



## Chief Executive's Management Report – September 2020

### Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements for Council Meetings during COVID-19

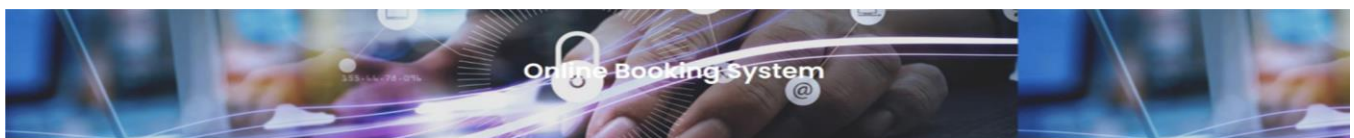
Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

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

Members of the public continue to pre-book appointments with relevant services either online at [www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/) or by phone to 045 980 200. An appointment based approach is assisting in managing attendance at the offices in a safe way and guaranteeing availability of relevant staff to deal with the public in a timely manner.



Home > Online Booking System >

Home

#### Department Links

Please do not attend our public offices or libraries if you or someone in your household has symptoms of Covid 19.

Do not resume any of our services in person until you or they complete the 14-day isolation period and are fever free for the last 3 days.

On foot of public health advice, customers visiting our buildings **MUST** wear face coverings. Where face coverings are not worn, services may not be possible.

#### Appointments and public health guidelines

File Size: 105KB - Document Type: Acrobat.pdf

**Athy Customer Service Point**

Book Athy Customer Service Point

**Building and Development Control**

Book Building and Development Control

**Community & Cultural Department**

Book Community & Culture

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



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## Kildare Community Call Helpline

Freephone 1800 300 174

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

Text KILDARE to 50555

The Community Call Helpline has been diverted to mobile phones now so that we can see if there are any calls outside of the helpline hours. We are happy to report that there has not been demand outside of the new operating hours (9am to 5:pm). In fact, the number of people ringing the helpline has dropped to an average of 1 call per day. However, as stated here previously, the Helpline team will continue to monitor local needs and respond appropriately. It should be noted that nationally all community helplines opening hours have now been changed to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Contact details for general council services are:

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

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



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## News Items

### **Restart Grant Plus**

This scheme allowed an additional 40% top up to Kildare ratepayers due to the additional restrictions placed on Kildare in August. The closing date for applications is 30 September 2020 (see page 8).

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

Kildare Council was successful in securing funding under the NTA July Stimulus Plan for a number of schemes (see page 49-50).

### **Twelve Cycle Café Schemes Approved**

Kildare County Council has approved applications from 12 local businesses as a host for a 'Designated Cycle Café' in the county (see page 44).

### **Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2020**

Each local authority is required to prepare a summary of housing needs of the social housing assessments (see page 19).

### **Sallins Amenity Land**

Cathal O'Meara, Landscape Architects have been appointed to prepare a masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land (see page 65).

### **Open Space Strategy**

Consultation on the preparation of the strategy commenced on 10 September (see page 65).

### **COVID-19 Hero Portrait Project**

**10 portraits will be on display outside council chamber from Tuesday 15 September**

### **Date for Your Diary**

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) The closing date is 3:00 p.m. on Friday 25 September (see page 61).



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## Corporate Services

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

Kildare County Council proposes to make bye-laws under Section 199(1) and Section 131 of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by Section 131A and 131B of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, for the control of consumption and possession of alcohol in public places in the County of Kildare.

A copy of the Draft Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption & Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2020 will be made available to be viewed or inspected during the period (4 weeks) from **Wednesday, 16 September 2020 to Wednesday, 14 October 2020** (both dates inclusive) at the following locations during normal business hours:

- On Kildare County Council's Website at:  
<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>
- Corporate Services Department (Level 1), Kildare County Council, at the address below
- Athy Customer Service Point, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare.
- Local libraries in Athy, Ballitore, Castledermot, Celbridge, Clane, Clocharin, Kilcock, Kilcullen, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas, Newbridge and Rathangan – Please Note: Access to all Libraries is by appointment only -  
[www.kildare.ie/library/Library/](http://www.kildare.ie/library/Library/)

Submissions or observations on the proposed bye-laws may be made:

- Online here  
<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/>  
OR
- in writing to **Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department** at the address below.



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Please make your submission is by one medium only i.e. online or in hard copy.

E-mail or faxed submissions will not be accepted. The closing date for receipt of submissions/observations is **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 28 October 2020.**

### **Book of Condolence for the late Desmond Guinness, R.I.P.**

At the request of the Cathaoirleach, an online Book of Condolence for the late Desmond Guinness was opened on the council's website.

### **Book of Condolence for the late John Hume, R.I.P.**

At the request of the Cathaoirleach, an online Book of Condolence for the late John Hume was opened on the council's website.

### **Meetings**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mark Stafford convened a briefing of the elected members of Kildare County Council on Tuesday 11 August to discuss the extra public health measures introduced in Kildare on 08 August 2020.

The Cathaoirleach convened a further briefing on Friday 14 August that included relevant stakeholders and the Cathaoirligh of Laois County Council Offaly County Council, enabling all authorities to work in unison during this difficult phase.

No statutory meetings of council were held during the month of August.

### **Finance and Information Technology**

#### **2019 Audit**

The Local Government Auditor commenced the audit of the 2019 Annual Financial Statements on 25 September 2020. Members were



emailed with the confirmed date earlier in September.

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

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

### **Restart Grants Scheme**

The first Restart Grant Scheme resulted in 1,170 Kildare ratepayers receiving approximately €5million in

grants. The Restart Grant Plus Scheme is currently being processed and the closing date is 30 September 2020. This scheme allowed an additional 40% top up to Kildare ratepayers due to the additional restrictions placed on Kildare in August. Applications for this grant can be found online at

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/>

### **Rates Waiver Scheme**

A six month waiver scheme was announced in the July Stimulus Package. This will be applied automatically to all business who meet the criteria. Details of ratepayers excluded from this waiver scheme can be found online at:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/CommercialRatesWaiverScheme2020/>

### **Financial Reports**

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).



## Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

### County Development Plan

Variation No 1 was made on 9 June 2020 and, in line with legislation, came into immediate effect. This incorporated the population allocation projected for the region (Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly's (EMRA'S) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) to Kildare County Council. Background work on research papers are underway in advance of the County Development Plan (CDP) review which is due to be initiated in early 2021.

### Local Area Plans (LAP's)

Work is ongoing in the preparation and formulation of a number of Local Area Plans (LAP's). The LAP's are supported by various assessments such as Social and Physical Infrastructure Assessments, Urban Regeneration Strategies and Flood Risk and Environmental Assessments. It is anticipated that the LAP's will begin to be published in Quarter 4, 2020. Revised public consultation arrangements will be required to adhere to public health guidance around gatherings/meetings.

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: June 2020	
July	Aug	Year	No.	Total Granted:	
2018:	291	1,596	1,026	Retention:	37
2019:	239	977	1,883	Extension of Duration:	5
2020:	304	999	1,389	Total Refused:	54





## Significant Planning Applications July and August 2020

Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
20/259	Alder Clover Ltd	Change of use of distribution warehouse to beverage manufacturing, additional works and retention of office accommodation at the former Lidl Distribution Centre, Greatconnell, Newbridge	Granted	13/08/20
18/1514	Bord n Mona Powergen	10 year permission for renewable energy development at Drehid, Killyon, Timahoe East.	Granted by ABP	29/7/20

### Strategic Infrastructure

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

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

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

**Application by Bord na Móna Powergen Limited and ESB Wind Development Limited (ABP Ref. 18/303249) for a 110kV onsite Electric Substation at Timahoe East Approved by An Bord Pleanála on 29 July 2020.**



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

Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
20/306504	Ardstone Homes Ltd	Crodaun, Celbridge.	372	24/01/20	Granted 04/09/20
20/306777	Windlynn Ltd	Kilmalum Road, Blessington.	360	03/03/20	Refused 10/08/20
20/306826	Rycroft Homes	Boycetown, Commons West, (adjoining the Brayton Park Estate), Kilcock.	345	06/03/20	Granted 19/08/20
20/307013	McCourt Investments Ltd	Kill Hill and Earl's Court, Kill.	167	30/03/20	20/07/20
20/307100	Crodaun Development Company Ltd	Crodaun, Celbridge.	467	24/04/20	13/08/20
20/307223	ES Leixlip Greenfields Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Kilmacredock, Leixlip.	239	25/05/20	14/09/20
20/307258	Randelswood Holdings	Devoy Quarter, Naas West.	152	29/05/20	17/09/20

### Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Public Consultation

Application for a proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station, Suffolk, UK Notification received in respect of the above consultation. Documents available to view at [www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie) and submissions

may be made to Kildare County Council at [plandept@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:plandept@kildarecoco.ie) by 28 October 2020.

### Conservation Update

Mr Michael O'Boyle, temporary replacement for Peter Black, Architectural Conservation Officer, has now been appointed on a consultant



basis. A meeting took place with Mr O'Boyle to hand over a number of conservation related tasks.

### Proposed additions to the Record of Protected Structures

The submission date for the proposed inclusion of a number of protected structures onto the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) (see list below) has now passed.

