
- **3,425** businesses completed training programmes to combat COVID-19 business challenges.

### Bringing Back the High Street

Total Investment to date (Dec 2020): **€233.3K** includes:

1. Developing and managing the shared ecommerce website '**Shop County Kildare.**'
2. 300+ Kildare retailers registered on the Kildare County Council Shop County Kildare website.
3. **92** Kildare businesses received funding to improve shopfronts to the value of **€133,107.**
4. **Bespoke Retail Mentorship** programmes with expert retail consultants.



5. **Marketing Campaign – Shop Local:** Aim of the campaign to champion small, local businesses, educate on importance of and encourage local community to shop local.
6. An additional **€1.32 million investment in eCommerce funding.**

## Supporting Kildare Businesses in 2020

### Business as Usual

<b>Kildare LEO Supporting Businesses in 2020</b> (Figures from January to 07 December 2020)	
<b>€847.8K</b> investment in <b>Start Up and Expansion Grants.</b>	<b>92</b> businesses funded to <b>Improve Shopfronts.</b>
<b>3,784</b> businesses availed of <b>Online Training.</b>	<b>995</b> businesses received <b>Expert Mentoring.</b>
<b>€1.75 million</b> investment in <b>COVID-19 Business Continuity Support.</b>	<b>€1.4 million</b> investment in <b>E-commerce Funding.</b>
<b>€6.8K</b> invested in Micro Enterprise Assistance Funding.	<b>13</b> businesses received <b>€447,500</b> with Micro Finance Business Loans.

<b>Supporting Entrepreneurship</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46 businesses received LEO direct grant funding of €1.2 million to start and grow their business.</li> <li>• 285 new jobs created by client companies.</li> <li>• 13 businesses received €447,500 of MFI Finance.</li> <li>• Client company QPQ Ltd represented Kildare at the <b>National Enterprise Awards 2020</b>. Kildare holds first place title for 2 years running. Largest Female Entrepreneur gathering during Women in Enterprise Day, held virtually. Client company Pestle and Mortar headlined the National event.</li> </ul>
<b>Growing Entrepreneurship</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>724</b> established companies in the last year in County Kildare.</li> <li>• <b>241</b> persons embarked on their Start Your Own Business journey.</li> </ul>



- **941** businesses availed of 1-to-1 business advice and mentoring to establish a business.
- **21** secondary schools in Student Enterprise Programme with **1,504** students participating.
- **34** teams of third level students competed in the Innovation Challenge in association with Maynooth University/prize pot of €10,000. **75** Students attended workshops hosted by LEO.

### Innovation

#### 2020

- MERITS Business activity started and hosted 2 x innovation events, strengthening Kildare Brand of Innovation.
- MERITS General Manager appointed and Programme Manager recruitment underway.
- 10 businesses committed to the Innovate Kildare Programme with Carlow IT.

#### 2021

- MERITS to open housing 120 tech Innovate entrepreneurs March 2021
- Launch of first Industry wide Innovation mentoring program
- Build on Kildare Brand particularly around an innovation district; similar to Cambridge in Boston

### Equine Industry

#### 2020

- Development of an Equine Strategy.
- Signing of lease with National Stud.
- Designed and delivered the Business Growth for Equine sector and 'Start Your Own Business Programme for HRI.
- Secured €87,000 for the development of an Equine Innovation Hub for entrepreneurs on the grounds of the Irish National Stud.



### 2021

- January - Equine Innovation Hub construction starts, expected to be completed in May 2021.
- Development of Equine Business Network.
- Development of Equine Branding and Positioning - development and active promotion of Kildare's Equine Brand.

## Food Industry

### 2020

- Secured €480,000 under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) to advance design for Part 8 for Food Innovation Hub
- Applied for a further €4 million.
- Development of Kildare Food Network.
- **28 Kildare food businesses** availed of '*Opportunities for Food Producers during COVID-19*' support.
- Kildare client products featured in ALDI programme and available in stores

### 2021

- January - Launch of the County Wide Food Strategy with all key stakeholders.

### Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub Update

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



- County Kildare Community Network (CKCN)/Kildare County Council was awarded €311,000 under the RRDF Category 2 funding to support the appointment of an architect-led design team to perform professional services for the delivery of Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.
- Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led by Bluett O’Donoghue has been appointed. The project team has held four meetings with the design team and a programme schedule has been approved. Work has commenced on the detailed design and the Part 8 planning process. A preplanning meeting has taken place with Kildare County Council and the Part 8 planning application will be submitted this month.
- The team have also submitted a funding application for under the RRDF Category 1 to the Department of Rural and Community Development to provide for construction works associated with the renovation of the hub.

**Craft Sector**

- Original Kildare Craft Network was launched.
- Kildare clients participated in the National Design Challenge with the Design and Crafts Council Ireland (DCII).

**Sustainability**

**2020**

- €880,000 was secured for Allenwood for the development of a zone for sustainable businesses under Just Transition.
- 91 companies were funded through the Lean-Green Business Programme over 10 months (tripled since 2019).
- The Climate Action Conference was hosted by the LEO Kildare with 60 plus in attendance.



- The provision of 150 co-working sites across 4 sites to reduce carbon footprint of commuters.
- Development of a strategy for a public/private co-working partnership.



## COVID-19 Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID-19:

All COVID-19 Business Supports Available from all Government Bodies are Outlined on the LEO Kildare Website at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Covid-19-Supports/Covid-Business-Supports-National-Lockdown-October-2020.html>

Objective	Support	Link
<b>Financial</b>		
<b>Immediate Cashflow</b>	<b>MFI COVID-19 Business Loan –</b> The first 6 months interest and repayment free, reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html</a>
	<b>Microenterprise Grant -</b> The Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund will assist businesses with less than 10 employees, who are ineligible for existing grants, with a voucher of up to €1,000.	<a href="https://microenterpriseassistance.ie/">https://microenterpriseassistance.ie/</a>
	<b>Enterprise Support Grant – An Enterprise Support Grant</b> will be made available to assist self-employed recipients who are exiting the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) Scheme. This will provide owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to re-start their business.	<a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-owners-and-school-meals-scheme-to-be-extended-into-summer/">https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-owners-and-school-meals-scheme-to-be-extended-into-summer/</a>



	<p><b>Restart Grant</b> – for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through Kildare County Council’s Rates Department.) <b>Note:</b> Applications closed on 31 October 2020.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/">http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/</a></p>
<p><b>Generate Revenue with Online Sales</b></p>	<p><b>Shop County Kildare</b> – A new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html</a></p>
	<p><b>Trading Online</b> - Please encourage constituents to submit completed application forms to <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a>. 70 plus applications are under review.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/</a></p>
<p><b>Upgrade Shopfronts and Implement Outdoor COVID-19 Signage</b></p>	<p><b>Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail-/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail-/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html</a></p>



<b>Advisory</b>		
<b>Expert Strategic Mentoring</b>	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with a panel of specialist mentors.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE</a>
<b>Health and Safety Guidance</b>	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring with a specialist to ensure businesses have tools and knowledge to implement Health and Safety measures in line with Government Guidelines to allow them to open as soon as possible.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE</a>
<b>Managing Employees in Line with Government Guidelines</b>	Free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and bringing staff back to work in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE</a>
<b>Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing</b>	Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve and implement social distancing.	Email <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> to apply
<b>Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales</b>	A suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a>



<b>Communications</b>		
<b>Frequent Updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and Services as well as Support Documents and Publications</b>	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.	Head of Enterprise (HOE) Note: <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html</a>  Sign up to newsletter: <a href="https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c">https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c</a>
<b>Access to the LEO Team and Specialists</b>	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to a specialist within 24 hours of enquiry.	<a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> 045980838

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**Peter Carey**  
**Chief Executive**