



## Chief Executive's Management Report – April 2020

### THIS MONTH: News and Highlights



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

The delivery of services by Kildare County Council has had to change significantly in recent weeks and, as required by Government, all Council Offices are now closed to the public until further notice. Council staff are now focused on the delivery of **critical essential services** that must be maintained through this Pandemic. While the offices are closed council staff are available to deal with queries relating to essential services and members of the public are encouraged to make contact by phone and email.

In line with requirements associated with social/physical distancing, and in order to focus efforts on service delivery, the elected members of Kildare County Council decided to cancel all meetings of the council up to and including 05 May. This will be reviewed on a continuous basis over the coming weeks. Despite the fact that the elected members are not meeting in the usual structure, there is continuous interaction between the executive and staff of the council and the Councillors, to ensure that all efforts are on delivering essential services to our citizens and coordinating the community response. Members receive briefings on activities through the Cathaoirleach, SPC Chairs, and Directors of Services. Arrangements for meetings post the 05 May are being considered.

A dedicated community support helpline has been established in Kildare County Council to assist at risk members of the public in accessing non-emergency and non-medical supports and advice during the current public health emergency. The confidential phonenumber service established by the new COVID-19 Kildare Community Response Forum includes over a dozen agencies and organisations working with the community. The helpline is focused primarily on ensuring that vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries of groceries, medicine and fuels. The role of the Forum is to ensure that there is a coordinated community response and to enable all voluntary statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly of our most vulnerable members.



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Contact details for the community support line are: **Freephone 1800 300 174** or **045 980 202** or email **[covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie)**.

All other essential services are available through one of the following communication channels:

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

A list of essential services that will continue to be serviced as a priority is published on our website here: <http://kildare.ie/county council/coronavirusinformation/>

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



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## Corporate Services

### Customer Service

Áras Chill Dara and all other council facilities are currently closed to the public, in the interests of public health.

The council is advising customers and citizens not to physically call to council offices for any reason as they will not be able to gain access.

Council staff are now focused on the critical essential services which must be maintained through this Pandemic and in accordance with the council's Business Continuity Plan.

While the offices are closed council staff are available to deal with queries relating to essential services and members of the public are encouraged to make contact by phone and email. If you need to contact us, please avail of

one of the following communication channels:

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

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

### New COVID-19 and Council Services Webpages

A list of essential services that will continue to be serviced as a priority is published on the council's new dedicated COVID-19 webpages, that also contain useful links for vulnerable groups, official information sources and links to the new Community Call initiative:

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



## Finance and Information Technology

### Rent Accounts

Kildare County Council continues to encourage tenants to make repayments towards their rent every week to avoid going into arrears. It should be noted a “rent freeze” means rent will not increase, not that tenants may stop paying their rent. The council is very sympathetic to the difficulties facing tenants, however, as rent is assessed based on income, a rent assessment form needs to be completed and returned without delay. This can be downloaded on Kildare County Council website: <http://kildare.ie/county council/housing/HousingRents/> alternatively you can request a form by emailing [rents@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:rents@kildarecoco.ie) or phoning the Finance Section at 045 980 654 or the Housing Section at 045 980 705. As a **temporary** measure the Finance Rents Team may discuss the tenant’s new financial situation over the phone before estimating and agreeing a rent payment according to the revised circumstances of the tenant. If a tenant **under declares** their income during this estimate process, this will create an arrears situation, which will

need to be promptly addressed by the tenant once the Housing Section has completed the Rent Assessment.

**The current rent charge continues to accrue until the Rent Assessment is done by the Housing Section and any revised rent charge will then be back dated to reflect the changes in circumstances, as Finance are only agreeing a temporary change to rent payment.**

Tenants can estimate the change to their rent on-line, however, they need to make contact with the Finance Rents Department before changing their payment - the schedule of rents can be downloaded at: <http://kildare.ie/county council/housing/HousingRents/> The primary income should be identified on the schedule of rents and the corresponding rent is the base rent. €10 should be added for every additional earner in the family and €1.50 deducted for each child under 18.



Tenants will need to provide proof of reduced financial circumstances, e.g. - a letter from an employer/proof of social welfare before payment reduces.

### **Local Authority Rent Accounts - Update as at 17 April 2020**

There are 4,422 local authority rent accounts in Kildare County Council. Since the beginning of this emergency:

- Housing have issued over 300 rent assessment forms (based on enquiries received); Finance have issued a further 46
- Finance have agreed 81 reduced payments based on income details provided, but which are subject to revised rent assessment being completed. These are exclusive of rent assessments done by Housing.

### **Loan Accounts**

Borrowers are advised to contact the loans team by email at:

[loans@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:loans@kildarecoco.ie) or by phoning 045 980 652 to discuss revised **temporary** repayments. The council

advise borrowers to continue to pay as much as they can afford.

Revised repayment arrangements will only be agreed by submitting proof of reduced financial circumstances, for example, a letter from an employer/proof of payment from Department of Social Protection.

### **Mortgages - Update as at 17 April 2020**

Circular 9 2020 issued on 10 April 2020 and provides guidance on the approach to local authority mortgages. Kildare County Council has 470 borrowers with housing loan accounts.

To date, 30 borrowers have requested a reduced payment plan:

- 3 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan borrowers
- 7 converted shared ownership borrowers (i.e. these were originally shared ownership loans, but have recently converted to standard annuity)
- 2 affordable loan borrowers



- 13 shared ownership loan borrowers
- 5 standard annuity loan borrowers (HPLs)
- 

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

### **Rates Accounts**

Procedures are now in place to deal with the Deferred Rates Payment announced on Friday, 20 March by Minister Murphy, and re-iterated by Minister Donohoe on Tuesday 24 March. For clarity - there is no rates alleviation scheme involved at this stage, simply the ability to defer payments for a period of 3 months.

Customers who would like their direct debits to be deferred must e-mail [rates@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:rates@kildarecoco.ie) and the following direct debit will be amended. Kildare County Council is dependent on

customers advising them of the need to defer direct debits as there is a requirement for advance notice of 14 days for Kildare County Council to make any changes.

### **Rates Accounts - Update as at 17 April 2020**

Kildare County Council has 5,092 rates accounts.

To date:

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

It will however be May before the council properly see the effect of the closures of businesses and the actual deferrals as customers can cancel their standing orders and direct debits directly with their bank without advising the council.

### **Accounts Payable**

The Accounts Payable Team is working with all sections in Kildare County Council to ensure payments to suppliers continues to be made within the usual timescales.