- Two Mausolea Pyramids, Maudlins Cemetery, Naas.
- 31 and 33 Main Street, Leixlip

- Kildare Castle Gatehouse, Kildare Town.
- New Abbey House, Gate Lodge and Demesne, Kilcullen
- Thatched Cottage, Carnalway, Kilcullen.
- Yew Cottage, Mountrice, Monasterevin.

One submission was received (in relation to 31 and 33 Main Street, Leixlip) objecting to the proposed inclusion of these structures onto the RPS. A report is currently being prepared.

### Vacant Sites Update 2020

<b>Vacant Sites</b>		
<b>Surveyed Town*</b>	<b>Number of Sites Surveyed</b>	<b>To date, the potential number of sites to be included on the Vacant Sites Register having regard to feedback from Area Engineers (Water and Wastewater) and discussions with E Ryan, M Kenny and L Crawford</b>
Newbridge	23	12
Celbridge	13	11
Kilcock	8	6
Kildare Town	32	10
Maynooth	21	6
Sallins	12	6
Clane	17	6
Leixlip	10	6
Athy	22	0
Monasterevin	16	10
Kilcullen	10	2
Naas	31	3



Section 7(1) notices have now issued for Leixlip, Kildare and Maynooth. It is then intended to issue notices on separate occasions for the remaining towns at c. 2-3 week intervals thereafter.

### Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team Update

Concept
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Athy Urban Design analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Not yet commenced.
<b>Athy</b> -Athy-Regeneration Strategy-Ongoing through Athy Town Team.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-Laneways Project-Included in RRDF Application submitted.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received.
<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.
Part 8
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 drawings being finalised.
<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 pilot launched on Market Square with public consultation commencing.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 drawings finalised.



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

**Tender Consultants and Design**

**Athy/ Kildare-Newbridge** - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works commenced at Miltown Bridge (3km North of Athy). 2km of Blueway constructed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Clane-Maynooth** – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.

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

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



Tender Consultants
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants currently being assessed.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. The Paul Hogarth Company appointed and project inception meeting held on 26 June.
<b>Naas</b> - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €1.7 million funding approval. Tender assessed and detailed design is now commencing.
<b>Athy</b> - Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard - Funding terms and conditions received and accepted 02 January 2019.
Tender Works
<b>Athy</b> – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Newbridge - Newbridge Library - Advisory role.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Newbridge – Riverbank -Tender assessment - advisory role
Design
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with urban designers.



**Kildare-Newbridge** - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.

**Kildare-Newbridge** - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Included in URDF application submitted on 29 May 2020.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan being finalised with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA).

#### **Detailed Design**

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.

**Clane-Maynooth** - Kilcock-Community Centre. Fire Cert application and DAC application submitted.

#### **On Hold**

**Clane-Maynooth** - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - on hold until funding source identified.

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

#### **Construction**

**Clane-Maynooth** – Prosperous - Landscape enhancement and car park works 75% complete.

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



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

**Complete**

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

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

**Advisory**

Naas - Naas Library - Advisory role.

**Grand Total €40,632,290**





Funding Stream	Funding Department	Project Location	Project Description	Funding Awarded	Total Project Cost	Comments
Carbon Tax Fund	Climate Change, Communications Networks and Transport.	Sallins to Clonkeen (Offaly border)	Detailed Design, Detailed Business Case, Total Scheme Budget (TSB) and Enabling Procurement for a 38.5km section in County Kildare (11km. Of which has already received funding) from Sallins to Clonkeen on the Offaly border.	€96,850	€96,850	This funding will bring the Grand Canal Greenway to shovel ready stage from Sallins to Clonkeen.
Town & Village Renewal Scheme Accelerated Measure in response to Covid-19	Department of Rural and Community Development.	Kildare	Removal of existing car-parking spaces in the Market Square to facilitate social distancing, recreational use by the community and, outdoor eating and queuing of patrons for businesses on the square.	€40,000	€47,500	Work will begin on this project in mid-August..
		Athy	Support for the School Street pilot scheme in Athy.	€25,000	€29,000	
		Monasterevin	Support for the School Street pilot scheme in Monasterevin.	€25,000	€29,000	



		Lowtown	Support the establishment of a 'Cycle Café' to promote cycling and provide cyclists and cycling groups with a 'pit stop'.	€25,000	€29,000	
		Sallins	Support the establishment of a 'Cycle Café' to promote cycling and provide cyclists and cycling groups with a 'pit stop'.	€25,000	€28,500	
Rural Regeneration and Development Fund	Department of Rural and Community Development.	Kildare	Preparation of plans and detailed design for the redevelopment of the Market Square Phase 2, and the detailed design for a new street scape and pedestrian link from Kildare Village to the town centre.	€1,750,000	€2,333,333	Works on Phase 1 of the redevelopment of Market Square will commence in 2021 through funding provided by Fáilte Ireland.



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## Housing

### **Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2020**

The council has been directed by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, under Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, that each housing authority is required to prepare a summary of housing needs of the social housing assessments carried out in its administrative area.

The Minister has directed that the summary be prepared on 02 November 2020. The 2020 summary is the continuation of the process of annual assessments of national housing needs which commenced with the 2016 summary. The applications which require review are those that were approved prior to 31 December, 2010.

The key output of the summary remains the net need figure i.e. the number of qualified households on the council's housing list whose housing need has not been met. It is, therefore, essential that all

households included on the list of qualified households meet the criteria of eligibility and need set out in the Social Housing Assessment Regulations, and also that the council's total figure does not include certain households, such as those on transfer lists or in accommodation provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

Over the coming weeks the Housing Department will be making contact with the relevant applicants on their housing list to ensure that all applicants are compliant with the social housing assessment regulations and are still in need of housing. In the meantime the council will encourage housing applicants to ensure that their housing applications are up to date.



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### **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

A total of 476 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) applications have been processed year to date. The emergency measures in the Public Interest Act 2020 expired on the 01 August, this Act prohibited the termination of tenancies and rent increases.

From 02 August the Residential Tenancies and Valuation Act 2020 sets out new protections for tenants who are in rent arrears; tenants who contracted COVID-19 and were not paid by their employer or are in receipt of the temporary wage subsidy or any other social welfare payment due to loss of earnings. Due to Covid-19 individuals can receive additional protections to remain in their tenancy without any increase in rent until January 2021. Money Advice and Budgeting Services (MABS) has a role in advising tenants on this matter.

### **Private Rented Inspections**

Inspections of private rented properties to ensure compliance with minimum rental standards resumed in July. Additional health and safety procedures have been put in place to protect staff and tenants, as a result of these precautions the number of daily inspections has reduced.

### **Mortgage to Rent Scheme**

In 2019 Home for Life were appointed as a national Mortgage to Rent (MTR) provider, prior to this all MTR properties were purchased by Approved Housing Bodies (ABH's). The occupants of Home for Life properties are tenants of Kildare County Council, however Home for Life are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the properties. In August the first of these tenancies commenced, with three households signing tenancy agreements.



## Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

2020	Approval No.	Approval Amount		Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
January	1	€165,000		1	€220,000	0	0
February	3	€655,000		1	€170,000	0	0
March	4	€967,900		1	€202,500	0	0
April	0	0		0	0	0	0
May	0	0		1	€237,800	0	0
June	1	€158,000		2	€319,500	0	0
July	0	0		3	€385,865	0	0
August	0	0		1	€30,645	0	0

	2019	2020
<b>Value of Loans Approved</b>	<b>€19,692,336</b>	<b>€1, 945,900</b>
Value of loans drawn down	€10,160,922	<b>€1,566,310</b> <b>(2019 approvals)</b>

An extensions of 3 months has been granted to loan offers that expire during the COVID-19 Pandemic with the condition that an up to date payslip and bank statements is provided prior to drawdown.

Kildare County Council has received confirmation of the availability of a loan facility of up to €10 million for 2020. All applicants must now complete a declaration of unchanged circumstances prior to final loan offer.



### Tenant Purchase Scheme

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

Four applications were received during the July/August period and are currently being assessed.

### 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. Increasing presentations of single people continues to challenge Homeless Services, however, progress is being made in moving individuals and families on from private emergency accommodation through allocations and the work of the Homeless HAP service.

The Homeless HAP Officer continues to work with families in emergency accommodation, however the rate of refusals of accommodation and failure to attend appointments for viewings was 19% in the past months.

A further issue arising nationally is a significant increase in HAP arrears with over 6,000 now in arrears, which represents a 50% increase since COVID-19 commenced. Housing Agency will shortly update LAs on revised procedures/timelines for dealing with HAP arrears.



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### **Number of Allocations**

498 allocations were made up to 31 August 2020, which represents 1,585 individuals and dependents.

### **Housing Projects Delivered**

104 new houses in Rathangan, Prosperous and Naas

### **Housing Projects on Site**

12 units at Bundle of Sticks, Naas (Homeless Care CLG) Quarter 4, 2020  
28 Units at Castlefen, Sallins (Tuath Housing) Quarter 2, 2021.

### **Housing Response and Planned Maintenance**

4,098 response maintenance tasks completed to end of August.

