



Chief Executive's Management Report - February 2020

THIS MONTH: News and Highlights

The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) Enters into Strategic Partnership at National Level with the GAA

The Climate Action Regional Office (CCMA), on behalf of local authorities, and the GAA have announced a new initiative to work together to lead their communities in promoting sustainability and climate action (see page 27).

My First Library Card – Launching on 20 February

The Kildare Library Service has teamed up with Wicklow Library Service on a **Right to Read** initiative to encourage parents and guardians to sign children up for library membership from birth (see page 18).

Arts Grants 2020

Various grants are now available – (see page 21).

Community Grants

All 2020 grant schemes have been advertised. The closing date for community, festival and Drehid grant applications is Friday 06 March (see page 31).

Rural Development LEADER

Various funding applications were approved at the LCDC meeting in January (see page 32-33).

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Soft Supports

The LEO has recently launched the new 32-page brochure of training courses for 2020 (see page 39).

Dates for Your Diary

Library Open Day, 29 February

An **'Open Day'** will be held at local libraries on Saturday 29 February. All libraries throughout County Kildare will host events on the day (see page 17).

Local Enterprise Week

The first week in March (Monday 02 to Friday 06 March) will see small businesses and entrepreneurs gather across the country for Local Enterprise Week 2020 (see page 40).

Kildare Short Grass Film Festival

Kildare County Council has financially supported the making of 36 films – a festival of short film screenings will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday 07 March 2020, in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge (see page 22).



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Corporate Services

Data Protection

The Policy on Section 40 Data Protection Act, 2018 - Management of Representations from Elected Representatives was presented to the members of the Corporate Policy Group on 20 January 2020.

- Polling card use and delivery dates
- Election posters
- Changes of address and voting locations
- Disabled voter applications
- How to vote on election day

General Election - Register of Electors

The council operated its Register of Elector phonenumber from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Polling Day 08 February 2020 to assist polling staff and members of the public with enquiries regarding voter registration on the day. The council implemented a communications plan for the General Election to assist the public in the period from the calling of the election up to and including polling day, activities included:

- 7 press releases to all local media outlets
- Information on:
 - Extended opening hours and how to register
 - Details of closing dates for registration

- Four adverts in local newspapers in the week leading to Polling Day regarding how to vote etc.
- Extensive social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter
- Over 700 email enquiries from customers regarding the election were resolved and several thousand phone calls processed
- Over 4,150 registration forms were submitted up to the deadline of 22 January and were processed since the calling of the election

Register of Electors 2020-2021

The 08 February General Election was based upon the live register 2019-2020 and approximately 4,000 supplementary voters were added up to the deadline of 22 January 2020. The Live Register for 2020/21 will



come into force on 15 February 2020 and the public can check their registration at www.checktheregister.ie

Members Services

Co-option of Elected Member

A special meeting of full council is taking place at 12 o'clock on Tuesday 25 February in order to fill the vacancy created by the election of former councillor, Patricia Ryan to Dáil Éireann.

Oireachtas Members

Contact details for the newly elected Oireachtas Members - Deputy Patricia Ryan, Deputy Réada Cronin and Deputy Cathal Berry - will be circulated when they have been confirmed.

Statutory Declarations and Ethics Declarations

Forms for Statutory Declarations were distributed to the members again on the day of the January full council meeting to assist the members. Ethics Declarations have issued by email to the members. Statutory Declarations were due back by 31 January, the Ethics Declarations are due back by 28 February.

Finance and Information Technology

Financial Reports

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for 2019 is currently being prepared. This will be presented to council once complete. Actual expenditure v budget reports for 2019 will be submitted to the council as part of the monthly management report from March onwards.



Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan

The Draft Variation No 1 was on public display from 09 January 2020 to 06 February 2020.

Local Area Plans (LAP's)

Leixlip Local Area Plan (LAP)

The Leixlip LAP came into effect on 04 February 2020 (6 weeks after adoption + 9 days).

Planning applications received:	Residential Units Granted		Applications decided: Jan. 2020	
	Jan	Year	No.	
				Total Granted: 63
2018:	92	1,601	1,026	Retention: 1
2019:	87	1,452	1,883	Extension of Duration: 13
2020:	74	74	269	Total Refused: 19

Significant Planning Applications

January 2020

19/233 - Permission granted for 50 residential units at Gallowshill, Athy.

19/437

Permission has been granted for a temporary post primary school building at Celbridge Community School.

19/934

Permission has been granted to upgrade the existing irrigation system at the Curragh Racecourse.

19/404

Permission has been granted for 13 houses at Calverstown (Judge Construction).

19/1323

Permission was refused for a wind farm development with up to 9 turbines (8 in Offaly and 1 in Kildare) at Ticknevin, Carbury (Cloncart Renewable Energy).



19/1339

Modifications to the permitted air separation units, tank and equipment installations has been granted as part of the development permitted under An Bord Pleanála Ref. ABP-304672-19 (Kildare County Council Ref. 19/91) at Collinstown, Leixlip (Intel).

Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Applications to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506)

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

Application by Bord na Móna Powergen Limited and ESB Wind Development Limited

(ABP Ref. 18/303249) application for a 110kV onsite electric substation at Timahoe East - a decision is awaited from the Board. According to the ABP website, a decision is due by 13 March 2020.

Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Applications to ABP

The Strategic Housing Development (SHD) process was created in 2016 as a fast-track planning mechanism to facilitate the delivery of larger housing projects. The SHD provisions came into effect on 03 July 2017 and apply for an initial period, until the end of 2019. While the process originated as part of the Government's Housing Action Plan, Rebuilding Ireland, it also must be seen in the longer-term context of the National Planning Framework, which sets a target of providing over half a million new homes by 2040. Since the legislation came into effect in July 2017, applications for planning permission for SHD's are made directly to ABP.



Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
19/305701	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Naas West and, Jigginstown, Naas	314	16/10/19	TBA
19/305905	Westar Investments Ltd.	Capdoo, Clane	305	19/11/19	TBA
19/306068	Ladas Property Company Unlimited Company	Mill Street, Maynooth	120	03/12/19	TBA
20/306504	Ardstone Homes Ltd.	Crodaun, Celbridge	372	24/01/20	TBA

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

This scheme supports small-scale, labour intensive conservation projects. The minimum level of funding awarded will be from €2,500 up to a maximum of €15,000 per application.

Historic Structures Fund 2020

This scheme offers funding in 2 streams:
Stream 1 offers grants from €15,000 - €50,000 aimed at essential repairs and

smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures
Stream 2 offers a smaller number of grants from €50,000 to €200,000 for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where a clear community or public benefit is demonstrated.
Applications received for inclusion in either of the schemes are currently being examined.



Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team Update	Sum of Estimated Value €
Concept	440,000
ATHY- Athy Urban Design analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Not yet commenced	70,000
ATHY- Athy-Regeneration Strategy- ongoing through the Athy Town Team.	-
Celbridge-Leixlip - Ardclough-Community Facility Phase 2	-
Kildare-Newbridge -Kildare-Laneways project- funding application being prepared for submission in early 2020.	-
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare -St Bridget's Well redevelopment - draft concept received.	-
Clane-Maynooth - Main St and Courthouse Square, Public Realm Improvements – Masterplan not yet commenced	200,000
Clane-Maynooth - Maynooth -Town Branding and Signage - on hold until a funding source identified.	125,000
Naas-Lantern Building --yet to commence	
Naas-Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design-Funding source to be identified.	45,000
PART 8	4,143,858
Kildare-Newbridge - Kilcullen-Market Square redevelopment - draft Part 8 drawings being finalised	1,300,000
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared.	1,523,858
Kildare-Newbridge - Rathangan-Market Square redevelopment - draft Part 8 drawings received	1,300,000
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 documents nearing final draft in preparation for a municipal district briefing prior to Part 8.	20,000
Tender Consultants and Design	10,997,816
Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - funding terms and conditions are awaited. A tender brief is being prepared for detailed design.	6,757,254
Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum - tenders in respect of (i) detailed design and construction supervision and (ii) interpretative exhibition design currently being assessed.	3,673,003
Athy- Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Desktop Research Underway.	30,500



Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	73,585
Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	60,974
Kildare-Newbridge - Athgarvan-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Clane-Maynooth -Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP-Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued once funding terms and conditions have been received.	125,000
Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage - Tender for detailed design to be issued once funding terms and conditions have been received.	125,000
Clane-Maynooth - Straffan-Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Desktop Research Underway.	30,500
Tender Consultants	2,345,000
Athy – Athy - Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants ongoing.	100,000
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan - Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy.	260,000
Naas - Grand Canal Greenway - Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €1.7 million funding approval,	1,700,000
Naas - Naas-Canal Quarter - Scope of project under review.	260,000
Athy – Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard - Funding terms and conditions received and accepted 02 January 2019.	25,000
Tender Works	1,786,327
Athy - Athy-Upgrade to public realm Emily Square - Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.	1,682,327



Kildare-Newbridge - New-Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92k funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.	104,000
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library-Advisory role.	-
Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Riverbank - Tender assessment - advisory role.	-
Design	6,034,289
Athy – Athy - Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.	-
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.	€126,500
Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with Urban Designers.	150,000
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Creation of Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and public realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project.	656,412
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan.	61,377
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval so that project is shovel ready for the Urban Regeneration and Development Funding (URDF) application.	5,000,000
Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown – Masterplan - Work progressing well with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA).	40,000
Detailed Design	9,105,000
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park- Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with parks Dept to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Funding (RRDF) application.	7,000,000
Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock - Community Centre - Pre-qualify main contractors December 2019 - February 2020.	2,105,000
On Hold	275,000
Clane-Maynooth – Clane - Main St Accessibility Improvements - On hold until a funding source is identified.	150,000



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



Housing

Capital Programme

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



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

Infill Schemes

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



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status February 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Expected completion Quarter 2, 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Contract awarded November 2019. Commenced on site 28 November 2019.
Ardrew, Athy	TBC	Ardrew site identified as the preferred site for PPP Bundle 3.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

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

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status February 2020
KARE	3 Units	Part 8 planning application to be lodged Quarter 1, 2020.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	CAS - Stage 2 approval received on 03 October 2017. Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	CAS – Planning granted May 2018. Construction underway. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2021.



Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	229	2	37
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	0	89
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	0	183

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

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

Total Approved to Date: €19,857,336 *Approvals continuing due to expired loans

Total drawn down to date: **€10,380,922**

Total currently committed in loan offers: **€4,524,784**

Total expired: **€4,951,630**

Total available for lending: €94,294



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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	21	34	42
6 - 12 Months	22	34	54
12 - 18 Months	10	16	19
18 - 24 Months	3	5	9
24 - 30 Months	2	2	6
Total	58	91	130

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as at 31 January 2020

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	6	11
6 - 12 Months	0	0	0
12 - 18 Months	3	6	11
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	3	6	8
30 – 36 Months	2	3	8
Total	12	23	40

Housing Grants

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has introduced a new streamlined application for Housing Adaptation Grants, Mobility Aid Grants and Housing Aid for Older People Grants.

Category 3 applications received under the new scheme will now be considered for support. The new application form is available on the Members Information Portal and on the Kildare County Council website.



Library and Arts Service

Pop-up Register of Elector's Clinic at Leixlip Library

Leixlip library played host to a pop-up Register of Electors' Clinic to support voting registration for the recent General Election. This was a great success with a total of 350 people registering to vote in the library.

Your Library – Take a Closer Look

A new national advertising campaign devised by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is asking everyone to take a closer look at what their local authority library has to offer. All public libraries around the country are joining in the campaign, which is running for four weeks from 20 January 2020 from across radio, cinema, TV on demand, digital and social media. The aim of the campaign is to encourage people of all ages to join and use the library. People who use the library regularly know how great it is. But there are people who do not visit very often. The Library Service want everyone to take a closer look at their library, to see beyond what they thought it was, and find out about all the amazing services on offer – completely free.

The 'Take a Closer Look' Campaign is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is part a wider national strategy to increase library use in Ireland. At present, around 16% of the Irish population are library members. The 'Our Public Libraries' Strategy aims to increase that to 30% by 2022.

Library Open Day – 29 February

The second stage of the campaign will push people towards an '**Open Day**' at their local library on Saturday 29 February. All libraries throughout County Kildare will host events on the day. Open Day activities are an opportunity to showcase to new users the range of what their library offers.

Castledermot Library – Reopening

The newly re-furbished Castledermot Library will reopen to the public on 29 February. A fun filled afternoon is planned with lots of entertainment and treats for the family. All are welcome to attend and see the fantastic improvements which have been made by the library team.



One Book Project with Riverbank Arts Centre

Kildare Library Service are collaborating with Riverbank Arts Centre to present an exciting opportunity for Kildare secondary schools – a ‘One Book’ programme which will culminate in an event with Laureate na nÓg, Sarah Crossan. Participating students will receive a copy of Sarah’s book *Toffee* and attend an event on 30 April - National Poetry.

My First Library Card – Launching on 20 February

The Kildare Library Service has teamed up with Wicklow Library Service on a ***Right to Read*** initiative to encourage parents and guardians to sign children up for library membership from birth. Library membership and use can have a big impact on a child’s literacy and numeracy levels. The Library Services have worked with author and illustrator Chris Judge (***The Baby Beast, The Snow Beast, The Brave Beast, The Lonely Beast***) on a specially designed **My First Library Card** to be made available in all Kildare and Wicklow Libraries.

The Let’s Talk about Parenting 2020

The Let’s Talk about Parenting 2020 Programme for Kildare Libraries will be formally launched in Leixlip Library on 11 February with a talk by practicing psychotherapist and football pundit, Mr Richard Sadlier entitled ‘Mental Health and Masculinity.’

Snippets from around the County

Celbridge celebrated the start of 2020 with a noon year’s eve party with younger patrons and their families. Over 50 people took part in arts and crafts, games and face painting before the special countdown at 12 noon. It was a great opportunity to bring the staff and patrons together for a celebration. Celbridge Library will be helping local school Scoil na Mainstreach with their school readathon which will commence at the end of January, staff will facilitate school visits to the library as well as visiting classrooms to encourage library membership. On 03 February Seamus Cullen delivered a talk for Celbridge Historical Society which tied in nicely with this year’s General Election. It is entitled ‘Dail Eireann and the Emergence of the First Party Political System in Kildare: 1919-23.’



Toys Technology and Training (TTT) 2020 Launch

Ms Aoife Dooley - a freelance illustrator, graphic designer, author and comedian from Dublin, who has published two books 'How to be massive' and 'How to deal with poxes on a daily basis', and recently created an animation for the RTÉ Player - openly shares her experiences of being diagnosed as Autistic at the age of 27, neurodiversity and how a diagnosis helped her to truly understand herself. Ms Dooley has helped dozens of men and women to seek and receive a diagnosis over the last year. The Library Service were delighted to invite Ms Dooley to launch their TTT 2020 programme.

Let's Talk About Parenting 2020

Mental Health and Masculinity – Richie Sadlier:

What's the right way to be a man these days? Tracing his own journey from professional footballer to psychotherapist, Mr Sadlier will discuss his own experiences, observations and feelings on the challenges facing men given the ever-changing perceptions of what masculinity entails, including that of being a modern-day father. The

Library Service are pleased to announce that Mr Sadlier will launch their Let's Talk About Parenting Programme on 11 February.

Local History Club Book Launch

On 04 February the Leixlip Local History Club will launch the "House Book of Leixlip". This is a transcript of the original House Book held in the National Archives.

