



Chief Executive's Management Report - January 2020

THIS MONTH: News and Highlights

Kildare County Council Supports Odyssey VC's Job Announcement

Kildare County Council hosted a launch for Odyssey VC in Áras Chill Dara for a major job announcement on 16 January (see page 47).

Castledermot Library Upgrade Works and Refurbishment

Castledermot Library is currently temporarily closed to the public until the end of February 2020 for essential upgrade works (see page 19).

IBAL (Irish Business against Litter) Latest National Survey

Newbridge and Leixlip were placed 4th and 5th respectively in the latest national IBAL survey (cleaner than European norms).

Caragh Playground

A preliminary design has been prepared for the proposed BMX pump track for the Parish Field in Caragh.

Arts Grants 2020

Artists and arts collectives and community groups may apply for available grants and award opportunities. Application forms are available to download from: www.kildare.ie/artsservice/grantsandopportunities (see page 26).

Taste of Kildare 2020

The Curragh Racecourse has been chosen as the venue for Taste of Kildare 2020.

Dates for Your Diary

Climate Action Awareness Week

Climate Action Awareness Week commences on 14 January.

Showcase Ireland 2020

Three LEO supported clients will be showcasing their businesses at Ireland's biggest creative exhibition from 19-22 January 2020 at the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin (see page 46).

General Election 2020

The 2020 Irish General Election will be held on Saturday, 8 February 2020.

Climate Think Workshop

A Climate Think Workshop will be held at the Killashee House Hotel, Naas on Tuesday 21 January 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (see page 35).



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Corporate Services

Corporate Plan 2019-2024

The Corporate Plan 2019-2024 has been published on the council website following its adoption by the members at the November 2019 plenary meeting of the council. Available at:

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/publications/KildareCountyCouncilCorporatePlan/index.html>

General Election 2020 - Register of Electors

Following the announcement that the General Election is to be held on 8 February 2020, the following statutory deadlines applied:

- **Closing date for the receipt of applications for the Supplement to the Register of Electors - Wednesday 22 January 2020.**
- **Closing date for the Supplement to the Postal Voters and Special Voters Lists -Thursday 16 January 2020.**

Communications

The council took the following measures to date to assist voter registration:

- Issue of press release to all media outlets to promote awareness and notification to all Councillors and Oireachtas members.
- Social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter, Community Department channels – scheduled to repeat every two hours up to the deadline for the Supplementary Register on Wednesday 22 January.
- Re-tweeting of voter registration content from Franchise Section of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG).
<https://www.housing.gov.ie/news>

Opening Hours

The Council has extended its opening hours from 9:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. on January 16, 17 and 20-22 at Áras Chill Dara Naas and at the Customer Service Point Athy to facilitate receipt of applications for addition to the Supplementary Register.



In addition, Áras Chill Dara, Naas will open on Saturday 18 January from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Arrangements have also been made to accept forms at Leixlip Library as below:

- 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday 16 January
- 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Friday 17 January 17
- 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday 18 January
- 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Monday 20 January
- 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday 21 January
- 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm. on Wednesday 22 January

Boundary Changes

The council wrote to all persons affected by boundary changes in December 2019 and has worked alongside the County Registrar's Office to ensure the correct polling station information will issue to all electors affected.

The map here outlines the areas affected:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/CorporateServices/RegisterofElectors/ConstituencyBoundaryChangeA4.pdf>

As more information regarding the distribution of polling cards and relevant polling stations is received from the County Registrar the council will publish this information on its channels and to the media.

Polling Day

The council has made arrangements to have the Register of Electors Section open all day on Polling Day from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. to deal with any registration related queries. The direct number for Register of Electors is:

Phone: 045 980 201 or

Email register@kildarecoco.ie

More Information

Everyone is strongly advised to monitor the council's social media channels and homepage for any updates.

- Web: <http://kildare.ie/county council/index.html>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KildareCountyCouncil/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kildarecc?lang=en>



Members Services

Statutory Declarations and Ethics Declarations

Forms for Statutory Declarations are being distributed to the members at municipal district meetings. Ethics Declarations have issued by email to the members. Statutory Declarations are due back by 31 January, the Ethics Declarations are due back by 28 February.

Members Services will have a help desk set up outside the council

chamber at the full council meeting on Monday 27 January to deal with any queries the members may have.

Finance and Information Technology

Financial Reports

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2019 is currently being prepared.



Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan

The Minister and the Office of the Planning Regulator were informed on 26 July 2019 that Kildare County Council will be proceeding with a development plan variation in accordance with the Act. The Draft Variation No 1 will go on public display on 09 January 2020.

Local Area Plans

Leixlip Local Area Plan (LAP)

The members adopted the Draft Leixlip LAP, subject to Material Amendments, at a special meeting of full council on 16 December 2019. The LAP comes into effect on 4 February 2020 (6 weeks after adoption + 9 days).

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: Dec 2019	
Dec	Year		No.	Total Granted:	
2017:	138	1,496	1,148	Retention:	7
2018:	145	1,601	1,026	Extension of Duration:	6
2019:	115	1,452	1,883	Total Refused:	27

Significant Planning Applications

December 2019

18/1534

Permission has been refused for a wind farm in the townlands of Ballynamullagh, Coolree, Drehid, Dunfierth, Killyon, Kilmurry and Mulgeeth, County Kildare

19/48

Permission has been granted for 42 dwellings at Downings North, Prosperous.



