



## Chief Executive's Management Report – October 2020

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

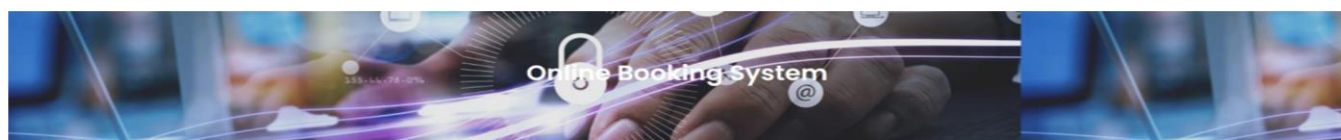
#### Coronavirus COVID-19



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



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



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## Kildare Community Call Helpline

Freephone 1800 300 174

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

Text KILDARE to 50555

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

Contact details for general council services are:

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

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



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## News Items

### **Draft Register of Electors**

Kildare County Council is currently preparing the Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022 (see page 6).

### **NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout**

NBI have indicated that the first area to be fibre broadband enabled will be in the Castledermot area (see page 52).

### **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/!DOJ39> (see page 78).

### **EV Chargers installed in Áras Chill Dara**

Facilities have installed two EV Chargers in the Áras Chill Dara car park.

## Dates for Your Diary

### **Briefing from National Broadband Ireland**

This briefing is set for Monday 19 October at 11am on Microsoft Teams

### **Budget 2021 Meeting**

The member's budget briefing session is set for Monday 16 November 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The Statutory Budget Meeting is set for Monday 23 November 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (see page 8).



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## Corporate Services

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

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

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

- On Kildare County Council's Website at:  
<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>

- Corporate Services Department (Level 1), Kildare County Council, at the address below
- Athy Customer Service Point, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare.
- Local libraries in Athy, Ballitore, Castledermot, Celbridge, Clane, Clocharine, Kilcock, Kilcullen, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas, Newbridge and Rathangan –  
Please Note: Access to all Libraries is by appointment only at:

[www.kildare.ie/library/Library/](http://www.kildare.ie/library/Library/)

Submissions or observations on the proposed Bye-Laws may be made:

Online here

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/>

Or in writing to **the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services**

**Department**, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. W91 X77F.

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



E-mail or faxed submissions will not be accepted. The closing date for receipt of submissions/observations is

**5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 28 October 2020.**

### Draft Register of Electors 2021/2022

**Your vote is your voice**

**REGISTER TO VOTE**

### Draft Register of Electors 2021/2022

<i>Are you registered to vote?</i>	<i>Don't delay.</i>
<i>Are your details correct on the Register?</i>	<i>Check the register today.</i>
<i>Have you turned 18 recently?</i>	Online <a href="http://www.checktheregister.ie">www.checktheregister.ie</a>
<i>Have you changed your address?</i>	Email <a href="mailto:register@kildarecoco.ie">register@kildarecoco.ie</a>
<i>Have you changed citizenship?</i>	Phone 045 980 201
<i>Are you seeking a postal or special vote?</i>	In Council Offices, your local Garda Station, Library or Post Office.

Kildare County Council is currently preparing the Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022. This Register of Electors will come into effect as the Live Register of Electors on 15 February 2021 and is used at every **In addition, the following categories of persons may apply for**

election and referendum held during the following 12 months. Persons aged 18 or over on 15 February 2021 and ordinarily resident in the constituency on 01 September 2020 are entitled to be included on the register. **registration as postal or special voters:**



- Studying full time at an educational institution in Ireland, which is away from your home address where you are registered.
- A member of the Garda Síochána.
- A whole-time member of the Defence Forces.
- Diplomats and their spouses.
- Of a physical illness or disability residing in a Nursing Home, Hospital or similar care facility.
- Of a physical illness or disability residing at home but unable to go to a polling station.
- Unable to vote at your polling station because of your job or service.
- Unable to vote at your polling station because you are in prison as a result of an order of a court.

**To apply:**

Relevant forms are available at

[www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) or

Kildare County Council's website -

[www.kildare.ie/countycouncil](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil)

Completed forms to be returned to the Register of Electors, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. W91 X77F

The Draft Register of Electors 2021/2022 will be published on 01 November 2020.





## Council Meetings

Statutory meetings of the council returned in September.

The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee met on 03 September with the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District, Councillor Paul Ward receiving the new Chain of Office.



Councillor Colm Kenny was co-opted to the council on behalf of the Green Party and forms part of the Naas Municipal District Committee also.







## **Finance and Information Technology**

### **Budget 2021 Meeting**

The member's budget briefing session is set for Monday 16 November 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The Statutory Budget Meeting is set for Monday 23 November 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (see page 8).

Finance will attend all October Municipal District Committee meetings in relation to the Municipal Allocation.

### **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 is currently being processed and the closing date has been extended to 31 October 2020. This scheme allowed an additional 40% top up to Kildare ratepayers due to the additional restrictions placed on Kildare

in August. Applications for this grant can be found online at

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

At the end of September 2020, the Restart Grant Plus Scheme resulted in 1,474 Kildare ratepayers receiving approximately €11.5 million in grants.

### **Rates Waiver Scheme**

A six month waiver scheme was announced in the July Stimulus Package. At the end of September 2020, 3,743 Kildare ratepayers who met the schemes criteria had this waiver applied automatically to their rates accounts which totalled approximately €14 million.

### **Financial Reports**

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).



## Planning, Strategic

### Development and Public Realm

#### County Development Plan

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.

Background work on research papers are underway in advance of the County

Development Plan (CDP) review which is due to be initiated in early 2021.

#### Local Area Plans (LAPs)

Work is ongoing on the preparation and formulation of a number of Local Area Plans (LAPs). The LAPs 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 LAPs will begin to be published in Quarter 4, 2020. Revised public consultation arrangements will be required to adhere to public health guidance around gatherings/meetings.

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: September 2020	
Sept	Year		No.	Total Granted:	85
2018:	121	1,201	1,026	Retention:	14
2019:	106	1,091	1,883	Extension of Duration:	0
2020:	142	1,141	2,422	Total Refused:	15



**Strategic Infrastructure Development  
(SID) Applications to An Bord  
Pleanála– Ongoing**

- Drehid Waste Management Facility  
(ABP Ref. 17/300506) - The oral

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

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

<b>Application Stage</b>					
	<b>Developer</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Lodged with ABP</b>	<b>ABP Decision Due</b>
20/307013	McCourt Investments Limited	Kill Hill and Earl's Court, Kill	167	30/03/20	Granted 14/09/20
20/307100	Crodaun Development Company Ltd.	Crodaun, Celbridge	467	24/04/20	Granted 08/09/20
20/307223	ES Leixlip Greenfields Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Kilmacredock, Leixlip	239	25/05/20	Granted 10/09/20
20/307258	Randelswood Holdings	Devoy Quarter, Naas West	152	29/05/20	Granted 17/09/20

**Transboundary Environmental Impact  
Assessment Public Consultation**

**Application for a proposed Sizewell C  
nuclear power station, Suffolk, UK**

Notification received in respect of the above consultation. Documents

available to view at [www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie)

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



### **Conservation Update**

Mr Michael O'Boyle, temporary replacement for Mr Peter Black, Architectural Conservation Officer, has now been appointed on a consultant basis. A meeting took place with Mr O'Boyle to hand over a number of conservation related tasks.

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

### **Proposed additions to the Record of Protected Structures**

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

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

One submission was received (in relation to 31 and 33 Main Street, Leixlip) objecting to the proposed inclusion of these structures onto the RPS. A report is currently being prepared. The list of proposals will be brought to the relevant municipal districts for consideration at their next municipal district meetings.



## Vacant Sites Update 2020

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

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



## 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 Café	€27,500.00	€25,000.00
Punchestown, Eadestown.	Cycle Café	€27,500.00	€25,000.00
Castledermot.	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000.00

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

The following applications were submitted by the Public Realm Team, and a decision is expected in the coming days:

Location	Total estimated project cost	Amount of T&V 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
Maganey, Athy, Athy town, Narraghmore, Crookstown, and Donadea County Kildare.	€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:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 amenity lands, with other masterplan projects being brought through planning process.	€225,000	€200,000	Match funding from Fáilte Ireland seed money for Robertstown Amenity lands development.
Sallins	Healthcheck and Town Renewal Plan.	€70,000	€63,000	Naas LPT match funding.

