



Chief Executive's Management Report – November 2020

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

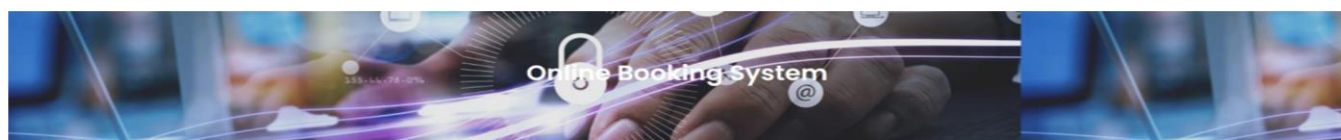
Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

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

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



Online Booking System

Home

Department Links

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

Do not resume any of our services in person until you or they complete the 14-day isolation period and are fever free for the last 5 days.

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

Appointments and public health guidelines

File Size: 100KB - Document Type: Acrobat.pdf

Athy Customer Service Point

Book Athy Customer Service Point

Building and Development Control

Book Building and Development Control

Community & Cultural Department

Book Community & Cultural

Municipal District meetings continue to be held in the Council Chamber. The Plenary Council continues to meet in Newbridge Town Hall and arrangements are in place to hold them in a socially distanced space and within a 2 hour timeframe. New regulations allow for these meetings to be held remotely and arrangements are being made to move to this platform. All other meetings, where possible, are being held remotely.



Kildare Community Call Helpline

Freephone 1800 300 174

Email covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie.

Text KILDARE to 50555

The Community Call Helpline service transferred to Customer Services from Monday 5th October. Since the Government announcement of expansion in Level 5 to 8am-8pm 7 days a week Kildare County Council's out of hours service has taken up the calls outside of normal work hours Monday to Friday and at weekends. There are no additional costs based on current out of hours volumes. No major operational issues presently.

Contact details for general council services are:

- **Email:** customercare@kildarecoco.ie
- **Post:** Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare
- **Telephone:** 045 980 200
- **Out of Hours:** 1890 500 333
- **Homeless Out of Hours:** 1800 804 307

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



News Items

Kerdiffstown Park

Wills Bros has been awarded the contract to remediate the landfill and construct Kerdiffstown Park. The programme is for 4 years and work commenced on site on Monday, 16 November 2020 (see page 41 for details).

Value Your Vote – Check the Register

The Draft Register of Electors was published on 01 November 2020 (see page 5 for details).

Historic Planning Registers

The Historic Planning Registers are now available to view online (see page 22 for details).

Dates for Your Diary

Kildare Arts Service Bursary Opportunity for Kildare Artist

Applications are open from 09 - 30 November 2020 (see page 78 for details).

Allenwood Playground

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase from 24 November until 22 December 2020 (see page 80 for details).

Sallins Amenity Land

The closing date for receipt of submissions is Friday 18 December at 5:00 p.m. (see page 82 for details).

Kildare Food Network

The LEO are calling on local food entrepreneurs to take part in the establishment of Kildare's first Food Network (see page 88 for details).



INDEX

News Items.....	3
Dates for Your Diary.....	3
Corporate Services	5
Finance and Information Technology.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Housing	9
Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm	18
Public Realm	24
Water Services.....	32
Environment Services	37
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	50
Building and Development Control	67
Economic, Community and Cultural Development	69
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	70
Kildare Fáilte	72
Library and Arts Service.....	74
Parks	81
Local Enterprise Office (LEO)	84



Corporate Services

Irish Language Scheme – Public Consultation

The council's Irish Language Scheme 2018-2021 expires on 14 January 2021 and in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003 it is necessary to develop a new 3-year scheme. The approval of a scheme is a Ministerial function with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Public consultation commences on 03 November 2020 for a period up to 5:00 p.m. on 02 December 2020 regarding the development of a new scheme.

- Submissions or observations may be made from 03 November 2020:
- Online at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>
or In writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare W91 X77F.

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

Kildare County Council conducted a public display and consultation process in relation to the making of Bye Laws for the Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places between Wednesday, 16 September 2020 and Wednesday, 28 October 2020. This consultation period has now ended and a report recommending the adoption of Bye- Laws for the Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places will be made to the meeting of the plenary council in November.

Value Your Vote – Check the Register

The Draft Register of Electors was published on 01 November 2020. It can be checked online at



www.checktheregister.ie until 25

November 2020. It is also on display at Kildare County Council's Offices, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare W91 X77F (**access by appointment only**) and at your local Garda Stations and Post Offices.

Following the General Election this year a large number of polling cards were returned and after making the necessary enquiries a large number of amendments and deletions were carried out on the Draft Register.

Please check that your name and address are present and correct on the Draft Register.

To amend your details on the Register please download a form **RFA1** from the council's website at:

<https://bit.ly/2JZd2eU> and **return before the deadline of 25 November 2020**. For further information **email** register@kildarecoco.ie or **phone 045 980 201**.

Appointment Booking System



While Kildare County Council encourages customers to use online options, (see the website <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/>). It was apparent from the March 2020 lockdown that some customers needed face to face access at the council's offices to avail of services. Launched in June 2020, to ensure safe management of customer access, the council's online



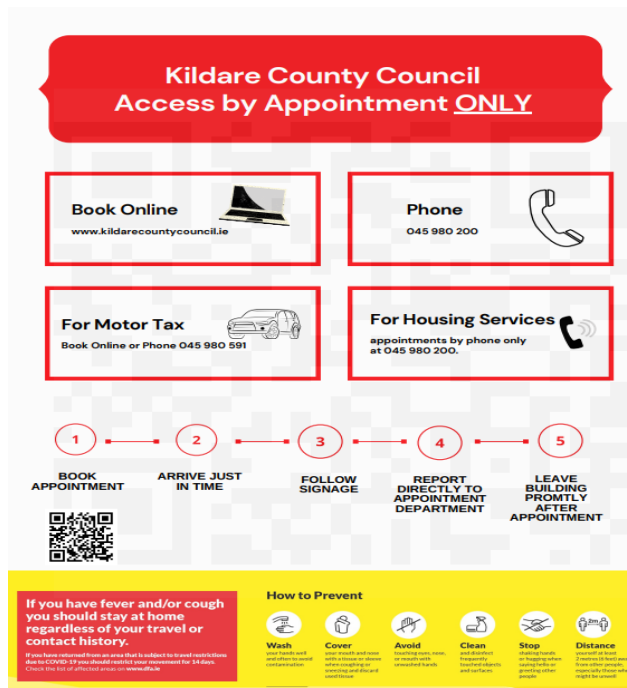
appointments system has facilitated face to face appointments with almost 26,000 customers so far. An extensive radio, social media and press campaign accompanied this new initiative throughout June.

The council's public counters have been reconfigured to create a safe customer and staff environment. Since the service has been introduced there has been no congregation at council



offices. The service has been well received by customers who have minimised time spent in council

buildings, whilst receiving a more efficient service.



The council ask that anyone attending an appointment please wear a face covering and adhere to public health measures and follow directions when at the council offices, in the interest of everyone's health. The council would like to thank their customers who continue to use online options at this time and the 26,000 customers who have safely engaged with the council's services at their offices.

Remember, if attending, avoid disappointment, make an appointment.

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

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

Council offices (with the exception of libraries) remain open **by appointment only** throughout the level 5 phase.

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



Finance and Information Technology

Budget 2021 Meeting

The Statutory Budget Meeting was held on Monday 23 November, 2020.

Commercial Incentive Scheme

The Finance Committee prepared a Commercial Incentive Scheme which was approved by the Economic, Development, Enterprise and Planning (SPC) on 12 November 2020 and this scheme is to go to the full council November meeting. If approved by full council this scheme will be implemented from 01 January 2021.

Restart Grants Scheme

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

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

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

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

Rates Waiver Scheme

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

A further three month waiver scheme was announced and this will be applied automatically to Kildare ratepayers accounts who meet the schemes criteria in December 2020.

Financial Reports



Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).

Housing

COVID -19 and Homeless Services Update

Homeless Services

Engagement with the Mid East Regional Homeless Local Authorities (Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is continuing, in addition to fortnightly engagement with the national leads for homelessness through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). Presentations of single adults continues to be a challenge. However, progress is being made in moving individuals and families on from private emergency accommodation through allocations and through the work of the Homeless

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Placefinder Service. The incidence of COVID-19 in Homeless Services nationally remains very low and this is also the case in Kildare and the Mid-East Region. Kildare County Council continues to have 8 isolation units available for use should the need arise.

The Cold Weather Initiative commenced in Kildare on 30 October with 8 beds initially in place. Working in partnership with the Peter McVerry Trust this capacity has been increased to 24 bed spaces which represents a significant increase in capacity to address the increased requirement for this service in the county for the winter period.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status November 2020
Completed		
Anne Street, Prosperous.	12 units.	Completed July 2020.
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village.	18 Units.	Retendered. Tender return date 30 November.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3).	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Workshop meetings with residents took place on 11 and 12 March 2020. Final amendments agreed with the Housing Department to advance the completion of Part 8. The original design team briefed and amended fee being agreed to develop the scheme to Part 8.
Coill Dubh.	10 Units.	Architectural and quantity surveyor services being provided in-house. Building services engineering and civil/structural engineering consultants appointed. Preparation of tender documents has commenced.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin.	16 Units.	Stage 2 approval for submission to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) Quarter 1, 2021.



