



Chief Executive's Management Report – February 2021

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements During COVID-19

Coronavirus
COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Access to Public Offices Restricted – Level 5 COVID-19 Restrictions

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

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

With Level 5 COVID19 restrictions continuing, access to our public offices is restricted to appointment only and should be limited to urgent and necessary business. In accordance with Public Health advice staff are working remotely as much as possible and work is continuing to enable staff to deal with queries online and by phone on their laptops. All meetings are held online on Microsoft TEAMS. Some staff are required to attend the offices to carry out tasks that cannot be done remotely but this is being kept to a minimum.

Appointments where necessary will be facilitated but must be made in advance at <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/>

You can continue to conduct business online at www.kildarecoco.ie or email customerservice@kildarecoco.ie or Phone 045 980 200.

Our range of online services can be viewed here:

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/OnlineServices/>

Please do not attend our offices without an appointment. Your co-operation is appreciated.



Kildare Community Call Helpline

Freephone 1800 300 174

Email covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie.

Text KILDARE to 50555.

Kildare County Council's out of hours service provider has taken up calls outside normal work hours Monday to Friday and at weekends.

Community calls are handled by
Customer Services .

Current opening hours are

8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. 7 days a week.



News Items

Illumination of The Hill of Allen

Kildare Fáilte organised for the Hill of Allen to be illuminated for the first time on 31 January and 01 February as a symbol of hope for the year ahead (see page 70).



New campaign to get Kildare reading during COVID-19 Lockdown

Ireland Reads is a new campaign to get the whole country reading this month in the lead up to a national day of reading on Thursday, 25 February (see page 70).

COVID-19 Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID-19 (see page 88-92).

Dates for Your Diary

Ethics Declaration Forms

Ethics Declaration Forms are due back with the Ethics Registrar by 28 February (see page 4).

Briefing on the County Development Plan process

A briefing on the County Development Plan process takes place on Thursday 18 February 2021 at 2pm on Microsoft Teams (see page 13).

Draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027

The Draft Naas LAP 2021-2027 is due to be published on 25 February 2021 (see page 13).

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

The closing date for receipt of applications for both the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund schemes has been extended to 19 March 2021 (see page 17).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

26 April 2021	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
26 July 2021	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
29 November 2021	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.



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Corporate Services

Irish Language Scheme

Kildare County Council's Draft Irish Language Scheme for 2021-2024 was welcomed by the elected members at their January 2021 plenary meeting of council. The Draft Scheme has been submitted to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the decision of the Minister of State. The Draft Scheme has also issued to An Coimisinéir Teanga.

Value Your Vote

The Live Register for 2021/22 will come into force on 15 February 2021 and the public can check their registration at:

www.checktheregister.ie.

This Register applies for any elections or referenda held in the period up to 15 February 2022. More information on elections and voting is available on our [website](#)

NOAC Performance Indicators

The 2019 NOAC performance indicators report was published in December 2020 and details circulated

to the members. The indicators for Kildare for 2019 we added to the Annual Report 2019 and updated on the website and members portal and reviewed by the Audit Committee and noted by the CPG and Council. NOAC have just issued guidelines for the Performance Indicators Report 2020 with a deadline for return of data by 30th April 2021.

Data Protection

Section 40 briefings were held with members of Naas MD on the 7/1/21; Athy MD members on the 18/1/21 and Kildare Newbridge MD members on the 3/2/21. Briefings are being arranged for the Clane Maynooth MD and the Celbridge Leixlip MD.

Freedom of Information

Annual Statistics 2020

Category	
Personal	30
Non Personal	120
Mixed	2
Total	152

Decision	
Granted	50
Part Granted	36
Refused	53
Withdrawn	13
Total	152



Members Services

email as attendees. The operation of the system will be kept under review.

Ethics Declaration Forms

Ethics Declaration Forms are due back with the Ethics Registrar, Mr Ger Maher, Building and Development Control, by 28 February. Due to the ongoing pandemic, these forms can be returned by email.

Meetings

All meetings of the council, including the Municipal District Committees took place remotely on Microsoft Teams in January with both the press and public in attendance. Members Services continue to work with the elected members and with the IT Department in delivering an efficient, effective, and professional platform for online meetings. The method of access for press and public on TEAMS has been changed for the February meetings and they are now being invited by



Finance and Information Technology

Financial Reports

The Annual Financial Statement for 2020 is currently being prepared. This will be presented to full council once complete.

Actual Expenditure v Budget Reports for 2021 will be submitted to full council as part of the Monthly Management Report from March onwards.