### Special Projects and Public Realm Team

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

Concept
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Athy Urban Design analysis and Town Renewal Plan-Not yet commenced.
<b>Athy</b> -Athy-Regeneration Strategy-Ongoing through Athy Town Team.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-Laneways Project-Included in RRDF application submitted.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Collaboration with AE on design of Academy Street.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan- Included in the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) application submitted 29 May 2020.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Maynooth-Town Branding and Signage - On hold until funding source is identified.
<b>Naas</b> - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.
<b>Naas</b> - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding source to be identified.
<b>Naas</b> – 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 car park 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.

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

**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.

## **Tender Consultants and Design**

**Athy/Kildare-Newbridge** - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works have commenced with almost 6km of the 48km completed.

**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.

**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.

**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.



<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> - 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.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> - 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.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – 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.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – 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.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - 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.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued. .
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – 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
<b>Tender Consultants</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. The Paul Hogarth



Company appointed and project inception meeting held on 26 June. Joint site visit took place on 02 September.

**Naas** - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €1.7 million funding approval. 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.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Newbridge – Riverbank -Tender assessment - advisory role

#### **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.

**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.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Included in URDF application submitted on 29 May 2020.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan being finalised with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA).
<b>Detailed Design</b>
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Kilcock-Community Centre. Tender extended by two weeks.
<b>On Hold</b>
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - on hold. Town and Village funding application submitted.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Town Branding and Signage - on hold until funding source identified.
<b>Construction</b>
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Prosperous - Landscape enhancement and car park works nearing completion with playground equipment being installed in the coming weeks.
<b>Naas</b> - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.
<b>Naas</b> – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Official start date on site 11 November 2019.
<b>Complete</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Narraghamore-Completed.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.



## Housing

### 1. Update on Progress with COVID-19 Measures in Place

### 2. Quarterly Report 2020

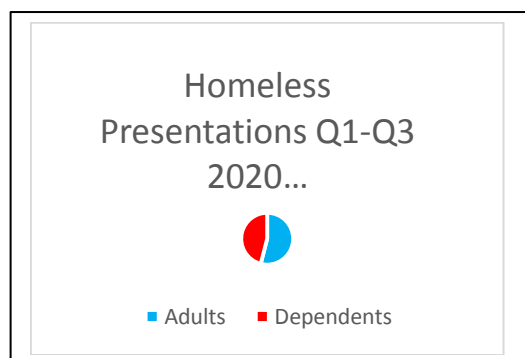
#### COVID-19 Phases 1-3 – Challenges and Progress

#### Homeless Services

Engagement with the Mid East Regional Homeless Local Authorities (Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is ongoing, in addition to fortnightly engagement with the national leads for homelessness

through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Increasing presentations of single people continues to challenge Homeless Services, however, progress is being made in moving individuals and families on from private emergency accommodation.

**Figure 1: Homeless Presentations**

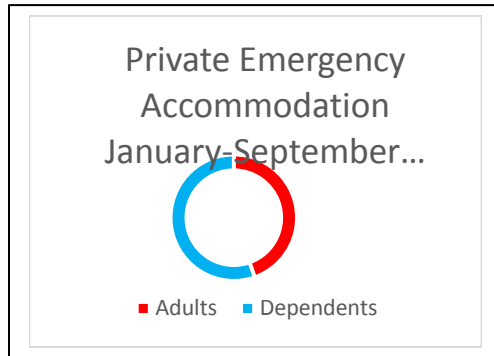


***A total of 289 adults and 246 dependents presented as homeless between January and September 2020***





**Figure 2: Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)**

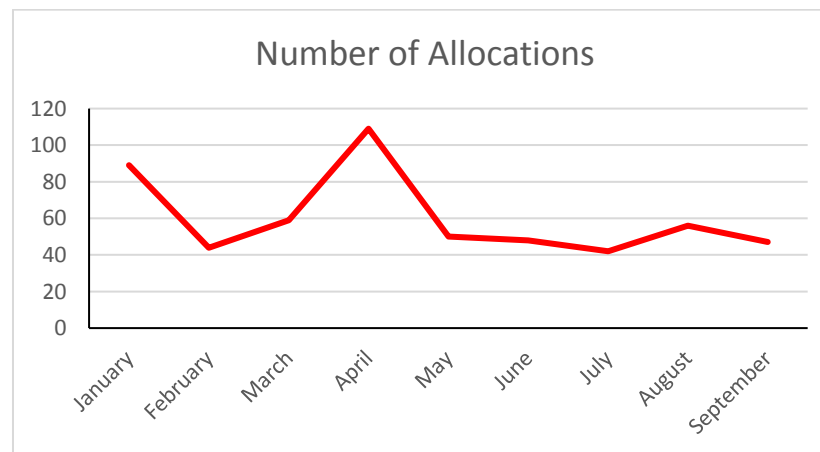


***There are 83 adults and 103 dependents currently in Private Emergency Accommodation, including Supported Temporary Accommodation and Family Hubs***

### Number of Allocations

544 allocations were made between January and September 2020. These allocations took place within the controls and restrictions of COVID-19. Allocations of social housing are averaging at 60 per month in 2020.

**Figure 3: Social Housing Allocations January-September 2020**







### **Number of Housing Applications**

190 applications were received of which 42 were refused.

### **Housing Projects Delivered**

104 new houses were delivered, Rathangan (18), Prosperous (12) and Naas (74).

### **Housing Projects on Site**

12 units at the Bundle of Sticks, Naas (Homeless Care CLG) - Schedule for delivery Quarter 4, 2020. 28 Units at Castlifen, Sallins (Tuath Housing) – Quarter 3, 2021.

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

1,796 response maintenance requests were logged in Quarter 3, 2020.

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

529 tenancies have been set up, with an average weekly set up of 13. Nationally, Kildare County Council is in the top five counties for new HAP tenancies. The other counties include Dublin city, Cork city, Cork county and Louth.

### **Rent Pressure Zone (RPZ)**

#### **Designation – County Kildare**

On 29 September 2020, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr Darragh O'Brien T.D., designated the Administrative Area of Kildare County Council as a Rent Pressure Zone (RPZ). The Administrative Area of Kildare County Council has thus qualified as an RPZ as it has met the designation criteria based on the Quarter 2, 2020 Rent Index Report; the annualised rent inflation has been more than 7% in four out of the last six quarters and the standardised average rent for the Administrative Area of Kildare Council was €1,272 per month, which is 37.12% above the Non-GDA standardised average rent of €927.67. Following RPZ designation, rent increases in these areas are limited to a maximum of 4% per year with some exemptions.



### **Traveller Community**

Traveller accommodation continues to demand significant resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside encampments. Demands on the council's social work service is very high with a notable increase in issues throughout the county. The Social Work Team is maintaining daily contact with traveller families particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

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

#### **Anne Street, Prosperous**

12 units were completed in July 2020.

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

This project is being retendered to account for COVID-19 protocol measures. Anticipated commencement on site is early Quarter 1, 2021.

#### **PPP Bundle 1 Site at Craddockstown**

The social housing project at Craddockstown, Naas, delivered 36 units in June and 38 units in August (74 units in total). This project was delivered through a Public Private Partnership

(PPP) model. The scheme will be managed by Choice Services, in conjunction with Oaklee Housing, an Approved Housing Body (ABH).

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

Works are underway following the recent suspension due to COVID-19. The original programmed completion date for 77 units was April 2021. The anticipated completion is now late Quarter 2/early Quarter 3, 2021. A revised programme is awaited. Works to the walking route along Nancy's Lane commenced on 28 September and the lane is due to reopen on 12 October. All other capital projects are at design stage and are progressing with staff working from home and liaising with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A number of Stage submissions have been lodged with the Department.

#### **Part V's and Turnkey Developments**

Works progressing well on a number of private developments and turnkey sites.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2020
<b>Completed</b>		
Anne Street Prosperous.	12 units.	Completed July 2020.
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		<b>Status October 2020</b>
Athgarvan Village.	18 units.	Being retendered to include COVID-19 protocol measures. Anticipated commencement early in Quarter 1, 2021.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		<b>Status October 2020</b>
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3).	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Workshop meetings with residents took place on 11 and 12 March 2020. Final amendments agreed with the Housing Section to advance the completion of the Part 8. The original design team were briefed and an amended fee is being agreed to develop the scheme to Part 8.
Coill Dubh.	10 units.	Architectural services are being provided in-house with external consultants now appointed. The preparation of tender documents has commenced.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		<b>Status October 2020</b>
Old Greenfield, Maynooth.	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units.	Approval in principle received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for a revised scheme of 65. The tender for the new design is being prepared.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge.	37 units.	Tender for design team is being prepared to progress scheme to Part 8.
Carbury.	5 units.	Stage 1 approval received.
Ambassador Site, Kill.	35 units.	Tender for design team is being prepared to progress the scheme to Part 8.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	57 units.	Stage 1 Approval for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 4, 2020.
Caragh Road, Naas.	73 units	Stage 1 approval for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 1, 2021.