Ardclough Road, Celbridge.	37 Units.	Tender for a design team is being prepared to progress the scheme to Part 8.
Dispensary Site Carbury.	5 Units.	Stage 1 approval received. Consultants tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.
Approval Stage 1		Status November 2020
Old Greenfield, Maynooth.	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units.	Approval in principle received from the DHLGH for a revised scheme of 65. Tender for design team issued 08 October 2020 with a return date of 09 November 2020.
Ambassador Site, Kill.	35 Units	Tender for design team issued 22 October 2020 with a return date of 26 November 2020.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	57 Units.	Stage 1 application submitted 23 October 2020.
Caragh Road, Naas.	73 Units.	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 4, 2020.
Group Housing Andrew, Athy.	5 Units.	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 4, 2020.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status November 2020
Newtown House, Leixlip.	4 Units.	Approval Stage 2 received April 2020. Part 8 application in preparation with launch anticipated in Quarter 4, 2020.
Narraghmore.	4 Units.	Approval Stage 2 received from the DHLGH in September 2019. Part 8 application ready with launch anticipated in Quarter 4, 2020.
Glandore, Athy.	4 Units.	Stage 1 Approval received from the DHLGH in September 2019.
Patrician Ave, Naas.	1 Unit.	Stage 1 application being prepared.
Shamrock Stores.	1 Unit.	Stage 1 application being prepared



Iniscarra, Athy.	4 Units.	Stage 1 application being prepared
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PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status November 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas.	74 Units.	74 units complete (36 in June, 38 in August).
Nancy's Lane, Clane.	77 Units.	Completion expected Quarter 2/Quarter 3, 2021. Revised programme to be advised.
Ardrew, Athy.	50 Units.	Design team appointed.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status November 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy.	35 Units.	To commence on site in November 2020.
Tuath HA Castlifen, Sallins.	28 Units.	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Due for completion Quarter 3, 2021.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip.	24 Units.	Tender issued for design team. Feasibility issued to Kildare County Council for comment.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas.	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department).	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Cluid is tendering for the appointment of a design team.



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

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

Acquisitions January – October 2020

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	15	12
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	43	78
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	13	98
Total	255	379	71	188



Acquisitions by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge Leixlip	Clane Maynooth	Kildare Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions YTD	8	2	19	27	15
Leased Properties YTD (includes AHB's)	8	1	6	19	0

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

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

	2019	2020
Total Approved	€19,692,336	€3,718,050 (from 2019 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€10,160,922	€2,507,510

Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA)

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) will be prepared

this month and is due to be returned by 30 November 2020.

Rental Standards Inspections

In accordance with Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)



Guidance, during the Level 5 Lockdown, except for emergency situations, the inspection of occupied rental properties has ceased. The council continues to inspect unoccupied properties for inclusion in leasing schemes.

Leasing

Kildare County Council has signed an agreement for lease of 61 properties at Barnhall Leixlip. The units are scheduled for delivery in Quarter 2, 2021.

Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP)

On 24 October 2020, the Government introduced the Residential Tenancies Act 2020 (RTA 2020). This new legislation introduces temporary restrictions which provide that tenants are not required to vacate their rental

properties during an emergency period, except in limited circumstances relating to specific breaches of tenant obligations. These temporary restrictions are based on new emergency periods, which impose restrictions on travel outside of a 5 kilometre radius of a person's place of residence. The current emergency period applies across the country from 22 October 2020 to 01 December 2020. An emergency period applies in locations covered by a 5 kilometre travel restriction and for the relevant durations specified by the Minister of Health in regulations made by him under section 31A of the Health Act 1947. This means that whenever the movement of a person is restricted to within 5 kilometres of their home, the temporary restriction on ending a tenancy will apply.



Families in Private Emergency Accommodation including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 October 2020

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	21	31	38
6 - 12 Months	4	4	6
12 - 18 Months	13	21	30
18 - 24 Months	6	13	15
24 - 30 Months	4	7	10
30 – 36 Months	0	0	0
Total	48	76	99



Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31

October 2020

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	1	4
6 - 12 Months	0	0	0
12 - 18 Months	2	4	4
18 - 24 Months	1	2	4
24 - 30 Months	1	2	4
30 – 36 Months	3	5	11
36 – 42 Months	3	5	11
Total	11	19	38



Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan (CDP)

Variation No 1 was made on 09 June 2020 and, in line with legislation, came into immediate effect. This incorporated the population allocation projected for the region (Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy) to Kildare County Council. The review of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will commence in January 2021 with the publication of an Issues Paper. This will kick-start the statutory 99 week

period for the Development Plan review and preparation of the County Development Plan 2023-2029.

Local Area Plans (LAP's)

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

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: October 2020	
	Oct	Year	No.	Total Granted:	88
2018:	122	1,324	3,868	Retention:	17
2019:	132	1,224	2,174	Extension of Duration:	4
2020:	175	1,316	2,619	Total Refused:	19



Strategic Infrastructure

Development (SID) Applications to

An Bord Pleanála– Ongoing:

- Drehid Waste Management Facility (ABP Ref. 17/300506) - The oral hearing concluded on 13 March 2019 and a decision to refuse has now been issued by An Bord Pleanála .

Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Applications to An Bord Pleanála

Application Stage					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
SHD202008	2	Briargate Development Newbridge Ltd	Ballymany, Newbridge 348 dwellings; Access via R445 as permitted under planning 16/658	348	Decision due 19/11/20
SHD202009	2	Cairn Homes Ltd	349 Apartments at Mariavilla – Phase 3; at Dunboyne Road, Maynooth	349	Decision due 23/11/2020

Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
17/300506	Bord na Móna	Increase in Wate Material at Disposal Facility at Drehid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not satisfied regarding adverse affect on River Barrow/Rover Nore SAC - Adverse effect on conservation and protection of Barrow/Nore SAC 	Refused	11/11/20.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High groundwater - hazard to public health - Traffic congestion and endanger public safety 		
20/1066	Lidl	Discount Foodstore Supermarket with ancillary off-licence sales.(1) The demolition of existing single storey Discount Foodstore (2) The construction of a single storey (with mezzanine plant deck) mono-pitch (with flat roof loading bay) Discount Foodstore (with ancillary off-licence use) measuring 2,268sqm gross floor space with a net retail sales area of 1,420sqm at Straffan Road, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 11/11/20.
20/1083	Boyle Sports	Change of use of ground floor of Protected Structure from retail to use as a bookmaker's office, while maintaining the retail use to Market Square, Kildare Town	Further Information	Requested 10/11/20.
20/808	Westar	i) construction of 58 no. houses, (ii) construction of 33 no. apartments, (iii) provision of a 346sqm creche at ground floor level of the proposed 3-storey apartment block. (iv) provision of 2 no. new vehicular entrances off the Brooklands Housing Estate; Capdoo, Clane	Valid	Decision due 16/11/20.
20/1142	Bord na Móna Powergen	Retention permission for 3 years for continued use of an existing 100m guyed wind monitoring mast at Blackriver Bog, Lullybeg. Previous permissions 12/943 and 17/840.	Valid	Decision due 26/11/20.



20/1143	Musgrave Ltd	Extension and site works to distribution centre at Boycetown, Kilcock to involve modifications to a previous permission - 02/1561. The gross floor area of the premises will increase from 29,106 sqm to 41,891 sqm, an increase of 12,785 sqm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted	Valid	Decision due 26/11/20.
20/1166	Donnington Property Ltd	Permission for 50 dwellings in Derrinturn. 39 No. 3 bed semi-detached and 11 No. 4 bed semi-detached. Access to houses 1-6 through Drenane Park, Allenwood Road (R403), with access through Newbury Park for houses 7-50.	Valid	Decision due 01/12/20
20/1175	Cutbush Developments Ltd	12 residential units, 3 single storey x 4 bed units 3 x 2 storey 4 bed units, 5 x 2 storey 4 bed units; and 1 x 2 storey 4 bed unit. Vehicular access point from Brownstown Manor, The Curragh	Valid	Decision due 02/12/20
20/1261	Patrick and Thomas Leeson	Residential development of 20 No. units comprises of: (a) 2 No. 3 storey blocks accommodating 10 No. 2 bed ground floor apartments with 10 No. 3 bed duplex units at 1st and 2nd floors at Piercetown, Station Road, Newbridge	Valid	Decision due 17/12/20
20/1098	John Gill	Change of use of existing buildings from horticultural use to a materials recovery facility at Ballinderry, Carbury.	Valid	Decision due 19/12/20

Historic Planning Registers



The Historic Planning registers are now available to view online at <https://esearch.informa.ie/kildare/>. Users are required to register to use the system. This project carried out by the Planning Department and the IT Department will make planning searches easier with the indexes and mapping dating back to 1964 available to view without the need to visit the Planning Department. Planning searches on more recent applications are available on the online planning system at: <http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/public/planningsearch/171>.

Section 254 Licences

As a continued response to COVID-19, the licence fee in respect of tables and chairs outside of a hotel, restaurant, public house or other establishment where food is sold for consumption on the premises has been waived until 28 February 2021 subject to compliance with all other aspects of the licence.

Conservation Update

Mr Michael O'Boyle, Consultant Architectural Conservation Officer, has been involved in a number of conservation related tasks for the Planning Department including the following:

- Preparing reports on proposed additions to the Record of Protected Structures.
- Preparing progress reports for Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structures Fund and Thatching Grant schemes.
- Preparing conservation reports for planning applications.
- Advising on a number of projects including DART + proposals, a Conservation Plan for White's Castle, Athy, Naas Town Hall development works, condition survey for St. David's Castle, Naas.