Refurbishment works summary is set out below:

- 126 units complete
- 95 units ongoing
- 127 units being prepared

### **Traveller Community**

Tankardsgarden Halting site has been vacated and is being prepared for emergency/transitional traveller accommodation.

### **Capital Projects COVID-19 Update**

#### **Mountain View, Athgarvan**

The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Guidance has been received in relation to the award



on contracts. The successful tenderer designated has been contacted to

**PP Bundle 1 Site at Craddockstown**

The social housing project at Craddockstown, Naas, delivered 36 of the total 74 units in June, with the remaining units 38 units now complete and being tenanted.



confirm that they will stand over their tender.

**PPP Bundle 2 Site at Nancy’s Lane, Clane**

Works are underway following the recent suspension due to COVID-19. The original programmed completion date for 77 units was April 2021. No revised programme is available yet.

**PPP Bundle 3, Ardrew, Athy**

50-60 units are at early stages. Design team tenders are being assessed. All other capital projects are at design stage and are progressing with staff working from home and liaising with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG). A number of Stage submissions have been lodged with the DHPLG.

**Capital Programme**

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2020
Completed		





Anne Street Prosperous.	12 units	Complete July 2020
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		<b>Status September 2020</b>
Athgarvan Village.	18 units	Stage 4 approval for award on contract received. Tender validity period has been extended. Successful tenderer designate requested to stand over original tender including COVID-19 protocol measures.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		<b>Status September 2020</b>
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3).	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Workshop meetings with residents took place 11 and 12 March 2020. Final amendments agreed with the Housing Section to advance completion of Part 8. Original design team re-engaged and briefed to develop scheme to Part 8.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		<b>Status September 2020</b>
Old Greenfield, Maynooth.	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units	Approval in principle received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for revised scheme of 65. Approval Stage 2 to the DHPLG expected Quarter 3, 2020.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge.	37 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to DHPLG Quarter 4, 2020. The Serviced Sites Fund (SSF) site – will deliver some affordable units. Design team tender being prepared.
Dispensary Site, Carbury	5 units	Stage 1 approval for 5 units received.
Ambassador Site, Kill.	33 units	Stage 2 approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 4, 2020. Design team tender being prepared.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	67 units	Stage 1 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2020.
Caragh Road, Naas.	73 units	Stage 1 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 3, 2020.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin.	16 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to the DHPLG Quarter 4, 2020.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy.	5 group housing units	Pre Stage 1.
Coill Dubh.	10 units	Building services consultant tender assessed and appointment pending.



### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2020
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from the DHPLG. Part 8 prepared.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from the DHPLG in September 2019. Part 8 prepared.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Stage 1 Approval submitted to the DHPLG Quarter 2, 2020.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 unit	Pre Stage 1.
Shamrock Stores, Athy	1 x new unit + 2 x refurb	Pre Stage 1.
Iniscarra, Athy	2 x new unit + 1 x refurb	Pre Stage 1.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	74 units complete.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Prior to Covid-19 restrictions scheme due for completion Quarter 2, 2021. Revised programme to be advised.
Andrew, Athy	50/60 units	Design team tender being assessed

### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status September 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Transfer of site pending prior to contract award.



Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Due to complete Quarter 2, 2021.
Cluid ESB site Leixlip	24 units	Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site. Feedback on initial proposals sent to Cluid.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	104 units	Site allocated to Cluid who control the adjacent St. Eta's development. Amended proposal awaited from the Approved Housing Body (AHB).

### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status September 2020
KARE	3 Units Craddockstown	Part 8 planning application prepared and will be lodged Quarter 3, 2020.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	Due for completion Quarter 4, 2020.
Sofia Housing	28 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	Amended site proposal received September 2020.
Cluid	30 units Dominican Lands Athy	Stage 1 Approval received July 2020. Approval Stage 2 submission due to the DHPLG Quarter 4, 2020.
The Peter McVerry Trust	5 units Sallins	Stage 1 and 2 being assessed by architects prior to submission to the DHPLG.

### Acquisitions January - Sept 2020

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	9	12



Housing Turnkeys	39	81	19	174
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	10	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>264</b>

### **Midland Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme**

Kildare County Council is one of 8 counties eligible for funding under this scheme. The budget set aside for Kildare County Council is €3.2 million over 2020/2021.

Kildare County Council has tendered 3 sample units for energy upgrade works as permitted under the scheme. The purpose of these three units is to showcase to tenants interested in the scheme the benefits of energy renovations to households. The tender for these 3 units is presently with the DHPLG for review.

The initial funding allocation will fund the retrofitting of approximately 70 units. Kildare County Council will

prepare a list of suitable units for inclusion in the programme and will engage with tenants interested in the scheme. Units will be surveyed in the coming months for the preparation and issue of tender documentation for the initial phase.

The council expect the programme to run over 4 phases. The National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway are undertaking a research project called HAVEN. The aim of the project is to investigate the health impacts and related benefits of energy retrofitting. The council will be actively participating with the NUI on this project, to recruit home occupants who are partaking in the Midlands Energy Retrofitting Programme onto the HAVEN research project.

### **Water Services**

#### **Infrastructural Projects**



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### **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 2020 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.

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

The upgraded Osberstown WWTP was handed back to Irish

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

This contract was signed by Irish Water and Coffey Construction Ltd on 08 August 2019 and it has a 30-month construction programme.

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. New work fronts have been opened on the R407 Clane to Sallins Road, in Naas outside the Áras Chill Dara on the Newbridge and John Devoy Roads and in Newbridge Town.

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

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

Water/Kildare County Council operations in January 2020.

### **Maynooth Transfer Pipeline**



This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and design stage. Site investigation works have recently commenced.

Irish Water has commenced engagement with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

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

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

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

## **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.

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

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.

### **Water Networks Management Projects**

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

Works resumed on 07 July 2020. To date, all public side works have been completed where customer consent has been provided. There are 20 premises remaining within this scheme, whereby, private side service connection works have still to be completed. Permanent road reinstatement works are currently ongoing as part of this scheme.

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

Cleamore Terrace Back Yard Service Scheme (BYSS): Decommissioning works were completed during July as part of this project. This scheme is now

fully complete. Additional works during July 2020 were also carried out in this area, in conjunction with the Cleamore Road/Academy Street Road Improvement Scheme. This involved the transferring of all water service connections from an existing cast iron watermain to an existing uPVC watermain. This will allow for the decommissioning of all cast iron watermains along Cleamore Road.

#### **Lourdesville BYSS**

All necessary customer consent has now been obtained.

#### **Campion Crescent BYSS**

All necessary customer consent has now been obtained.

#### **Assumpta Villas BYSS**

There are currently 4 customers/premises whereby



consent has not yet been provided throughout Assumpta Villas.

### **Rowanville BYSS**

There are currently 3 customers/ premises whereby consent has not yet been provided throughout Rowanville. Works will recommence on these schemes when the necessary customer consent has been obtained. Once the remaining properties have a new service connection installed, the decommissioning works of the existing mains can commence in each housing estate.

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

The new section of watermain has now been in operation for one year and all reinstatement works have now been finalised. This scheme is now fully complete.

### **Maynooth Bottleneck Mains Scheme**

### **Irish Water Updates**

Testing and commissioning works were carried out during July on the new sections of watermain. This new section of watermain is now in operation. Permanent road reinstatement works were completed on 20 August 2020 as part of this scheme.

### **St Patrick's Terrace, Naas Back Yard Service Scheme**

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. This scheme is currently at Detailed Design Stage and it is expected that construction works will commence in Quarter 4, 2020.

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government recently launched a





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stimulus package which includes a €30m fund allocated to the Water Conservation programme and €13m for Capital maintenance. Minister O'Brien states that "It will lead to activity across all 26 counties addressing leakage, water scarcity and drought."

### **Return of Councillor Clinics**

Irish Water has advised that they will recommence Councillor Clinics from next month. They will be held online for approximately one hour and the target is to have held one for each LA by end of 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/>

### **Recycling Banks**

#### **Burial Grounds**

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

### **Environment Complaints**

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued through to July. In 2019, 338 and 367 tonnes of glass were recovered from the recycling banks in June and July, respectively. This year, the figure is 563 and 496 - an increase of nearly 40%. Staff and contractors continue to maintain existing sites to an acceptable standard, but the co-operation of the public is vital in this regard. As the community-based sports facilities have partially reopened for the public, this is beginning to reduce pressure on the recycling infrastructure.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Environmental Education**

All educational talks and events are suspended until further notice in the interests of public health and will be rescheduled at a later date where feasible. Information and services normally provided are referenced at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/EnvironmentalEducation/>

#### **Dog Control**

The council's Dog Warden Service is operating subject to the HSE's guidance at this time. The public are not permitted to visit the dog pound without an appointment. Telephone



059 8623388/045 980588 to make an appointment. Dog Licences should be purchased online, where possible at [www.licences.ie](http://www.licences.ie)

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

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

### **Catchment Flooding**

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

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

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

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

### **Draft Litter Management Plan**

The draft Litter Management Plan (2020-2023) is currently out on public consultation. Submissions can be made via the online public consultation portal or in writing. Closing date for submissions was 04 September

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Hazelhatch**

The contract for a further hydrological study into flooding at Hazelhatch has been awarded to RPS Ireland. The scope of the study has been extended to allow for a blockage scenario in the catchment, as this has been an issue in previous flood events. The study is completed, with final reports due in September. The revised mapping will be used by the OPW to update flood



extents on their website:

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

A presentation of the findings will be made to the September meeting of the Leixlip-Celbridge Municipal District.