St Evin's Park, Monasterevin.	16 units.	Stage 2 approval for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 4, 2020.
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### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 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 29 September 2020.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2020
Craddockstown Road, Naas.	74 units.	74 units completed (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.	Initial project team meeting held and recommendation for appointment of design team issued.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status October 2020
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units.	Site transfer progressing ahead of contract commencement.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins.	28 units.	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Due for completion Quarter 3, 2021.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	24 units.	Cluid nominated to progress the development of the site. Feedback on initial proposals sent to Cluid.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas.	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 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 tendering for appointment of design team.



### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status October 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 4. 2020.
Sofia Housing.	28 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	Stage 2 Approval application expected Quarter 3, 2020.
Cluid.	29 units Dominican Lands Athy	Stage 1 Approval received July 2020. The Design Team were appointed and initial design proposal to be circulated to Kildare County Councillors for comment ahead of the pre-planning process. Approval Stage 2 submission due to the DHLGH Quarter 4, 2020.
The Peter McVerry Trust.	5 units Sallins	Stage1 and 2 being assessed by architects prior to submission to the DHPLG.

### Acquisitions January – September 2020

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	15	12
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	26	174
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	13	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>264</b>



Acquisitions by MD	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naa s
Acquisitions YTD	8	2	4	25	15
Leased Properties YTD (includes AHBs)	8	1	6	19	0

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2020	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
Jan	1	€165,000	1	€220,000	0	0
Feb	3	€655,000	1	€170,000	0	0
March	4	€967,900	1	€202,500	0	0
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
Aug	0	0	1	€30,645	0	0
Sep	5	€1,151,650	1	€165,300	5	€965,239

	2019	2020
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>€19,692,336</b>	<b>€3,097,550</b> (from 2019 applications)
Total Drawn down	€10,160,922	<b>€1,731,610</b> (from 2019 approvals)
Total currently committed in loan offers	€4,579,784	<b>€3,097,550</b>

Extensions of 3 months have been granted to loan offers that expire during the COVID-19 crisis with the condition that an up to date payslip and bank statement is to be provided prior to drawdown. Kildare County Council has received confirmation of the availability of a loan facility of up to €10 million for 2020. All applicants must now complete a declaration of unchanged circumstances prior to a final loan offer.





### Tenant Purchase Scheme

<b>2019</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>Approvals Issued</b>
Total	35	7	16
<b>2020</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>Approvals Issued</b>
Quarter 1	8	1	2
Quarter 2	4	1	0
Quarter 3	5	0	1

### Grants

<b>2019</b>	<b>Housing Adaptation Apps Recd</b>	<b>Housing Adaptation Grants Approved</b>	<b>Mobility Aids Apps Recd</b>	<b>Mobility Aids Grants Approved</b>	<b>Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd</b>	<b>Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved</b>
Total 2019	484	320	0	0	268	251
<b>2020</b>	<b>Housing Adaptation Apps Recd</b>	<b>Housing Adaptation Grants Approved</b>	<b>Mobility Aids Apps Recd</b>	<b>Mobility Aids Grants Approved</b>	<b>Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd</b>	<b>Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved</b>
Quarter 1	68	71(2019) 17 (2020)	0	0	50	42
Quarter 2	66	60	0	0	37	51
Quarter 3	125	95	0	0	72	50

### Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

<b>2019</b>	<b>LA Rents</b>	<b>LA HAP</b>	<b>LA HAP Review</b>
Total	1,186	775	677
<b>2020</b>	<b>LA Rents</b>	<b>LA HAP</b>	<b>LA HAP Review</b>
Quarter 1	312	124	115
Quarter 2	231	144	147
Quarter 3	240	189	140





## Social Housing Applications

<b>2019</b>	<b>Existing Housing file updates</b>	<b>Transfer Requests</b>	<b>New valid Applications</b>	<b>Mortgage to Rent Apps</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
Total	310	82	998	20	219
<b>2020</b>	<b>Existing Housing file updates</b>	<b>Transfer Requests</b>	<b>New valid Applications</b>	<b>Mortgage to Rent Apps</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
January-June	90	25	275	3	88
July – September	66	19	190	3	42

## HAP Applications

<b>2019</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Rejected</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Total	778	200	714
<b>2020</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Rejected</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
January-Sept	446	98	540

## Housing Maintenance

<b>2019</b>	<b>Vacant House Turnarounds</b>	<b>New House Purchases Upgrades</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance requests completed</b>	<b>Number of Self Help Grants Approved</b>
Total	92	144	6,602	6,333	77
<b>2020</b>	<b>Vacant House Turnarounds</b>	<b>New House Purchases Upgrades</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed</b>	<b>Number of Self Help Grants Offered</b>
Quarter 1	23	32	1,839	1,788	0
Quarter 2	11	18	1,278	1,248	79
Quarter 3	22	32	1,769	1,354	0



## Homeless Presentations

<b>2019</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Unique</b>	<b>Repeats</b>
Total	1,141	435	706
<b>2020</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Unique</b>	<b>Repeats</b>
Quarter 1	340	245	95
Quarter 2	245	85	160
Quarter 3	283	81	202
<b>Total</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>457</b>

## Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

<b>2019</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Total	431	359
<b>2020</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Quarter 1	108	103
Quarter 2	94	71
Quarter 3	87	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>246</b>

## Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 01 July 2020 to 30 September 2020

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	19	33	35
6 - 12 Months	5	8	9
12 - 18 Months	13	21	30
18 - 24 Months	7	15	18
24 - 30 Months	3	5	7
30 – 36 Months	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>103</b>



**Families in Own Front Door Accommodation 01 July 2020 to 30 September 2020**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	0	0	0
6 - 12 Months			
12 - 18 Months	2	4	4
18 - 24 Months	2	4	8
24 - 30 Months			
30 – 36 Months	1	2	3
36 – 42 Months	2	3	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>



## 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 2020 while the pumping stations will be operated by the contractor for a 12 month proving period before being handed over to operations.

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

#### **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 work fronts are the R407 Clane to Sallins Road, in Naas on the R445 Newbridge Road and in Newbridge on the L7037 Standhouse Road and Páirc Mhuire.

#### **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 the Thermal Hydrolysis Process 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 Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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.

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

### **Timolin WWTP Upgrade**

This project has been included in the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (STVGP) which will be subject to Irish Water approval.



## **Water Networks Management Projects**

### **Newbridge Town Watermain**

#### **Rehabilitation Works –**

#### **Pairc Mhuire, Newbridge Back Yard Services Scheme (BYSS)**

Works resumed on 07 July 2020. To date, all public side works have been completed where customer consent has been provided. There is 1 property remaining within this scheme, whereby, private side service connection works have still to be completed. Permanent road reinstatement works are currently ongoing as part of this scheme.

### **Kildare Town Watermain**

#### **Rehabilitation Works**

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 have 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.



### **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.

### **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 are scheduled to commence in late October 2020.

### **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 has recommenced Councillor Clinics from September. They are held online for approximately one hour and the target is to have held one for each local authority by end of 2020.





## Environment Services

### COVID-19

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

#### Civic Amenity Facilities

The opening hours for the two civic amenity sites have now returned to normal pre-Covid-19 arrangements. Members of the public are asked to continue to prioritise payment by contactless cards and to exercise social distancing at all times onsite.

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

#### 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. The initiative was supported under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (DCCAE). Mattresses are 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 September. In 2019, 322 tonnes of glass were recovered from the recycling banks. This year, the figure is 427 tonnes - an 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. As the community-based sports facilities have mainly reopened for the public, this is beginning to reduce pressure on the recycling infrastructure.

#### Burial Grounds

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



### **Environment Complaints**

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

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

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. To reduce the potential for cross contamination, customers are asked to follow the advice of their collector when putting out bins for collection. Check their website and social media for updates. For details of approved operators, check the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie) It has been agreed by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) that no time limit will apply to

the collection of household kerbside waste during the current period to allow for the continuity of refuse services by operators. This is a temporary measure.

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

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 interests of public health and will be rescheduled at a later date where feasible. Information and services normally provided are referenced at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/EnvironmentalEducation/>



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

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

## **Dog Control**

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

## **Environment Construction Projects/Schemes**

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

## **Draft Litter Management Plan**

The public consultation on the Draft Litter Management Plan (2020-2023) closed on Friday, 04 September last.

The Kildare Public Participation Network (PPP) hosted an online facilitated workshop for member groups/ organisations as part of the process. A total of 32 submissions were received. These covered a wide range of issues and some of the submissions have been incorporated into the plan, prior to its adoption later this year. A report was presented at the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on 07 October 2020.