19/198

Permission refused for 63 houses at Coneyboro, Athy.

19/199

Permission has been refused for 53 houses at Coneyboro, Athy.

19/542

Permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing nightclub building; change of use of ground floor and basement to restaurant; change of use of first floor to student recreational and common room; construction of four storey 91-room student accommodation at the Duke and Coachman, Main Street, Maynooth.

19/885 and 19/886

Permission has been granted for 66 and 58 houses respectively at Hartwell Road, Kill.

19/888

Permission has been granted for a Solar PV Energy development with a total site area of 38.08 hectares in the townlands of Hortland and Knockanally, Donadea, Naas.

19/1208

Permission has been refused for a new residential apartment scheme (19 apartments in total) at Cois Abhainn, Liffey Lodge, Clane.

Strategic Infrastructure

Development (SID) Applications to An Bord Pleanála

- Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506) - the oral hearing concluded on 13 March 2019 and a decision is awaited from the Board. According to the ABP website, a decision is due by 30 January 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 - a decision is awaited from the Board.



- Application by Eirgrid plc (ABP Ref. 19/304862) was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 08 July 2019 for a substation, underground circuits, etc. in the townlands of Bogganstown, County Meath, and Leixlip, County Kildare connecting the proposed substation with

electricity transformers within the Intel Ireland Facility, permission for Leixlip was granted on 21 November 2019.

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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 has to be seen in the longer-term

context of the National Planning Framework, which set 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 strategic housing developments are made directly to An Bord Pleanála.



Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
19/305416	Resource Five Ltd.	Newtown, Kill	147	13/09/19	19/01/20
19/305701	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd.	Naas West and, Jigginstown, Naas	314	16/10/19	TBA
19/305905	Westar	Capdoo, Clane	305	19/11/19	TBA

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

The scheme supports small-scale, labour intensive conservation projects. The minimum level of funding awarded will be €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.

The closing date for applications under both the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020, and the Historic Structures Fund 2020 is Friday 31 January 2020.



Housing

Housing Quarterly Update - Activity

Levels

The following outlines the number of applications processed to the end of

Quarter 4, 2019 in a number of service areas. Details of the previous year is also included for comparison.

Social Housing Applications

2018	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	485	82	929	23	188
2019	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Quarter 1	83	21	229	2	46
Quarter 2	93	24	227	3	44
Quarter 3	65	19	302	4	85
Quarter 4	69	18	240	11	44
Total 2019	310	82	998	20	219

HAP Applications

2018	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Total	1025	35	706
2019	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Quarter 1	204	45	193
Quarter 2	176	51	170
Quarter 3	175	40	157
Quarter 4	223	64	194
Total	778	200	714



Tenant Purchase Scheme 2019

2018	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Total	29	4	6
2019	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Quarter 1	12	2	6
Quarter 2	12	4	2
Quarter 3	5	0	2
Quarter 4	6	1	6
Total	35	7	16

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2018	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount	Remaining Approval No.
Total	67	€14,480,997	15	€2,989,150	3	€623,000	49
2019	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount	Remaining Approved No.
January	1	€270,000	8	€1,920,947	3	€462,500	39
February	2	€365,600	6	€1,455,055	6	€1,031,200	29
March	2	€415,800	0	0	2	€524,200	29
April	0	0	6	€1,240,470	7	€1,665,130	16
May	0	0	4	€898,050	1	€280,500	11
June	1	€220,000	2	€415,800	0	0	10
July	0	€0	3	€605,600	0	0	7
August	0	€0	2	€449,800	0	0	5
September	2	€305,000	0	0	1	€226,000	6
October	6	€1,207,100	0	0	0	0	12
November	8	€1,336,439	0	0	0	0	20
December	5	€1,091,400	0	0	1	€140,000	24

**Total Approved
continuing due to expired loans**

€19,692,336 *Approvals

Total Drawn down to date:

€10,160,922

Total currently committed in loan offers:

€4,579,784

Total Expired:

€4,951,630



Housing Grants

2018	Housing Adapt. Apps Recd	Housing Adapt Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Total	434	295	3	0	248	143
2019	Housing Adapt Apps Recd	Housing Adapt Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Quarter 1	119	78	0	0	67	0
Quarter 2	142	68	0	0	68	35
Quarter 3	134	77	0	0	65	149
Quarter 4	89	97	0	0	68	67
Total 2019	484	320	0	0	268	251

*The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has introduced a new streamlined single application form. The new form covers all 3 grants and has been awarded the NALA stamp for plain English. The guidelines for the grants scheme have also been revised. The new form and guidelines will be available on the Kildare County Council website. The new guidelines and form are effective from January 2020.

Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

2018	LA Rents	LA HAP	
Total	1,321	1,163	
2019	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Quarter 1	246	193	144
Quarter 2	369	192	224
Quarter 3	309	196	121
Quarter 4	262	194	188
Total	1,186	775	677



Housing Maintenance

2018	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	No. of Response MtnC Requests Logged	No. of Response MtnC requests completed	Number of Self Help Grants Approved
Total	112	104	6,581	5,311	69
2019	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response MtnC Requests Logged	Number of Response MtnC Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Quarter 1	28	21	1,739	1,669	0
Quarter 2	19	40	1,460	1,406	64
Quarter 3	24	40	1,529	1,452	13
Quarter 4	21	43	1,874	1,806	0
Total	92	144	6,602	6,333	77

Homeless Presentations

2018	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1,226	448	778
2019	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	298	111	187
Quarter 2	259	115	144
Quarter 3	253	109	144
Quarter 4	331	100	231
Total	1,141	435	706



Homeless Presentations:

Unique Presentations Breakdown

2018	Adults	Dependents
Total	306	198
2019	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	81	85
Quarter 2	93	75
Quarter 3	136	118
Quarter 4	121	81
Total	431	359

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 December 2019

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	25	42	54
6 - 12 Months	18	29	45
12 - 18 Months	7	11	13
18 - 24 Months	4	6	11
24 - 30 Months	2	2	6
Total	56	90	129



Families in Own Front Door Accommodation

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	2	3	7
6 - 12 Months	1	2	4
12 - 18 Months	4	7	13
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	4	8	13
30 – 36 Months	1	1	2
Total	12	21	39



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
Completed		
Athgarvan Road, Newbridge	13 units	Works complete and units have been allocated.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan, Remedial Works (Phase 1)	Refurb of 34 Units (23 social and 11 private)	Lot 1 (6 units): completed Lots 2 - 5 (28 units) completed
Dunmurray Rise Kildare [Phase 3]	32 units	Completed October 2019.
In Progress		
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Contractor on site. Expected completion Quarter 1, 2020.
Approval Stage 3		
Tankardsgarden, Newbridge	8 units plus caretaker bay	Due to changed circumstances on site this project is not proceeding and alternative accommodation for some families is being sourced. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) has been advised.
Athgarvan Village	19 units	Part 8 approved at the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting in November 2018. Approval Stage 3 received from the DHPLG July 2019. Main contract tenders received in December 2019 and currently being assessed.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 21 units, refurb of 19 units, construction of 16 units.	Revised Stage 2 option agreed in principal at Quarter 4, 2019 meeting with the DHPLG. The proposal was presented to Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 15 January 2020 prior to the presentation to residents.



Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Dept)	Adjacent site under the control of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) now incorporated as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of both sites, to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. The Draft Proposal was received from the AHB in December 2019 and Architectural Services and Planning Section feedback was given to the AHB. A revised proposal is to be submitted by the AHB.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Civil/structural consultants are to be appointed in January 2020. Tender for building services consultants will commence January 2020.
Approval Stage 1		Status October 2019
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build 75 units	The Design Team was appointed February 2019. Increased density on site (75 units), to maximise site value, agreed with Housing and Planning in December 2019 and revised brief issued to the design team.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	30 units	A Serviced Site Funding (SSF) application has been approved. The Design Team to be appointed. Cost of essential infrastructure works is to be verified and an update required to be submitted to the DHPLG by 31 January 2020.
Carbury	4 units	A feasibility study is being carried out. Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 1, 2020.
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	35 units	Higher density agreed with Housing and Planning December 2019. Draft Stage 2 application issued to DHPLG for comment.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	55	Draft Stage 1 proposal agreed with Housing and Planning December 2019. Stage 1 application to be submitted January 2020.



Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 1 approval received. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 1 received from the DHPLG July 2018. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.
Glandore, Athy	TBC	Stage 1 approval received. Proposed commencement of Part 8 Quarter 4, 2019.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 existing refurb and 1 new-build	Stage 2 approval received 20 December 2019. Part 8 to launch Quarter 1, 2020

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	117	120
Housing Turnkeys	39	63	92
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	224

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Expected completion April 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Commenced on site November 2019. Expected completion Quarter 2, 2021.
Ardrew, Athy	50 units	Site at Ardrew identified for inclusion in PPP Bundle 3.



Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2019
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Part 8 approved at 24 July 2017. Respond to re-tender.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Part 8 approved by the Naas Municipal District Committee on 17 July 2018. Commenced on site January 2020.
Dominican Lands Athy	25 units	Stage 1 approval received July 2017. Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site. Feasibility with Planning for comment.
ESB site Leixlip	TBC	Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site. Project on hold.
Caragh Road Site	TBC	Feasibility study/economic assessment in relation to potential for provision of affordable units on this site submitted to the DHPLG for consideration.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status October 2019
KARE	3 Units	Awaiting Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) screening report certification prior to launching the Part 8. Expected Part 8 launch 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.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	CAS – Planning granted on 01 May 2018. Commenced on site November 2019.



Housing Needs Assessment 2019

The social housing needs assessment was carried out on 24 June 2019 to count the number of households qualified for social housing support.

The net need is defined as the total number of households qualifying for social housing support whose social housing need is not being met.

Households currently living in local authority rented accommodation, voluntary/co-operative accommodation, accommodation provided under the Housing Assistance Payment, Rental Accommodation Scheme or under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme are not included. The assessment was recently published by the Housing Agency and a full copy of the report can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/sha_summary_2019_dec_2019_web_1.pdf

Some of the key findings of the report include:

- In total 68,693 households were assessed as qualified for housing support as of 24 June 2019, a decrease of 3,165 (4.4%) compared to the assessment carried out in 2018.
- In Kildare a total of 3,386 households were assessed as qualified for housing support as of 24 June 2019, a decrease of 576 (14.5%) compared to the assessment carried out in 2018.
- The majority of those qualified for social housing support are unemployed.
- Single person households are the predominant household grouping in need of social housing support.
- Over 17% nationally [11.9% in Kildare] of households on the waiting list have specific accommodation requirements.