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

Tenders have been received for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme. Assessment of these tenders is complete, and the contract is scheduled to be awarded in September. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping.

### **Kerdiffstown**

Construction works on the L2005 realignment is continuing with traffic management in place. New stone boundary walls have been constructed as part of the accommodation works with the existing houses. Drainage and utilities are being laid, including a section of new riser main on behalf of Irish Water. Kerbing has been installed

and the laying of blacktop has commenced. It is anticipated that realignment of the L2005 will be completed at the end of September this year.

The tenders for the main works have been assessed and a preferred bidder has been identified. It is anticipated that the Contract Award will be in late October subject to procurement processes and paperwork being finalised.

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas is ongoing, in accordance with the EPA Licence. The 3D visualization Model of the Proposed Park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website at:

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



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## **Cemeteries**

### **Churchtown Cemetery**

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

### **Kildare Town Cemetery**

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

### **Newbridge Cemetery**

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

### **Columbarium Walls**

#### **Derrinturn**

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

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

Temporarily on hold, pending funding being identified.



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

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

### **Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)**

The CARO continues to work with Kildare, Meath and Wicklow County Councils to pilot SEC's in partnership with the local authority. A Sustainable Energy Community webinar will be hosted by CARO on the 08 September to inform all constituent local authorities about this initiative with speakers from Kildare County Council, Meath County Council, community groups and the SEAI. It is intended that this event will catalyse action in this area across the other counties in the region.

### **Forestry**

The CARO's initial involvement in this area was to work in collaboration with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture to identify a number of pilot counties and appropriate landholdings, for afforestation, in the region. All constituent local authorities were since represented at a recent webinar and received presentations from CARO and the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM). This scheme was published by the DAFM on 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 is engaging with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) on the Just Transition Fund for the midlands region. Following on from the initial application to the SMART process, a more detailed application for funding is now being prepared for community training and capacity building across the 21 identified communities in the greater



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

### **Capacity Building**

The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners (such as Climate Ireland, Met Eireann, The Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Public Works (OPW), The Department of Communications, Action and Environment (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 be available for roll out in Quarter 4 of this year. It is now expected that the online training and 3-day Climate Action Team training programmes will

be piloted in early October (it has been decided to pilot the 3 day programme across six ½ days, online, due to the current restrictions) and rolled out thereafter pending further refinement if so required. The CARO is also working closely with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and the County and City Management Association (CCMA) to arrange a joint launch of this ambitious training programme and this is expected to take place in early October.

### **Spatial Planning**

The CARO continues to work closely with the three regional assemblies to assist local authority planners to translate regional climate objectives into local policies for inclusion in county development plan reviews. A workshop has been held for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) area. Further events will be held for the southern and western regions as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow. Furthermore, the CARO is also working closely with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to ensure that the content of proposed training for elected members aligns





with the requirements of current spatial planning policy.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

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

### **Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting**

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

### **Kildare Climate Action Team**

Kildare County Council's arrangements to recruit a Climate Action Officer and Energy Efficiency Officer have been put in place with the Climate Action Officer interviews completed and the Energy Efficiency Officer interviews will be held week commencing 07 September. It is expected that both positions will be filled in the coming weeks.

The Kildare County Council Climate Action Team has resumed meetings and is now working to compile a progress report on the implementation of its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy over the past 12 months.

### **New Initiatives**

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

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



hedgerows. It is hoped the scheme will gain momentum over the course of the year.

### **Civic Amenity Site North**

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

### **Dog Pound**

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

Telephone 059 8623388/045 980588.

### **Rathangan Public Realm**

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

### **Kilcullen Public Realm**

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

### **Monasterevin Public Realm**

This is now progressing to the next stage of design. A second round of public consultation is to be arranged

once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

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

The Part 8 in respect of The Square (first phase) has now been prioritised (a traffic plan needs to be progressed to facilitate phase 2). Carparking has been removed from Market Square as a temporary pilot to encourage social distancing .

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

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

### **The Barrow Blueway**

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

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

Research is ongoing with public consultation to commence in Quarter 4, 2020.



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## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### Twelve Cycle Café Schemes Approved

Kildare County Council has approved applications from 12 local businesses as a host for a ‘Designated Cycle Café’ in the county. Six other applications are pending approval while three more are awaiting inspection visits.

The Barrow Blueway and the Naas to Sallins Greenway proved to be attractive amenities in each application received from businesses in Athy and Sallins respectively, while other amenities around the county have also been key to applications received.

The purpose of a ‘**Cycle Café**’ is to promote cycling and provide cyclists and cycling groups with a ‘**pit stop**’ to allow them a refreshment or toilet break along their route, the use of a bicycle repair unit if required and to take advantage of local attractions, amenities and tourism.

The Cycle Café Scheme in Kildare was first introduced at ‘Fogarty’s Pavilion’ shop in Ballymore Eustace and its proprietor, Mr Sean Fogarty was happy to allow the council to develop the idea further around the county. The new Cycle Café schemes will be officially launched during Bike Week and European Mobility Week in September. Kildare County Council has secured funding of €8,500 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) to help support Bike Week initiatives this year, in addition to further funding of €50,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development for Cycle Café schemes.

Mr Keogh, Kildare County Council’s Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer welcomed the funding and said it will boost the profile of cycling and tourism in Kildare. “We are delighted our funding application was approved. Cycle Cafés will bring additional business and tourism to the county, and in addition to that, it will add to the attractions which local amenities



offer. The approved designated Cycle Café's will help boost the profile and benefits of cycling in Kildare and also ensure that cyclists are provided with much needed 'pit stops' along their routes, while also taking in the lovely attractions and amenities the county has to offer."

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

SIAC Construction Ltd/Colas Ltd. is the contractor. The contractor has opened 3 lanes both eastbound and westbound from Junction 8 Johnstown to Junction 11 (M7/M9 merge). Works continued on the Osberstown Interchange and the R407 Sallins Bypass since the lifting of the lockdown in May. Kildare County Council is liaising with the contractor with regard to a revised completion date.

### **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.

The project is currently in the final stages of Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) and Kildare National Roads Office are completing the deliverables for submission to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to sign off Phase 1. 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 Relief Road and Bridge**

The preferred route option, (C), was presented in committee to the Maynooth Municipal District Committee on 05 April 2019. The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee confirmed approval of the Part 8 in respect of Option C on 29 July. Detailed design and CPO preparation stages are now underway.

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



proposed design in relation to the EU Interoperability Directive) is currently under way.

### **Athy Distributor Route**

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October, 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist and Leinster Leader 28 November 2017. No objections/Judicial Reviews were received by the deadline on 23 January 2018. €3 million was included in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) road grants 2019 for this project. Notices to treat have been issued. Notice of entry on lands has been issued. Advance works between Corran Árd and Fortbarrington Road have been completed. The railway abandonment is complete. The removal of the rails and sleepers is complete. The Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) lands have been secured from trespassers and the main contract commenced tender on 25 March. The procurement is under the restricted procedure and involves a two-stage process. The first

stage return will be due at the end of May 2021. The consultants are currently focused on document preparation for Stage 2 and dealing with queries for stage 1. The agreements with CIE and Waterways Ireland are a necessary prerequisite to commencement of construction and are being progressed. Land acquisition is also progressing. The team are currently closing out archaeology before the main contract is awarded. Work to achieve a Bridge Agreement with Iarnród Éireann continues with the submission of various technical reports. The following procurements are currently under way:

- Main Contract,
- Category 3 check by independent consultant



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### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road:  
Planning approval was issued by An  
Bord Pleanála to Cairn Developments  
Plc. Works are progressing well.

### **Newbridge Outer Orbital Route**

Naas Road to Great Connell Road  
Newbridge: Construction has  
progressed well to date.

### **Northern Link Street and South Green Area Access Improvement Scheme (Kildare Town)**

The route selection process is ongoing  
and consultation with Iarnród Éireann  
has commenced regarding the design of  
an upgrade/replacement bridge over the  
railway. A briefing was delivered to the  
Kildare Newbridge Municipal District  
Committee on 12 June.

A non- statutory Public Consultation was  
held on 18 June at the Kildare Education  
Centre. All submissions received have  
been considered. The project is unlikely  
to proceed to statutory procedures until  
the Kildare Town Transport Strategy has

been completed due to the reservations  
of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District  
Committee.