## **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.

### **Hazelhatch**

The further hydrological study into flooding at Hazelhatch has been completed. A presentation was given to the Celbridge -Leixlip Municipal District Committee at their September meeting municipal district meeting and the final report has been circulated to the relevant departments. The revised mapping will be used by the OPW to update flood extents on their website: [www.floodinfo.ie](http://www.floodinfo.ie).

### **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 is at an advanced stage, with most of the base layers down, footpath/cycleway near completed, stone walls complete and fencing complete. The works are due to be finished in two weeks, with some snagging remaining. The tenders for the main works have been assessed and a preferred bidder has been identified. It is hoped that the main contract can be signed in the coming week. Kildare County Council has initiated another tender process, for a Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) consultant as this is a requirement of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Licence. It is hoped that a CQA contract will be awarded before Christmas.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)



visited the Kerdiffstown site on Monday 28 September 2020, where a presentation and a site tour took place.

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas is ongoing, in accordance with the EPA Licence. The 3D 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**

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

### **Newbridge Cemetery**

Following the tender assessment, it is hoped to commence works on the car park upgrade shortly.

## **Columbarium Walls**

### **Derrinturn**

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

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

These works are temporarily on hold, pending funding being identified.

## **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 will be 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 SEAI. It is intended that this event will inform 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 CARO's initial involvement in this area was to work in collaboration with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) is 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 the 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 PPN, Cohmairle na nÓg, Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) and municipal districts to engage with the relevant communities.

### Capacity Building

The CARO continues to work with its



**LOCAL AUTHORITY  
Climate Action**  
Training Programme

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 will be piloted online on the 06, 07, 12, 13, 20 and 21 October (it has been decided to pilot the 3 day programme across six half days, online, due to the current restrictions) and rolled out thereafter pending further refinement if so required, and the ongoing health restrictions. 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.

It is also to be noted that the proposed training programme launch by Minister Eamonn Ryan, as arranged for 02 October, has been postponed due to the current health restrictions in place in Dublin.





## **Spatial Planning**

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

## **Key Performance Indicators**

The CARO is currently working on a draft set of indicators to measure local authority performance against the requirements of 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 presented to the National Oversight and Audit Commission for review and discussion.

## **Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting**

All local authorities are currently compiling their first annual progress report on the implementation of their Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and these reports will be submitted to the Department prior to the end of October. The Eastern and Midlands CARO is co-ordinating this work on behalf of the other CARO's and all 31 local authorities.

## **Kildare Climate Action Team**

The Climate Action Officer has been appointed and he has started his work on the co-ordination of the councils Climate Action Team and the implementation of the Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Interviews for the Energy Efficiency Officer have also been completed and this appointment will be finalised in the



coming weeks. The Kildare County Council Climate Action Team has resumed meetings and is prioritising the compilation of a progress report on the implementation of its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy over the past 12 months.

### **New Initiatives**

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

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

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

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee. A brief for consultants is currently being advertised.

#### **Dog Pound**

The dog pound extension and upgrade works are now complete. The facility is now fully reopened. Public access is by appointment. Telephone 059 8623388/045 980588.

#### **Rathangan Public Realm**

The Part 8 will be published shortly.

#### **Kilcullen Public Realm**

The Part 8 will be published shortly.

#### **Monasterevin Public Realm**

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

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

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



extremely positive to date with other local authorities citing this temporary pilot project as a model of good practice.

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

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

### **The Barrow Blueway**

Works have commenced on the Barrow Blueway at Milltown Bridge (3km north of Athy), with 4km now completed.

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

Research is ongoing with public consultation to commence in Quarter 4, 2020 or early 2021 subject to COVID-19 restrictions.



## **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.

### **Stay Safe on Your Staycation**

Regional road safety campaigns were promoted about staying safe while on the road to your staycation. With a 57% increase in people touring Ireland during the post-lockdown period, planning a safe journey, vehicle safety and scenic safety was promoted.

### **School Warden Crossing Sites**

COVID-19 reminder signs were painted at school warden crossings and on pathways leading into school gates to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. School

wardens are operating on staggered times in the morning and afternoon to coincide with new school time schedules.

### **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.

### **Bike Week**

Bike Week was held from 19-27 September 2020. The council promoted Bike Week using its website and social media platforms and on local radio and media.

### **‘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 and parts of it were also used for Monday night’s CrimeCall on RTÉ. The council will revisit this campaign again following the October bank holiday and 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 continued 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; and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) would include undertaking the Statutory Processes.

The deliverables for phase 1 are now complete and being signed off by Kildare County Council to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). 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. Detailed design and CPO preparation stages are now underway.

The next phase of the project will be the completion of the design and procurement of the main contract. However, Kildare County Council is currently endeavoring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme as a prerequisite to the contract going ahead. The preparation of CPO documentation is near completion. Valuers have been appointed. Discussions with Waterways Ireland, Iarnrod 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 to consider 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 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 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The scheme, which will connect Celbridge Town and the Hazelhatch Train Station, 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 project has commenced and a temporary shuttle system over the bridge is in operation. Stainless steel parapet panels are being fabricated and are due to be installed along both railway bridge parapets in late October.

### **Newbridge Southern Relief Road**

An application for funding under Call 2 of the URDF to commence consideration of a proposed Newbridge Southern Relief Road is currently with the DHLGH. Results of the application are expected in October/November 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 Route**

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October, 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist and Leinster Leader on 28 November 2017. No objections/Judicial Reviews were received by the deadline on 23 January 2018. €3 million was included in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) road grants 2019 for this project. Notices to Treat have been issued. 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 has now been returned and assessed. The consultants are currently focused on the preparation of contract documents for Stage 2. Licence agreements with CIE and Waterways



Ireland are a necessary pre-requisite to 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. The following procurements are anticipated in October/November 2020:

- Main Contract- Stage 2.

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

This road with signalised junctions and the 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 proposed date for the full opening of the Maynooth Inner Relief 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.

### **Newbridge Outer Orbital Route**

The Newbridge South Orbital Relief Road (NSORR) is now substantially completed and the Roads Planning Section is currently engaging with the developer on the completion of a snag list as highlighted in the road safety audit stage 3 on the completed works, the transfer of lands under the road corridor to Kildare County Council and the submission of the taking in charge information to the council .

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

This project will not proceed to statutory procedures until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy has been completed due to the reservations of the Kildare - Newbridge Municipal District Committee.

### **Broadband Connection Points**

Kildare County Council is progressing the Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) 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 ready for Vodafone to install the broadband decoder.
- Lullymore Heritage Centre – NBI are to finalise the broadband and install it on Wednesday 07 October. The site will then be ready for Vodafone decoder.
- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre – Kildare County Council has installed the required power and communications cabinet. This site is ready for NBI to install the broadband connection.
- Back Gate Lodge, Kilkea Castle – NBI have confirmed a line of sight survey on 24 September

2020. Kildare County Council is to agree the positioning of a pole and cabinet installation in early October with Kilkea Castle.

### **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. The enabling works will include pole replacement, unblocking ducting and possible new pole/duct installation. The details of this will be confirmed in the coming weeks.



## **Naas Municipal District September 2020**

### **Naas Municipal District Footpath Works**

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

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

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

The Naas Municipal District is currently at pre-construction stage for footpath improvement works at the following location. Construction is to commence in Quarter 4, 2020:

- Church Avenue-Canal Avenue, Sallins.

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

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

The first package of road improvement works (WP1) is now complete. It includes the following works locations:

- R411 Ballymore Road.
- L2008 Clownings (Ardclough).
- L2019 Huttonread/Farmvale.
- L6049 Morganstown.
- L20221 Athgarrett.
- L2019 Beggars End to Arthurstown.



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

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

The third package of road improvement works (WP 3) is now complete. It includes surface improvement to discrete sections the following roads:

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

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

- L29937 - Monread Avenue, Naas.
- L2999 - Lough bui/Corbans Lane, Naas.
- L10005 – Fairgreen, Naas.
- L6032 – Hartwell, Kill.

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

In addition to the above, the Naas Municipal District Office 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 Office will endeavour to progress them in a timely fashion.

The progression of these schemes is subject to the adequate resources being made available. The schemes are as follows:

### **Castlefen, Sallins – Footpath Improvement Project:**

This project is at tender stage and construction is to commence in October 2020.



### **L29937 – Monread Avenue, Naas – Road Improvement Project**

This project is at tender stage and construction is to commence in October 2020.

### **Surface Dressing Works**

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

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

### **Bus Shelters**

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

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

The LPT/Carpark funded works programme for 2020 has been agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee. These works are currently included in the roads and footpath works packages which are progressing through the design/tender/construction stages and will be delivered over the coming months.