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



## Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

### County Development Plan (CDP)

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the Draft Variation No 1 issued to members and an informal briefing took place on 13 March 2020.

### Local Area Plans (LAP's)

#### Leixlip LAP

The Leixlip LAP came into effect on 04 February 2020.

Planning applications received:		Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: March 2020	
March Year		No.	Total Granted:	92
2018:	143 1,601	1,026	Retention:	19
2019:	151 1,452	1,883	Extension of Duration:	3
2020:	138 341	1,092	Total Refused:	14

### Significant Planning Applications: March 2020

Ref No.	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
19/343	Moortrim Ltd.	37 houses at Newtown, Rathangan.	Refused	10/03/2020
19/652	Kerpow Ltd.	Subdivision of Marsville House into 2 dwellings, and construction of 7 new houses and 15 apartments at Kill West, Naas.	Refused	25/03/2020
19750	Masonbrook Holdings Ltd.	91 dwellings at Tinnycross, Ballymore Eustace.	Granted	27/03/2020
19/946	Cabtrouk Ltd.	96 houses and a creche at Townlands of Kildare and Whitesland East, Kildare Town.	Granted	05/03/2020
19/1000	Alchemy Homes	90 dwellings at Riverside Manor, Kilcullen.	Granted	26/03/2020



	Development (Naas) Ltd.			
20/90	Conlon New Homes Ltd.	43 dwellings at Rathasker Road, Naas West Townland, Naas.	Refused	30/03/2020

**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 An Bord Pleanála (ABP) website, a decision is due by 23 April 2020.

**Application by Bord na Móna  
Powergen Limited and ESB Wind  
Development Limited (ABP Ref.  
18/303249)** for a 110kV onsite electric substation at Timahoe East and a decision is awaited from the Board. According to the ABP website, a decision was due by 13 March 2020.

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

Application Stage					
	Developer	Location	No of Units	Lodged with ABP	ABP Decision Due
19/305701	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Naas West and, Jigginstown, Naas.	314	16/10/19	Granted 11/02/20
19/305905	Westar Investments Ltd.	Capdoo, Clane.	305	19/11/19	Refused 11/03/20
19/306068	Ladas Property Company Unlimited Company	Mill Street, Maynooth.	120	03/12/19	Refused 30/03/20
20/306504	Ardstone Homes Ltd.	Crodaun, Celbridge.	372	24/01/20	14/05/20



## Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

Applications have been assessed and nominated to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) for their approval.

## Historic Structures Fund 2020

Applications have been assessed and nominated to the DCHG for their approval.

Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team Update		Sum of Estimated Value €
<b>Concept</b>		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 Bridged's Well redevelopment - draft concept received.		-
Clane-Maynooth - Main Street 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
<b>PART 8</b>		<b>4,143,858</b>
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



<b>Tender Consultants and Design</b>	<b>10,997,816</b>
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
<b>Tender Consultants</b>	<b>2,345,000</b>
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
<b>Tender Works</b>	<b>1,786,327</b>
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.	-
<b>Design</b>	<b>6,034,289</b>
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
<b>Detailed Design</b>	<b>9,105,000</b>
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
<b>On Hold</b>	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
<b>Construction</b>	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
<b>Complete</b>	
Athy – Narraghamore – completed.	
Celbridge-Leixlip - Ardclough-Community Facility – completed.	
<b>Advisory</b>	
Naas - Naas Library- Advisory role.	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40,892,290</b>

### Climate Action Fund Expression of Interest

Kildare Town – Cycling route and pedestrian network/upgrade.

Naas – Cycle/Greenway Network

Maynooth and Naas Sustainable Urban District (energy efficiency zones).

### Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) – Deadline for Applications 29 May 2020 –

#### Possible Projects:

**Naas** – Poplar Square detailed design/Main Street Public Realm enhancement

**Newbridge** – Second river crossing (detailed design/Part 8)

**Celbridge** – Second river crossing

**Maynooth** – Harbour Field Park/Main Street.



## Housing

### Update on COVID-19 Measures

The three areas identified by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) as critical services in the Housing Department are set out below:

- Homeless Services
- Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)
- Traveller Accommodation

### Homeless Services

Engagement with the Mid East Regional Homeless local authorities (Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is ongoing, in addition to weekly engagement with the Housing Agency and Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG).

Kildare County Council has made provisions for accommodation in the event that homeless clients require to self-isolate and/or members of the traveller community who reside in caravans/mobile homes, and the requirement to self-isolate arises. The council are working with their service provider, The Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT), and 10 units from

Kildare County Council stock have now been set aside and are fitted out for the purposes of temporary isolation (one and two bedroomed accommodation and two houses). A further 10 units have also been refurbished and are now available for use as isolation units should they be required for this purpose or for general allocation.

The units are being managed by PMVT in consultation with the HSE. All of these isolation units will be returned for allocation to social housing applicants when the COVID-19 period has ceased. The council is also engaging with Kildare Civil Defence to provide support if necessary.

An appointment-only presentation system is being operated for those who are homeless or likely to become homeless. Private Emergency Accommodation Services are operating as normal and the Supported Temporary Beds and Family Hubs are also operating.



## **Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) COVID-19 Update**

The Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) and Homeless HAP Sections, assisted by the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) Section, continue to accept and process HAP applications. Priority is being afforded to homeless HAP cases. The council are receiving a large volume of calls from HAP tenants experiencing reduced income, such tenants are entitled to apply for a rent review (please see further information under the heading of rents).

The following new legislative measures are now in place:

- Any rent increase which was to take effect during the emergency period will no longer take effect
- Any notice of termination which was to take effect during the emergency period will no longer take effect

## **Traveller Community**

The COVID-19 emergency has identified travellers as an at-risk group and additional funding has been made available for the provision of basic

welfare services such as water and sanitation.

Following an assessment of Kildare County Council halting sites and roadside families, no additional needs were identified on the Kildare County Council sites. One roadside encampment was deemed as in need, and basic services have been provided on this site for the duration of this emergency period.

The social work team are maintaining daily contact with traveller families particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable. An information pack has been prepared and circulated to provide information on social distancing and traveller support groups.

## **Other COVID-19 Related Issues**

### **Rent Reviews**

Due to the employment losses and changes in working situations, a significant number of tenants have requested rent reviews. This work is carried out by the Traveller Accommodation Team who have been deemed essential staff, therefore this work should progress over the coming



weeks. COVID-19 reviews will be prioritised. To date 175 review forms have been received, however the council expect this to increase significantly as in excess of 300 forms have been issued by the Housing Section. Tenants are also accessing forms directly online and from Customer Services and the Finance Department.