A 'How To' Guide: Arts Awards and Opportunities with Kildare County Council 2020

On Saturday 08 February this workshop which was facilitated by Kildare Arts Service at the Leixlip Library offered practical information on how to apply for arts awards and the opportunities available through Kildare County Council this year, with a Q & A session also.

STEAM 2020

Kildare Library Service's STEAM Programme for primary schools returns for 2020, beginning in March with a whole series of events for Engineers Week. Workshops will be taking place in branches and in schools in Athy, Celbridge, Clocha



Rince, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge. The programme continues throughout the year also taking in Tech Week, Biodiversity Week, Space Week, Math's Week, Science Week and for the first time this year the Library Service are also proud to present a series of environmental workshops during Earth Week. The STEAM Programme aims to give children the opportunity to engage with and explore science, technology, engineering, arts and math subjects in a fun and stimulating environment. These subjects are at the heart of a very wide variety of professions and will be the skills children today will need to take part in the building the world of tomorrow.

Local Studies

Subscription to Irish Radical and Political Newspapers Archive

The seven full-time libraries (Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge) now offer free access to the Irish Radical and Political Newspapers Archive for the public in their branches. This new service includes fully digitised editions of newspapers and other publications from across the political spectrum,

including the suffragette, labour, republican and nationalist movements. This service is being funded by the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee, with many of the titles in this collection dealing with the 1912-23 period.

This complements the Irish Newspaper Archive which offers free access to historic national and regional newspapers including The Freeman's Journal, The Irish Press, The Irish Independent, The Nationalist and The Leinster Leader (the latter up to 1929).

The Library Service already facilitates free access to the digitised Kildare Observer and Journals of Kildare Archaeological Society which is available 24/7 from anywhere in the world with an Internet connection (link to service through: www.kildare.ie/ehistory).

Irish Language Poster of War of Independence in County Kildare Produced for Schools

The Local Studies Section of Kildare Library Service, in conjunction with the Decade of Commemorations Committee, have recently produced an Irish language version of the popular



timeline poster of significant events that took place in County Kildare during the War of Independence. This is being distributed to schools in County Kildare.

120 Years of Local Government' Mobile Exhibition

This national exhibition curated by the Local Authority Archivist's Group is on display in Áras Chill Dara from 23 January until the first week of February, before travelling to Leixlip Library. It has previously been on display in Maynooth and Monsterevin Libraries.

Glimpses of Escape: An exhibition of works by female artists from the Municipal Visual Art Collection

This exhibition opened on the 30 January outside the council chamber Áras Chill Dara with over 60 people in attendance. This included members of the group who curated the exhibition and female visual artists included in the municipal collection. The exhibition runs until early March.

Arts Grants 2020

Artists and arts collectives and community groups may apply for the

following grant and award opportunities. Application forms are available to download below.

Application forms are available to download from:

www.kildare.ie/artsservice/grantsandopportunities

- Arts Act Grant Scheme
- Artist in Schools Residency Bursary Award
- Education Bursary Award application
- Artistic Entrepreneur Bursary Award
- Dennis O'Driscoll Literary Bursary Award
- Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary Award
- Emerging Artist Solo Exhibition Award
- Executive Coaching for Creative Professionals Bursary Award
- Local Publishing Award
- Recording Bursary @Platform4 Recording Studio Bursary Award
- Short Grass Short Film Bursary Award €1,500
- Short Grass Short Film Commission Award €12,500
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Bursary Award



- Youth Arts Residency Bursary Award
- Research Bursary award (NEW FOR 2020)

Information sessions in relation to available grants have taken place in Leixlip, Newbridge and Athy with over 100 people in attendance.

Kildare Short Grass Film Festival

Kildare County Council has financially supported the making of 36 films – a broad range of short films, including documentary, comedy, animation and horror - in the last decade, as well as providing other supports for filming in the county, under the umbrella 'Kildare Short Grass Films'. To shine a light on this achievement, a festival of short film screenings will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday

07 March 2020, in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

Admission is free of charge, but booking is required at:

boxoffice@riverbank.ie

Refurbishment of Brigid's Flame, Kildare Town

We are delighted to announce that Brigid's Flame in Kildare Town recently received a much-awaited facelift, just in time for St Brigid's Day. Artist, Mr Alex Pentek who originally created the piece was invited to devise a new solution to provide a perpetual flame in Kildare, with a lit decorative glass acorn. The new addition has been warmly received by the public.

<https://www.facebook.com/kildareheritagecentre/photos/a.647720421952901/2837149156343339/?type=3&theater>



Water Services

Infrastructural Projects

Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)

The contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on 20 February 2019 and it has a 24-month construction programme. Work is progressing well on site. Murphy International Ltd., on behalf of Lidl (subject to an Irish Water agreement), is laying part of the Eastern Interceptor Sewer along the route of the Newbridge Outer Orbital Relief Road between the dual carriageway and the Great Connell Road. These works are now substantially complete.

Contract 2B (Network)

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

Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility DBO Contract Variation

Veolia Water Ireland is advancing works on this variation to the Design Build Contract (DBO) contract.

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and design stage. Irish Water has commenced engagement with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

Capital Projects

Kilmeague Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

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



Osberstown WWTP

The upgraded Osberstown WWTP was handed back to Irish Water/Kildare County Council operations on Wednesday 15 January 2020.