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

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

#### **Academy Street**

Works have been completed and the road has been resurfaced.

#### **Melitta Road**

Works have been completed and the road has been resurfaced.





## **Rathangan**

Footpath construction is ongoing on the Edenderry Road R401 and road resurfacing is ongoing. A tender was awarded for general footpath repairs within the municipal district and works are due to commence in the coming weeks.

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

Funding was received under the NTA Active Travel Scheme for Drogheda Street and Main Street in Monastrevin: Footpath upgrade including 3 pedestrian crossings and surface overlay. A tender has been awarded and works have now commenced.

## **Footpath Upgrades in Newbridge**

A tender has been awarded and works are due to commence in the coming weeks.

## **Footpath Upgrades in Rathangan**

Installation of 3 pedestrian crossing and upgrade of footpaths in Rathangan are due to commence in the coming weeks.

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

### **Road Resurfacing Works**

Road resurfacing has been completed at the following locations:

Under the Restoration and Maintenance Grant (Surface Dressing) Scheme:

- Rathbride to Milltown.
- Rathbride Cross to Kilmoney.
- Wheelam Bridge to Rathbride Cross.
- Thomastown Cross to Cloughgarett.
- The council has 60% of the surface dressing programme completed.

Under the Restoration and improvement Grant Scheme:

- Castlefish, L6089.
- Common to Yellow Bog, L6086.
- Ballymee to Melonhill, L6062.
- Derrylea, L7081.
- Allen cross to Roadstone, L3002.





- Southgreen Road to Kildare Town, L7015.
- Blackberry Lane, L7025.
- Blacktrench Road, L7067.

Under the Local improvement Scheme (LIS):

- Lattensbog

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

- A contract has been awarded for Pairc Mhuire. Works have commenced.
- Academy Street- Works have been completed.
- Roundtowers – foothpath works have been completed.
- Ternder has been awarded for Loggstown, Avondale, Brannockstown, Kilcullen and Grangemore with works due to commence in the coming weeks.

#### **National Transport Authority (NTA)**

- Drogheda Street: Upgrade of footpaths in line with the NTA funding.

#### **Clane-Maynooth Municipal District September 2020**

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

- Churchview Crescent, Coill Dubh – footpath repairs.
- Churchview, Coill Dubh – footpath repairs.

##### **Bus Shelters**

No works were carried out in September.

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

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

- L2007 Straffan Village.
- L5049 New Road Straffan.



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

- Carragh GAA, Prosperous – footpath widening
- Installation of driver feedback signs at Killina National School.

## **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.

## **Civil Defence Section Activities During the month of September 2020:**

- Received new Ford Ranger from the Department of Defence.
- Continued to carry out mandatory training for Civil Defence Personnel.

- Attended a HSE/Environmental Health Officer (EHO) audit of the catering unit.
- Engaged with Governance Validation Framework meetings with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC)/Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)/Civil Defence.

## **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District September 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 within the municipal district. The Municipal District Engineer and his team



are working on design and tendering of these schemes. Works must be completed within a very short time frame.

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

All road improvement works planned for 2020 have been completed.

### **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 September 2020**

#### **Pedestrian Works**

Pedestrian Works will commence later in the year in housing estates which have had surveys carried out.

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

- Moone School works have gone out to tender. Preparatory drainage works are being carried out.
- Castledermot School works have gone out to tender. Preparatory drainage works are being carried out.
- Crookstown School works have gone out to tender. Preparatory drainage works are being carried out.



## **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.

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

## **Bus Shelters**

No funding has been allocated to Athy Municipal District .

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

## **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.

## **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.

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

Aftercare works 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.



## Fire Service

<b>Operational Calls</b>		
<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls 2019</b>	<b>Total Calls 2020</b>
Newbridge	422	291
Naas	435	262
Athy	223	143
Maynooth	321	198
Monasterevin	181	118
Leixlip	240	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>1,165</b>

## Fire Safety

	<b>No. Inspections</b>	<b>No. Premises Inspected</b>
2019	75	72
2020	30	28

	<b>No. Fire Safety Complaints</b>
2019	16
2020	6

	<b>No. Fire Safety Certificates</b>
2019	179
2020	152



## Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 30 September 2020

### Building Control

<b>Commencement Notices</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	351
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	345
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	6
Number of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	211	144

<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Number of Certificates received:	646	302
Number Valid	645	301
Number Invalid	1	1
Awaiting processing Additional Information		0
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	118

<b>Disability Access Certificates</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	122	93
Number granted:	131	97
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	0	2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	46





<b>Building Control Active Sites</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of units inspected	1,881	1,315

<b>Development Control Active Sites</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of Active Sites	83

### **Health and Safety**

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

- 45 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Safety committee meeting.
- Lead Worker Representative meeting.
- Quarterly update to the Senior Management Team.



## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2020		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	178	€132,488
Festival Grants	49	€27,725
LPT	161	€716,037
Private Estates	264	€213,842
LARA	78	€63,956
Drehid Grants	31	€217,581
CEP Grants	61	
Education Bursaries	50	
Covid-19 Emergency Fund	65	€80,424
Total	937	€1,452,053

The Education Bursaries Scheme and the Community Enhancement Scheme have been advertised and applications will be assessed during October.



## **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 sixteen 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.

### **Healthy Ireland**

The Healthy Ireland project partners continue to make progress. €30,000 is available to support Community Mental Health Initiatives through a grant scheme as part of the Kildare Healthy Ireland Programme. It was agreed at the LCDC that this will be used in Kildare to support local organisations to provide low/no cost counselling.

It will prioritise applications from the North/North West of the county, particularly those targeting disadvantaged communities or groups. The grant will be advertised in the coming weeks and will be through the People Participation Network (PPN), Kildare County Council and Healthy Ireland partners.

A tender to engage support to develop a Healthy Kildare Plan will be advertised shortly. This plan will focus on how to promote health and wellbeing during and post COVID-19.

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

Applications are closed for the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2020. 61 applications worth €824,626.88 were received. This is over three times the budget available (€247,800). This funding targets community and voluntary groups for small scale capital works. Priority is given to projects in disadvantaged



communities or working with disadvantaged individuals.

The LCDC nominated members to the assessment panel which will be supported by the LCDC Team. 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 with Pobal to assess progress and to discuss 2021 took place in September 2020. This meeting was very positive. Kildare SICAP continues to reach its targets. A presentation of the Youth Employment Service run through SICAP took place at the last LCDC meeting. The Education Training Board (ETB) and Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) representatives

on the LCDC agreed to meet with the County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) to discuss the programme and findings from the recent review.

### **Heads-up**

While Heads Up Kildare continue to engage remotely with men, they have commenced face to face engagement in line with return to work protocols.

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme. The LCDC meeting approved projects to the value of €553,609.94. The budget is almost all committed at this point; however, work continues to support applications. The current programme concludes at the end of the year. Clarity is being sought on the next round of funding with proposals for a transition fund in the Programme for Government.

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. There was a positive sentiment from the members looking forward, and not back, at the opportunities for mid-term/Halloween and Christmas.

Ms Mangan attended Tourism Ireland's virtual industry event as well as virtual sales calls to 30 tour operators from the UK, USA, South America, New Zealand, Australia and Germany at the Golf Ireland Convention.

Kildare Fáilte attended the virtual launch event of the National Famine Way, which passes through Kildare.

As part of the working group for the Royal Canal Greenway, Kildare Fáilte attended meetings to discuss marketing activities for a soft launch in October.

Kildare Fáilte are working with KCC on production of the trailhead and storyboards. Kildare Fáilte also attended online meetings of the Barrow Blueway Marketing Group and the Twinning Liaison Committee.

Ms Mangan and the Chairman of Into Kildare participated in weekly meetings with the Economic Recovery Taskforce, which was established to update and communicate during the restrictions in Kildare.

There were ongoing online meetings and calls supporting tourism providers and members in the county. Ms Mangan visited a number of stakeholders throughout the county.

The Digital Directory was launched. This is a COVID-19 friendly directory highlighting to visitors, and potential visitors, all that Kildare has to offer as well as the opportunity to book accommodation or an admission ticket in advance of their visit. They also have the option to purchase a gift voucher following their stay to drive additional visitation to the county. Since the launch, over a two week



period there have been over 80 offers claimed which is very positive. Photoshoots for the new tourism brochure and the autumn/winter campaign continued in September with the final shoots planned for early October.

Following a meeting of the Kildare Destination Recovery Task Force, concern was raised over the lack of consultation from Fáilte Ireland with regard to the additional funding received specifically for County Kildare. Kildare Fáilte noted at this meeting they had not received the media laydown despite numerous requests and also with Level 3, Dublin restrictions, requested to pause advertising in this market.