## **Naas Municipal District August 2020**

### **Naas Municipal District Footpath**

#### **Works**

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

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

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

The Naas Municipal District is currently  
preparing for tender stage for footpath  
improvement works at the following



location. Construction is to commence in Quarter 4, 2020:

- Church Avenue-Canal Avenue, Sallins
- Morell Road-Oldtown Green, Oldtown Court, Naas
- Ashgrove Park, Naas
- Hollywood Park, Naas
- Kilcrest, Ballymore Eustace
- Bishopshill Ballymore Eustace
- Johnstown Manor, Johnstown

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

The first package of road improvement works (WP 1) 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 (WP 2) is now substantially complete. It includes the following works locations:

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

The third package of road improvement works (WP 3) 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 (WP 4) is at tender stage. It includes the following works locations. Construction to commence in October 2020:

- L29937 - Monread Avenue, Naas.
- L2999 - Lough bui/Corbans Lane, Naas





- L10005 – Fairgreen, Naas
- L6032 – Hartwell, Kill

### **National Transport Authority (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 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.

At tender stage, construction is to commence in October 2020.

L29937 – Monread Avenue, Naas – Road Improvement project.

At tender stage, construction is to commence in October 2020.

### **Surface Dressing Works**

The Naas Municipal District have 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.

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

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

##### **Pedestrian works**

##### **Academy street**

Upgrade all footpaths both sides.

##### **Militta Road**

Upgrade of footpaths and pedestrian crossings.

##### **Rathangan**

Footpath construction is ongoing on the Edenderry Road R401. A tender is being issued for general footpath repairs within the municipal district.

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

Funding received under the NTA Active Travel Scheme for Drogheda Street and Main Street in Monastrevin:

Footpath upgrade including 3 pedestrian crossings and surface overlay. A tender was being issued on Wednesday 02 September.

Footpath upgrades in Newbridge:  
A tender was issued on Wednesday 02 September.

Footpath upgrades in Rathangan:  
Installation of 3 pedestrian crossing and upgrade of footpaths in Rathangan.

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

##### **Road Resurfacing Works**

Road resurfacing has been completed at the following locations:



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Under the Restoration and Maintenance

Grant (Surface Dressing) Scheme:

- Rathbride to Milltown
- Rathbride Cross to Kilmoney
- Wheelam Bridge to Rathbride cross
- Thomastown Cross to Cloughgarett
- We have 60% of the surface dressing programme completed

Under the Restoration and improvement Grant Scheme:

- Castlefish L6089
- Common to Yellow bog L6086
- Ballymee to Melonhill L6062
- Derrylea L7081
- Allen cross to Roadstone L3002
- Southgreen Road to Kildare town L7015
- Blackberry lane L7025
- Blacktrench Road L7067

Under the Local improvement Scheme(LIS):

- Lattensbog

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

- Contract awarded for Pairc Mhuire. Works to commence in the coming weeks.
- Academy Street t- works to commence next week.
- Roundtowers footpath-works commenced last week.
- Footpath tender currently being prepared for Loggstown, Avondale, Brannockstown, Kilcullen and Grangemore.

**Clane-Maynooth Municipal District August 2020**

**Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works**

- Ballinagappa Road, Clane Footpath Repairs
- Footpath Repairs Johnstown Bridge



## **NTA – Active Travel Measures**

### **Updates**

In addition to the above the Municipal District applied for funding under the recently announced July Stimulus Fund from the National Transport Authority. The council were successful in securing funding for a number of construction and design schemes. The timeframe for using these funds is extremely tight but the municipal district will endeavour to progress them in a timely fashion. The progression of these schemes is subject to the adequate resources being made available from the Municipal District Office, the Transportation and Traffic Section and the Public Realm Section. The delivery will also be determined by the availability of suitably competent consultants and contractors to undertake the works.

DTTAS – Climate Adaptation Projects – updates can be added next month when the council will have grant funding confirmed.

## **Bus Shelters**

No works in August.

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

### **Restoration Improvement (Overlay) – Approximately 6km:**

- R148 Moyvalley – Broadford
- R415 Allen Church
- R415 Hill at New Footpath –  
Funded by Kildare-Newbridge  
Municipal District
- R148 Church Street, Kilcock
- L50538 Old Greenfield Road,  
Maynooth
- Ballycurran (LIS)
- Kilshanroe (LIS)
- Cooleragh (LIS)
- Back Lane, Trinity Crescent
- Ballynaflagh

### **Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) – Approximately 8km:**



- L1021 Corkeragh
- R148 Kilcock to Maynooth
- R408 Rathcoffey Road,  
Prosperous

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

- New Road Straffan – New  
Footpath
- Coarse Moor, Straffan – Footpath  
Repairs

### **Kildare Civil Defence**

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

### **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District August 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 Q1 2021 subject to funding being available from the NTA. Footpath improvements have been carried out in Celbridge on the Aghards road.

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

€380,000 has been allocated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities within the municipal district. The Municipal District Engineer and his team are working on design and tendering of these schemes. Works must be completed within a very short time frame.

### **Bus Shelters**

An upgrade has been carried out to the bus shelter on the Clane road in Celbridge. This shelter has been funded by the NTA.



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

All road improvement works planned for 2020 have been completed with the exception of Station Road in Leixlip which will be completed by the middle of September.

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

Footpath repairs have been carried out in St Marys Park, Riverforest and Glendale in Leixlip.

Pedestrian phase has been installed on the traffic signals outside Tesco on the Shackelton road in Celbridge.

### **Athy Municipal District August 2020**

#### **Pedestrian Works**

- Pedestrian Works will commence later in the year.

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

- Moone school works gone out to tender.

- Castledermot school works gone out to tender.
- Crookstown school works gone out to tender.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) – Climate Adaptation Projects – updates can be added next month when the council will have had grant funding confirmed. No funding has been allocated to the Athy Municipal District.

#### **Bus Shelters**

No funding allocated to Athy Municipal District .

### **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.

### **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.

## **Fire Service**

<b>Operational Calls</b>		
<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls 2019</b>	<b>Total Calls 2020</b>
Newbridge	422	268
Naas	435	227
Athy	223	135
Maynooth	321	179
Monasterevin	181	107
Leixlip	240	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>1,055</b>

## **Fire Safety**



	<b>No. Inspections</b>	<b>No. Premises Inspected</b>
2019	75	72
2020	29	27

	<b>No. Fire Safety Complaints</b>
2019	16
2020	5

	<b>No. Fire Safety Certificates</b>
2019	179
2020	129

## **Building and Development Control**

**Building Control (figures to end of August 2020)**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Commencement Notices</b>		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	295
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	291
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	4
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	211	124
<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>





Total Number of Certificates received:	646	249
Number Valid	645	248
Number Invalid	1	1
Awaiting processing	0	0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	94

<b>Disability Access Certificates</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	122	85
Number granted:	131	85
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	0	2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	46

<b>Building Control Active Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of units inspected	1881	1298

<b>Development Control Active Sites</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of Active Sites	81

## Health and Safety



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

- 15 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Face masks distributed to all employees.
- Local Authority Safety Officers Group Meeting.
- Safety Committee Meeting.
- Lead Worker Representative meetings.
- VDU Assessments completed for a number of employees.
- Health and Safety induction presentation for new starters using Microsoft Team



## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2020		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	176	€129,113
Festival Grants		
LPT	151	€809,381
Private Estates RA	262	€143,800
Local Authority RA	78	€59,212
Drehid Grants	31	€217,581
CEP grants		
Education Bursaries		
Covid-19 Emergency Fund	58	€71,547
<b>Total</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>€1,430,634</b>

The Festival Grants have been assessed and are being presented for approval at September municipal district meetings.

The Education Bursaries Scheme has been advertised and the closing date was Friday 04 September.

The Community Enhancement Scheme has been advertised with a closing date of 25 September.



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## **Local Community Development Committee September 2020**

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

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

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had thirteen 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. While the lockdown was in place, the helpline was constantly monitored to assess call levels, requests made and staffing requirements. However, the demand did not increase. This structure continues to be in place and the forum will continue to meet.

### **Healthy Ireland**

The Healthy Ireland project partners continue to make progress. Given the COVID-19 restrictions they are working under, they continue to run a wide range of online activities from work out classes from home to movement programmes for older people and those with limited mobility. The first financial and non-financial reports were submitted as required to Pobal on 03 of September. There is flexibility to carryover budgets from Year 1 (end 30 June 2020) to Year 2 (end 30 June 2021).

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

Applications are now being sought under the Community Enhancement Programme 2020 (CEP). This funding is available for community and voluntary groups and small scale capital works. Priority is given to projects in disadvantaged communities or working with disadvantaged



individuals. The closing date is **3:00 p.m. on Friday 25 September.**

The application form and guidelines are available on the Kildare County Council's website at the following link: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Community/GrantSchemes/CommunityEnhancementGrantScheme/>

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

Work is progressing to roll out the SICAP Programme in Kildare under COVID-19 restrictions. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme implementers. A meeting with POBAL to assess progress and to discuss 2021 is scheduled for 08 September 2020.

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

While Heads Up Kildare continue to engage remotely with men, they have commenced face to face engagement in line with return to work protocols. Information on upcoming programmes will be circulated.

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. Work is concluding to present a range of projects to the next LCDC/Local Action Group (LAG) meeting. The budget is almost all committed at this point; however, work continues to support applications. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership- 045 895450.