Vacant Sites Update 2020

223 sites were surveyed throughout County Kildare in 2020 as follows; Leixlip (10); Kildare (32); Maynooth (21); Newbridge (29); Sallins (12); Celbridge (13); Monasterevin (16), Clane (17), Kilcock (8), Kilcullen (10); Naas (33); Athy (22).

Having considered each of the surveyed sites against the 'tests' as set out in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended), a total of 51 Section 7(1) notices have now been/are soon to be issued to landowners. A period of 28 days must follow the issuing of Section 7(1) notices to landowners to provide landowners with an opportunity to make submissions. All submissions will then be reviewed and considered and, on foot of same, the planning authority may then make a recommendation to issue a Section 7(3) notice to landowners to recommend that sites be included on

the Vacant Sites Register, though a further opportunity exists for landowners to appeal the decision of the planning authority.

Department of Education and Skills

The Planning Department continues to engage with the Department of Education and Skills on a number of projects including the following:

- Proposed relocation of 3 x schools onto lands at Ballyoulster, Dublin Road, Celbridge.
- Proposed new school site in Blessington (two sites currently being considered).
- Consideration of sites in Naas and Kildare for future schools which will inform the emerging Draft Local Area Plans (LAP's) for both towns.



Public Realm

Public Realm Funding Applications and Other Items

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

The following successful applications were submitted by the Public Realm Team:

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Grant Awarded
Ballymore Eustace	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000
Punchestown, Eadestown	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000
Castledermot	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000

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

The following successful applications were submitted by the Public Realm Team:

Location	Total Estimated Project Cost	Amount of Town and Village Grant Funding Requested for this Project
Leixlip Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Celbridge Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Newbridge Town Hall environs and Georges Street	€45,000	€40,000



Main Street, Naas and environs	€60,000	€40,000
Main Street, Maynooth and environs	€45,000	€40,000
Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council	€11,000	€10,000

The following applications were submitted to the main Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 on 28 September and a decision is awaited:

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Funding Requested	Comments
Ardclough	Heritage Centre Phase 2	€97,000	€87,300	Ardclough Heritage Centre providing match funding
Carbury	Carbury Community Centre improvements	€106,316	€95,684	Carbury Village Residents Association providing match funding
Clane	Main Street and Clane Abbey Community Centre	€250,000	€200,000	Clane Maynooth LPT match funding
Athy	Enterprise Centre improvements	€99,000	€89,100	Enterprise Centre to provide match funding
Robertstown	Provision of carpark and playground on	€225,000	€200,000	Match funding from Fáilte Ireland seed



	Amenity Lands, with other masterplan projects being brought through planning process.			money for Robertstown Amenity lands development.
Sallins	Health Check and Town Renewal Plan	€70,000	€63,000	Naas LPT match funding



Special Projects and Public Realm Team

Projects with an update are highlighted below in **Blue**:

Concept

Athy - Athy-Athy Urban Design analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Not yet commenced.

Athy -Athy-Regeneration Strategy-Ongoing through Athy Town Team.

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Laneways Project-Included in RRDF application submitted.

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received.

Kildare-Newbridge – Collaboration with AE on design of Academy Street.

Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan- Included in the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) application submitted 29 May 2020.

Clane-Maynooth - Maynooth-Town Branding and Signage - On hold until funding source is identified.

Naas - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.

Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding source to be identified.

Naas – Land use survey and survey of businesses to determine the need for us of the Public Realm (queueing, outdoor seating, parklets etc) during COVID-19 now completed. Findings currently being drafted. Parklet concept and Public Realm social distancing requirements being reviewed for a number of businesses in Naas and Sallins.

Part 8

Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 drawings being finalised following feedback from internal departments.

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking underway. Temporary closure of Market Square carp ark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.



<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Draft Part 8 drawings finalised following feedback from internal departments.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 complete and ready for publication. A municipal district briefing prior to Part 8 was held on 05 June 2020.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants and Design</p>
<p>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works have commenced with almost 11km of the 48km will be completed before Christmas. Section 85 agreement with Laois County Council may be required.</p>
<p>Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Athy Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Tenders in respect of (i) detailed design and construction supervision currently being assessed and (ii) Interpretative exhibition design. Detailed design has now commenced.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>



Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.
Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.
Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued.
Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process
Tender Consultants
Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed.
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. The Paul Hogarth Company appointed and project inception meeting held on 26 June. Joint site visit took place on 02 September.
Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design is now commencing. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in early 2021 and will take 9 months to complete.
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. Onsite meeting with the Tanyard Committee being scheduled.
Tender Works
Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.



Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Part 8 and detailed designed being prepared.

Design

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.

Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with urban designers. Meeting with key landowners (Cassidy Distillery Buildings) held 22 July 2020. Draft document under review. Public consultation will recommence in Jan 2021.

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

Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.

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

Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA). Masterplan published on KCC website. Town and Village application submitted for carpark and planning applications for phase 1.

Detailed Design

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

Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Tender report being compiled.



On Hold
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - on hold. Town and Village funding application submitted.
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage - on hold until funding source identified.
Construction
Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous - Landscape enhancement and car park works nearing completion. The park will be open to the public in the coming weeks.
Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.
Naas – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Official start date on site 11 November 2019.
Complete
Athy - Narraghamore-Completed.
Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.



Water Services

Infrastructural Projects

Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)

This contract was signed by Irish Water and Roadbridge on 20 February 2019 and it had a 24-month construction programme. The works are currently being commissioned. The sewerage network is due to be handed over to operations by the end of Q1 2021 while the pumping stations will be operated by the contractor for a 12-month proving period before being handed over to operations.

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

Contract 2B (Network)

This contract was signed by Irish Water and Coffey Construction Ltd on 08 August 2019 and it has a 30-month construction programme. Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The current major network improvement works are continuing at the R407, Clane to Sallins Road, in Naas on the R445, Newbridge Road and in Newbridge on the L7037, Standhouse Road and Pairc Mhuire. Foul pumping station upgrade/improvement works are continuing at Sallins Pumping Station (additional storm tank/new foul pumps and controls), Clane Pumping Station (new pumping station under construction) and Monread Pumping Station (new pumping station under construction). The contractor is scheduled to temporarily take over the operation of Sallins Pumping Station during November 2020 and return it to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations before Christmas 2020 – this is dependent on progress.



Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility DBO Contract Variation

Veolia Water Ireland is advancing works on this variation to the Design Build Contract (DBO) contract, with an expected completion date in Quarter 4, 2020. Operational commissioning is continuing at the Thermal Hydrolysis Process (THP) Plant. The Exelys THP is intended to be fully operational by end of Quarter 1, 2021.

Osberstown Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)

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

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip WWTP. This project is at planning and detailed design stage. Site investigation works are continuing at present on public roads and in private lands. Irish Water has engaged and is negotiating with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

Capital Projects

Kilmeague WWTP Upgrade

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

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

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

- The laying of a 40 metre pipe to connect to the nearby gravity system.
- Some small level of land acquisition.
- Pumping arrangements.
- In order to progress the agreed temporary solution to negate the need for ongoing tankering, Irish Water is currently seeking to acquire the land needed to develop the new foul pumping station at the buffer tank site.



- This will then allow Irish Water/Kildare County Council operations to construct the temporary solution to install a temporary foul pumping station at this location which will pump into the existing gravity sewerage system at Power Station Road and on to the Allenwood WWTP for treatment and disposal.
- It is hoped that the land acquisition can be finalised

reasonably quickly so that these works can be completed in Quarter 1, 2021 and deliver expected cost savings

The benefits of the above would be the elimination of the need for tankering. Accordingly, as there are expected to be cost savings, it is still anticipated that these works will progress, and the members will be kept informed. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-term solution

Timolin WWTP Upgrade

This project has been included in the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (STVGP) which will be subject to Irish Water approval. Irish Water agreed to the priority list submitted by the council following a workshop held recently.

This scheme was ranked high on the council's priority list due to commitment made to locals and public reps in 2017 and the approval of planning process Part VIII. Irish Water need to hold workshops with the rest of the local authorities before they progress the council's priority list.



Water Networks Management Projects

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

Works resumed on 07 July 2020.

To date, all public side works have been completed where customer consent has been provided. There is 1 property remaining within this scheme, whereby, private side service connection works have still to be completed. Permanent road reinstatement works are now complete. It is expected that works regarding the decommissioning of the old watermain will commence in 2021.

Kildare Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works

With the completion of the decommissioning works during September 2020, this scheme is now fully completed.

Academy Street/Cleamore Road

All service connections along this route have now been transferred from cast iron mains to UPVC mains. The decommissioning of the existing cast iron main along Academy Street/Cleamore Road is due to commence during Quarter 4, 2020.

Lourdesville BYSS

The last remaining customer connection was completed in September 2020. The decommissioning of the existing cast iron mains in Lourdesville is due to commence during Quarter 4, 2020.

Campion Crescent BYSS

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



Assumpta Villas BYSS

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

Maynooth Bottleneck Mains Scheme

This new section of watermain is in operation. This scheme is now fully completed.

St. Patrick's Terrace, Naas BYSS

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

Rowanville BYSS

There is currently 1 property remaining within this scheme, whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained. Private side service connection works recommenced during September 2020 on several properties where consent was recently provided.

Irish Water Updates

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

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



Environment Services

COVID-19

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

Civic Amenity Facilities

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

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

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

Civic Amenity Site – Silliot Hill

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

coming to just over €15,000. The event was supported under the Anti-Dumping Initiative by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) in co-operation with local authorities and the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA's).