### **Rent Supplement**

The following information has been provided by the Department of Social Protection regarding private renters who do not qualify for the housing list, are not in receipt of HAP and are experiencing difficulties meeting rent payments:

Changes are being made to Rent Supplement to relax some of the rules and a new form will be issuing shortly. Rent Packs are available at reception in the Intreo Centre in Newbridge, if a customer cannot attend the office it can be posted to them. Intreo can be contacted by telephone at 01 – 6732155 or email:

[Rentskildaresouth@welfare.ie](mailto:Rentskildaresouth@welfare.ie) or  
[Rentsdublincentral@welfare.ie](mailto:Rentsdublincentral@welfare.ie)

**One of the main changes is customers applying for Rent Supplement will not be referred to the local authority for a Housing Needs Assessment until after the COVID-19 emergency.**

### **Response Maintenance**

Response Maintenance is providing an emergency response service only. Emergencies and urgent requests include the following:

- Any electrical issues
- Plumbing including heating, boilers, leaks, shower not working, no water supply
- Blocked sewers
- Locked out of house
- Exterior doors that will not open or close
- Fallen boundaries or trees
- Major roof repairs
- Fire damage



## Capital Projects Update Beechgrove, Rathangan

The project reached substantial completion on Thursday, 09 April and

induction for the tenants took place on Thursday, 17 April.

### 18 A-Rated Houses – One, Two, Three and Four-Bedroomed Houses



#### Anne Street, Prosperous

Works have currently been suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work. The last reported programmed completion date was 06 April subject to both the ESB and Irish Water connections.

#### Mountainview, Athgarvan Village

Stage 4 submission with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for approval to award a contract but based on recent Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Guidance caution will need to be exercised before the award on any new capital work contract. The tender validity period may have to be extended on this project.

#### Public Private Partnership (PPP) Bundle 1 Site at Craddockstown

Works are currently suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work. The last reported programme completion date was mid-April but this site is running a number of weeks behind. The Allocations Team has completed its work for this development. A letter has been issued by the Chair of the Project Board for PPP Bundle 1 to the Housing Agency requesting that the site at Craddockstown is designated an essential site to allow this site to reopen. **Designation was received on Friday, 17 April and relates to 36 of the 74 units to be completed by 29 May 2020.**



### **PPP Bundle 2 Site at Nancy's Lane, Clane**

Works have currently been suspended due to Government direction regarding construction work. The programmed completion date is April 2021.

All other capital projects at design stage are progressing with staff working from home and liaising with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG).

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

### **Part Vs and Turnkey Developments**

Units in developments which have Irish Water, ESB, and where relevant, Gas connections and only require minor snagging are progressing to completion with permission from Kildare County Council to contractors to complete this work.

### **Grants**

DPG projects are only progressing where works are necessary to allow a tenant to return home from hospital. Housing Aid Grants (inspections) are currently suspended. Basic inspections of Housing Aid Grants commenced again from Monday 20 April to allow grants to be drawn down.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status April 2020
<b>Completed</b>		
The Paddocks, Kilcock	19 units	19 units completed and allocated December 2017/February 2018. Defects liability period to conclude shortly.
Athgarvan Road, Newbridge	13 units	Works complete and units have been allocated. Final account and post project review being prepared.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan, Remedial Works (Phase 1)	Refurb of 34 Units (23 social and 11 private)	Lot 1 (6 units): completed Lots 2 - 5 (28 units) completed
Dunmurray Rise Kildare [Phase 3]	32 units	Units completed 25 October 2019.
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 units	Reached substantial completion 09 April 2020. Inductions and keys issued to tenants 16 April 2020.
<b>In Progress</b>		
<b>Status April 2020</b>		
Anne Street Prosperous	12 units	Works on hold pending lifting of current COVID-19 restriction or exemption from restrictions for construction work.
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
<b>Status April 2020</b>		
Athgarvan Village	19 units	Part 8 approved at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District meeting in November 2018. Expect to award tender Quarter 2, 2020. Stage 4 submission with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for approval to award contract.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
<b>Status April 2020</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Workshop meetings with residents took place on 11 and 12 March 2020. Civil/structural consultancy service tender prepared for advertising.



		Propose to commence Part 8 once Covid-19 restrictions lifted.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Part 8 approved 19 December 2018. Civil/structural contractor to be appointed early April 2020 to allow the scheme to proceed. Building services tenders to commence April 2020.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		<b>Status April 2020</b>
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 70/75 units	The Design Team was appointed February 2019. Revised proposal to increase density to 70/75 units under consideration prior to completing Approval Stage 2 - expected Quarter 2, 2020.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	36 units	Information submitted to the DHPLG in relation to the Serviced Site Funding (SSF) application – Quarter 1, 2020.
Carbury	4 units	Feasibility study being carried out. Stage 1 submission with the DHPLG
Former Ambassador Hotel Site, Kill	33 units	Revised Stage 1 approval submitted to the DHPLG Quarter 1, 2020.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	55/60 units	Expect to submit Stage 1 approval Quarter 2, 2020.
Caragh Road Site, Naas	TBC	Site is suitable for consideration for an element of affordable housing. Design studies commenced Quarter 4, 2019.
St Evins Park, Monasterevin	14 units	Stage 1 submission with the DHPLG.

### Infill Schemes

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



## PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status April 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas	74 units	Commenced on site March 2019. Expected completion Quarter 2, 2020. Designation and essential project received Friday, 17 April for completion of 36 of the 74 units by 29 May 2020.
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Contract awarded November 2019. Commenced on site 28 November 2019. Currently suspended.
Ardrin, Athy	50 units	Confirmation that Ardrin site included in PPP Bundle 3. Project brief being prepared for Dublin City Council as lead Authority for Bundle 3.

## Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status April 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Part 8 approved 24 July 2017. Contract tender being assessed.
Tuath HA Castlifen, Sallins	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Work now suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.
Dominican Lands Athy	30 units	Stage 1 approval received July 2017. Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site.
ESB site Leixlip	24 units	Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Dept)	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an 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 an AHB.



### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status April 2020
KARE	3 Units	Part 8 planning application prepared and will lodge as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	CAS - Stage 2 approval received on 03 October 2017. Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	CAS – Planning granted May 2018. Commenced November 2019, Currently suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	229	6	25
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	11	89
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	1	182



## Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2019	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
January	1	€270,000	8	€1,920,947	3	€462,500
Feb	2	€365,600	6	€1,455,055	6	€1,031,200
March	2	€415,800	0	0	1	€288,000
April	0	0	6	€1,240,470	7	€1,665,130
May	0	0	4	€898,050	0	0
June	1	€220,000	2	€415,800	0	0
July	0	€0	3	€605,600	0	0
August	0	€0	2	€449,800	0	0
Sept	2	€305,000	0	0	1	€226,000
October	6	€1,207,100	0	0	0	0
Nov	8	€1,336,439	0	0	0	0
Dec	5	€1,091,400	0	0	1	€140,000
January 2020	1	€165,000	1	€220,000	0	0
Feb	3	€655,000	1	€170,000	0	0
March	4	€967,900	1	€202,500	0	0

	2019	2020
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>€19,692,336</b>	<b>€1,787,900</b>
Total Drawn down	€10,160,922	€592,500 (2019 approvals)
Total currently committed in loan offers	€4,579,784	€1,787,900

**An extension of 3 months has been granted to loan offers that expire during the COVID-19 crisis with the condition that up to date payslip and bank statements are to be provided prior to drawdown.**



### Tenant Purchase Scheme

2019	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Total	35	7	16
2020	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Quarter 1	8	1	2

### Grants

2019	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation 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 2019	484	320	0	0	268	251
2020	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation 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	68	71(2019) 17 (2020)	0	0	50	42

### Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

2019	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Total	1,186	775	677
2020	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Quarter 1	312	124	115



### Social Housing Applications

2019	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Quarter 1	83	21	229	2	46
2020	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Quarter 1	75	15	186	3	75

### HAP Applications

2019	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Total	778	200	714
2020	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Quarter 1	201	23	196

### Homeless Presentations

2019	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1,141	435	706
2020	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	340	245	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>95</b>



### Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

<b>2019</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Total	431	359
<b>2020</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Quarter 1	108	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>103</b>

### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 March 2020

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	21	29	40
6 - 12 Months	20	31	43
12 - 18 Months	14	25	36
18 - 24 Months	5	8	12
24 - 30 Months	1	1	4
30 – 36 Months	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>139</b>



**Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 March 2020**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	1	2	3
6 - 12 Months	1	1	4
12 - 18 Months	2	4	8
18 - 24 Months	2	4	5
24 - 30 Months	2	4	5
30 – 36 Months	3	5	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>



## April 2020

### Vacant Houses – Categories of Work

Categories of Work	Total
Total No. of Dwellings in Housing Stock	4644
Vacant Properties - Requiring Major Refurbishing	52
Vacant Properties - Requiring Minor Works	11
Vacant Properties - Awaiting Allocation	8
% Stock Vacant (Total Vacancies/Total Stock)	2%
Vacant houses completed since February report: Athy (3), Celbridge-Leixlip (0), Kildare-Newbridge (3), Maynooth (2), Naas (0)	8
Vacant houses added since February report: Athy (1), Celbridge-Leixlip (1), Kildare-Newbridge (1), Maynooth (0), Naas (2)	5

<u>MD</u>	<u>Major Work</u>	<u>Minor Work</u>
<b>Athy</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>

Major: Athy (10), Ballitore (1), Castledermot (3)

Minor: Athy (1), Castledermot (1)

<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
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Major: Leixlip (1), Celbridge (3)



## Library and Arts Service

### COVID-19 Impacts and Innovations

Following public health advice in relation to the global pandemic, all public libraries have been closed since Friday 13 March and will remain closed until further notice.

The council's online library services remain open 24/7, including eBook, eMagazine, eComic & eAudiobook lending, music streaming, online educational courses and language learning. Libraries Ireland have simplified online membership to enable easier access for the public to online services due to the COVID 19 emergency. As expected, usage of eServices has increased dramatically during this period and Libraries Ireland have added 5,000 new titles to the national online catalogue to address the demand. In Kildare, online courses have increased, with 200 new registrations, online language learning has increased by 280% and online newspaper access has increased by 250%. Library staff have been promoting these services in local papers, on local radio and on social media.

### Online Events

Library staff have been working with facilitators to move events to an online environment. In April events are being delivered online via a mixture of zoom classes and recorded videos.

This includes yoga suitable for families, aiming to give them the tools to cope with everyday challenges as well as exceptional ones, in a fun and engaging way. Also chair gym sessions for people of all ability levels with exercises that can be done using bodyweight and household objects. As part of the STEAM programme the Library Service has organised online coding workshops for teens and a series of online environmental workshops for children for Biodiversity Week.

Art classes are being provided for children and adults with Florence and Milly.

As part of the Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme 2020, which supports children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities or more significant needs, facilitators have been using mixed media to



deliver their talks/ workshops via the council's social media platforms.

These include an informative session from Dyspraxia/DCD Ireland on 'Primary School and Dyspraxia,' behavioural therapy presentations by Ms Audrey Cully on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and visual strategies and self-management. A webinar series from CAINT speech and language therapy featuring an Introduction to language development, prelinguistic skills, promoting play and language development. There will also be an upcoming talk on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) by ADHD Ireland, and further online sessions on various topics to follow.

As part of the Let's Talk About Parenting Programme, online classes with first aid for everyone are taking place in support of parents working from home.

### **Spring into Storytime**

The annual Spring into Storytime Programme has moved online this year and runs from 01 April to 30 May.

Kildare library staff have been producing and posting story time sessions for the council's social media

platforms with daily events on the library Facebook page at 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on the library Instagram page.

Kildare Library Service is collaborating with the Riverbank Arts Centre in an online event with Ms Sarah Crossan, Laureate na nÓg on **National Poetry Day**, 30 April. The event will take place on the Laureate na nÓg Instagram page.

### **Better Basics, Boosting Reading**

The end of year celebration for the children taking part in this reading programme 2019-2020 has been re-scheduled due to the Covid-19 emergency. We hope to host the event later in the year.

### **Library Blog**

The Library Service has launched a new blog with lots of book reviews, interest pieces and recommendations, highlighting titles available through the council's online services and more. Library staff have also produced craft and gardening videos.



### **Library IT**

Due to the sudden demand for remote working capabilities, the library service deployed all its public lending laptops to Kildare County Council's IT Section for distribution to essential staff.

The Library Service was delighted to loan its 3D Printers to Surfbox, who have been working to manufacture protective face shields for front line health care works.

### **Kildare Community Call Helpline**

The helpline is up and running with support from library staff who are answering calls, texts and emails from 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week. The service is designed to meet the needs of vulnerable people in Kildare by linking them to supports in their community. Library staff are triaging the calls and emails and referring the cases to the Community Team when required.

Library staff who are working remotely have been utilising library communication tools to promote key health and social guides from the HSE and Kildare County Council.

### **Naas Capital Project**

The final stage 4 has been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Library Service is awaiting a response in order to progress the appointment of a contractor.