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

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

Timolin WWTP Upgrade

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

Rathangan WWTP Upgrade

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

Water Networks Management Projects

It is expected, subject to budget constraints, that the following projects will progress, though unlikely to commence in 2020:

- Highfield, Newbridge - Back Yard Services (BYS) Scheme.
- Piercetown, Newbridge - BYS Scheme
- St. Patricks Terrace, Naas - BYS Scheme.
- Dublin Road, Naas - mains rehabilitation project
- Suncroft Village - transfer of service connections

Newbridge Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works – Pairc Mhuire, Newbridge Back Yard Services scheme

Works on site resumed in Pairc Mhuire, Newbridge, as of 14 October 2019. A total of approximately 1,990 meters of new HDPE watermain have since been installed as part of this scheme. Customer private side service connection works commenced on 13 November 2019. To date 76 customers have had private side works



carried out within their properties as part of the upgrades.

Kildare Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works

New Watermains have since been laid in Rowanville, Lourdesville, Cleamore Terrace, Assumpta Villas and Campion Crescent. The transfer of services is ongoing. A number of customers have yet to provide consent to allow for the completion of the private side works so that decommissioning works can be completed in these estates. This work cannot commence until all customers consent has been obtained. There are 14 customers/premises whereby consent has not yet been provided throughout Lourdesville, Assumpta Villas and Rowanville. Attempts are still ongoing in an effort to obtain the necessary customer consent.

Taghadoo to Maynooth Watermain Replacement

Upgrade works and decommissioning works have now been completed. The new section of watermain is now live. Permanent road reinstatement works have yet to be completed as part of this scheme.

Maynooth Bottleneck Watermain Project

This project involves the construction of a new trunk watermain along Parson Street and Mill Street, Maynooth. Works are scheduled to commence in early April 2020, for a duration of 8 weeks. The works involve the construction of approx. 1,000 meters of 400 millimetre of HDPE trunk watermains. This project, once completed, will improve the resilience of the water network in Maynooth town, increasing connectivity to enable re-routing of water supply as required. It will also support continued growth within the community.



Environment

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

Meetings have taken place with the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding the prioritisation of works. A Steering Group with the OPW has been established to progress the consultants brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed on the emerging CFRAM Programme.

Morell Flood Management Scheme

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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Hazelhatch

The contract for a further hydrological study into flooding at Hazelhatch has been awarded to RPS Ireland. Delivery of revised mapping of the area is scheduled for end of Quarter 1, 2020, with preliminary the flood risk management options report due in Quarter 2, 2020. The revised mapping will be used by the OPW to update flood extents in the catchment.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

Tenders are being sought for consultants to carry out the Naas Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. Consultants to be appointed in Quarter 2, 2020.

Kerdiffstown

Taking possession of properties under the CPO is now complete. In order to transfer the title of the landfill, vesting of the landfill properties will now commence. An advanced works contract is substantially completed in connection with the St Vincent de Paul



property and there are a few snagging issues to be resolved.

The L2005 realignment contract has been awarded to David Walsh Civil Engineering and works are on-going. Shortlisting of candidates for the main contract has been completed. Tenders are to be issued very soon.

Cemeteries

Churchtown Cemetery

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

Kildare Town Cemetery

The updated design for upgrade works is under consideration. It is anticipated that works will take place later in 2020.

Newbridge Cemetery

Work on the upgrade of the car park is to commence early in 2020 – currently at the contract award stage.

Columbarium Walls

Derrinturn,

It is hoped to appoint a contractor to carry the work in 2020 in Derrinturn Cemetery.

Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown

It is hoped to begin construction in Quarter 2/Quarter 3, 2020.

Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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



A steering group composed of representatives from the local authority sector, including the CARO's, the GAA, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and the Camogie Association, have begun work on the development of a Green Club Toolkit, which will be piloted in 2020 ahead of the roll-out of a National Green Club Support Plan in 2021. The Green Club Toolkit, which will be piloted across a small number of clubs throughout the



country. It will focus on the key action areas of energy and water efficiency, biodiversity, waste management and the use of plastic and transport.

Sustainable club and community partnership projects include:

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

This partnership will capitalise on the leadership roles both organisations have within their communities and the

potential they have to engage with citizens of all ages to promote sustainable local development, environmental awareness and climate action. The CARO has established a sub-regional working structure and meetings with 2 sub-regions have been completed, with the remaining 2 to be completed in February. This structure will assist implementation of the adaptation strategies across each of the 17 counties in the eastern and midland regions.

A sectoral training plan has been finalised and approved following presentation to the County and City Management Association (CCMA). Funding for the sectoral training plan has been approved by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) and Kildare County Council will lead on its delivery across all 31 Local Authorities and in collaboration with the Environment Services Training Group (ESTG), Climate Ireland, the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and other stakeholders and strategic partners. Pilot training events for elected members and senior staff were held in Kildare and Monaghan on 21 and 22 of January and these workshops will be further delivered to



each of the 31 local authorities. The CARO has also commenced working with the constituent local authorities in relation to the actions contained within the Government's Climate Action Plan.

Kildare Climate Action Team

The Chief Executive's Report on the draft adaptation strategy was approved at the full council meeting on 23 September and the Climate Action Team has convened to commence implementation of the actions emerging from the adaptation strategy.