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

Recycling Banks

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued through to October. In 2019, 305 tonnes of glass were recovered in this month from the recycling banks. This year, for the same month, the figure is 425 tonnes, a continued increase of nearly 33%. Staff and contractors continue to maintain existing sites to an acceptable standard, but the co-operation of the public is vital in this regard.



Burial Grounds

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

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. Domestic waste collectors have however been granted permission by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) to carry out collections outside of their conditioned waste collection hours due to COVID-19 restrictions. To reduce the potential for cross contamination, customers are asked to follow the advice of their collector when putting out bins for

collection. Check their website and social media for updates. For details of approved operators, check the NWCPO website: www.nwcpo.ie

National Spring Clean/Tidy Towns

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

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

Environmental Education

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



Waste Permit/Water Discharge

Licences

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

Dog Control/Dog Pound

The 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. Dog Licences should be purchased online, where possible at www.licences.ie

Environment Construction Projects/Schemes

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

Draft Litter Management Plan

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

New Initiatives

Green Kilometre Scheme 2020.

COVID-19 restrictions have delayed promotion of this scheme in 2020 given the varying levels of restrictions throughout the year. The scheme is being revised with a greater focus on it being a community-based activity that can be done while social distancing. Sixteen groups have signed up to this scheme so far in 2020 and a total of 800 saplings have been planted by the groups. It is a voluntary litter removal scheme for rural areas that has also become a good biodiversity project with native species such as holly, hazel, spindle and alder buckthorn being planted into Kildare hedgerows by the participants. It is hoped the scheme will gain momentum early next year, particularly as it is difficult to plan for National Spring Clean given that it typically involves larger groups of people.



Civic Amenity Site North

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee. The process of procuring a consultant, subject to funding is being progressed. The project is likely to be progressed as a Design Build Operate Finance Concession Contract.

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping.



Kerdiffstown

Construction works on the L2005 realignment are substantially complete.



Wills Bros Ltd has been awarded the main works contract for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park. The contract period is for 54 months but this timeline is expected to be improved upon by the contractor.

The Community Liaison Group and Naas Municipal District members were informed of this major milestone in the project. A press release was also issued regarding the appointment and a project update has been uploaded onto the project website.

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

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

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

Cemeteries

Churchtown Cemetery

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

Kildare Town Cemetery

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



Newbridge Cemetery

The council is in ongoing engagement with the preferred contractor with regard to progressing the planned major development of the public car park. It is hoped that works will commence in early 2021.

Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown, Celbridge

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

Columbarium Walls

Derrinturn

This work will be advanced as part of the 2021 Programme of Works.

Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)

A Sustainable Energy Community webinar was hosted by CARO on the 08 October to inform all constituent local authorities about the Sustainable Energy Community initiative, with speakers from Kildare County Council, Meath County Council, community groups and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).





This event informed elected members and local authority staff how they might assist community groups to benefit from this scheme and how county councils can assist to remove any barriers that may exist from a community perspective

Forestry

The Climate Action Regional Office's (CARO's) initial involvement in this area was to work in collaboration with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) to identify a number of pilot counties and appropriate landholdings, for afforestation, in the region. All constituent local authorities were since represented at a recent webinar and received presentations from the CARO and the DAFM. This scheme was published by the DAFM on 12 August and the CARO is working to support a number of counties as they begin the process of identifying suitable lands.

Just Transition

The CARO is engaging with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) on the Just Transition Fund for the midlands region. Following on from the initial application to the SMART process, a more detailed application for funding is now being prepared for community training and capacity building across the 21 identified communities in the greater just transition area. If this application is successful, this project will develop in collaboration with Westmeath, Longford, Laois, Kildare, Roscommon, Galway, Longford and Offaly County Councils and will leverage existing structures (such as the People Participation Network (PPN), Cohmairle na nÓg, Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) and municipal districts to engage with the relevant communities.



Capacity Building



LOCAL AUTHORITY
Climate Action
Training Programme

The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners (such as Climate Ireland, Met Eireann, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the Department of Communications, Action and Environment (DCCAE), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) etc.) to develop a suite of training for all elected members and local authority staff. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it has been decided to prioritise the development and delivery of online training in 2020 and this will be available for roll out in Quarter 4 of this year. The 3-day CARO training programme for Climate Action Teams was piloted online on the 06, 07, 12, 13, 20 and 21 October and rolled out thereafter pending further refinement if so required. Limerick IT have also been appointed to develop the climate action leadership training programme for elected members and senior staff and it is also expected that this programme will be piloted prior to the end of the 2020, as will be the Behavioral Change Programme under

the direction of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). It is also to be noted that the proposed training programme launch by Minister Eamonn Ryan, as arranged for 02 October, has yet to be rearranged.

Economic Opportunities Arising from Climate Action

The CARO is working with Maynooth University School of Business and a number of strategic partners such as the County and City Management Association (CCMA), Enterprise Ireland, Chambers Ireland, Irish Business and Employers Association (IBEC), the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Environment, Communications Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) to establish practical measures for the local Government Sector to exploit potential economic and enterprise opportunities arising from climate action. This project involves research into current policy and funding instruments at European, national and local levels to identify where potential opportunities may arise. A detailed survey of Directors of Enterprise and Local



Enterprise Office (LEO) Heads of Enterprise will also be undertaken in order to ascertain current levels of knowledge across the sector and to identify potential opportunities for building on this base.

Spatial Planning

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

Key Performance Indicators

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

Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting

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



Local Climate Action Initiative for the Elected Members

The CARO, in collaboration with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) have created a presentation, aimed at encouraging elected members to lead local climate action initiatives at municipal district level in each of the 17 constituent local authorities. The Climate Action SPC of Kildare County Council has provided invaluable feedback and input into the presentation to date having facilitated two iterations of the piece at SPC meetings

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

The CARO will be rolling this presentation out to all interested municipal districts in the Eastern and

Midlands Region, over the coming months.

Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Team (CAT)

The Climate Action Officer was appointed on 14 September 2020 and has started work on the co-ordination of the council's Climate Action Team and the implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS). The October/November Climate Action Team meetings took place. Associated thematic work groups have been set up. The CAT has updated the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the first annual review. This is due for publication. It is worth restating that the role of the CAT is in mainstreaming and embedding climate action across the functions of the council. The Energy Efficiency Officer has also been appointed on 09 November 2020 and has commenced work on reinvigorating the council's Energy Management Team. A first deliverable of the Energy Officer will be the Sustainable Energy Action Masterplan (SEAP) for the county, a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors.



The Energy Management Team will be a de-facto subgroup of the wider Climate Action Team.

Corporate Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Covenant of Mayors, Climate Action Charter, Climate Bill and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

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

Sustainable Energy Communities/ Energy

Kildare has made good progress on sustainable energy communities in the county. During 2020 a support model for Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) was implemented. This was to financially support communities in developing energy masterplans. Four Sustainable Energy Communities

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

The council is looking to be a leader in this area, to show the way for other local authorities, so it is important to have a sufficient budget available for this. All funds used for SEC EMP's are fully recoupable from SEAI. However, the SEAI only issue payment on energy masterplans once the energy consultant has been paid by the community group. This has been a



significant barrier for community groups. The council's support in bridging this financial gap to support such communities has been very well received. The overall benefit is the level of climate action that SEC's can undertake towards the national transition objective to become a net zero carbon and climate resilient society.

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

Electric Vehicles

Some good work has recently been done on the provision of two car charging units in the Áras Chill Dara car park for use by staff and with two new Electric Vehicles (EV's) forming part of the council fleet, one on trial by the Machinery Yard and the other with the Fire Service. However, there is huge scope to improve on these initiatives.

Climate Action Training

As the council enters 2021, there are a number of key priorities and initiatives to consider. During the year, the council, will engage in the full roll out of very significant training initiatives as developed by the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Initiative

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has provided LPT funding of €25,000 for a Climate Innovation Fund. A call for proposals will be made for eligible projects during Quarter 4, 2020 and the successful projects will run throughout 2021.

Forestry

The council has commenced identification of a number of sites across the county on the Property Interest Register potentially suitable for the Woodlands on Public Lands Funding Scheme. A longlist is being drafted and each site will subsequently be assessed by a qualified forester. A framework for tendering the different elements of this scheme is currently being drawn up. This project is in response to an item on the



Environment Strategic Policy
Committee (SPC) Works Programme.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Reckless Driving for Tik-Tok Fame

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

Safe Routes to School

Extensive works were undertaken by Municipal District Engineers recently to provide additional space on pathways for students outside schools. Barriers were removed, footpaths widened and raised, and zebra crossings reinstated. This allows for a safer route to school for students and it also provides for a safer working environment for school wardens in works areas. The raising of footpaths also deters drivers from parking on footpaths outside schools. A video

highlighting these works was promoted on the council's social media website. The Road Safety Officer is also working with An Taisce's Green Schools co-ordinators for a number of Walkability Audits and cycle route initiatives for schools.

Cycle Cafés

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

'Lock It or Lose It'

So far this year, 3,800 bicycles were reported stolen to the An Garda Síochána. Many of these thefts occurred in public service areas. A joint initiative between Kildare County Council, An



Garda Síochána and Irish Rail was undertaken to encourage cyclists to ensure they lock their bicycles safely and securely in a public place. A video was produced and shared on social media. The council will revisit this campaign again on the approach to Christmas.