Kildare	2013	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of qualified households	5,454	5,572	5,103	3,962	3,386



Library and Arts Service

Castledermot Library Upgrade Works and Refurbishment

Castledermot Library is currently temporarily closed to the public until the end of February 2020 for essential upgrade works. The refurbishment project is now well underway:

- A full upgrade of the internal lighting system to energy efficient lighting and electrical upgrade is almost complete
- Conservation works have been completed on the original stained-glass windows
- Full interior decorating is now underway to be followed by new flooring throughout the building
- New furniture and shelving have been ordered and will be delivered in the next few weeks
- New book and multi-media stock has been purchased to supplement the existing collection

- The new layout and design will allow for a community space for study, talks, workshops and small meetings

In order to ensure minimum disruption to services the mobile Library Service will visit Castledermot Community Centre on Wednesday 29 January from 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

In addition, during this period library members can borrow and return to any library in the country. Library members can continue to avail of the library online services which include eBooks, eMagazines, music downloads and eAudio books at anytime, anywhere. This service is totally free of charge; fines are now abolished in all library branches. Regular updates on the project will be communicated via the council's social media facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService and twitter.com/kildarelibrary



Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The tender documents for the second stage of the construction tender for Naas Library has been sent to all the shortlisted contractors. Due to the Christmas holiday period and requests from short-listed contractors the closing date for the receipt of tenders was extended by one week to Friday 24 January.

LapSafe Services Expanded Throughout the County

Kildare County Libraries are delighted to announce their new **LapSafe** service for library patrons. This allows people to borrow a laptop or android tablet for use in the library for up to

three hours. There are 82 Public PC's available for use throughout Kildare libraries, 70 laptops and a total of 64 tablets.

Measuring Distances to Everyday Services in Ireland

The Central Statistics Office has released a report measuring distances to everyday services in Ireland. Kildare residents live an average distance of 3.4 kilometres from their nearest library, closer than the State average of 4.5 kilometres.

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-mdsi/measuringdistancetoeverydayervicesinireland/>

Sensory Facilities and Equipment in Public Libraries

The Department of Rural and Community Development have issued a call for funding for proposals to support the provision of sensory facilities and equipment in public libraries. Kildare libraries have submitted a proposal for the installation of the tovertafel in Leixlip and Athy Libraries. The tovertafel console contains a high-

quality projector, infrared sensors, a loudspeaker and a processor with interactive games are projected onto a table. The console has been developed for people with cognitive challenges and intellectual and developmental challenges in care institutions, daycare, public libraries and schools. The technology will be utilised as part of the Library Service's Toys Technology and Training (TTT) and Age Friendly programmes



Period Poverty

The issue of period poverty is being addressed in Leixlip Community Library through the provision of free feminine sanitary products in the public bathroom. This pilot initiative will run from February 2020.

Family Time at Your Library

Right to Read is the national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy, in addition to local programming. Thirty-seven **Family Time at Your Library** events and activities took place in all libraries during the month of December. This was to support a family-focused approach to reading with children and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. Over 1,120 children and families attended the event.

Library Collections: Autism Friendly Collections

The Library Service has purchased all nine books in the **Tony the Turtle series**. These lovely books are **specially created for parents and carers of children on the autism spectrum**. They offer tested, positive strategies to support both parent and child in getting through everyday activities with reduced anxiety, minimum stress, and maybe even have some fun along the way. The author, Ms Valerie Sheehan is a professionally trained Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) tutor with over ten years' experience working with families and kids on the autistic spectrum. She is passionate about providing tools and educational resources for parents, carers and teachers which will be available to borrow in all Kildare libraries from next week.



Newbridge Community Library

Newbridge Community Library are delighted to be facilitating new Touch-Type, Read and Spell (TTRS) training for children and young people who have been diagnosed with dyslexia. This multi-sensory programme teaches touch typing to help students improve their reading and spelling skills and develop their confidence. January also sees the library facilitating a five-class introduction to coding with python for ages 12-14 years on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. With coding becoming more and more relevant to the digital world in which we live, work and play. These classes aim to arm teenagers with the tools to further develop their coding skills and expertise.

Community returns to the library this January in association with Maynooth University and County Kildare LEADER Partnership. It is aimed at long term unemployed and people supported under the Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SIAP). The weekly classes continue this month with a module on Media Studies before concluding with Politics, Power and People next month.

Along with the return of all the regular crafts groups this month, Newbridge Community Library is proud to introduce Cross Stitch for Kids, a fortnightly crafts club for children aged 8 -12 years focused on the art of cross stitch. Whether they like Frozen, Fortnite or football, or just like making things, boys and girls can come along and learn how to cross stitch it! The library will also continue to work with the Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre in 2020 following the success of the Christmas party, regular story time/crafts afternoons in the centre and the CV workshops in the library last year.

Library staff are working on ideas for further engagement with residents and relevant service provision.

Leixlip Local History Group - The Battle of Spion Kop

On Thursday the 16 January Leixlip Library hosted an interesting talk for history and local history enthusiasts. The Leixlip Local History Group will explore the Battle of Spion Kop, which occurred during the Boer War, 120 years ago this January.