The Fáilte Ireland Bespoke Campaign for Kildare commenced with a radio campaign across national and regional stations, print adverts in national press and dedicated social posts on the

Discover Ireland and Ireland's Ancient East channels.

The Kildare Fáilte autumn campaign commenced with a focus on walking and the outdoors: 'Let's Walk Kildare'. The following themes will be 'Feast on the Tastes of Kildare' and 'Visit our Towns and Villages'. This was driven through blog posts, social posts across all channels and an advert, 'This Autumn, staycation in Kildare', in the Irish Independent, Autumn Supplement to drive visitors from around Ireland to book their autumn break in Kildare.

Social media activity and engagement grew substantially throughout the month of September, supporting communication of the hospitality and tourism sector's events and activities focusing on promoting Kildare as a destination for locals to explore – Be a Tourist in Your Own County.





## Library and Arts Service

“There is more treasure in a book than all the pirates loot on Treasure Island”  
Walt Disney.”

### 06 October Level 3

Following the announcement from Government, that the entire country is to be elevated to level 3 of **Recovery and Resilience 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19**, it is not possible to visit Kildare Libraries for browsing or PC appointments from midnight on Tuesday 06 October. A contact and collect request service will be provided, along with online and housebound services.

### Children’s Book Festival

The Children’s Book Festival takes place in October. All events will take place online this year. There are author visits and workshops for schools, two for every main branch and one for each of the part-time branches. Additional events will take place during mid-term, bringing the festival into homes around the county.

The programme will include activist and Vogue cover star Ms Sinead Burke and Ms Gabrielle Kent, author of *Knights and Bikes*, in addition to writing workshops, storytelling, CBI Book Clinic, and author visits from diverse backgrounds.

### Kildare Readers Festival 2020

Kildare Readers Festival is brought to you every year in October by Kildare County Library and Arts Service. The Library Service’s ethos is to connect their readers with authors and artists, working to bring the very best from the world of literature to our audiences through the provision of exciting, innovative and accessible events. Since its inception in 2010, festival audiences have continued to grow and the Library Service look forward to presenting you with the very best from the world of literature and the arts. The 2020 Programme of Events will be streamed daily via the Library Service’s Facebook page [www.facebook.com/KildareReadersFestival](https://www.facebook.com/KildareReadersFestival) between 12 - 18 October. As always, events are free, and this year will not require registration.



Participants this year include 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, Mr 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 Ten Books guests. For more information check out [www.kidlarereadersfestival.ie](http://www.kidlarereadersfestival.ie)

### **Reader Services**

Kildare Libraries have received copies of a new anthology of short stories 'Voices' which marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). It is the latest in the Open-Door series, edited by Irish author Ms Patricia Scanlan and features stories from some of Ireland's most beloved writers. This beautiful collection is designed to be accessible to readers of all levels. It is written in plain English, helping emerging readers gain confidence in their abilities while familiarising themselves with some of our finest wordsmiths. It is available in all Kildare libraries.

Kildare Libraries have purchased copies of the Children's Books Ireland annual reading guide, this year entitled 'Mind Yourself'. The guide recommends the best books under themes of mental health and wellbeing in all genres and age groups. The wider themes in the guide include: anxiety; understanding feelings; grief and loss; relationship with self – to include themes of identity and self-esteem; relationship with others – family, friendships, belonging, isolation etc; phobias and fears; body positivity; life-long illness; wellbeing – including coping skills and mechanisms, meditation, mindfulness, self-help etc.; depression – low mood, sadness. The guide is available in all Kildare Libraries.

### **Secondary School Programme**

The Support to Secondary Schools programme is adapting so that some courses can be delivered in line with COVID-19 safety measures. Creative Writing and an Irish course with author Ré O'Laighleis will take place online. The Forensic Fun workshops have been adapted with the use of an app to allow students to experience this course "contact free" and in line with each school's risk assessment.



### **Surfbox Print, Scan and Go Services**

The Library Service will install this self-service technology in all 14 branches by the end of 2020. This will provide for more efficient and safer practices in the library regarding payments and cash handling. It will also offer the patron greater flexibility as they can send printing to the kiosks from home and then call to pay and collect. There is a tap and pay (cashless) facility.

### **Library App**

The Library Service acquired a new library app for smartphones. The app from SOLUS is available for iOS and Android. It allows library patrons to search and request items for borrowing, it has links to all the libraries eServices such as eBooks and eMagazines so you can borrow straight to your phone/device. Patrons can look up their accounts to keep track of what they have borrowed but also link to other accounts such as their children's' accounts to keep track of their loans. A unique new feature introduced is self-issue to allow library patrons use their smartphones to check out library items to themselves once logged in to their account.

This is particularly useful due to COVID-19 restrictions and need to socially distance.

### **Seeing It, Being it**

The world of Space and Science has come to the Curragh Girls' School this month courtesy of Newbridge Library and award-winning science communicator, writer and performer Dr Niamh Shaw. Beginning on 23 September, *Seeing it, Being It* is a series of five weekly classes conducted online via Zoom exploring the role of women in science. The project has been designed to encourage girls' interest in the sciences and is a response to the statistic that girls are less likely than boys to go on to study science, technology, engineering and math's (STEM) subjects.

### **TTT Programme**

The series of TTT talks/workshops for 2020, designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties or disabilities contains 60 free events this year including ASD-friendly Storytime, talks on Occupational therapy, ADHD, Behavioural Therapy, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Speech and



Language and Helium Arts Pop Up Picnic sessions.

With the COVID-19 restrictions, all events were moved online, and facilitators have been using mixed media to deliver their talks/ workshops via our social media platforms. New talks/ workshops are being uploaded to the TTT Vimeo channel regularly. In addition, TTT catalogues were circulated to health centres, family resource centres and units around the county.

### **Irish Language Events**

A full Irish Language programme for Kildare libraries was organised for 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, face to face events were postponed and will now take place online. These include Richie Conroy workshops for primary schools, Ré Ó' Laighléis - Junior and Leaving Cert student workshops. Art workshops with Monica deBath workshops, Micro Theatre workshops with Clíona deBrí and a Zoom talk with Éanna Ní Lamhna on the 'Grand Canal wildlife' through the seasons. The Ciorcal Comhrá has also moved online with COVID-19 restrictions, as has Storytime as Gaeilge sessions.

### **ShareRing Skills**

Collaboration with the local group Share Ring Skills, a local art group who used the Celbridge Library weekly as a space to meet up until March – they are going to take part in a number of workshops online organised by the Celbridge Library, giving the members an opportunity to continue their group and also to meet socially online. These workshops are funded under the Dormant Accounts.

### **Correspondence Book Club**

Maynooth Community Library have started a children's book club that is operating by correspondence only. The Book Busters read a new book every month and fill in a short book review and other questions on a tailored activity sheet. Once these are returned, staff will comply all the responses into one beautiful newsletter, distributed to the group along with the next title to be read. The group hope that they can all meet in person one day, but for now, they are getting to know each other through the shared love of reading – and magic.



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

Duggan Lynch have won the tender as Main Contractor for the construction phase of the project. Contracts are currently being drawn up. We hope to have the contract signing within the next couple of weeks and the contractor on site in November.

### **Local Studies, Genealogy & Archives Department War of Independence in County Kildare**

The Knockbounce incident in October 1920, Bloody Sunday and Kildare in November 1920, along with the raid by British forces on the Kildare County Council offices in advance of a meeting in November 1920 will all be highlighted in local newspaper articles and on [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) in the coming weeks.

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

The ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in the postponement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Irish Military Seminar scheduled to take place in Riverbank Arts Centre in June. The Seminar has now migrated to an online only format, with interviews with well-known historians. Liz Gillis on Revolutionary Women James Durney on the Curragh Internment Camps, Michael Murphy on Terror in Kildare and Michael Foley on the events of Bloody Sunday in Croke Park are all being interviewed. All interviews will be broadcast online on the Kildare Decade of Commemorations social media and YouTube channel.

### **Digitisation of Kildare County Council Minute Books**

The early volumes of the minute books of Kildare County Council have been digitised and made available for free on the library website in pdf format, accompanied by an introduction by historian Mr Thomas Nelson. These minute books cover the 1899-1924 period and are a key contemporary





record of Kildare during the revolutionary decade.

### **‘Democracy and Change’: The 1920 Local Elections in Ireland**

This publication, commissioned by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), has been added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) in pdf format. It highlights the seminal events of 1920 for local government in Ireland, with the 1920 local elections resulting in local authorities declaring allegiance to Dáil Éireann including Kildare County Council.