Housing

COVID-19 Update

Homeless Services

Engagement with the Mid-East Regional Homeless local authorities (Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is continuing, in addition to fortnightly engagement with the national leads for homelessness through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The focus for these meetings is COVID-19 updates in the regions and cases in services in the mid-east remains very low. Presentations of single adults continues to be a challenge however, progress is being made in moving individuals and families on from private emergency accommodation through allocations and through the work of the Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Placefinder service.

The incidence of COVID-19 in Homeless Services nationally remains very low and this is also the case in Kildare and the mid-east region. Kildare County Council continues to have 7 isolation units available for use should the need arise.

The Cold Weather Initiative remains in place in Kildare with 18 of the 24 bed spaces currently in use. Beds for an extreme weather event are also available for use in the Kerdiffstown Facility should the need arise and the operation of this will be managed by the McVerry Trust with full adherence to HSE COVID-19 Guidelines. Information gathering and engagement with the HSE with regard to the vaccination rollout for frontline staff working in homeless services has commenced.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status February 2021
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village.	18 units	Tenders received and being assessed. Expect to receive report on tenders and submit for Stage 4 Approval before the end of February 2021.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3).	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Design Team re-engaged working to complete Part 8 documentation for early March 2021.
Coill Dubh.	10 units	Architectural and Quantity Surveyor services being provided in-house. Building Services Engineering and Civil/Structural Engineering consultants appointed. Preparation of tender documents commenced.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin.	16 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage4 (DHLGH) Quarter 2, 2021.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge.	37 units	Tender for design team being prepared to progress scheme to Part 8.
Dispensary Site Carbury.	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultants tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.
Approval Stage 1		Status February 2021
Old Greenfield, Maynooth.	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units	Tender assessment for appointment of design being completed.
Ambassador Site, Kill.	35 units	Tender for appointment of design team received 26 November 2020.



Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	57 units	Stage 1 approval received 30 November 2020. Stage 2 and design team tender documentation in preparation.
Caragh Road, Naas.	73 units	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 1, 2021.
Group Housing Andrew, Athy.	5 units	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 1, 2021.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status February 2021
Newtown House, Leixlip.	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received April 2020. Part 8 application in preparation with launch anticipated in Quarter 1, 2021.
Narraghmore.	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from the DHLGH in September 2019. Part 8 launched Thursday 10 December 2020
Glandore, Athy.	4 units	Stage 1 Approval received from the DHLGH in September 2020. Stage 2 in preparation.
Patrician Ave, Naas.	1 unit	Brief being finalised with Housing to allow the Stage 1 application to be prepared.
Shamrock Stores.	1 unit	Stage 1 application being prepared
Iniscarra, Athy.	4 units	Survey work complete. Brief to be agreed with Housing.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status February 2021
Craddockstown Road, Naas.	74 units	74 units complete (36 in June, 38 in August).
Nancy's Lane, Clane.	77 units	Completion expected Quarter 2/Quarter 3, 2021. Revised programme to be advised.
Andrew, Athy.	50/60 units	Design team appointed and initial design proposal circulated for comment.



Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status February 2021
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy.	35 units	Transfer of site transfer now completed. No site works permitted under COVID-19 restrictions.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins.	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Due for completion Quarter 3, 2021.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip.	24 units	Tender issued for design team. Feasibility issued to Kildare County Council for comment.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas.	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Cluid tendering for appointment of a design team.

Approved Housing Body Schemes (ABH's) - Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status February 2021
KARE	3 Units Craddockstown	Part 8 planning application lodged 17 December 2020.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG.	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	Due for completion Quarter 1, 2021.
Sofia Housing.	35 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	Revised proposal to increase development from 28 to 35 units received from Sophia Housing. Proposal submitted for pre-planning assessment.
Cluid.	29 units Dominican Lands Athy	Stage 1 Approval received July 2020. Design team appointed and initial design proposal received.
The Peter McVerry Trust	5 units Sallins	Revised proposal expected February 2021.



Acquisitions in Progress in 2021

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress 2021
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	72	27
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	106	146
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	111
Total	255	379	219	284

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

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2019	2020
Total Approved	€19,692,336	€7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€10,160,922	€2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals)

Rental Standards Inspections

In accordance with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Guidance, inspections during Level 5 restrictions continue on properties for inclusion in the Leasing Programme.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

36 new HAP tenancies were set up in January, giving a total of 2,383 active tenancies in County Kildare. As a result of processing improvements, the turnaround time for HAP files has been reduced to 3-4 weeks.