Kildare Library

The launch of Josephine Hardiman's *21st Century Book of Kildare' Exhibition* - weaving celtic art and calligraphy around the Ancient and Sacred Heritage of Kildare. Meet the artist as she creates her new pages. The exhibition will be on view for the month of February in Kildare Town Library

Make your own Brigid's Cloak

A sewing workshop will be held on Thursday 30 January celebrating Féile Bríde and the legend about the way Saint Brigid came to acquire the land to build her monastery at Kildare.

Maynooth Library

“Stammtisch” – German Language Meetup at Maynooth Community Library

This is a new informal monthly meet up for anyone with an interest in the language and culture of German speaking countries and it is facilitated by a German native member of staff.

“Social Story”

Following completion of the AsIAM online training programme 'Autism Awareness in the Public Sector', staff in Celbridge and Maynooth Community

Libraries elected to create a social story detailing a visit to the library. This document is a simple guide comprising photographs and clear language to enable people on the autism spectrum to understand what to expect of a library visit. The aim of the social story is to hopefully reduce any anxiety associated with visiting a new activity/place.

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 branch. 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 which 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 Archivists Group is on display in Áras Chill Dara from 23 January until the first week of February, before travelling on 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 is the culmination of a project funded through Creative Ireland where Visual Artist, Ms Vera McEvoy worked with a group of women to examine and curate an exhibition of works by female artists in the Kildare County Council Municipal Visual Art Collection. This curated exhibition will open on 30 January on the walls outside the council chamber, Áras Chill Dara and will run until early March 2020.

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 from:

www.kildare.ie/artsservice/grantsandopportunities

- 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)
- Arts Act Grant Scheme
- Artist in Schools Residency Bursary Award



Information sessions on 'how to apply for an arts award' will be held in Leixlip, Newbridge and Athy libraries during February 2020.

Music Generation Co-Ordinator

Alan Costello commenced his role as music generation co-ordinator for Kildare in early January.

Arts and Wellbeing Programme

The Creative Well Archive Project 2020-2021

The First Gathering will be held at McKenna Gallery 10 January to 05 February.

In 2021 The Creative Well and “This Must Be the Place” will celebrate 10 years of arts and health in Kildare. This year the Library Service will be gathering The Well Group, its participants and its work since its inception to create a celebratory publication for our 10-year anniversary.

The Creative Well visual arts programme of work aims to build and support well-being and rich life experiences by encouraging adults to engage with their creativity through

visual art. It is designed for people with all levels of abilities and life experiences, providing opportunities for everyone from complete beginners, to practicing artists and all in between.

The next step in the programme is the making of an archive and pausing to reflect. This will be a year for gathering stories and testimonials. A year for reflection on what has been done and thinking about what there remains to be done. It is aimed to listen to all who have been on this creative journey and to talk to past and potential stakeholders about how best to proceed.

The archive will be open from 10 January at the McKenna Gallery, where artists Ms Emma Finucane and Ms Eleanor Philips will be creating a space for the work of all the Creative Well’s participants to be collected and documented. This is open to all members both past and present of the Creative Well.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and view this archive process, learn about the project’s history and the artists involved.



Stay tuned for details of events happening as part of the Creative Well installation in the McKenna Gallery this January and further gatherings throughout 2020. This is part of First Fortnight in partnership with Riverbank Arts Centre and celebrates Kildare County Council's visual arts, health and wellbeing programme.

Past Times Community Choir

The choir celebrates its 5th anniversary on Tuesday the 14 January. The Library Service will be celebrating with a birthday cake and a sing a long session for all their members.



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 well advanced.

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.

Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility DBO Contract Variation

Veolia Water Ireland is advancing works on this variation to the 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 (WWTP). 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 three-month operational phase, this WWTP was handed back to Irish Water/Kildare County Council



Operations on Wednesday 08 January 2020.

Osberstown WWTP

The upgraded Osberstown WWTP is scheduled to be handed back to Irish Water/Kildare 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 1,360 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 54 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. Several customers have yet to provide consent to allow for the completion of the private side works in order that decommissioning works can be completed in these estates. This work cannot commence until all customer's consent have been obtained. There are 15 customers/premises whereby consent has not yet been provided throughout Lourdesville, Assumpta Villas and Rowanville.

Taghadoe 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.

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 consultant's brief for the Naas study and Leixlip scheme. 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 these issues and progress is being made.

Athy Flood Modeling

Scenarios have been completed meaning that the proposed flood measure can be adopted into the Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) as part of the Dominican Masterplan, subject to the approval of the elected members.



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 the end of Quarter 1, 2020, with preliminary 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.

Kerdiffstown

Taking possession of properties under the CPO is now complete.

An advanced works contract has been substantially completed in connection with the St Vincent de Paul property.

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 will be issued shortly.

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 commence later in 2020.

Newbridge Cemetery

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

Columbarium Walls

Derrinturn,

It is hoped to appoint a contractor to carry the work out 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)

All governance arrangements are in place. Partnership with Kilkenny County Council was formally signed on 11 October and the regional/sub-regional structure will be further strengthened in the new year following representation to the 17 Chief Executives. A sectoral training plan has been finalised and approved following presentation to the County and City Management Association (CCMA). Funding for the sectoral training plan has been approved by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and Kildare County Council will lead on its delivery across all 31 Local Authorities and in collaboration with the Environment Services Training Group (ESTG), Climate Ireland, the Institute of Public Administration, other stakeholders and strategic partners. Pilot training events for elected members and senior staff will be held in Kildare and Monaghan on 21 and 22 January and these workshops will be further delivered to each of the 31 local authorities.