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



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## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

A Zoom meeting was held for the Kildare Fáilte Tourism and Hospitality Sector members and invited guests, with Mr David McWilliams as a headlining guest speaker. The event was a great success with over 60 people registering. Kildare Fáilte received positive comments and feedback from attendees. The event was published on online and offline media.

The Taste of Kildare committee met through Zoom to discuss alternative festival ideas and the practicality of the festival going forward. It was decided that, if possible, the festival will go ahead but with reduced capacity.

The possibility and viability of organising a pre-Christmas food trail, Taste of Kildare, was discussed. Potential locations, such as Kildare Town, Market Square, will be investigated.

Kildare Fáilte organised for the Irish Times journalist, Ms Arlene Harris to visit Kildare on a press trip in July. She visited various locations in Kildare over two days for a lifestyle article about Kildare which will be published in September.

LEADER funding was confirmed for developing the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and for a marketing initiative, which includes the redevelopment of [www.intokildare.ie](http://www.intokildare.ie), publishing a tourism brochure for County Kildare, and a large digital campaign advertising Kildare. The work for these projects will commence in September depending on budget.

Ms Mangan attended a number of seminars and online workshops including Tourism Ireland's Virtual Industry Event, and *Sustainability in a Post-Covid19 World: Building the Business Case for the Tourism Industry*.



As a recipient of Fáilte Ireland's Destination Town Funding, Ms Mangan attended a Fáilte Ireland workshop, *Maximising Your Destination Town Project* which provided guidance around best practice for visitor focussed destination towns to help unlock their potential.

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

There were ongoing online meetings and calls supporting tourism providers and members in the county.

Ms Mangan visited a number of stakeholders throughout the county. Social media activity and engagement stayed steady throughout the month of July and August highlighting various businesses and announcing the reopening of their doors/premises. Blog posts were created, including 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun... Kildare Style!!', '5 Gems in Kildare You Won't Find in a Guide Book', 'Best Travel

'Splurges' in Kildare', and 'Best Places in Kildare for Epic Lads Getaway'. All these items received very high engagement rates through social media channels.

Sponsorship of Tattersalls Gold Cup included an advert in the digital race card as well as signage in the parade ring. Also an ad was placed in the digital race card for Keenland Day, The Summer Festival.

Ms Mangan attended a site visit of Ummeras Bog with the Ummeras Community Development Group where they are proposing to develop a Peatlands Park.

Kildare Fáilte completed their Fáilte Ireland Infection Prevention Control for a Tourism Business Course and has received the Fáilte Ireland Safety Charter Certificate.

Work commenced on the Digital Directory for members, which is COVID-19 friendly. This directory will highlight to visitors, and potential visitors, all that Kildare has to offer as well as the opportunity to book



accommodation or an admission ticket in advance of their visit. They will also have the option to purchase a gift voucher following their stay to drive additional visitation to the county.

Initial meetings were held with the designer of the new tourism information pack and the first photoshoot for this took place in August. Subsequent photoshoots are being planned for September and October.

As part of the working group for the Royal Canal Greenway, Kildare Fáilte attended meetings to discuss marketing activities for a soft launch in October. Kildare Fáilte is working with Kildare County Council on production of the trailhead and storyboards. The Kildare Destination Recovery Task Force met, as requested by Fáilte Ireland. Representatives from each sector of the tourism industry and stakeholders attended. Following this meeting, a meeting was arranged with Kildare members of the Oireachtas, Seanad, Mr Carey, Chief Executive of Kildare County Council and Ms

Catherine Martin, TD, Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht. As a result of the meeting, additional funding was secured for Kildare to develop a recovery marketing campaign through Fáilte Ireland.

The Chief Executive Officer of Into Kildare took part in weekly meetings with the Economic Recovery Taskforce, which was established to update and communicate during the restrictions in Kildare.

In August, a campaign to promote Kildare to locals was launched – Be a Tourist in Your Own County. This was supported through local radio, print ads in local press and social media. blog topics were: We Care in Kildare for Local Attractions, Be a Tourist in Your Own County and Get Outdoors in Kildare, The Ultimate Guide to Kildare Take Out Dining, Be a Tourist in Your Own County. We Care in Kildare tagline campaign continued. Ms Mangan also completed several interviews including RTE Radio 1 News, local radio and a local podcast.





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## Parks

### **Sallins Amenity Land**

Cathal O'Meara, Landscape Architects have been appointed to prepare a masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land. They are scheduled to start the work at the end of the month. It is hoped to have a preliminary design prepared by Christmas and a Part 8 for the lands advertised in April 2021.

### **Open Space Strategy**

Work on the preparation of an Open Space Strategy has been ongoing since April in conjunction with the Planning Department. Work to date has involved an analysis of existing parks, playgrounds and open spaces in the county. It also includes recording the location of other areas of publically accessible open space provided by other state agencies, semi state agencies sports clubs and sporting organisations. An audit of existing parks within the county is also ongoing. Consultation on the preparation of the strategy commenced on 10 September. This will be done using an online

questionnaire on the council's website for the public, sports clubs and schools. Specific consultation workshops are also being organised for Councillors and other stakeholders in early October. The online public consultation will start 10 September and run until the 22 October. Full details of this will be provided through a press release and social media.

### **Tree Surgery Works**

Work has been completed in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. Works in the Athy Municipal District, Kildare-Newbridge and Clane - Maynooth Municipal District will be complete by the end of the month.

### **Castledermot Playground**

Work has started on phase 1 of the masterplan for Fairgreen which involves the installation of a new entrance area to Fairgreen. This is expected to take 8 weeks. Construction of the playground will follow this work.



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### **Allenwood Playground**

Work is continuing on the revised Part 8 for the playground and it is planned to advertise it by the end of October.

### **Anti-dumping Initiative**

Works on clearing areas of dumping in Silleachain Lane, Leixlip and Woodstock Castle, Athy have been completed.

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

Initial archaeology has been carried out on the site and completion of this work is expected by the end of the month.

### **Moat of Ardscull**

A contractor has been appointed to carry out improvement works here. This will involve clearing back the existing paths, increasing the size of the wildflower meadow in the area and planting 250k spring bulbs which will also benefit pollinators. It is hoped the works will be completed by the end of October.



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## Library and Arts Service

“What is more important in a library than anything else – than everything else – is the fact that it exists.”

– **Archibald MacLeish.**

### **Your Library, Our Future Kildare Library Service Online Survey**

Kildare Library Service has published an online survey on the Kildare County Council Public Consultation Portal. The purpose of this online public consultation is to hear from users and non-library users of Kildare Library Service in order to help the Library Service plan for their library spaces, services and programmes for the coming years.

The feedback received will inform the next Kildare Library Service Development Plan and the new libraries planned for Naas and Clane.

To date the council has had over 450 completed surveys and it will remain open for responses until Friday 11 September.

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/content/your-library-our-future>

### **Dormant Account Funding for Programmes to Work with Socially Excluded, Disadvantaged and Marginalised Communities**

The Library Service has successfully applied for funding for 5 projects under the above scheme totalling €59,000.

The projects involved inter-agency work between the library service, Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC), The Curragh Girl's School, Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Kildare Arts Service and St. John of Gods.



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### **Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) Funding for Small Scale Capital Works**

The Library Service has applied for funding in response to the above call for proposals. The Library Service are seeking the maximum award of €100,000 to undertake renovation works and energy upgrades in library buildings.

### **Summer Stars Reading Challenge 2020**

July and August were busy months in Kildare Libraries with a jam packed programme of events and workshops for the Summer Stars reading challenge. The programme was run entirely online with children logging into the workshops via a tablet, laptop or PC. In the current situation this allowed the programming to take place in a safe and secure environment until such time as in-branch programming can resume.

The Library Service hosted a broad range of workshops which included coding camps, creative writing workshops, music exploration

workshops, podcasting camps, a screenwriting workshop, a Harry Potter science camp, a Science, Technology, Engineering, and MathS (STEAM) camp, a digital animation camp, environmental awareness workshops and a book clinic with Children's Books Ireland. The workshops were held both as single workshops and as camps spanning over several days. They offered children invaluable access to a range of activities and learning opportunities.

In total 38 workshops were held over the summer and 168 individual children attended from across the county. The feedback from parents was extremely positive and the Library received comments applauding the 'great opportunity to learn something new and interesting' 'the great resource for my children during COVID-19 or indeed any time' and the 'lovely events that kept my children engaged and productive'.

An online Summer Stars Closing Party will take place on Kildare Libraries Facebook Page on 12 September and children will be encouraged to collect



their Summer Stars certificate and medal in a goodie bag from 14 September.

### **Kildare Readers Festival 2020**

This year's Kildare Readers Festival will take place online between 12-18 October. The Library Service look forward to welcoming audiences to the authors with regular favourites such as Ten Books You Should Read, the Sunday Morning Session with Mr Dermot Bolger and award-winning novelist, playwright and short story writer Ms Christine Dwyer Hickey. The Library Service look forward to conversations between debut novelist Mr Naoise Dolan and Ms Edel Coffey, Kildare authors Ms Cauvery Madhavan and Ms Margaret Scott, best-selling adult and children's author Ms Marita Conlon-McKenna, Irish Times journalist and author Mr Patrick Freyne, with more to come.