### **Other Digitised Local History Material**

Further digitised content has been added to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) recently, including a booklet created to mark the construction of the new mortuary chapel in Naas in the early 1950s and also a booklet produced by the National Graves Association in 1948 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1798 Rebellion in 1948. Further material of Kildare local history and heritage interest will continue to be added and promoted on social media also.

### **Research Queries and Visitors to Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department in Newbridge**

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives continues to answer research queries. Visitors have been welcomed to make appointment under level 3 of the Government Guidelines. No physical access but service continues via email and phone queries. Family history/genealogy queries can be sent to [cilldaragenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:cilldaragenealogy@gmail.com) (or phone 045448350) and local history research queries can be emailed to [localhistory@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localhistory@kildarecoco.ie) (or phone 045448351). Digital content continues





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

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **Culture Night Kildare**

Organising a county wide programme for Culture Night is always a challenge, but never more so than in a pandemic. But Kildare's creatives rose to the challenge and on 18 September, Kildare's Culture Night programme 2020 included 41 events -10 offline and 32 online (with one on/offline). As this year the Arts Council have taken over from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, the Library Service made the decision to consider only artistically relevant proposals. At the same time several projects were directly commissioned by Kildare Arts Service: Kildare COVID-19 notebook project and documentary film; Kildare COVID Heroes Portraits exhibition launch; Garvan de Bruir tour and mini master class with Ambassador Keith Walsh and the Athy ISL Festival Mural Project competition. All these projects were based on the direct participation of locals. All of them focused on the necessity to endure difficulties together

and to prize resilience, as well as the importance of solidarity and local support. All the participating organisations took the message on board and helped spreading the importance of culture beyond its entertaining role.

Those who took up the challenge were really committed to adapt and at the same time maintain high standards of content quality and audience engagement. They considered Culture Night as an opportunity to show how arts can reach people whenever they are, to find creative solutions and a way to discover new potential audiences. The result was a very successful Culture Night with over 12,000 people watching, commenting and taking part over the weekend.

#### **Kildare COVID 19 Heroes Project**

The COVID-19 Heroes portrait project is a celebration of the work both large and small that kept us going and connected in Kildare through this unprecedented time. In July of this year Kildare Library and Arts Service put a call out for members of the public to nominate someone they felt



deserved to be recognised for their efforts to help and support others throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 30 nominations were made, and 10 nominees were selected to have their portraits painted. Seanie Duane Newbridge, postman, painted by Linda Marshall; Garda Gary Cogan Naas, painted by Cathy Callan; Miriam O'Keefe Ahern Maynooth, community volunteer, with artwork by Clodagh Kelly, Helena Dunne Clane, retail manager, painted by Emma Boyce; Sarah Byrne Caragh, health care worker, with artwork by Claire Malone; Larry Byrne Caragh, postman with artwork Claire Malone, Bobby Harpur Leixlip, musician painted by Sandra Petit Frere; John Doyle Curragh, postman, painted by Paul Woods, Charlie Piccoro Leixlip, health care worker, painted by Paul Woods and Olivia Nestor Naas, community volunteer, painted by Claire Murphy. The Kildare COVID Heroes portrait project was widely viewed across Ireland and abroad and was shared by An Garda Síochána social media, as Garda Gary Cogan was one of the heroes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZNBTToPyXcw>

**Mezzo-Soprano Sharon Carty appointed Maynooth Campus Associate Artist**

Maynooth College and Maynooth University's Music Department and Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy, in partnership with Music Generation Kildare and Kildare County Council, are delighted to announce the appointment of Sharon Carty (mezzo soprano) as Maynooth Campus Associate Artist for the coming academic year, 2020 – 2021.

Following over a decade of professional performing experience in the concert halls and opera houses of continental Europe, Sharon is now based in Kildare, and is excited about recent musical developments in the county. One of these is the appointment of Alan Costello as Music Development Officer for Music Generation Kildare, an organisation with which Sharon has already forged promising links. 'Music Generation Kildare is delighted to support this new innovative initiative which supports Musician Educators in the county. The young musicians in Kildare will benefit greatly from Sharon's extensive



experience and we look forward to the performance music opportunities this residency will offer children and young people in the county over the coming year 'says Alan. Dr John O'Keeffe, Director of Church Music and Choral Groups at Maynooth, gives the following account of the project's genesis: 'This grew out of a lockdown reality in which people, including musicians, were confined to their local

areas. It was suggested to Sharon that the Library Service put on a virtual concert of Bach's music from Maynooth College Chapel on Midsummer's Day. The success of this in turn led to a larger scale event for Kildare's Culture Night, and eventually to the announcement of this exciting initiative.



## **Parks**

### **Green Flag Awards**

Green Flag awards which are an international accreditation for parks excellence were announced in September. Newbridge Town Park retained its Green Flag Award this year. The Community Garden in Mooretown Drive, Rathcoffey was entered in the competition for the first time this year and also received a Green Flag Award.

### **Open Space Strategy**

The online public consultation strategy is still ongoing and closes on 22 October. A consultation workshop with internal departments was held on 30 September and workshops with external stakeholders such as the Office of Public Works (OPW), Bord na Móna, Coillte and sporting organisations was held on 08 October. A similar workshop for Councillors was held on 09 October. An audit of 20 parks around the county has been completed. All this work will now be analyzed and contribute to the final strategy which it is hoped will be presented to the members in 2021.

### **Castledermot Playground**

Phase 1 works on the masterplan for the Fairgreen is ongoing. Works on the new playground are due to start on 01 November.

### **Allenwood Playground**

It is planned to have the Part 8 advertised by the end of the month.

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

Archaeology investigation work has been completed and this information will now be used to complete the detail design for the site.

### **The Bowl Open Space, Riverforest Estate, Leixlip**

Reinstatement of the large open space in Riverforest, Leixlip has been completed. The site had been overgrown and was being used for illegal dumping. The dumping has been removed and the area has been sown with grass so it can now be maintained by residents. The work was funded by LPT provided by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee.



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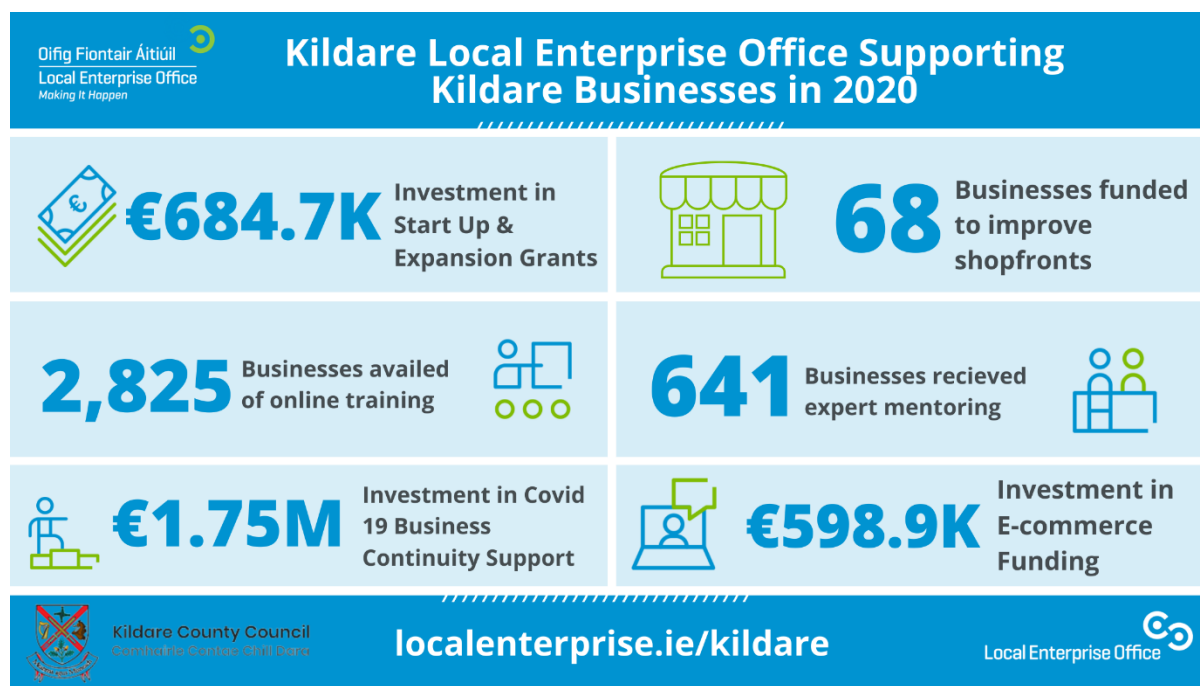
### **Tree Works Programme 2020**

Works have started on the preparation of tree works tenders for the county.