The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) has established a sub-regional working structure and meetings in this regard will be held in January and February in order to commence implantation of the adaptation strategies across each of the 17 counties in the eastern and midlands region. 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 plenary council meeting on 23 September and the Climate Action Team will convene soon to commence implementation of the actions emerging from the adaptation strategy. A successful climate summer camp for younger people was delivered over the summer in conjunction with the Irish National Stud. The Kildare LEADER 'Communities 4 Climate Action' community training programme has concluded and the group intend to continue networking in order to



promote climate action in their communities.

The council will also commence the recruitment process for a Climate Action Officer, at Senior Executive level over the coming weeks and this staff member will work closely with the Climate Change Strategic 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. The Government's Climate Action Plan and the Climate Action Charter is to be signed with the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

New Initiatives

Countywide Green Kilometre

This scheme is designed to encourage people living in rural areas (and out of Tidy Town areas) to remove litter and improve the biodiversity and heritage of selected rural roads in their area. 37 applications have been received in the last two years from across the county. All participants routinely remove litter and are offered a number of native trees to plant along the roadside. This is a useful way to

reward the groups and individuals who participate while also improving Kildare's biodiversity. It is hoped to extend this scheme in 2020.

A Climate Think Workshop for members and senior council staff will be held at the Killashee House Hotel, Nass on Tuesday 21 January from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Civic Amenity Site North

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee.

Dog Pound

Extension works have been substantially completed. It is expected that the new facility will be completed and open by the end of January 2020.

Rathangan Public Realm

The Part 8 is due to be published before the end of January 2020.

Kilcullen Public Realm

Some parking and traffic related issues are yet to be resolved prior to Part 8 publication.



Monasterevan Public Realm

This project is now progressing to next stage of the 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 Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee on 16 October and will now progress to the formal statutory consultation stage.

Management of The Curragh Plains

An agreement has been reached with the Department of Defence and is now progressing to tender stage. Tender documentation will be posted on e-tenders shortly.

Parks

Caragh Playground

A preliminary design has been prepared for the proposed BMX pump track for the Parish Field in Caragh. This is to be located beside the new playground. It is hoped to install it this year subject to finalising the design and installation costs.

Tree Planting Programme

Work is ongoing on the preparation of a tree planting programme for the county. It is hoped to have this tendered by the end of January and to plant the trees at the end of February to the middle of March.



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

Community Grants 2019

The table below outlines the grants awarded in 2019 across the county

under the various grant schemes administered by the Community Department.

Grant Scheme	No. of Grants	Amount Awarded
Community Grant	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- Cebridgel/Leixlip Municipal District)	18	19,444
Drehid Grants Scheme	32	236,445
Education Bursaries Scheme	38	23,200
Community Enhancement Programme	5	149,014
Mens' Sheds	14	22,369
	896	€1,947,021

Note: The 2020 schemes will be advertised before the end of January.

Kildare Fáilte

Key activities December 2019:

Kildare Fáilte attended the launch of Ardclough Visitor Centre where the “From Malt to Vault” exhibition was unveiled. The European Commissioner Phil Hogan addressed the crowd and Bishop Denis Nulty blessed the building. Kildare Fáilte organised the

design and print of a large wall panel for the centre to outline Arthurs Way Trail. Ms Mangan met with Mr Paul Carty, General Manager of the Guinness Storehouse to discuss the possibility of working together with the centre and Arthurs Way Trail.



Kildare Fáilte represented County Kildare at Tourism Ireland's Launch of 2020 plans in the Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin on 02 December.

The launch outlined Tourism Ireland's 3-year plan from 2020-2022. The Tourism Minister, Mr Brendan Griffin was present as well as over 500 tourism industry leaders from all over the country.

The Kildare Fáilte Board meeting took place in Áras Chill Dara on 16 December where plans and budgets for 2020 were presented and approved. Kildare Fáilte also met with the Fáilte Ireland Manager for Ireland Ancient East in Áras Chill Dara to discuss plans for Kildare for 2020.

Other meetings attended by Kildare Fáilte and participated in were the Food Tourism Strategy meeting in Áras Chill Dara and the Naas Town Team Meeting in Naas Town Hall. Kildare Fáilte attended meetings with various personnel in Áras Chill Dara regarding Tourism, events and festivals. Meetings also took place regarding social media, public relations and print of design. Membership enquiries and fee collection were followed up. Events attended by

Kildare Fáilte included the Naas Racecourse/Lawlor's Grade 1, 2020 launch and was a guest of the Killashee Hotel at the Women's Networking event.

Plans for Destination Newbridge have progressed. Meetings took place with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Manager, Tidy Towns representatives and a facilitator was appointed for the event. The purpose of the event was to start a collaboration between relevant stakeholders to increase tourism in Newbridge and spark interest. The Riverbank Arts Centre was booked as the venue. A list of invitees was collated and an invitation was sent to them via email. Posters for same have been designed and distributed.

An events and administrative co-ordinator has been appointed and commenced work on 06 January 2020. Following several site inspections and negotiations with venues, the Kildare Fáilte Board Board agreed The Curragh Racecourse as the venue for Taste of Kildare 2020 and dates have been set for 26 and 27 September 2020. This coincides with a race meeting thus showcasing both the



great food and equine the county is renowned for. The official launch will take place later this month.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on Wednesday 27 November 2019.