### **Naas Library**

In August, Naas Library launched 'Naas Library Photography Club' for Naas Library members. It is a local club, aimed at beginners and people who wish to improve their photographic skills.

Presently, it is an online venture using Flickr with plans for online video workshops, Questions and Answers and tips on how to get the most from a camera/smartphone.

### **Naas Library Walkthrough Video**

Naas Library Walkthrough Video proved very popular online. It was created to simplify the experience of visiting the library during the COVID-19 phase and offered guidance on how to manage Kildare Libraries Booking System and most importantly demonstrated how to keep safe while in the library.



## Kildare Town

### Heritage Week 15 – 23 August 2020

#### – “Heritage and Education – Learning from our Heritage”

Grab and Go bags for children with heritage-themed books and craft to make at home including colouring sheets with Medieval letters.

The Viking Ship is on display and Medieval flags depicting the Fitzgerald Dynasty, The Knights Templar, etc. from the period. Staff wore costumes to celebrate the Medieval Festival (which had to be cancelled this year unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions). There was a video loop showing in-branch of the Legends of Kildare (on loan from the Heritage Centre).

Photographs were taken by staff at The Grey Abbey (named after the colour of its Monk's habits) for the Library Blog.

#### Culture Night – Connect Through Culture – Le chéile trí chultúr

Ag céiliúradh le chéile – ceol, amhrán is ealaíon – a digital celebration of local talent le Treasa Harkin, on button accordion, Mairéad Carroll on fiddle and

vocals and Mr Pat Domican on guitar with artwork by Ms Josephine Hardiman, and Ms Mary Gibson.

## Newbridge Library

Newbridge Library has been reaching out to primary schools around Newbridge to offer support in the new climate. It is offering block loan cards, pre-packed book packs of general or project themed books (these can be collected or delivered) and virtual class inductions.

Newbridge Library has an exciting online talk coming up in September with Ms Patrick Hunt on common Irish garden birds which will be delivered online and will be suitable for adults and children alike.

Newbridge Library is working hard on the STEAM programme which supports the primary school Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum and gives classes across the county the opportunity to engage with science, technology, engineering, arts and maths subjects through our exciting workshops. Staff are working on



transitioning the programme online so that all the workshops can be delivered remotely to classes in a safe environment. Many will still be delivered live and the focus will be on keeping the engaging, exploratory aspect but in a safe and accessible environment.

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

On 26 June the Department of Rural and Community Development issued the Stage 4 Approval for Naas Library and Cultural Centre, Naas Town Hall. COVID-19 has impacted the tender process and caused a delay to the project.

Under instruction from the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) the council currently awaiting external procurement advice which it expects to confirm that it can issue letters to successful and unsuccessful tenders to contractors shortly.

Once the standstill period ends, the Library Service hope to sign the contract with the winning tenderer and progress the project to the construction phase in the coming weeks.

### **Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee Articles on War of Independence During August 1920**

Several articles appeared in the three local newspapers in recent weeks, detailing events that took place in County Kildare one hundred years ago. These included the Kill Ambush by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and looting of Naas by the Black and Tans in August 1920. These articles, written by historian and member of staff in Local Studies Department Mr James Durney, have also been published on [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) and on social media. The role of Curragh Internment Camp during the War of Independence also featured in the local media, including a piece on KFM Radio station.



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#### **4<sup>th</sup> Irish Military Seminar (Online Videos) & Bloody Sunday November 1920**

The ongoing Pandemic resulted in the postponement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Irish Military Seminar scheduled to take place in Riverbank Arts Centre in June.

The seminar has now migrated to an online only format, with interviews with well-known historians. Ms Liz Gillis on Revolutionary Women, Mr James Durney on the Curragh Internment Camps, Mr Michael Murphy on Terror in Kildare and Mr Michael Foley on the events of Bloody Sunday in Croke Park are all being interviewed. All interviews will be broadcast online on the Kildare Decade of Commemoration's social media and YouTube channel.

#### **Recent Publication of Kildare The Irish Revolution, 1912-23 by Dr Seamus Cullen**

Four Courts Press have just published the Kildare volume of their Irish Revolution series. Donadea historian Dr Seamus Cullen is the author of this important publication. The committee have written to Mr Cullen to congratulate him and to invite him to

participate in the Decade of Commemorations Programme for County Kildare over the coming months and years.

#### **The Heritage of Education in County Kildare and Recent Passing of Desmond Guinness**

Digitised content was added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) during Heritage Week to highlighted the educational heritage of County Kildare. A 1950's booklet on the churches and schools of Rathangan was digitised, while Maynooth Local History Group added an article on charter schools in the county. Digital images were shared on the library social media pages. A post has also been added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) , including digitised images from items in the collections, to mark the passing of Mr Desmond Guinness who made an immense contribution to the conservation of buildings throughout Ireland including Castletown in Celbridge.





### **Archive of the Medicott Family of Dunmurray Acquired**

The County Kildare Local Studies and Archives recently acquired an archive of material belonging to the Medicott Family of Dunmurray at auction. The archive primarily consists of diaries, letters and accounts books from the 1850-1950 period. An auction catalogue of the sale of Moore Abbey in 1937 by Count John McCormack was also acquired. These items of strong cultural heritage interest to Kildare will be catalogued and made available for researchers in the Local Studies and Archives Department of Kildare Library Service in Newbridge.

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

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives continue to answer research queries and visitors are welcome to undertake research of the collections in our premises in Newbridge by appointment only. Family history/genealogy queries can be sent to [cildaragenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:cildaragenealogy@gmail.com) (or phone 045448350) and local history research queries can be emailed to [localhistory@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localhistory@kildarecoco.ie) (or phone

045448351). Digital content continues to be added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory), with more content planned in the coming weeks and months.

### **Creative Ireland**

#### **ISL Visual Art and Virtual ISL Festival Athy**

Over the last number of years, Athy Sing and Sign have organised an Irish Sign Language (ISL) Festival every September, funded through Kildare County Council's Creative Ireland programme. Due to COVID-19, the Festival was reimagined into a Visual and Virtual ISL Festival this year.

The visual arts component includes a new mural, by acclaimed street artist Solus Art, Mr Derek O'Sullivan which was installed in Athy in early September 2020. Explaining the mural, Solus said that he likes to balance strength and beauty together - hence the ballerina and the boxing gloves, a symbol of overcoming obstacles. "I like to think that this mural will uplift each and every one of us and remind us that we are strong women and men and that we shall all



overcome our common obstacle in society today and that is COVID-19.” The ballerina wears a hearing aid and the mural is accompanied by the word ‘strong’ in text and Irish Sign Language (ISL) Alphabet.

On Culture Night, an independent panel will select a name for the ISL ballerina and pick from the ‘Strike a Pose’ competition entries. The two winning entries will receive a signed print of the artwork by Solus.

### **My Creative Life**

Creative Ireland are curating a podcast series ‘My Creative Life’ for airing on RTE Junior, featuring young people from across Ireland this autumn. Episode 5 features an interview with William McCabe from Griese Youth Theatre, Ballitore 6th October.

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **Kildare Culture Night 18 September**

This Culture Night a selected and unique programme of events will take place across county Kildare. Many local artists, venues and community groups have responded to Kildare Arts

Service call, despite the challenge the COVID-19 Pandemic represents. Encouraged by their enthusiasm, Kildare County Council Art’s Service hope that this year’s programme will highlight the importance and value of the council’s creative sector, in all its artforms. From music gigs to visual art exhibitions, craft workshops and theatre plays, the list includes over 40 free online and offline events; anyone will have a chance to take part safely as all events will strictly follow HSE and Government Guidelines.

Amongst the many highlights are the COVID-19 Hero Portrait Project, a series of 10 portraits of local heroes who have played a significant role during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The heroes were nominated by the public and their portraits were painted by local artists. The exhibition will be on display outside of the council chamber from Tuesday 15 September, with an online launch on Culture Night. The programme will also include an online version of the ever-popular Portrait Artist Competition.



Responding to the council's invitation to be Kildare Culture Night Ambassador 2020, TV and radio broadcaster Mr Keith Walsh said: "It genuinely is a great honour. It is so important, especially this year that we all do what we can to support the arts in whatever way possible."

On 18 September, from 4:00 p.m. until late, #ConnectThroughCulture with Kildare will hold an exciting programme of free online and offline events. The full programme of events and participating venues for Culture Night Kildare 2020 is available on [culturenight.ie/events/kildare](http://culturenight.ie/events/kildare) and on Kildare Arts Service social media channels.

### **Kildare COVID-19 Notebook Project documentary features on RTE**

As the COVID-19 Pandemic unfolded, Kildare County Council was keen to provide some positive pro-active projects which could engage and inspire citizens of the county, particularly those who are cocooning and older people. The Ask? Sign up for an A5 moleskine project that will be delivered to your home. Fill it however

you wish, capturing the COVID-19 months in some way, and return it to the Library Service for digital scanning, to become part of a permanent archive for Kildare County Council, before the notebook is returned to the participant for keeping.

As well as the digital archiving, there was a desire to somehow share the project with participants and the public in a safe manner, as a public exhibition of the notebooks is not appropriate at this time.