### **Local Studies and Archives**

#### **Decade of Commemorations**

The Local Studies and Archives Department of the Library last month acquired a unique ledger originally from Hennessy's Garage in Castledermot which dates from 1920-1928. It provides an insight into the socio-economic life of South Kildare during this tumultuous period in Irish history.

The Local Studies and Archives Department continue to add free digitised content to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) including historic postcards, long out of print publications, historic newspaper articles and essays.

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Facebook and Twitter pages continue to promote the history and heritage of County Kildare. Material relevant to the Decade of Commemoration events such as the



cancellation of Punchestown in 1920, the County Council elections of June 1920 and other events which took place between 1912 and 1923 will be added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) and social media pages also.

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Section continues to answer research queries, although staff are currently working on the Community Call helpline so the family history/genealogy queries can be sent to [cildaragenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:cildaragenealogy@gmail.com) and local history research queries can be emailed to [localhistory@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localhistory@kildarecoco.ie) or a message can be left on 04544835.

### **Historic Artwork Commissioned to Commemorate ‘Squires’ Gannon, Kildare, First Captain to Lift the Sam Maguire Cup**

Following an extensive selection process, Kildare County Council have announced that Mr Mark Richards, FRSS has been commissioned to create a permanent artwork in Kildare Town to commemorate Mr William ‘Squires’ Gannon who captained Kildare to win the 1928 All-Ireland football final. ‘Squires’ was the first captain to raise the Sam Maguire

Cup which is the most treasured trophy in Irish sport. It is expected that the artwork will be installed early in 2021, coinciding with the extensive refurbishment of the Square.

Mr John Horan, GAA President, commented: 'from 1928 to 1987, the original Sam Maguire Cup was presented to 54 captains from 12 different counties. It is the dream of every captain to lead his county team to victory in the All-Ireland final.

I wholeheartedly welcome the announcement of this statue in honour of a wonderful Irishman and look forward to its installation.'

Mr Mark Richard created the definitive sculpture of Antarctic explorer Mr Ernest Shackleton, located near his birthplace in South Kildare in 2016.

The Square in Kildare Town has already had an artistic boost this year, with the refurbishment of Brigid’s Flame in Kildare Town, to include an elegant domed glass ‘flame’ acorn. It was created by the artist Mr Alex Pentek, who was originally commissioned to make the artwork.



### **Arts Grants 2020 - Delay in Adjudication**

The Arts and Cultural Sector has been badly affected by the COVID-19 crisis and the Arts Service Team is committed to delivering Kildare's Arts Grants and Awards 2020 to provide much needed support to the sector. However, there is a delay in the adjudication process, due to logistical issues arising from the COVID-19 situation. The process will be progressed when the current restrictions are eased.

### **Writers in Residence - Call for applications**

Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service and Maynooth University invite applications for 2 Writer in Residence posts for the academic year 2020-21. The closing date for applications is **08 May 2020**. Further details are in link below:

[www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listing/202492/creative-writing-residencies/?TrackID=8](http://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listing/202492/creative-writing-residencies/?TrackID=8)

### **Maynooth Film for All: Film Club 2019 | 2020 - access>Cinema at Home**

MFFA has launched an 'access>Cinema at Home' initiative, with a film streaming offering, which commenced on Wednesday 15 April. Members are invited to watch the selected film at the same time at home as far as possible and have a conversation afterwards.

To stay up to date with the Maynooth Film for All Film Club you can sign up to receive their bulletin at <https://seu2.cleverreach.com/f/216589-245074/>. 'The Perfect Candidate' was the first film shared, thanks to our screening partner access>CINEMA and distributor Modern Films. This presents another opportunity for MFFA to champion of independent cinema.



## **Kildare Artists Sharing their Work Online**

Below is a select listing of artists and organisations who are sharing their work/live streaming/hosting an online workshop during The COVID -19 pandemic.

### **Run of the Mill – Celbridge**

Run of the Mill short community films collaborations. You can watch 'The Gardeners (2017)'

at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiSfdcYXILU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiSfdcYXILU)

made in collaboration with Choices Day Service [Saint John of God, Liffey Services](#) and you can

watch 'Downtown' (2016)

at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sBeDQffrZg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sBeDQffrZg)

made in collaboration with Horizons Day Service

### **Kildare Young Filmmakers**

You can view some of the films made by the Kildare Young Filmmakers Group on their YouTube channel

at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCGVzp\\_sVhrQhqb00hrbBduQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGVzp_sVhrQhqb00hrbBduQ) and

here [www.youtube.com/channel/UCSdjcolYojvWm8mGxkziBQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSdjcolYojvWm8mGxkziBQ)

For further information on Kildare Young Filmmakers contact Mr

Eoghan Doyle at:

[ekdoyle@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:ekdoyle@kildarecoco.ie)

### **The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions**

You can view some work from the Rhinestone Cowboys Sessions at:

[www.artsandhealth.ie/2019/11/05/the-rhinestone-cowboy-sessions/](http://www.artsandhealth.ie/2019/11/05/the-rhinestone-cowboy-sessions/)

The Rhinestone Cowboy Sessions are a series of live recorded sessions with surprise music artists and the Past Times Community Choir, a choir supporting people living with dementia, their families, friends and communities in County Kildare.

### **Live Stream Concert and Sing-Along for Nursing Homes and Any Music Lovers Experiencing Loneliness or Isolation at this Time**

Ms Sadhbh O' Sullivan is a musician and Arts in health specialist practitioner based in Kildare. She works primarily with older people and people living with dementia across a variety of healthcare and community settings. Sadhbh is offering a live stream sing along and concerts. All you need is access to YouTube - whether you are living alone, caring for someone at home or living/working in a nursing home, this



is for you. For full details on how to  
access the live stream,  
contact [sadbhsings@gmail.com](mailto:sadbhsings@gmail.com)



## Water Services

### Infrastructural Projects

#### Update COVID-19

All construction work has ceased as of 30 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

The contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on 20 February 2019 and it has a 24-month construction programme. Works are progressing well on site. Murphy International Ltd., on behalf of Lidl (subject to an Irish Water agreement), is laying part of the Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer along the route of the Newbridge Outer Orbital Relief Road between the dual carriageway and the Great Connell Road. These works are now substantially complete. All construction work ceased on 30 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. All sites have been secured and plant de-mobilised to the main site compound.

#### Contract 2B (Network)

The contract was signed by Irish Water and Coffey Construction Ltd on 08 August 2019 and it has a 30-month construction programme. Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. All construction work ceased on 30 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. All sites are being/have been secured and plant de-mobilised to the main site compound.

#### Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility DBO Contract Variation

Veolia Water Ireland is advancing works on this variation to the Design Build Contract (DBO) contract, with an expected completion date in Quarter 2/3, 2020. All construction work has ceased as of 30 March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Operational commissioning is continuing the THP Plant.



### **Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**

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

### **Maynooth Transfer Pipeline**

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

### **Capital Projects**

#### **Kilmeague Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade**

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

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

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

### **Timolin WWTP Upgrade**

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

### **Rathangan WWTP Upgrade**

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

### **Water Networks Management Projects**

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

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



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### **Kildare Town Watermain**

#### **Rehabilitation Works**

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

### **Taghadoo to Maynooth Watermain**

#### **Replacement**

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



## Environment Services

### Illegal Dumping

A media campaign has been launched to counteract illegal dumping.

### COVID-19

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

### Civic Amenity Facilities

The Athy and Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Facilities are currently operating:

**Gallows Hill, Athy:** Thursday and Friday only, 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**Silliot Hill, Kilcullen:** Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Both sites will be closed at weekends until further notice.

For the safety of staff and the public in preventing the spread of COVID-19 the following measures will be in place: contactless card payments should be made, where possible, the public should assist staff in complying with social distancing guidelines when using the facilities and minimise their visits to both locations

### Bottle Banks

A number of recycling bank facilities are closed to the public, as the GAA and other sporting groups have been asked to close their facilities. This means there will be increased usage at the other sites in the county. Public updates are placed on the council's website and the full listing can be accessed at [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

The council is working with the contractor to service the sites as frequently as possible bearing in mind the COVID-19 restrictions.

The Environment Section used local radio and social media to ask the public to not use recycling banks over the Easter Bank Holiday to allow better management of sites which are substantially busier than normal. The Environment crew and contractors worked particularly hard to achieve this and the sites are currently working well.



## **Burial Grounds**

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

## **Environment Complaints**

Pollution complaints (litter, waste and water) should be made by email or writing to the Environment Department. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the HSE's guidance regarding social distancing and the safety of staff and the public.

## **Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections**

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

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

The council has postponed the National Spring Clean Month in April. Many groups and individuals have already expressed an interest in participating in clean ups, so it is hoped to reschedule a large-scale clean-up of Kildare later in the year. In the meantime, everyone is being encouraged to play their part in preventing littering.

The council would like to thank the many voluntary groups, businesses, schools and individuals who work so hard to keep the county tidy, and hopefully the work will continue in 2020.

## **Environmental Education**

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



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

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

## **Dog Control**

The council's Dog Warden Service is operating subject to the HSE's guidance at this time. The public are not permitted to visit the dog pound without an appointment. Telephone 059 8623388/045 980588 to make an appointment. Dog Licences should be purchased online, where possible [www.licences.ie](http://www.licences.ie)

## **Environment Construction Projects/ Schemes**

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

## **Catchment Flooding**

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

Meetings have taken place with the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding the prioritisation of works. A Steering Group with the OPW has been established to progress the consultants brief for schemes within

Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed on the emerging CFRAMS 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. The study is due to be completed in Quarter 2, 2020. The revised mapping will be used by the OPW to update flood extents in the catchment.



### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

Tenders have been received for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme. Assessment of these tenders is ongoing. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. Consultants are to be appointed in Quarter 2, 2020.

### **Kerdiffstown**

Currently all works are paused due to the COVID-19 Pandemic save for a security presence to secure the site. The council's team will continue to monitor the site remotely and only attend the site if essential. Leachate levels were brought down to a low level in anticipation of the lockdown, however tankering may need to resume next week subject to weather conditions. The flare is operating normally and has been serviced recently so there should be no odour issues as a result. The Community Liaison Group have been notified and contact details have been given to them. The tender process for the main works contract for the project is nearing conclusion, with tenders to be submitted on 17 April.

### **Cemeteries**

#### **Churchtown Cemetery**

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

#### **Kildare Town Cemetery**

The updated design for upgrade works is under consideration. It is anticipated that works will commence in late Quarter 2, 2020.

#### **Newbridge Cemetery**

Following the tender assessment, it is hoped to commence works on car park improvements in late Quarter 2, 2020.

#### **Columbarium Walls**

##### **Derrinturn**

Following tender, a contractor will be appointed shortly.

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

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

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

A sectoral training plan is now being rolled out. The following packages are now at tender stage:



- Elected members and senior staff (following pilots in Kildare and Monaghan County Councils) – tenders issue this week and the date for receipt of tenders is 28 April.
- Climate Action Team (3-day intensive course) - courseware has been developed and is now subject to peer review. Pilot sessions planned for April have been cancelled due to COVID - 19 restrictions.
- The Environmental Services Training Group (ESTG) Conference on Climate Action in Local Government has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Other relevant issues are as follows:

- All Sub Regional Working Group meetings have been cancelled due to COVID -19 restrictions
- Work on developing sectoral level KPI's to be piloted in the Eastern Midlands Region is ongoing.

### **Kildare Climate Action Team**

A second meeting of the (reconstituted) team took place on 28 February 2020. The following key tasks were prioritised:

- Driving the 121 actions for the Adaptation Strategy
- Initiating a climate awareness day within the organisation

Shortlisting has taken place for the position of a Climate Action Officer. The closing date for applications for Energy Efficiency Officers was 19 March 2020. The new Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) held its first meeting on 11 March 2020. Progress was made with three Kildare Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) (Clane, Maynooth and Kilcullen) who are due to receive approval from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to complete Energy Master Plans. Work is ongoing to support others such as Monasterevin and Naas SEC's.

The Environment SPC met on 11 March 2020.



### **Tidy Towns Network**

A Tidy Towns Networking event took place in Áras Chill Dara on 03 March. There was a large turn out from the County Kildare Tidy Towns Network members, who were welcomed by the County's Tidy Town's Ambassador, Mr Johnny Doyle. Presentations were made by Dr Fiona MacGowan and Dr Christy Boylan.

### **New Initiatives**

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

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

#### **Civic Amenity Site North**

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

### **Dog Pound**

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

### **Rathangan Public Realm**

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

### **Kilcullen Public Realm**

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

### **Monasterevin Public Realm**

This is now progressing to the next stage of design. A second round of public consultation is to be arranged once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

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

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



## **Public Realm Upgrade for Newbridge**

A working draft has now been completed and was presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee. It is proposed to progress to a further round of public consultation before progressing to the next stage of design.

## **Management of The Curragh Plains**

The tender for consultants closed on 12 March 2020. The tender assessment will be carried out jointly between Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence.