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 continue on the Osberstown Interchange and the R407, Sallins Bypass. Kildare County Council is liaising with the contractor with regard to a revised completion date.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The 'M4 Maynooth to Leixlip' is listed as a section of the transport network to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning and prioritised for

delivery under the National Development Plan 2018–2027.

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5, Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective.

Arup have been appointed as technical advisors to support the delivery of the project through Phases 1 to 4.

These phases include:

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



evaluation of environmental impacts.

- Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) would include undertaking the Statutory Processes.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) deliverables for Phase 1 are now complete and signed off by both Kildare County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The scheme has now moved to Phase 2 Option Selection. The scheme will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The preferred route option (C), was presented in-committee to the Maynooth Municipal District Committee on 05 April 2019. The Clane-Maynooth Municipal

District Committee confirmed approval of the Part 8 in respect of Option C on 29 July 2019.

The next phase of the project will be the completion of the design and procurement of the main contract.

Kildare County Council is currently endeavoring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme) as a prerequisite to the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) going ahead. The preparation of the CPO documentation is near completion. Valuers have been appointed.

Discussions with Waterways Ireland, Iarnród Éireann and CIE are ongoing in relation to the design of the bridge structure which will span the Royal Canal and Dublin/Sligo railway line.

The procurement of a NOBO consultant in respect of the design of the bridge structure (an independent consultant to assess adequacy of the proposed design in relation to the EU Interoperability Directive) is currently under way. Detailed design of the



scheme, including drainage design, is at advanced stage.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Engineering Consultants RPS have been engaged for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Project. Their brief is to bring it from scheme concept and feasibility through to statutory processes. Kildare County Council was successful in securing funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) under Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). An application for further funding under Call 2 of the URDF is currently being considered by the DHLGH. The scheme, which will connect Celbridge Town and the Hazelhatch Train Station and will include a second bridge over the River Liffey. The project is currently at Route Selection stage and is progressing well.

Kildangan Railway Bridge Footpath Scheme

The construction of this scheme is substantially complete and the road has been reopened. A temporary shuttle system over the bridge is in operation until the permanent traffic lights are powered up.

Newbridge Southern Relief Road/ Second Bridge Crossing

The section of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road (NSRR) between the Newbridge to Naas dual carriageway (R445) and the Great Connell Road is now substantially complete and the Roads Planning Section is currently engaging with the developer on the completion of snags, the transfer of lands and the submission of the taking in charge documentation. An application for funding under Call 2 of the URDF for the remainder of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road is currently with the DHLGH. Results of the application are expected in November/December 2020.



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

This scheme has been completed with the exception of a number of snags which have been brought to the attention of the contractor.

Athy Distributor Road

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

and the main contract commenced tender on 25 March.

The procurement is under the restricted procedure and involves a two-stage process. The first stage is now complete with six contractors short listed for tendering. The consultants have completed the tender documents for Stage 2 – the ITT. These documents have been submitted to the DTTAS for approval.

Licence agreements with CIE and Waterways Ireland are a necessary prerequisite for the commencement of construction and are being progressed. Land acquisition is also progressing. Archaeology has now been closed out. Work to achieve a Bridge Agreement with Iarnród Éireann continues with the submission of various technical reports.



Maynooth Inner Relief Street

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River is now substantially completed by the Developer Cairn Developments Plc. The Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section is engaging with the developer on the opening of the street to traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. The road safety audit stage 3 is being carried out on the completed works. The taking in charge process for this road by the council will commence in due course.

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

The route selection report is substantially complete.

This project will not proceed to statutory procedures until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy is completed.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP's)

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

- Bigstone Community Hall, Castledermot. This site is now live.
- Lullymore Heritage Centre – Vodafone to make live shortly.
- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre – Ready for NBI to install the broadband connection.
- Back Gate Lodge, Kilkea Castle – ready for NBI installation.



School BCP Sites

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

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

NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout

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

Naas Municipal District October 2020

Naas Municipal District Footpath Works

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

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

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (FP2) at the following locations:

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



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

- Woodlands, Naas.
- Roseville, Naas.
- R411 – Swans of the Green to Patrician Avenue, Naas.
- Lakelands to Sundays Well, Naas.
- Friary Road, Naas.
- St. Martins Avenue, Naas.
- L-10004 (Jigginstown, Naas) - Drainage Work.

The footpath/cycle track extension on the Kilcullen Road, Naas (at Kilashee) to the Multi Denominational School is complete.

Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

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

- R411- Ballymore Road

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measures Updates

In addition to the above, the Naas Municipal District applied for funding under the recently announced July Stimulus Package Funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA). Kildare were successful in securing funding for a number of schemes. The timeframe for using these funds is extremely tight but the Naas Municipal District will endeavor to progress them in a timely fashion. The progression of these schemes is subject to the

adequate resources being made available. The schemes are as follows:

- Castlefen, Sallins - Footpath Improvement Project.
- L29937 - Monread Avenue, Naas - Road Improvement Project.

Due to the significant design requirement associated with the proposed improvements to the cycle facilities along Monread Avenue (L29937), it is agreed with the NTA not to proceed with this project at this time. It is expected that a design will be developed for approval in 2021. It has been agreed with the NTA to reallocate the funding associated with this project to Castlefen, Sallins and footpath improvement works.



Surface Dressing Works

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

- R411 – Ballymore Eustace Road (south of Watchhouse Crossroads).
- L2010 – Sherlockstown to Painstown.
- L6056 – Ballymore Eustace to Bishopshill.

Bus Shelters

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

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

The LPT/Carpark funded works programme for 2020 has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District

Committee. These works are currently included within the roads and footpaths works packages that are progressing through the design/tender/construction stages and will be delivered over the coming months.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District October 2020

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works, Newbridge

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

Rathangan

A tender has been awarded for general footpath repairs within the Municipal District and works are due to commence in the coming weeks.



NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

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

Footpath upgrade including 3 pedestrian crossings and surface overlay. A tender has been awarded and works are ongoing at present.

Works have commenced for installation of 3 pedestrian crossings in Rathangan, one at the GAA field, one at the Girls school and one at the Garda Station, this work also includes the upgrade of footpaths.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

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

Road resurfacing works were completed at:

- The Carmelite Church to Round Towers.
- Round towers over the railway bridge.
- Rathangan from the Garda Station to
- Bog Cross, including new footpaths.
- Born Lane, Bracknagh Road Junction.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

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

Low Cost Accident Schemes

A tender has been awarded for Low Cost Accident Schemes at Brownstown, Brannockstown, Cribbin's Lane Rathangan and Pollardstown.



Work has now commenced at Brownstown Cross and will follow on at other locations.

Drainage

A contract has been awarded and works are due to commence for the upgrade to surface water drainage in the following locations: Raheens, Castlekeeley and Gorman's Systems.

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District October 2020

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

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

- Courtown, Kilcock - footpath repairs.
- Footpath repairs - Mollyware Street, Kilcock.

Bus Shelters

No works were carried out in October.

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measures Updates

A number of schemes are progressing under the funding from the NTA. The following have been completed in October:

- Nancy's Lane, Clane – public lighting to follow.
- Consultants have been appointed and initial surveys commenced for improvement works at Robertstown, Killina and Derrinturn National Schools.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

Low Cost Safety Works

- Kilnamoragh Stud Junction –
- junction realignment.



General Works

- Robertstown – bridge wall repairs.
- Prosperous to Dagweld's Cross – raising manholes.
- Drainage repairs Courtown.
- Anti-skid at Rathcoffey, Ballynakill.

Restoration Improvement (Overlay) – Approximately 2.5km

- R414 Lullymore.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

No works took place in October with works planned for November and December.

Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence as a voluntary emergency service has been working to support the response of the local authority and the HSE as requested and where the requests fall within the Civil Defences ability and training to deliver. Some of the supports provided to date

include food delivery to vulnerable communities and support to the Blood Transfusion Service in their local clinics.

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District October 2020

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

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

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

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



Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

A section the Green Lane in Leixlip will be resurfaced in late November. The funding for this is available due to other schemes coming in below tender price.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

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

Athy Municipal District October 2020

Pedestrian Works

Pedestrian works have commenced in housing estates which have had surveys carried out.

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

- Moone School works:
Preparatory drainage works are complete.-Phase 1 of works are near complete.
- Castledermot School works:
Phase 1 of works are starting mid-November. Preparatory drainage works are complete.
- Crookstown School works:
Phase 1 of works are starting mid-November. Preparatory drainage works are complete.

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

Updates can be added next month when the council will have had grant funding confirmed. No funding has been allocated to the Athy Municipal District.

Bus Shelters

No funding has been allocated to the Athy Municipal District.



Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

- R428 - Brackney to Cardenton.
- R418 - Gallowshill to Russelstown.
- L8037 - Timolin to Wicklow Bounds.
- L8100 - Graney to Plunketstown.
- L7071 - Ironhills to Eagle Hill.
- L4010 - Newtownallen.
- L4011 - Mill Road, Castledermot.
- L8009 - Broomfield to N-78.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

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

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

Municipal District Road Surface Dressing Works 2020

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

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

National secondary resurfacing works South of Athy has commenced. These works should be completed in the next couple of weeks.



4 Community Improvement Schemes.
(CIS) have been completed:

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

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

Drains and gullies are being cleaned
out.