Healthy Ireland

The contract for Healthy Ireland 3 was signed with the initial drawdown of funding completed in late December. Work is underway to commence programmes in Kildare with project partners. Further communication on events will issue in the coming months.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Work continues to implement the SICAP programme across the county. The LCDC will consider the 2019 end of year review at the January meeting

Heads-up (Mojo)

The HeadsUp programme in Maynooth is concluding on 16 January. This was another very successful programme. Referrals are now been taken for the Athy programme.

Rural Development LEADER

Work continues to progress projects under LEADER funding. The LCDC/LAG meeting in January will consider further projects for approval at their January meeting.

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

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 January 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). As works are continuing in this area an 80kph speed limit is in place.

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. The detailed design and CPO preparation stages are now underway. The next phase of the project will be the completion of the 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 2019 for this project. Notices to treat have been issued. A Notice of Entry on lands has been issued. Advance works between Corran Árd and Fortbarrington Road have been completed. The railway abandonment and the removal of the rails and sleepers is now complete. A further advance contract is underway.

Maynooth Inner Relief Street Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road

Planning approval was issued by An Bord Pleanála to Cairn Developments Plc. Works are progressing well and the 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 the 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 2019

Naas Municipal District Footpath Works

The Naas Municipal District Office has completed improvement works to the footpath and associated areas at the following locations:

- The Gables, Kill (footpath improvements)
- The Park, Naas (footpath improvements)
- Sallins Road, Naas (footpath improvements)
- St. Brigid's Avenue, Kilcullen (road and footpath improvements)
- Relocation of the bus stop, Sallins
- Sallins controlled pedestrian crossing improvements
- Newbridge Road, Naas, footpath works
- Resurfacing of Abbey Street Car Park, Naas
- Hazelmere road repairs
- Main Street, Naas, footpath repairs
- Brannockstown, footpath repairs



Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2019

The first package of works (Works Package 1) is now complete. It includes the following works locations:

- Section A: L6039 Crab Road
- Section B: L20113
Bishopscourt, Kill
- Section C: L20102 Alasty
- Section D: L6012
Sherlockstown, Sallins
- Section E: L60601 McLoughlins
Lane, Boleybeg
- Section F: L6035 Naas Rugby
Club to the Red House
- Section G: L6043
Craddockstown
- Section H: L2004 Digby Bridge

The second package of road improvement projects (Works Package 2) is now complete. It includes the following works locations:

- Section A: L6011 Turnings,
Sherlockstown-Daars
- Section B: L20042 Blackhall,
Clane
- Section C: R407 Bodenstown
Clane

- Section D: L6076 Castlefish
(Nicholastown)
- Section E: Bishopshill,
Ballymore Eustace
- Section F: Dunshane
- Section G: Walterstown, Sallins
- Section H: L2023 Punchestown,
Naas
- Section I: L200610 Osberstown
Cottages, Sallins

The third package of road improvement projects (Works Package 3) is now complete. It includes the following works locations:

- Section A: Main Street,
Ballymore Eustace
- Section B: Tipper Road, Naas
- Section C: Abbey Bridge, Naas

The fourth package of road improvement projects (Works Package 4) is substantially complete. It includes the following works locations:

- Section A: R407, Sallins



Emergency Drainage Works

The Naas Municipal District Office has carried out the following drainage works:

- Main Street, Sallins – repairs to the drainage system at the shops/apartments on the R407 opposite Sallins Bridge. This work is now complete.
- Lakelands, Naas – repairs to the collapsed pipe exiting the lakes and the removal of trees causing the problem (root ingress). This work is now complete.

Surface Dressing Works

The Naas Municipal District Office have recently completed the surface dressing works programme for 2019 in the Naas Municipal District including:

- R412 – Dunlavin Road (south of Brannockstown)
- L2023 – Punchestown Road (Between Beggars end and Watchouse Cross)
- L2009/L2018/L2019/L2021 – Boston Hill, Tuckmilltown, Oughterard

- L2020 – Military Road
- L2018 – Killeel
- L6038 – Rathmore to Redbog

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2019

The LPT/Carpark funded works programme for 2019 has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee. The Naas Municipal District Office is delivering the road and footpath improvement elements of this programme on an ongoing basis.

The Low-Cost Safety Scheme

The Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for Corbally Crossroads is now complete.

Kildare Civil Defence assisted at the following events in November and December 2019:

- 5K Remembrance Run – Narraghmore
- WW1 Commemoration – Athy
- Plaque Unveiling – Athy
- Big Switch on of Christmas Lights - Athy



Fire Service

In 2019 Kildare Fire Service responded to 1507 operational incidents which resulted in 1842

station responses (see breakdown below). Some incident types require more than one station to respond.