## **The Barrow Blueway**

A Project Team has been established.



## Parks

### COVID-19

All playgrounds, outdoor gyms and skateparks remain closed for use until further notice. All park users are requested to continue to observe the social distancing guidance when accessing parks and open Spaces. The maintenance of parks and open spaces continues as part of essential services. This includes grass maintenance and litter control.

### Open Space Strategy

Work on the procurement of consultants to develop an open space for the county is ongoing and it is hoped to have a tender of the work advertised by the end of the month.

### Summer Bedding Leixlip Village

A contract for this work has been awarded. It is hoped to have the bedding in place for early June.

### Bawnogues Athletic Track Improvement Works

Sole Sports have been appointed as contractors to carry out the improvement works in The Bawnogues. This will involve the installation of synthetic sprint lanes, long jump and high jump area. New lighting, drainage of the infield area and the relocation of the steeplechase pit are also part of the work. A start date for the work is subject to the relaxation of COVID-19 working restrictions and when the contractor can schedule the work.



## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

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

### Kildare Fáilte

#### Key activities March 2020

The Chief Executive Officer of Kildare Fáilte, Ms Mangan attended a Twinning Group event and presented tourism plans for County Kildare in the chamber, Áras Chill Dare. Great interest was shown in relation to tourism in the county and a Q & A session took place after the presentation.

Kildare Fáilte organised a meeting in partnership with Kildare Village for Kildare-based attractions to establish an interest towards creating a web cluster of attractions. The event was a great success and it was attended by over 20 people - 16 attractions, with 8 other parties interested.

Communication was made via the minutes of the meeting which were distributed to all the interested parties. A follow-up meeting will be held after the lockdown for COVID-19 is lifted.



Kildare Fáilte met and directed the Taste of Kildare volunteer committee in planning for the event in September 2020 at the Mahon's Boardroom. AGM communication was sent out to members to postpone the event due to COVID-19. Notice to postpone the networking and communication event was also sent out.

Kildare Fáilte rolled out a social media competition to find a new Chief Experience Officer for Kildare Fáilte. Ms Joanne Byrne was appointed on 12 March as the new Chief Experience Officer, whom Ms Mangan the Chief Executive Officer met for a photo shoot.

An ezine was sent out to all members of Kildare Fáilte regarding dealing with COVID-19 and detailing supports which are available. Also, Kildare Fáilte were directly in touch with members through a phone conversation to better understand the situation they are in and to ensure the organisation is working on a strategy to keep things moving and to keep County Kildare on the forefront of people's minds. This is ongoing. A press release was created and published on the [www.intokildare.ie](http://www.intokildare.ie)

website regarding COVID-19. In addition, an updated list of members and their revised opening hours was created.

Social media activity was increased in March due to COVID-19 highlighting the outdoors and beautiful scenery of Kildare to keep it at the forefront of people's minds. Various blog posts were created to keep people engaged, including general knowledge quizzes of Kildare, and also highlighting Kildare businesses that are open for 'click and collect' food services. All these items received very high engagement rates through the social media channels.



## **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

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

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

The LCDC played a pivotal role in establishing, supporting and informing the Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum. The purpose of the forum is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. The forum has had three meetings to date via teleconference. A dedicated Covid-19 support helpline was established on 30 of March by Kildare County Council and operates from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

### **Healthy Ireland**

The Healthy Ireland project partners are making great progress given the COVID-19 restrictions they are working under. They are running a wide range of online activities from work out classes from home to

movement programmes for older people and those with limited mobility.

A positive mental health video series is underway, a physical activity booklet for older people will be circulated by post and a physical literacy animation video for children is being developed.

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

Work is progressing to roll out the SICAP Programme in Kildare under COVID-19 restrictions. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme implementers and will report progress at the next LCDC meeting.

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

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



### **Rural Development LEADER**

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. Seven applications were approved at the last LCDC/LAG meeting.

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

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 May 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). Works continued the Newhall and Osberstown Interchanges and the R407 Sallins Bypass until further restrictions were announced by the Taoiseach, Mr Varadkar on 27 March 2020. The site is now closed until further notice and the contractor is maintaining the security and traffic management on the site.

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The 'M4 Maynooth to Leixlip' is listed as a section of the transport network to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning and prioritised for delivery under the National Development Plan 2018–2027. The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering

for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective.

The project is currently in the early stages of Phase 1, Concept and Feasibility (see image below), Arup have been appointed as technical advisors to support the delivery of the project through Phases 1 to 4. These Phases include:

- Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) which would determine if an intervention (project) is required and if an intervention is feasible.
- Phase 2 (Option Selection) would examine feasible options for intervention that could address the aim of the project.
- Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) would develop the design of the preferred option from Phase 2



for further assessment including evaluation of environmental impacts; and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) would include undertaking the Statutory Processes

As highlighted, the project is currently in the early stages of Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) and will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each Phase.

Due to the recent announcements for restricted movements the design team for the N4 Maynooth to Leixlip upgrade scheme have been working remotely and continue to progress Phase 1 of the scheme.

## **Maynooth Eastern Relief Road and Bridge**

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

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



### **Athy Distributor Route**

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October, 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist and Leinster Leader 28 November 2017. No objections/Judicial Reviews were received by the deadline on 23 January 2018. €3 million was included in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) road grants 2019 for this project. Notices to treat have been issued. Notice of entry on lands has been issued. Advance works between Corran Árd and Fortbarrington Road have been completed. The railway abandonment is complete. The removal of the rails and sleepers is complete. The Córás Iompair Éireann (CIE) lands have been secured from trespass and the main contract commenced tender on 25 March. The procurement is under the restricted procedure and involves a two-stage process. The first stage return will be due at the end of May. The consultants are currently focused on document preparation for Stage 2 and dealing with queries for stage 1. The agreements with CIE and Waterways Ireland are a necessary pre-requisite to commencement of construction and are being

progressed. Land acquisition is also progressing. The team are currently closing out archaeology before the main contract is awarded. Work to achieve a Bridge Agreement with Iarnród Éireann continues with the submission of various technical reports. The following procurements are currently under way:

- Main Contract,
- Category 3 check by independent consultant

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road: Planning approval was issued by An Bord Pleanála to Cairn Developments Plc. Works are progressing well and the road is expected to open in Quarter 2, 2020.

### **Newbridge Outer Orbital Route**

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



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

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

A non- statutory Public Consultation was held on 18 June at the Kildare Education Centre. All submissions received have been considered and the Route Selection process will reach a conclusion in Quarter 2, 2020.