Drainage works have taken place at:

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



Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2019	Total Calls 2020
Newbridge	422	354
Naas	435	317
Athy	223	162
Maynooth	321	236
Monasterevin	181	132
Leixlip	240	179
Total	1,842	1,380

Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2019	75	72
2020	30	28

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	6

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	171



Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 31 October 2020:

Building Control

Commencement Notices	2019	2020
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	400
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	393
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	7
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	211	164

Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2019	2020
Total Number of Certificates received:	646	356
Number Valid	645	355
Number Invalid	1	1
Awaiting processing		0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	159

Disability Access Certificates	2019	2020
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received	122	105
Number granted	131	112
Number refused	0	0
Number invalid	0	2



Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	57
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Building Control Active Sites	2019	2020
Number of units inspected	1,881	1,549

Development Control Active Sites	2020
Number of Active Sites	85

Health and Safety

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

- 28 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Update to Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC.
- Lead Worker Representative Meetings.
- Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting.
- Local Authority Safety Officers Group Meeting.



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2020		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	179	€279,233
Festival Grants	49	€28,225
Local Property Tax	195	€857,907
Private Estates Residents Associations	264	€213,842
Local Authority Residents Associations	78	€63,956
Drehid Grants	31	€217,581
Community Enhancement Programme	0	
Education Bursaries	37	€21,750
COVID-19 Emergency Fund	67	€94,390
Total	900	€1,776,884

61 applications have been received under the Community Enhancement Scheme and the results of the assessment process are awaited.



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The last Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held in Áras Chill Dara on 30 September 2020.

COVID-19 Community Response Forum

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum has had seventeen meetings to date via teleconference. The purpose of the forum is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. A dedicated COVID-19 support helpline was established on 30 March by Kildare County Council. Recent announcements under the national Keeping Well Campaign are being worked on, with final communication regarding the expected process awaited.

Healthy Ireland

The Healthy Ireland project partners continue to make progress. The Community Mental Health Grant Scheme was advertised, prioritising

applications for low/no cost counselling particularly from the north and north west of the county. The Evaluation Committee have met and are preparing their recommendations for funding to be considered at the next LCDC meeting.

A tender to engage support to develop a Healthy Kildare Plan was advertised and tenders will be assessed.

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP)

Applications are closed for the CEP 2020. 63 applications worth €824,626.88 were received. This is over three times the budget available (€247,800). The Evaluation Team composed of three LCDC members and two Kildare County Council Officials met and are finalising the recommendations for funding. The successful projects will be brought to the next LCDC meeting on 25 November.



Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Work is progressing to roll out the SICAP Programme in Kildare under COVID-19 restrictions. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme implementers. A meeting took place between senior members of the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board (ETB) and the Department of Social Protection (DSP) to discuss findings from a recent review of the Youth Employment Service run under SICAP.

The County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) are currently preparing the Draft SICAP Plan 2021. This was discussed at a recent SICAP sub-group meeting and will be finalised in the coming weeks.

Heads-Up

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

Rural Development LEADER

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. The LCDC will consider further projects for approval at their next meeting. A final meeting is scheduled for December, and this will conclude the current funding programme. While a transition programme is in the current Programme for Government, details are not available. Work continues to support applications.

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



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

A Zoom meeting was held for the Kildare Fáilte tourism and hospitality sector members to meet-up where information on the different funding available to the sector was presented and an it was an opportunity to share knowledge and information.

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

Kildare Fáilte had a call with the consultancy firm for the Barrow Blueway with regard to developing the product and preparing it for a series of consultancy workshops.

As part of the working group for the Royal Canal Greenway, Kildare Fáilte attended meetings to discuss marketing activities for a soft launch which has pushed out to November due to the Level 5 restrictions in place.

Kildare Fáilte worked with Kildare County Council on production of the trailhead and storyboards.

The Kildare Fáilte Chief Executive Officer and Chairman participated in weekly meetings with the Economic Recovery Taskforce, which was established to update and communicate during the COVID -19 restrictions in Kildare.

The Kildare Fáilte Chief Executive Officer also took part in the Destination Town Workshop organised by Fáilte Ireland and was invited by Fáilte Ireland to take part in the Sport of Kings Workshop with key stakeholders in the equine and tourism industry.

The Fáilte Ireland *Make a Break for Kildare* Campaign was paused once the COVID-19 restrictions were placed on Dublin, a key market for Kildare, on request from Kildare Fáilte.

At the October meeting of the Kildare Destination Recovery Task Force, the sentiment from industry was that it is



important that businesses support each other, work together and encourage visitors to be a tourist in their own county. Fáilte Ireland presented the latest research showing the mood of Irish people concerning domestic tourism. Kildare Fáilte requested clarification on what will happen to the unspent funding given that the campaign has paused during restrictions and an overview of spend to date.

The Kildare Fáilte autumn campaign continued with the theme 'Feast on the Tastes of Kildare' across social channels. Following the restrictions, the campaign paused and reverted to Be a Tourist in Your Own County with a focus on supporting what is on your doorstep and in your town or village. While no advertising took place, press releases resulted in mentions and features in national and local press with a total media value of €63k. photoshoots for the new tourism brochure and the autumn/winter

campaign continued in early October, prior to restrictions.

Social media activity and engagement grew throughout the month of October, while website visits grew by 15%. A new initiative - Support Sunday – which highlights a business and encourages locals to support local, is seeing very high engagement rates. Kildare Fáilte hosted blogger, Ms Edwina O'Connor (Life of Stuff) from Kildare posted about her family staycation and all that Kildare has to offer. Kildare Fáilte met with Ms O'Connor post trip to discuss her feedback.

The Kildare Fáilte Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in October with over 40 members in attendance. The AGM was postponed from March due to COVID-19 restrictions and had been scheduled to take place in the Irish National Stud. However, due to Level 5 restrictions the meeting was conducted over Zoom.



Library and Arts Service

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.” – Andrew Carnegie.

Growing our Resilience ‘Keep Well’ Campaign

The Kildare Creative Ireland Team will be focussing on developing a programme which will support individual and community resilience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Activities that support being active, staying connected, switching off and being creative, eating well and minding your mood will be progressed. The Creative Ireland Team is seeking proposals from individuals or organisations to deliver online programmes with a public engagement (which may include presentations, lectures, interactive workshops, or other iterations). It is envisaged that the proposals will be prepared for sharing online by the provider (including recording and editing of online content). Further information is available on Kildare County Council’s website:

[http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/coronavir
usinformation/Wellbeing/SwitchingOff/](http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/coronavir
usinformation/Wellbeing/SwitchingOff/)

Kildare Readers Festival 2020

Kildare Readers Festival 2020

Programme was streamed daily on Kildare’s Library’s Vimeo Channel

<https://vimeo.com/channels/krf2020>

between 12 -18 October. The events were as always free, and this year no registration was required. There were over 1,600 views of the 13 events over the course of the week. Participants this year included Mr Dermot Bolger, Ms Abie Philbin Bowman, Mr Patrick Chapman, Ms Edel Coffey, Ms Marita Conlon-McKenna, Mr Oein DeBharduin, Mr Naoise Dolan, Mr Patrick Freyne, Ms Christine Dwyer Hickey, Ms Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Ms Kimberly Lojewski, Ms Cauvery Madhavan, Ms Annemarie Ní Churreáin, Mr Nathan O'Donnell, Ms Sue Rainsford, Ms Margaret Scott, Ms Ruth Smith, Ms Susan Tomaselli and our Ten Books guests. Details are available at

www.kildarereadersfestival.ie



Reader Services

Kildare libraries will soon have copies of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) adventure storybook *Climate SOS*. The book follows Four Children and a Dog, Sparkie, who are focused on exploring sustainable energy and protecting the environment. Unfortunately, their arch-nemesis Max Siphon and his gullible sidekick Guzzler seem set on being wasteful. The book teaches the reader about climate change in a way that relates to their lives and day-to-day experiences. It encourages and empowers children to make their own decisions, having become more aware of the impact of their choices. *Climate SOS* was commissioned by the SEAI and was written by Ms Lucinda Jacob, illustrated by Mr Alan Nolan and edited by Ms Orla Kelly, St Patrick's College of Education, Dublin City University (DCU). There will be two class sets available to schools in Kildare and it will also be available for children to borrow from the libraries.

Age Friendly Online Tutoring

Age Friendly Ireland in partnership with Libraries Ireland are running a pilot peer to peer training programme to help older people access online library resources, starting with BorrowBox. Those who take part will avail of free one-to-one tutoring focused on how to use the library online. The tutoring will be delivered remotely, mainly by Zoom but also by phone. Three staff members from Naas Library have become involved and will begin tutoring in November. The pilot will be reviewed shortly with a view to a wider roll-out.

Cult Classics Film Club

Naas Library will begin an exciting new online, monthly film club which will celebrate classic cult movies. Curated by author, film historian and Naas librarian, Mr Wayne Byrne, the club will focus on unsung gems from the history of Hollywood. Members will be given a link to watch the film in their own time and will then meet on the last Friday of every month from 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. via Zoom for a discussion of the film with Mr Byrne, who will provide some history, context, and critical commentary on the film.



Gaeilge agus Wildlife

In October 2020, Ms Eanna Ní Lamhna, author, radio and TV presenter, biologist and wildlife expert gave an online talk via Zoom as gaeilge about the wildlife you can spot at different times of the year along the Royal Canal. Ms Ní Lamhna also gave an explanation of the Irish version of place names which can be seen along the Royal Canal and gave insight into how the Irish language version of place names can tell us a lot about what was in an area in the past. 21 people, including adults and children, took part in the talk and there was time at the end of the talk for people to ask Ms Ní Lamhna questions.