Funding was secured under Creative Ireland's Positive Ageing and Creative Wellbeing Challenge Fund to create a documentary, with some of the older notebook participants, for online screening on Culture Night, 18 September on Kildare Art's Service social media channels. Recording a selected number of participants on the film, in their own home, talking about their notebooks will add another layer to the project. 7 participants have been selected from across the county. On 03 September, RTE digital news featured the Notebook Project, including an interview with 91-year-old



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participant, Ms Elizabeth Kemmy.

Interview can be accessed at:

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0901/1162535-kildare-lockdown-diaries/>

The completed documentary will be premiered online for Kildare Culture

Night across Kildare Arts Service social media channels.



## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Responding to COVID19 – Supporting Kildare Businesses March – September 2020						
Support:	Ecommerce Trading on line fund	Business Continuity Voucher	Start up and expanding grants Jan - Sept	Remote interactive training workshops	Expert Mentoring Support	Shopfront Improvement Grant Jan - Sept
No. of businesses supported:	291	700	22	2,321	500	50
Value €	€727,500	€1,750,000	€425,252	€108,000	€175,000	€82,538

### Kildare County Council LEO Working with Government throughout Kildare Lockdown

The month of August saw the announcement of two additional local lockdowns for Kildare. Kildare County Council's LEO worked through the crisis extensively with the Tánaiste, Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment, Mr Leo Varadkar, the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation and the Kildare Chamber of Commerce to ensure Kildare businesses were provided with additional supports.

After gathering feedback from the Kildare businesses community, the Kildare LEO provided a list of recommendations to the Government for further measures which could be

implemented to facilitate sectors in continuing to trade in the county under restrictions while still adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines.

#### Outcomes:

1. An additional 20% top up (in addition to original 20%) – increasing the Restart Grant to 40%.
2. €330,000 in additional funding for LEO supports.
3. The relaunch of trading on line vouchers 90% funding to value of €2,500 to bring business on line, specific focus on tourism sectors.
4. Reopening of Micro Finance Funding.
5. Expansion of the Credit Guarantee Scheme.



6. During the second lockdown period 178 one on one business interventions were made, 24

emergency interventions which will involve a programme of supports to get them through.

## **COVID-19 and Entrepreneurship Support Services**

### **Kildare County Council LEO Host 250+ Businesses at Information Webinar Relating to all Government Supports**

Kildare County Council LEO organised, promoted and delivered an information webinar featuring eight speakers from Government Bodies for over 250 business owners. The delivery of this project was within 3 days of the national announcement by the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation. The interactive webinar focused on providing information to help businesses stabilise and adapt in preparation for getting back on the road to recovery. It discussed the changes and updates to the temporary wage subsidy, Government financial supports and sources of finance to ensure as many business in Kildare were made fully aware of supports available to them.

Please advise constituents of the recording of this webinar at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hsM1RG7a7o&feature=youtu.be>

### **Kildare County Council LEO Launch Extensive Communications Campaign**

Kildare County Council LEO launched a two-week media campaign promoting all government supports available to Kildare businesses, explaining in detail the processes of aids available from all Government Departments (e.g. Wage subsidy scheme, deferral of rates, Fáilte Ireland funding). This included a 2-page editorial in printed media reaching all corners of the county, frequent radio adverts on KFM and an extensive digital campaign with online media companies.



Kildare LEO launched the Family Business Mentor program in partnership with Kildare Chamber 10 family run businesses now working with Paul Keogh of the UCD school of Family businesses

### **Kildare County Council LEO Launches #JoinIn Virtual Coffee Break Series**

The objective of this series is to provide Kildare business owners with the opportunity to communicate with peers experiencing similar issues and stresses, share ideas and discuss topics of interest. Entrepreneur and former Dragon Sean Gallagher hosted the first of the series on Monday 07 September. This session was exceptionally well received with over 65 businesses in attendance and positive feedback across social media.

Please advise constituents of these weekly virtual events. These are available to book here:

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

### **ShopcountyKildare.ie and #ShopLocal Campaign**

To cater for a changing need of businesses, retailers in particular, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Kildare County Council in association with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce have created 'Shop County Kildare' an online ecommerce platform providing Kildare businesses the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way.

This opportunity is also of benefit to businesses who already have a functioning ecommerce website, as the category function on website allows their products and the businesses itself even greater exposure. Business can also sell their vouchers.

The LEO is encouraging the public to #ShopLocal with ongoing advertising campaign This aim of the campaign is to champion small, local businesses and to encourage people across the county to support them. The campaign will launch in run throughout the Christmas period.



**Please encourage constituents to register for Shop County Kildare.**

You can browse and register for Shop County Kildare here:

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

**Brexit Support**

No matter what type of industry, many Kildare businesses will experience some form of impact from Brexit.

Regardless of a hard or soft Customs Brexit, goods to/from the UK or transiting through the UK, will be subject to strict compliance and documentation requirements. The LEO are providing Customs training in September, October and November.

Businesses can book places here:

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

Kildare County Council LEO is also providing expert Brexit mentoring free of charge. Business can request mentoring at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQY E>

**Economic Development - Capital Projects**

**MERITS**

The completion of the MERITS (Mid-East Region Innovation Think Space) building in Naas will realise a vision to serve the emerging technology sector by connecting organisations and people and acting as a centre of excellence in supporting innovative companies across the county and wider region.

MERITS is currently building its network of partners and members. The facility will be an ideal location for High Potential Start Up companies looking for a vibrant, interactive workspace, which is already networked into an array of supports (as provided by the LEO) and key stakeholders. It will also cater for larger companies seeking to place a smaller project team into a creative environment where conceptualisation can be turned into commercialisation.





A site visit took place last week to see the progress onsite. The site visit was hosted by main contractor Duggan Lynch and involved Mr Carey, Chief Executive, Kildare County Council, Mr John Daly Project Manager, Mr Conor Sweeney, Programme Manager, Ms Sharon O’Gara, Planning Department, Kildare County Council and the new MERITS General Manager Mr Joe O’Carroll.

Mr Joe O’Carroll, a native of Kildare, started as General Manager of MERITS at the beginning of the month and has travelled the “StartUp, ScaleUp, Exit” journey with his own companies previously. He will oversee its transition from construction project to its operational phase. He has begun marketing the facility to select technology startups in the region and will also now begin recruitment for a Programme Manager.

### **Equine Tech Innovation Hub**

Through the structure of the County Kildare Community Network (CKCN) the LEO of Kildare county Council plans the establishment of Equine Tech Innovation Ireland as a sectoral stimulus to develop an equine innovation hub of enterprise, innovation, applied research,

commercialisation and learning. Uniquely, it will offer a single access source of equine technical and entrepreneurial innovation.

Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise, submitted an application for pre-approval of funding to Leader for € 87,821.25 (75% allowed based on costs) and this has been approved pending certain conditions. The CKCN tendered for the conversion of the Museum Building (143m<sup>2</sup>) to offices at the Irish National Stud on Monday 29 June. The tender process has been completed and the report has been finalised and the LEO will be in a position to appoint a contractor once the council receive final approval from the County Kildare LEADER Partnership at the end of September.

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

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



The CKCN/Kildare County Council was awarded €476,250.00 under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) Category 2 funding to support the appointment of an architect led design team to perform professional services for the delivery of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.

The CKCN/Kildare County Council tendered for the contract on 16 June to engage a consultant comprising a multi-disciplined competent and

suitably experienced architect led design team to provide relevant consultancy services in respect of the design and delivery of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. The tender report has been completed and a design team will be appointed by the middle of September. The LEO are also in the process of preparing an application for Category 1 RRDF funding.

### Supporting Kildare Businesses

***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

Outlined are on the LEO Kildare Website can be Found at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/!DOJ39>

Objective	Support	Link
<b>Financial</b>		
Immediate cashflow.	<b>Restart Grant</b> – Available for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through the Rates Department).	<a href="http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/">http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/</a>
	<b>MFI COVID-19 Business Loan</b> – The first 6 months interest and repayment free, reduced rate of 4.5%, LEO mentor assigned to complete loan application form.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html</a>



Generate revenue with online sales.	<b>Shop County Kildare</b> – A new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html</a>
	<b>Trading Online - Trading Online</b> - Please encourage constituents to submit completed application forms to <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> . on or before 30 September - closing date. Currently there are 70 plus applications under review.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/</a>
Upgrade shopfronts and implement outdoor COVID-19 signage.	Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme.	<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>
<b>Advisory</b>		
Expert Strategic Mentoring	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with a panel of specialist mentors.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE</a>
Health and Safety Guidance.	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring with 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>
Managing employees in line with Government Guidelines.	Free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures in relation to managing and bringing staff back to work in line with Government Guidelines to	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE</a>



	allow them to open as soon as possible.	
Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing.	Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing.	Email <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> to apply.
Improving online presence and increasing online sales	Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a>
<b>Communications</b>		
Frequent updates regarding the evolving situation, notification of upcoming supports and services as well as support documents and publications.	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.	Head of Enterprise 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>
Access to the LEO Team and Specialists.	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**