The council has also commenced the recruitment process for a Climate Action Officer at senior executive level. This staff member will work closely with the Climate Change Strategy Policy Committee (SPC) and the Climate Action Team to deliver on the relevant requirements of the various policy frameworks, not least the council's adaptation strategy and the Climate Action Charter which was signed with the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

New Initiatives

Green Kilometre Scheme 2020

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

Civic Amenity Site North

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

Dog Pound

This is now complete.

Rathangan Public Realm

The Part 8 will be published shortly.

Kilcullen Public Realm

The Part 8 will be published shortly.



Monasterevin Public Realm

Now progressing to next stage of design and the fee proposal has been accepted.

Public Realm Upgrade for Kildare Town

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

Public Realm Upgrade for Newbridge

A working draft has now been completed and was presented to the

Parks

Bawnogues Athletics Track Improvement Works

A preferred tender has been selected to carry out these works. It is hoped to have the contractor appointed to do the works by early March subject to the completion of the contract appointment process.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee. It is proposed to progress to a further round of public consultation before progressing to the next stage of design.

The Barrow Blueway

A Project Team has been established.

Management of The Curragh Plains

The tender for consultants is now on E-Tenders.

Improvement Works, The Lakes, Naas

Work is ongoing on the installation of two accessible chess tables for The Lakes. The works including paving around the tables is due to be completed by mid-March.



Medieval Garden, Kildare Town

A preliminary cost report for the installation of a new retaining wall which forms part of the garden installation has been completed. It is now proposed to progress the project to the detail design for the wall and tendering the construction of it.

Landscaping Caragh Court, Roundabout Naas

Tenders for the design of a landscape plan for this work have been assessed and it is hoped to have a landscape architect appointed by mid-March to complete a design and prepare tender documents to tender for the implementation of the landscape plan.

Economic Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

All 2020 grants schemes have been advertised. The closing date for community, festival and Drechtid grant applications is Friday 06 March.

Community Grants 2019

The table below outlines the grants awarded across the county under the various grant schemes administered by the Community Department.

Grant Scheme	No. of Grants	Amount Awarded
Community Grants	187	€247,978
Festival Grant	78	€131,656
LPT Grants (groups nominated by councillors)	166	€807,422
Private Residents' Associations	252	€210,553
Local Authority Residents' Associations	76	€68,940
LPT Grants (Sports – Athy Municipal District)	30	€30,000
LPT Grants (Projects- Residents' Associations- Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District)	18	€19,444
Drechtid Grants Scheme	32	€236,445
Education Bursaries Scheme	38	€23,200
Community Enhancement Programme	5	€149,014
Men's Sheds	14	€22,369
	896	€1,947,021



Kildare Fáilte

Key activities January 2020

Destination Newbridge! was held on 14 January 2020 in the Riverbank Arts Centre. The purpose of the event was to start a collaboration between relevant stakeholders to increase tourism in Newbridge. In advance of the event an invitation was sent via email to 62 organisations on the People Participation Network (PPN), all Newbridge based Into Kildare members, public representatives, Into Kildare board members and relevant Kildare County Council stakeholders. Posters for same were distributed around Newbridge and Compass Group catered the event. On the evening, 72 people attended the event. A facilitator from the Tourism Space encouraged attendees to contribute and collaborate. Ideas were generated and attendees were optimistic about the future for the town with a very positive energy in the room. The Newbridge Gospel Singers did a short performance at 9:00 p.m. with refreshments served before and after the event. Local media covered the event - Leinster Leader and The Nationalist.

Kildare Fáilte met with a number of prominent business people in the county to showcase how it is great, living and doing business in the county by showing Kildare Fáilte's promotional film. They included the General Manager of Intel, the Chief Executive of the K Club, the Managing Director of O'Brien Fine Foods and leading trainers Mr Johnny Murtagh and Mr Dermot Weld. All are great ambassadors for the county and were very encouraging regarding tourism in the county.

St Brigid's Day

To celebrate St Brigid's Day and her Kildare connection, Kildare Fáilte co-ordinated a prize from Into Kildare members to showcase the county on the Late Late Show on 31 January. Media value over 20K. Each member of the audience received the following goodie bag - 1 x €50 Kildare Village shopping voucher, 2 x tickets to Punchestown Races, 2 x tickets to The Curragh Races, 2 x tickets to Naas Races, 1 x family pass to Irish National Stud, 1 x St Brigid's Cross from Newbridge Silverware and a box of chocolates from Lily O'Brien's.



Kildare Fáilte produced a short video clip which was aired on the show also. Feedback from public has been great.

Kildare Fáilte participated in the following events:

- Represented County Kildare at Newbridge Silverware's Chinese New Year celebrations, at The Tourism Space Live! event in Thomond Park and at Solas Bhríde's launch of Feile Bhríde 2020.
- Attended Twinning Liaison Committee meeting.
- The first committee meeting was held for Taste of Kildare 2020 in Fallons. The event overview was discussed and a plan was put in place.
- The first Board Meeting of 2020 was held in Irish National Stud on 31 January and date for networking meeting agreed for 31 March 2020.



Local Community

Development Committee (LCDC)

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on Wednesday 29 January 2020.