It is hoped to have all the electoral areas tendered by the end of the year.



## Local Enterprise Office



## Kildare County Council Shop Front Update

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District	
Original Budget	€40,000
Grants Awarded	€31,610
Balance from Shop Front Grant Budget Only	€ 8,390
Additional Balance of €10000 from LPT Allocation	€10,000
<b>Total Balance Available</b>	<b>€18,390</b>

Athy Municipal District	
Original Budget	€40,000
Grants Awarded	€35,142
<b>Total Balance Available</b>	<b>€4,858</b>

Naas Municipal District	
Original Budget	€40,000
Grants Awarded (two applications pending quotes)	€34,604
<b>Total Balance Available</b>	<b>€5,396</b>

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District	
Original Budget	€40,000
Grants Awarded	€ 3,526
<b>Total Balance Available</b>	<b>€36,474</b>





<b>Clane-Maynooth Municipal District</b>	
Original Budget	€40,000
Grants Awarded	€11,722
<b>Total Balance Available</b>	<b>€28,278</b>

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

### **New COVID-19 Business Grant Launched – Micro Enterprise Assistant Fund**

The Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund will assist businesses with less than 10 employees, which are ineligible for existing grants, with a voucher of up to €1,000 to help them adapt and invest to rebuild their business. The grant is a contribution towards the cost of reopening or keeping a business operational and reconnecting with employees and customers. Grants of a minimum of €500 to a maximum €1,000 in respect of vouched expenditure will be available to eligible businesses under the initiative.

Please advise constituents to apply at:  
<https://micro-enterpriseassistance.ie/>

## **Brexit Support – Brexit Mentoring and Customs Training Available**

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

Regardless of a hard or soft Customs Brexit, goods to/from the UK or transiting through the UK, will be subject to strict compliance and documentation requirements. Kildare County Council LEO are providing customs training in October, November and December. Businesses can book places at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Brexit-Mentoring-and-Customs-Training-Available.html>

The LEO is also providing expert Brexit mentoring free of charge.

Business can book mentoring at:

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



The LEO recently launched the 'Change is Coming' Brexit campaign locally. The objective of this marketing campaign is to ensure Kildare businesses are aware of the upcoming Brexit deadline of 31 December and to promote the array of supports Kildare LEO have available to support Kildare businesses in ensuring Brexit preparedness.

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

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

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

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

### **Please Encourage Constituents to Register for Shop County Kildare**

You can browse and register for Shop County Kildare at:

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

### **Kildare LEO Launched Start Your Own Business on The Blueway**

Following plans to upgrade the Barrow Canal towpath 46km of Blueway as a major economic boom for the communities in counties Laois and Kildare, Kildare LEO are providing the Start Your Own Business on a waterway programme to potential new businesses in the tourism, recreation and hospitality sectors.



This programme aims to enable participants to acquire the skills, knowledge and confidence to develop their waterway business idea, complete their business plan and start up their business. This programme will be delivered over 6 weeks online. Please advise constituents, booking is available at:

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

### **Kildare LEO #JoinIn Virtual Coffee Break Series**

The objective of this series is to provide Kildare business owners with the opportunity to communicate with peers experiencing similar issues and stresses, share ideas and discuss topics of interest.

To date this series has featured two former Dragons, Mr Sean Gallagher and Mr Gavin Duffy, as well as speakers from the Entrepreneurs Academy and Digicom.

The series has been exceptionally well received with an average of 65 businesses in attendance each week, and a positive feedback across social media. The next session which will be held on Monday 12 October features Kildare native and recent National Enterprise Awards Winner, Ms Sonia Deasy. Please advise constituents of these weekly virtual events. These are available to view and book at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Join-In-Virtual-Coffee-Break-Series/>



## **Economic Development - Capital Projects**

### **MERITS**

The completion of the MERITS 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. MERITS is currently developing its network of partners and members. The facility will be an ideal location for High Potential Start Up companies looking for a vibrant, interactive workspace, which is already networked into an array of supports (as provided by the LEO) and key stakeholders. It will also cater for larger companies seeking to place a smaller project team into a creative environment where conceptualisation can be turned into commercialisation. A site visit took place recently to see the progress onsite. The site visit was hosted by the main contractor Duggan Lynch and involved Mr Peter Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Kildare County Council, Mr John Daly Project Manager, Mr Conor Sweeney, Programme Manager, Mid East

Regional Enterprise Plan, Ms Sharon O’Gara, Kildare County Council and the new MERITS General Manager, Mr Joe O’Carroll.

Mr Joe O’Carroll, a native of Kildare, started as General Manager of MERITS at the beginning of the month and has travelled the “StartUp - ScaleUp - Exit” journey with his own companies previously. He will oversee its transition from construction project to its operational phase. He has begun marketing the facility to selected technology startups in the region and will also now begin recruiting for a Programme Manager. A very attractive suite of discounts is being assembled for tenant companies, from the likes of technology giants Amazon Web Services, Hubspot and Stripe. These credits and discounts will make moving to the MERITS building a very attractive proposition for emerging tech companies.



The MERITS's first public event will take place on Saturday, 10 October to coincide with former USA Vice-President Al Gore's Programme of 24 hours of Global events related to climate action. The MERITS webinar will tie in the importance of digital technology in the fight against climate change. Registration is available by emailing [JoinUs@merits.ie](mailto:JoinUs@merits.ie). Details are available at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/LS53W>

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### **Equine Tech Innovation Hub**

Through the structure of the County Kildare Community Network (CKCN) the Kildare LEO plans the establishment of Equine Tech Innovation Ireland as a sectoral stimulus to develop an equine innovation hub of enterprise, innovation, applied research, commercialisation and learning. Uniquely, it will offer a single access source of equine technical and entrepreneurial innovation.

The Head of Enterprise, Ms McNabb submitted an application for pre approval of funding to Leader for

€87,821.25 (75% allowed based on costs) and this was approved at the September meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The CKCN tendered for the conversion of the museum building (143m<sup>2</sup>) to offices at the Irish National Stud on Monday 29 June. The tender process has been completed and the report has been finalised and the LEO will be in a position to appoint the winning contractor in October.

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

In 2019 Kildare County Council was the benefactor of €500,000 from Coca-Cola on their departure from Athy as a contribution towards the development of the old Model School in Athy into the Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. The CKCN/Kildare County Council was awarded €476,250 under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), Category 2 Funding to support the appointment of an architect led design team to perform professional services for the delivery of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. The CKCN/Kildare County Council tendered for the contract on 16 June to



engage a consultant comprising a multi-disciplined competent and suitably experienced architect led design team to provide relevant consultancy services in respect of the design and delivery of Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led by Bluett O'Donoghue Architects has been appointed.

The project team has held the first meeting with the design team and work will now commence on design and the Part 8 planning process for the hub. The team are also in the process of preparing a funding application for Category 1 RRDF funding in advance of the 01 December deadline.





## 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/!IDOJ39>

Objective	Support	Link
<b>Financial</b>		
<b>Immediate Cashflow</b>	<b>Restart Grant</b> – for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through The Rates Section) <b>Note: The closing date has been extended to 31 October.</b>	<a href="http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/">http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/</a>
	<b>MFI COVID-19 Business Loan</b> – first 6 months is interest and repayment free, reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor has been assigned to complete loan application form.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html</a>
	<b>Microenterprise Grant</b> - The Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund will assist businesses with less than 10 employees, which are ineligible for existing grants, with a voucher of up to €1,000.	<a href="https://microenterpriseassistance.ie/">https://microenterpriseassistance.ie/</a>
<b>Generate Revenue with Online Sales</b>	<b>Shop County Kildare</b> – A new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html</a>
<b>Upgrade Shopfronts and Implement Outdoor COVID-19 Signage</b>	<b>Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme.</b>	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-</a>



		<a href="#">Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html</a>
<b>Advisory</b>		
<b>Expert Strategic Mentoring</b>	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with A panel of specialist mentors.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE</a>
<b>Health and Safety Guidance</b>	Free of charge 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.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE</a>
<b>Managing Employees in Line with Government Guidelines</b>	Free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and bringing staff back to work in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE</a>
<b>Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing</b>	Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing.	Email <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> to apply
<b>Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales.</b>	Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a>
<b>Communications</b>		
<b>Frequent Updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and Services as Well as Support Documents and Publications</b>	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update and online knowledge hubs.	<p>HOE Note: <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html</a></p> <p>Sign up to newsletter: <a href="https://localenterprise.us8.list-">https://localenterprise.us8.list-</a></p>



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Access to the LEO Team and Specialists.	LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry.	<a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> 045980838

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