Storytime: Live!

Maynooth and Kilcock library staff have learnt new skills and reached library members online by performing and recording Storytime and Rhyme videos throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. The team have now resumed their regular Friday morning Storytime slot, creating a live and all-important interactive experience for young children via Zoom.

Children's Book Festival

This year Kildare's Children's Book Festival took place entirely online. The annual Children's Book Festival is run by libraries all over Ireland and helps spread the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families, authors and illustrators, teachers and librarians. Author visits, writing workshops, storytelling and art classes improve children's literacy and creativity, equipping them with key skills. 36 live and interactive events were held via Zoom, with 848 attendances. 24 events took place for schools, and 12 for families to log on to from home. More families were able to enjoy pre-recorded videos at a time that suited them, via the Kildare Libraries Vimeo channel. Feedback from teachers and parents alike was overwhelmingly positive.

Parenting Programme

A New Born Care Class was held for expectant mothers to help prepare them for their new arrival during a time when the usual supports of family members etc. during COVID-19 restrictions may not be available. There were 25 attendees and the Library Service received brilliant feedback from them. Another event on Minding your Families



Mental Health with Professor John Sharry is due to take place later in November.

The first of the Supporting Families, Sharing the learning courses took place – a joint initiative of Kildare Library Service and Kildare’s Children and Young Peoples Services Committees (CYPSC) also funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund, supporting professionals to help parents – it was on ‘Parenting when Separated’.

3 online workshops took place which were funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund for ShareRing skills - a group that met weekly in Celbridge Library pre-COVID-19 to connect and engage in creativity, the group is a great social inclusion initiative and includes St John of God’s service users. The workshops which took place via Zoom were ‘Gardening with Wildlife in Mind’, ‘Mandala Plate Painting’ and ‘Clay Hand building’. For many of them it was their first use of online platforms but they now say it is something they will continue to explore to keep connected and engaged during COVID-19 restrictions.

This is a comment from one of the attendees from the New Born Care class: “I just attended the virtual New Born care class. I wanted to say it was so helpful and informative. Our baby is due in December and after attending the class I feel much more confident about what the first few weeks at home might hold. Thanks very much for offering this class. I would highly recommend it to others.”

Community Outreach and Collaborations

Newbridge Library partnered up with both the Family Resource Centre and the Eyre Powell Centre in October to bring the library to them while the library is closed for browsing.

They worked with the Family Resource Centre on Halloween activity packs for the 70 children in their pre-school. The packs tied in with a Room on the Broom live storytime being delivered through the Facebook page during mid-term break and contained a number of craft activities as well as information about joining the library and the benefits of reading to children.



25 Halloween craft packs were delivered to the Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre for a children's craft activity organised by the staff.

School Support

Newbridge Library was delighted to support the Curragh Girl's School in celebrating the students who had participated in a recent literacy camp. The Library Service organised the storyteller Mr Wayne O'Connor to deliver an Interactive Storytime over two sessions to 4 classes via Zoom. A total of 58 students attended the story times.

Continued support is available to local schools by offering a book pack delivery service to their door comprising carefully selected books based on themes/age categories etc.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEAM) Workshops

Online workshops were available to schools throughout the month as part of the Library Service's STEAM Programme and the Children's Book Festival. These included workshops included a space and rockets workshop with the Rediscovery Centre, a bog workshop with the Irish Peatland

Conservation Council. A maths detectives workshop, a workshop with the author Ms Maeve Devoy as part of the Children's Book Festival and many more.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Carey signed the contract for the construction tender with Duggan Lynch on Tuesday 17 November at Naas Town Hall.

Commencement of the construction phase of the project is expected to begin by December. The project has a timeline of 24 months from commencement to completion.

Clane Library

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

Kildare County Library and Archives

The Strategic Project and Public Realm Team are currently working on the tender for a Design Team for the Kildare County Library and Archives Capital



Project which is a Part B Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) project.

Kildare Arts Service Bursary Opportunity for Kildare Artist

Kildare Arts Service will work with the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers (ALAAO) in collaboration with the Arts Council, to present PLATFORM 31 – a national opportunity for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place-making and sharing their work. Designed to support and offer career development for 31 mid-career artists (one artist in each of the 31 local authorities around Ireland), there are two elements of support for participating artists in the scheme:

- financial and developmental. - Participating artists will receive an €8,000 bursary to invest in themselves and their practice, combined with participation in an advisory and developmental framework and a peer network.

- The scheme will establish a peer networking framework for participating artists, introducing them to a pool of critical thinkers to share their work and learnings, and encouraging a national conversation about creating work in local contexts in Kildare. The exact nature of this artist support framework will be informed by the proposals and interests of the 31 artists selected. The award is open to artists of any discipline and practice, based in Kildare, as well as multi-disciplinary practice and design of all kinds. It is designed to support mid-career artists who must have been in receipt of support/ investment from Kildare County Council Arts Service or the Arts Council within the last three years. **Applications are open from 09 - 30 November 2020.** For more information see <https://platform31.localartsireland.ie/>



Kildare COVID-19 Notebook Project

RTE Supporting the Arts and Creative Ireland has commissioned an edited version of the Kildare COVID-19 Diaries documentary film for screening across RTE Digital channels from 17 November.

Maynooth Film for All

Maynooth Film for All continues to engage with audiences at home with monthly access>Cinema at Home film screenings, with online conversation afterwards, in partnership with the Departments of English and Media Studies, Maynooth University.

Virtually Shkelton

As part of the 2020 'Virtually Shackleton' Autumn School on 31 October, Mr Mark Richards, sculptor was interviewed from his studio by Arts Officer, Ms Lucina Russell on "The Boss in Bronze: on Mr Richard's work and creating the Athy Shackleton statue, "reaching a worldwide audience:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2632970297015677>

National Arts in Education Conference

Kildare Arts Service supported the national Arts in Education Conference which took place online from 06 -15 November. The conference was introduced by the artsineducation.ie portal committee member, Ms Lucina Russell.

<http://artsineducation.ie/en/2020/10/30/national-arts-in-education-portal-day->



Parks

Castledermot Playground

Phase 1 works involving the installation of a paved entrance to the fairgreen and circulation footpaths have been completed. Works on the installation of the playground are ongoing and are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year subject to weather conditions.

Allenwood Playground

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

- Kildare County Council Offices, Level 1, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare. W91 X77F.
The opening hours are:
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Texaco Spar, Allenwood Cross, Allenwood Cross, Co Kildare.
The opening hours are:
Monday- Saturday 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Bright Sparks Crèche, Allenwood Community Development Centre, Allenwood during normal working hours.
- ACDAL, Allenwood, from 01 December 2020 during normal working hours.
- Allenwood GAA, Seán Tierney Park, Allenwood during operational hours.

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



[sultation/allenwood-community-playground-0](#)

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development and dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be submitted electronically on the Consultation Portal as per the link above or in writing to Mr Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer at the address below before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, 14 January 2021. Submissions should be clearly headed “Allenwood Community Playground.”

Improvement Works to The Bawnogues Athletic Track, Kilcock

Works on the installation of synthetic sprint lanes, long jump and high jump areas have started. The work will also involve upgrading drainage and floodlighting on the track. The work is expected to be completed by Summer 2021.

Tree Works Programme 2021

Tenders have been issued for tree works in the Celbridge-Leixlip, Naas and Maynooth Municipal Districts. Work is ongoing on the completion of a tender for the Kildare-Newbridge and Athy Municipal Districts.

Wonderful Barn Conservation Plan

A draft conservation plan has been submitted by Howley Hayes Architects for The Wonderful Barn. This is currently being reviewed and it is hoped to have the plan finalised by the end of the year.

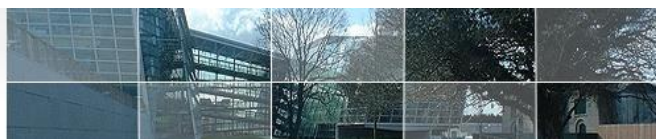
Sallins Amenity Land

Cathal O'Meara Landscape Architects have commenced work on the preparation of a masterplan for the Sallins Amenity Land. Initial consultation meetings have taken place with the Naas Municipal District Committee, Kildare County Council Internal Departments and Community Groups. Submissions are invited on



what types of amenities and recreational facilities people would like to see provided on the site. The closing date for receipt of submissions is Friday 18 December at 5:00 p.m. Submissions can be made online at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en> or in writing to Mr Simon Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Kildare County Council, Parks Section, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

The submissions and consultation being carried out will inform the development of the masterplan. It is planned to have a draft masterplan prepared by the end of the year and to have a finalised masterplan prepared by April-May 2021. This will then be advertised as a Part 8 planning permission for further public consultation.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Kildare Local Enterprise Office Supporting Businesses in 2020

(Figures from Jan – Nov 2020).

€646.3K investment in Start Up and Expansion Grants.	92 businesses funded to Improve Shopfronts.
3,581 businesses availed of Online Training.	910 businesses received Expert Mentoring.
€1.75M investment in COVID-19 Business Continuity Support.	€1.2m investment in E-commerce Funding.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Retail Support for the Kildare Local Economy

The absolute prime concern for Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) at this time is ensuring that all Kildare retailers receive extensive business support,

both financial and advisory in the lead up to Christmas. The LEO has invested in the establishment and delivery of various offerings to (1) provide large-scale support to Kildare retailers and (2) encourage the Kildare community to shop local throughout the Christmas period.