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2018	Total Calls 2019
Newbridge	460	422
Naas	503	435
Athy	266	223
Maynooth	322	321
Monasterevin	214	181
Leixlip	245	240
TOTAL	2,010	1,842

Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2018	88	85
2019	75	72

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2018	18
2019	16



	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2018	204
2019	179

	No. Planning File Comments
2018	518
2019	455

Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 31 December 2019:

Building Control

	2018	2019
Commencement Notices		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	662	611
Number of valid commencement notices received:	618	596
Number of invalid commencement notices received:	44	15
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	109	211



Certificate of Compliance on Completion	2018	2019
Total Number of Certificates received:	644	646
Number Valid	629	645
Number Invalid	15	1
Awaiting processing	-	-
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	23	139

Disability Access Certificates	2018	2019
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	139	122
Number granted:	130	131
Number refused:	0	0
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	35	21

Building Control Active Sites	2018	2019
Number of units inspected	107	1881



Development Control

Active Sites	At 31/12/2018	At 31/12/2019
Number of Sites with house construction	64	92
Number of Sites where all units complete but snags not complete	36	36
Estates that Require Monitoring/Maintenance	19 (Ballintine Park – Waste Water Treatment Plant up and running)	

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Elected members please advise your constituents that the LEO Office 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

Kildare County Council Support Odyssey VC's Job Announcement

On 16 January Kildare County Council hosted a launch for Odyssey VC, in Áras Chill Dara for a major job announcement. They were welcomed by the Cathaoirleach, Ms Suzanne Doyle. Odyssey is a leading Irish provider of compliant IT solutions. They announced that their company will create at least 100 new jobs at its headquarters in Sallins, County Kildare. Supported by local the LEO, a spokesperson for the company stated

that, owing to a significant and consistent year-on-year growth since its establishment in 2015, the company's growing global services necessitate the expansion. Odyssey VC is one of only six companies in the world, and the only Irish provider, offering compliant hosting services. The jobs will be highly skilled in nature and will be spread across the company's technical, product development, service delivery, compliance and sales and marketing departments. Odyssey VC uniquely offers Integrated Cloud and



Computerised System Lifecycle Management Services to Life Science companies who operate in highly regulated environments. Odyssey VC currently supports client companies in Ireland and globally. The company has delivered high double-digit year-on-year growth in revenue since its establishment and counts many global Fortune 500 Life Science companies as its customers including Pfizer, Amgen, Takeda and Alexion. The Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Odyssey VC, Mr Oisín Curran, stated that “Odyssey VC is delighted to announce the creation of these new jobs. It is a very positive indication of the significant growth we have achieved. I would also like to thank everyone who has supported us over the years, including the Kildare LEO and Enterprise Ireland.”

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Brexit Supports

As the 31 January deadline approaches, 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 in your municipal district to fill out the Brexit Scorecard to assess exposure.

Link to the Brexit Scorecard:

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

A full list of Brexit supports can be accessed at:

<https://mailchi.mp/69ab763db83d/brexit-is-coming-and-were-here-to-help-2918709>



Soft Supports

The LEO has just launched the new 32-page brochure of training courses for 2020. Please advise your municipal district constituents of the Start Your Own Business, Digital Marketing, Taxation, Customs Training, Management Development, LEAN approach to management and many other courses that we offer. All of our courses are tailored to business needs and can be booked here:

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

Local Enterprise Development Services

Showcase Ireland 2020

Three LEO supported clients will be showcasing their businesses at Ireland's biggest creative exhibition from 19-22 January 2020 at the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin. Ms Caroline Cullen of Pebble and Twigs, Leixlip, Ms Emma-Jane Leeson of Johnny Magory Books, Naas and Ms Deirdre McNally of Dink Studio, Kildare Town will be showcasing their businesses. Please visit or support them by promoting on social media.

National Enterprise Awards

Applications are now open to apply for The National Enterprise Awards 2020. A global skincare company which was founded in Kildare, Pestle & Mortar, won the top prize at the 2019 awards following Terra Tech from Castledermot who won in the 2018 National Enterprise Awards.

The event is organised by the LEO's to celebrate Ireland's best small businesses. Please encourage SME owners of your municipal districts to contact the LEO to apply and challenge themselves and the council to make it 3 in a row for County Kildare.

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 acting as a centre of excellence in supporting innovative companies across county and wider region. Construction started on the site at the beginning of November and the building is due to be completed by November 2020.



Frequent board meetings continue to take place and the recruitment process for a MERITS premises manager will begin at the end of January 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

Launched by Minister Heather Humphreys in April 2019, the conversion of the historic model school in Athy into a centre for educational and entrepreneurial excellence for the food sector will promote economic development and creative learning for Athy and surrounding areas. The Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub will comprise the following:

- A skills hub
- A community timeshare incubator kitchen
- A community food discover centre
- A co-working/collaboration zone

Coca Cola has provided an initial funding investment for the project. The Economic Development Team submitted an application for funding for this ambitious project to the Regional

Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) at the end of September. The application was assessed, and the project team delivered a presentation to the Enterprise Ireland Evaluation Team in October.

Donnachadh O'Brien Engineers worked with the team on the feasibility study design for the project and application and a pre-planning meeting with Kildare County Council took place in November.

The Regional Enterprise Development Fund application decision was given at the beginning of January 2020. The project was unsuccessful in receiving REDF funding from Enterprise Ireland, as funding was awarded to another project in Kildare. However, the LEO will continue to progress this project and seek alternative funding sources where possible. The project is progressing currently to a Part 8.

Equine Innovation Centre @ The Irish National Stud

County Kildare Community Network (CKCN) under the guidance of the LEO 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
- Team collaboration/co-creation units
- Shared facilities

Kildare County Council through the structure of 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 Kildare LEADER, with the tender for refit to be issued in February and work will begin in May. 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 will be launched in February 2020. Improvements have been made to the scheme and new brochures will be distributed.



Ongoing Entrepreneurship Support Services

Financial Supports

If your constituents are interested in any of the grant aid below, advise them to contact us on 045 98096 [or localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto: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 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 of €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. 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