Healthy Ireland

Ms Deborah Foley commenced work as the part time Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator in January. Ms Foley has met with the project partners and the service level agreements are being agreed. Work is commencing to roll out the activities funded with Healthy Ireland in Kildare being launched on 26 February as part of the Kildare Sports Partnership “Back to Basics” seminar, chaired by Mr Ray D’Arcy.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

The end of year Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) report for 2019 and the SICAP plan for 2020 was approved by the LCDC at its’ meeting in January. The national targets set for the SICAP

in Kildare were exceeded, with the County Kildare LEADER Partnership working with 70 local community groups and 873 individuals through a range of supported programmes and one to one supports to support social inclusion.

In 2020 the budget has been increased nationally by 3%. The SICAP budget in Kildare 2020 is €1,092,867. This will be used to implement 18 targeted actions with groups and individuals to tackle social exclusion.

Heads-up (Mojo)

To date the HeadsUp programme has worked with over 500 men across the county through the delivery of 39 programmes. The recent programme which concluded in Maynooth had 100% retention rate and the 15 men who commenced the 12-week programme finished it. A programme is about to commence in Athy, with North West Kildare, a specific focus for 2020.



Rural Development LEADER

At the meeting held in January, the following applications worth €122,603.92 were approved:

- St Marys Brass and Reed Band (€6,365.25)
- The Irish Farriery Authority (€36,458.67)
- The Moat Club (€59,555)
- The Farm Channel Ltd/ T/A Farm TV (€20,335)

A review of the LEADER Programme is currently concluding. The LCDC/Local Action Group (LAG) participated in a workshop to plan for the final year of the programme.

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

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 March 2020.

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

M7 Widening, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins Bypass Project

SIAC Construction Ltd/Colas Ltd is the contractor. The contractor has opened 3 lanes both eastbound and westbound from Junction 8 Johnstown to Junction 11 (M7/M9 merge). The 80kph temporary speed limit expired on the 02 February 2020 and the route has returned to 120kph (between Junction 9 and Junction 11). Works continue on the Osberstown Interchange and the R407 Sallins Bypass.

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 is prioritised for delivery under the National Development Plan 2018–2027. The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. The project is currently in the early stages of Phase 1, Concept and



Feasibility (see image below), Arup have been appointed as technical advisors to support the delivery of the project through Phases 1 to 4. These phases include:

- Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) which would determine if an intervention (project) is required and if an intervention is feasible;
- Phase 2 (Option Selection) would examine feasible options for intervention that could address the aim of the project;
- Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) would develop the design of the preferred option from Phase 2 for further assessment including evaluation of environmental impacts; and
- Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) would include undertaking Statutory Processes.

As highlighted, the project is currently in the early stages of Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) and will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1

(Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Maynooth Eastern Relief Road (MERR) 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 will need to be in control of the lands as a prerequisite to the contract going ahead.

Athy Distributor Route

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October, 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist and Leinster Leader on 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 in 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. A further advance contract is underway.

Maynooth Inner Relief Street (MIRS)

Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road – Planning approval was issued by An Bord Pleanála to Cairn Developments Plc. Works are progressing well and the developer, Cairns has indicated that the road should be fully finished and open to traffic by the end of April 2020.

Newbridge Outer Orbital Route

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

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

The route selection process is ongoing and consultation with Iarnród Éireann has commenced regarding the design of an upgrade/replacement bridge over the railway. A briefing was delivered to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 12 June. A non-statutory Public Consultation was held on 18 June at the Kildare Education Centre. All submissions received will be considered and the Route Selection Process will reach a conclusion in the coming months.

Naas Municipal District 2020

Roads, Footpaths and Drainage

The Naas Municipal District is currently developing a programme of works for roads, drainage, footpath and low-cost safety improvement works for 2020. This will be based on funding to be made available to the Naas Municipal District.



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

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

Kildare Civil Defence assisted at the following events in January

- Cycle against Suicide Student Congress 2 days at City West
- Operation Transformation events in Naas and Leixlip
- Féile Bhríde Pilgrimage in Kildare Town

Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2019	Total Calls 2020
Newbridge	422	37
Naas	435	32
Athy	223	19
Maynooth	321	25
Monasterevin	181	20
Leixlip	240	17
TOTAL	1,842	150



Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2019	75	72
2020	11	9

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	0

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	6

	No. Planning File Comments
2019	455
2020	39



Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 31 January 2020:

Building Control

	2019	2020
Commencement Notices		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	27
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	27
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	0
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	211	9

	2019	2020
Certificates of Compliance on Completion		
Total Number of Certificates received:	646	28
Number Valid	645	28
Number Invalid	1	0
Awaiting processing Additional Information		0
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	11

	2019	2020
Disability Access Certificates		
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	122	8
Number granted:	131	12
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid		2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	5



Building Control Active Sites	2019	2020
Number of units inspected	1881	196

Development Control

	At 31/12/2019	At 31/01/2020
Active Sites		
Number of Sites with house construction	92	92
Number of Sites where all units complete but snags not complete	36	36
Estates that Require Monitoring/Maintenance:		19 (Ballintine Park - Wastewater Treatment Plant up and running).