Total Investment to date (November 2020): €1.4 million

Includes:

1. Developing and managing the shared ecommerce website 'Shop County Kildare' (see below).
2. Financial funding to Kildare retailers toward business shop fronts.
3. 3 x Bespoke Retail Mentorship programmes with expert retail consultants.
4. **€1.2m** Investment into in excess of 600 websites.
5. On going Marketing and Advertising on all paid and non-pay platforms radio and press

1. Shop County Kildare

To cater to the changing need of businesses, retailers in particular, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Kildare County Council developed 'Shop County Kildare' an online ecommerce platform providing Kildare businesses the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly model.

The dedicated local website highlights the offerings of businesses across the 5

municipal districts in Kildare. To date there are over 300 Kildare businesses signed up, many of which are trading and others who are in the process of finalising their pages. (123 Kildare retailers are trading on the site as of 13 Nov 2020).

Please encourage constituents to register for Shop County Kildare. You can browse and register for Shop County Kildare at:

www.shopcountykildare.ie



2. Bespoke Retail Programmes

Kildare County Council's LEO
has organised the following

programmes for the retail sector
in Kildare:

8-Week Retail Mentorship Programme: 'Driving Sales in the COVID Impacted Golden Quarter'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Kildare retailers availed of this support to date. (Ongoing programme). • https://www.localenterprise.ie/!SZNX4N
Retail Survive and Thrive' Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive workshop with retail expert and trading strategist, Ms Miriam Simon. • Included the development of an individually tailored trading plan for each business to take away. • Free membership and access to the commercial forum and support network '<i>Retail PowerHouse.</i>' • 10 Kildare retailers availed of the facility up to 10 November. • https://www.localenterprise.ie/!UPQ836
'Drive your Retail Business in Covid times' Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting retailers in preparations to drive sales throughout the Christmas period and implement strategies to ensure success in 2021. • Workshop with retail expert and free of charge for 1 to 1 mentoring. • https://www.localenterprise.ie/!NTTVZB



3. Marketing and Advertising Campaign March – December 2020

This Christmas, Kildare County Council will continue to encourage the Kildare community to shop local using this campaign. The aim of the campaign is to continue to champion small, local businesses, to educate the local community on the importance and need for shopping local during the current economic climate and to encourage people across the county to buy Christmas gifts through both the (1) Shop County Kildare website and (2) in store (where Government guidelines allow).

Brexit Support – Brexit Mentoring and Customs Training Available

The LEO continues to run the 'Change is Coming' Brexit campaign locally. The objective of this marketing campaign is to ensure that Kildare businesses are aware of the upcoming

Brexit deadline of 31 December and to promote the array of supports Kildare LEO has available to support Kildare business in ensuring Brexit preparedness. 91 Kildare businesses have availed of Customs training since January 2020. The final Customs Workshop of the year will take place on 11 December. Businesses can book places here:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Prepare-your-business-for-Brexit-Customs-Export-and-Import-Training1111.html>

The LEO is also providing ongoing free expert Brexit mentoring. 24 Kildare businesses have availed of Brexit mentoring over the last month. Please advise constituents of expert Brexit mentoring available. Business can book mentoring at:

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



Student Enterprise Programme

2020/2021

844 student entrepreneurs across County Kildare have begun their journey in this year's Student Enterprise Programme. This year, the initiative will be delivered differently given the current COVID-19 restrictions. The Student Enterprise Programme National Final will take place virtually on Friday 14 May 2021. Visit www.StudentEnterprise.ie for more information.

Kildare Food Network

The LEO are calling on local food entrepreneurs to take part in the establishment of Kildare's first Food Network. The launch of the Kildare Food Network comes as part of an ongoing effort to provide Kildare's food heritage with further exposure and trade opportunities by harnessing the power of the collective. Established in association with the County Kildare LEADER Partnership, the Kildare Food Network initiative aims to support County Kildare in nurturing its enviable status as an iconic food brand.

Throughout the county, a diverse selection of food training and food marketing initiatives are coming underway. The objective is that through the use of the Kildare Food Network brand, these programmes can enjoy better linkages and cross-promotion.

Please advise constituents to apply at: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Kildare-Food-Network-Targets-Fresh-Growth-for-Food-Entrepreneurs.html> Call closes 27 November.



Economic Development - Capital Projects

MERITS

The completion of the building will realise a vision to serve the emerging technology sector by connecting organisations and people and acting as a centre of excellence in supporting innovative companies across the county and wider region.

The building is progressing at an accelerated pace now with the final windows being installed to make the fabric weatherproof. This will enable completion of internal works concurrent with the completion of the external cladding. Final tenders related to internal fitout will be posted to eTenders this month allowing these works to be carried out early in the new year.

Recruitment for a Programme Manager to develop and deliver Incubation and Accelerator Programmes in ongoing with interviewing expected to be carried

out before Christmas. There has been strong interest in the exciting role from across the region.

Following a very successful initial webinar in October, a second webinar entitled “The Workplace of the Future” is being held on December 09 at 3:00 p.m. The event will feature 5 speakers from Ireland, UK and the US, including Chris Kane, former Head of Commercial Property at both the Disney Corporation and the BBC. Chris is a Kildare native and is author of a recent book called “Where is my Office?” which has received very favourable reviews among business journalists. The webinar will explore the leadership and management challenges of the emerging distributed workforce model and the role of co-working hubs such as MERITS. Other speakers include Mr Jack Callaghan (EI), Ms Edel Flynn (Element 85), Ms Suzanne Feeney (Robert Walters) and Mr Patrick Gallen (Grant Thornton). It is being co-hosted by Kildare Chamber with the support of the LEO.



Equine Tech Innovation Hub

Through the structure of CKCN, the Business unit of Kildare county Council plans the establishment of Equine Tech Innovation Ireland on the grounds of the Irish National Stud 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.

Following funding approval from Kildare LEADER of €87,821.25, the County Kildare Community Network (CKCN) is in the process of formally appointing a contractor to commence construction works. The CKCN have appointed Ms Vivian Cummins to work with the project team and a start date for construction has been provisionally agreed with the contractors and the Irish National Stud. Construction is due to commence in January 2021 and is

expected to be completed in May 2021.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

In 2019 Kildare County Council was the benefactor of €500,000 from Coca-Cola on their departure from Athy as a contribution towards the development of the old Model School in Athy into the Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. CKCN/Kildare County Council was awarded €476,250 under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) Category 2 funding to support the appointment of an architect-led design team to perform professional services for the delivery of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.

Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led by Bluett O'Donoghue has been appointed. The project team have held two meetings with the design team and a programme schedule has been approved. Work has commenced on



the design and the Part 8 planning process for the hub and it is expected that Part 8 planning permission will be submitted in early December. The

team are also in the process of preparing a funding application for Category 1 RRDF funding in advance of the 01 December deadline.

COVID 19: Supporting Kildare Businesses

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

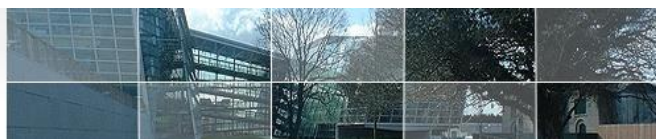
All COVID-19 Business Supports Available from all Government Bodies are Outlined on the LEO Kildare Website at:

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

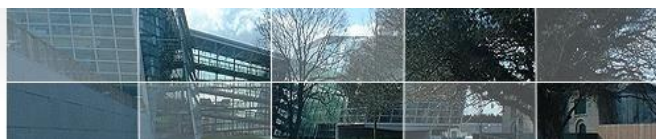
Objective	Support	Link
Financial		
Immediate cashflow.	MFI COVID-19 Business Loan – first 6 months interest and repayment free, reduced rate of 4.5%, LEO mentor assigned to complete loan application form.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html
	Microenterprise Grant - The Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund will assist businesses with less than 10 employees, who are ineligible for existing grants, with a voucher of up to €1,000.	https://micro-enterpriseassistance.ie/



	<p>An Enterprise Support Grant will be made available to assist self-employed recipients who are exiting the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) Scheme. This will provide owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to re-start their business</p>	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-owners-and-school-meals-scheme-to-be-extended-into-summer/
	<p>Restart Grant – for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through Kildare County Council's Rates Department) NOTE: Applications closed on 31October.</p>	http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/
Generate revenue with online sales.	<p>Shop County Kildare – A new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way</p>	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html
	<p>Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to submit completed application forms to us to localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie. 70 plus applications are currently under review.</p>	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/



Upgrade shopfronts and implement outdoor COVID-19 signage.	Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail-/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html
Advisory		
Expert Strategic Mentoring.	Free of charge a 1:1 mentoring programme with a panel of specialist mentors.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE
Health and Safety Guidance.	Free of charge a 1:1 mentoring with a specialist to ensure businesses have tools and knowledge to implement Health and Safety measures in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE
Managing employees in line with Government Guidelines.	A free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a Human Resource specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and brining staff back to work in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE



Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing.	A Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing.	Email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie to apply
Improving online presence and increasing online sales.	A suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/
COMMUNICATIONS:		
Frequent updates regarding the evolving situation, notification of upcoming supports and services as well as support documents and publications.	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.	Head of Enterprise note: https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html Sign up to newsletter: https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&id=87063fc48c
Access to the LEO Team and specialists.	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and the ability to speak to a specialist within 24 hours of enquiry.	localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045 980838



Peter Carey
Chief Executive