The project is unlikely to proceed to statutory procedures until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy has been completed due to the reservations of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee.

### **Naas Municipal District 2020**

With the current COVID-19 restrictions, the Naas Municipal District outdoor crew are available for winter maintenance, emergency and street cleaning works. The crews have also been informed of potential requirements in assisting the “Community Response” helpline.

### **Roads, Footpaths and Drainage**

The Naas Municipal District has developed a programme of works for roads, drainage, footpath and low-cost safety improvement works for 2020.

This is based on funding made available to the Naas Municipal District. These works will be developed to construction stage in the coming months (subject to the current COVID-19 restrictions being removed).

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

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

### **Works Ongoing**

The footpath/cycle track extension on the Kilcullen Road, Naas (at Kilashee) to the multi-denominational school is currently at construction stage. This is being funded by LPT monies. The works are substantially complete and contractors are off-site due to the COVID-19 restrictions.



Three bus shelters are being constructed in the Naas Municipal District. One in Johnstown Village and two on the Newbridge Road, Naas (near Sheehy motors). Works commenced but were stopped due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. A contract has been awarded for footpath improvements to Sarto Park, Naas (Canal Walk). The construction works have not commenced due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Kildare Civil Defence**

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

### **Fire Service**

All Kildare Fire Stations remain available. The service has a Business Continuity Plan which outlines the specific risks and control measure that are necessary to ensure continuity of service during the COVID-19 crisis.

The senior officers within the service have been working in conjunction with the other senior managers across Kildare County Council to develop business continuity arrangements for the wider organisation.

### **Building and Development Control**

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

### **Health and Safety**

The council is continuing to work on the development of a Health and Safety Section on their COVID-19 webpage with support from:

- IT
- The Sports Partnership
- The Library Service
- The Newbridge Sports Centre



To date there are subfolders on:

- Risk Assessments
  - Risk Assessment for Exposure to COVID-19 in Graveyards
  - Risk Assessment for Working Through the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Risk Assessment for travelling in a works vehicle or operating mobile plant during COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Risk Assessment for working from home or remotely during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Instructional Videos:
  - Effective handwashing
  - Working in Homeless Services during the COVID-19 outbreak
  - How COVID-19 spreads
  - Hand hygiene and preventing virus spread
- Safe use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Safe Behaviours Around COVID-19:
  - A 10 minute film produced by “Theatre at Work” comprised of two short scenes 'Don't Get It' and 'Your Decision' exploring safe and risky behaviours including social distancing.
  - 
  - The key objectives of the film are to highlight:
    - Individual responsibility around COVID-19
    - The consequences of our choices at work and at home



## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Responding to COVID-19 – 892 Kildare Businesses from all Sectors Supported to Stabilise, Reset, and Recover in the Period 18 March - 17 April					
2020 Tools					
Intervention	Ecommerce Funding	Business Continuity Voucher	Microfinance Ireland Loans	Remote interactive training workshops	Business advice and Mentoring
No. of businesses supported to the value	29 businesses received €72,000	152 businesses received €380,000 worth of vouchers	From all Sectors Loan applications processed for MFI funding Valued €320,000	Over 655 Kildare businesses received free training and mentoring assistance to the value of €65,500	45 businesses have received one on one business mentoring Valued €15,750

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

Since the first week of March prior to government restrictions, The LEO has been actively offering an extensive range of supports 7 days a week to local businesses in addressing these challenges and will continue to be on hand to ensure Kildare businesses are in the strongest position possible

during this unprecedented and continuously evolving crisis ,

### Supporting Kildare Businesses Through:

#### 1. Financial Supports Business Continuity Voucher -

Businesses may also be eligible for a Business Continuity Voucher worth €2,500. This initiative provides advisory specialists in fields including finance and HR to help develop a lean, robust business strategy as enterprises face an extended period of great uncertainty. As of 20 April, three weeks into the launch of the initiative, 152 Kildare businesses



have availed of the voucher.

Applications are available here and should be submitted to

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Porta/Response/Business-Continuity-Voucher/Business-Continuity-Voucher.html>

### **MicroFinance Ireland Loans**

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

- **Trading Online Voucher**

The Trading Online Voucher provides funding of up to €2,500 towards improving online training capabilities. This scheme is crucial at this time as

it allows businesses to bring their business online. Recent expansions to this support mean that now, businesses who previously benefitted from the Trading Online Voucher Scheme can apply for a second voucher of up to €2,500.

Another significant expansion to this support is that co-funding is available for 90% of eligible costs up to the maximum of €2,500 where in the past co-funding was 50%.

- **Suspended Repayments**

The LEO Kildare have offered all clients the opportunity to suspend any grant repayments to the LEO for the next 3 months.

## **2. Specialist Programmes - Online Interactive Training Workshops Programmes:**

The Kildare LEO have reacted quickly and pivoted and designed a suite of programmes specifically to support Kildare businesses through the current challenges and changes to the business environment and has also launched a range of online



interactive training programmes to support businesses. These courses are free of charge and can be accessed at:

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

### **Sector Specific Support in Relation to Opening Tools to Stabilise, Reset, and Recover**

The LEO Kildare have partnered with business consultants to offer a broad business solution to businesses in the retail, manufacturing, professional services and beauty sector to ensure clients receive the correct advice and tools to stabilise, reset, and recover with a business continuity strategy.

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

### **3. Bringing Kildare Businesses Online**

In response to the need for businesses to begin trading online, the Kildare LEO has delivered a suite of digital marketing courses to allow businesses get the most out of their online activities and successfully build and further

develop their brand and online presence. As mentioned above there is also funding of up to €2,500 towards improving online training capabilities of Kildare businesses with co-funding of 10%.

### **4. Free of Charge Advisory and Mentoring Supports**

The LEO Kildare is offering free of charge mentoring in subjects such as HR, Health and Safety and Finance worth €150 to all existing businesses in County Kildare. More information and details of how to apply can be found at:

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

### **5. Enhanced Communication Plan, Ensuring Clients are Kept Updated**

#### **Head of Enterprise Update**

New supports are announced daily. To help with some practicalities and to keep clients informed of the evolving situation, Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise provides updates which are



available at:

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

### **LEO Esign**

Each week this Esign is sent directly to the inbox of over 3,000 Kildare business owners. This Esign features advisory articles around topics of interest such as cashflow management, business survival, government updates etc. as well as an outline of current and new supports.

Sign up at :

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

### **Kildare LEO News Page**

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

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

### **Press and Online**

There is a strong presence and a significant increase in the visibility of the Kildare LEO and the supports available to businesses across the print media, radio and online.

Please email the LEO for support at [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

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