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Elected members please advise your constituents that the LEO is always open to discuss their idea, business needs or grant availability, weekly business advice clinics continue across the county in 2020: email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Marketing, Taxation, Customs Training, Management Development, LEAN approach to management and many other courses offered by the LEO. All of courses are tailored to business needs and can be booked at: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Soft Supports

The LEO has recently launched the new 32-page brochure of training courses for 2020. Please advise your municipal district constituents of the Start Your Own Business, Digital

Brexit Supports

Following the UK's decision to leave the European Union (EU), Brexit remains very high on the agenda and a series of interventions have been put



in place including weekly business advice clinics.

Please encourage SME owners of your municipal district to fill out the Brexit Scorecard to assess exposure.

Brexit Scorecard:

<https://prepareforbrexit.virtual-adviser.com/>

Full list of Brexit supports:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Brexit/>

Local Enterprise Development Services

Supporting Women in Business (Network Ireland, Kildare Branch)

On Tuesday 21 January, the LEO Kildare representatives attended the first Women in Business Network event of 2020. The LEO representatives hosted a pop up at the event highlighting the range of supports available to the group of female entrepreneurs. This comes as part of the LEO's sponsorship of the Network Ireland, Kildare. The LEO also offers a subsidies membership fee to clients to encourage membership and expand the network.

EDEN Student Entrepreneurship Challenge with Maynooth University

On Thursday 06 February, the Head of Enterprise Ms McNabb launched the EDEN Student Entrepreneurship Challenge. The competition is run by Maynooth University in association with the LEO. EDEN is Maynooth University's Centre for entrepreneurship, design and innovation. The LEO Kildare will provide an investment fund for the competition, mentoring and coaching as well as taking a seat on the judging panel.

Local Enterprise Week

The first week in March (Monday 02 to Friday 06 March) will see small businesses and entrepreneurs gather across the country for Local Enterprise Week 2020. A national initiative of the LEO's, thousands of attendees are expected at over 300 events across the country during the week, aimed at supporting small businesses and fostering entrepreneurship. To see the full schedule of events and to book places please direct constituents to: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Enterprise-Week-2020/>



Economic Development Services:

MERITS Building

The completion of the MERITS (Mid East Region Innovation Think Space) building in Naas will realise a vision to serve the emerging technology sector by connecting organisations and people and acting as a centre of excellence in supporting innovative companies across the county and wider region. Recruitment for the manager of the centre has commenced and the post will be filled in May 2020. Marketing of the MERITS to recruit tenants is in progress and a call out is due to be launched in May 2020.

Athy Food and Drinks Innovation Space

An advertisement has gone on line for tenders to be prepared for consideration for a Part 8, detailed design, etc. A grant application under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) has been submitted.

Equine Innovation Centre @ The Irish National Stud

The County Kildare Community Network (CKCN) under the guidance of the Economic Development Section in Kildare County Council has signed a lease with the National Stud to convert and use a former building which will act 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. The hub will consist of

- Co-working and incubation facilities

Kildare County Council through the structure of the CKCN is working with the Irish National Stud on this project and an application for funding to renovate the space identified is currently being prepared for submission to the Kildare LEADER. The Equine Innovation Centre is projected to open in September 2020.



Shopfront and Accessibility Grant Improvement Scheme

The Shopfront and Accessibility Improvement Scheme was established to financially assist and support independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts/commercial properties. The 2020 scheme is due to be launched at the end February across all municipal districts. Improvements have been made to the scheme and new brochures will be distributed. Please advise constituents of available grant aid for improving appearance and accessibility of shopfronts. New application forms are available in the LEO.

Export Programme with North Eastern University Boston

10 Kildare businesses have embarked on a new pilot programme with the

North Eastern University Boston, MA and Kildare County Council's LEO to enter the coveted North American market. Following a trade mission to Boston in October 2019 with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce and Kildare County Council, relationships were established with the world-renowned North-Eastern University.

A 10-month programme has been developed for 10 Kildare businesses to have access to a team of graduates of the North Eastern University Boston. The students are assigned to a business to carry out specific research. The businesses will also have access to expert advice and mentoring from HMC Global. The programme will conclude with a second trade mission to Boston in October 2020.



Ongoing Entrepreneurship Support Services

Financial Supports

If your constituents are interested in any of the grant aid below, please advise them to contact the LEO on 045 98096 or localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Voucher to improve online trading capabilities – Trading online vouchers are available to the value of €2,500 (50% of eligible costs up to the maximum of €2,500) and are available to any business with less than 10 employees.

Voucher to explore new export markets – This grant can part-fund the costs incurred in investigating and researching export markets. The grant covers 50% of eligible costs (subject to a maximum of €2,500 per company in any one calendar year) and is available to any business with less than 10 employees.

Business Priming and Expansion Grants – Up to 50% of the investment or €150,000 and is available to any business with less than 10 employees in the manufacturing sector or internationally traded services.

Grants for improving shopfronts – to assist and support independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts/commercial properties. Grants are given for €5,000 or up to 75% of costs and are open to all businesses.

Small Business Loans with Micro Finance Ireland – works with small businesses with less than 10 employees and turnover up to €2 million, by providing unsecured business loans of €2,000 to €25,000 for commercially viable proposals. Grants are available to any business with less than 10 employees.

Business Advice Clinics

If your constituents are interested in booking a Business Advice Clinic, please advise them to contact the LEO on 045 980967, or localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Peter Carey
Chief Executive