Families in Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 January 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	17	27	34
6 - 12 Months	13	15	12
12 - 18 Months	9	13	9
18 - 24 Months	12	21	33
24 - 30 Months	5	9	13
36 Months +	0	0	0
Total	56	85	101

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 January 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	2	3	7
6 - 12 Months	0	0	0
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	1	3	1
24 - 30 Months	3	5	11
+ 36 Months	4	7	10
Total	10	18	29



Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan (CDP)

The review of the Kildare County Development Plan formally commenced on Monday 11 January 2021 with the publication of the statutory notice and Issues paper. This starts 8 weeks of public consultation, during which two online public meetings will be held. The first online public meeting took place on the Wednesday 03 February and a constructive, informative meeting was had. A second meeting took place on 11 February. This consultation period commences the Statutory 99-week period for the Development Plan Review and preparation of the County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029. Ongoing work is being carried out in preparation of the Development Plan Review.

A briefing for members on the County Development Plan process takes place on Thursday 18 February at 2pm on Teams

Local Area Plans (LAP's)

The Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027 was published on 17 December 2020 and was on public display until 08 February 2021.

The Draft Naas LAP 2021-2027 has been issued to the environmental consultants for final reports and assessment. The Draft LAP is due to be published on 25 February 2021 with 7 accompanying documents. The Draft LAP will be on public display for 6 weeks until 08 April 2021. An Informal briefing with the Naas Municipal District Committee took place on 10 February 2021. Public consultation will be aligned with public health restrictions. All documents will be made available on the website and on the council's consultation portal.



Planning Applications Received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: January 2021	
Jan	Year		No.	Total Granted:	54
2019:	87	87	318	Retention:	16
2020:	74	74	269	Extension of Duration:	1
2021:	100	100	33	Total Refused:	17

Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Applications to An Bord Pleanála

Pre-application Consultation					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
SHD202009	2	Cairn Homes Ltd	349 Apartments at Mariavilla – Phase 3; at Dunboyne Road, Maynooth.	349	Pre-application decision due 06/01/2021 (Overdue).

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
20308943	3	Westar Investments Ltd	333 units at Capdoo, Clane.	333	19/04/2021



21309087	3	Debussy	192 units at Western side of Millicent Road and Southern side of Prosperous Road, Clane.	192	27/04/2021
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Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
21/117	Johnstown Bridge Spire Ltd.	68 residential units at Johnstownbridge.	Pre-validation	
21/84	Ummeras Wind Farm Ltd.	5 No. 169m high wind turbines and associated works at Ummeras, North Monasterevin Area.	Valid	18/03/2021.
20/307279 and 20/307284	Bord na Móna.	Application for substitute consent for turf cutting at Allen Bog and Kilberry Bog to An Bord Pleanála.	Withdrawn	03/02/2021.
20/1143	Musgrave Ltd.	Extension and to distribution centre at Boycetown, Kilcock, an increase of 12,785 sqm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted.	Valid	Further Information 26/11/2020.
20/1368	K Club Ltd.	Demolition and Extensions to Hotel	Valid	01/03/2021
20/1403	Bernard Moran.	94 Dwelling units plus creche at Curryhills, Prosperous.	Valid	NIS requested in accordance with 177T (5).
20/1284	Ballymore Newbridge Developments.	Increase the number of units from 385 to 395 at Roseberry, Newbridge.	Further Information	Requested 16/12/2020.



20/1338	Ballymore Naas Developments.	Retention and completion of temporary construction site entrance and access road off the R448 Kilcullen Road, Naas at Bellingsfield residential development, Pipers Hill.	Further Information	Requested 06/01/2021.
20/1418	Elgin Energy Services.	Solar Farm- 10.8Ha at Kerdiffstown and Monread, Naas.	Further Information	Requested 26/01/2021.

Historic Planning Registers

The Historic Planning registers are now available to view online at:

<https://esearch.informa.ie/kildare/>

Users are required to register to use the system. This project carried out by the Planning Department and the IT Department will make planning searches easier with the indexes and mapping dating back to 1964 available to view without the need to visit the Planning Department. Planning searches on more recent applications are available on the online planning system at:

<http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/public/planningsearch/171>

Section 254 Licences

The waiver of fees in respect of tables and chairs outside of qualifying

businesses has been extended to 28 February 2021. Only 10 businesses have availed of the waiver and these licences will now be extended. To date, 16 businesses have applied for and received licences.

The breakdown of the current licences issued by municipal districts/towns is as follows:

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District – 10 Maynooth.

Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District – 1 Leixlip.

Kildare Newbridge Municipal District – 2 Kildare Town and 2 Newbridge.

Naas Municipal District – 1 Naas.



Conservation Update

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has recently announced the following schemes for 2021 with respect to structures on the Record of Protected Structures or within Architectural Conservation Areas:

- (i) Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) (€2,500 - €15,000 per application).
- (ii) BHIS Routine Maintenance and Minor Repairs (<€2,000).
- (iii) Historic Structures Fund (Stream 1 €15k - €50k aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works and Stream 2 €50k - €200k for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures where a clear community or public benefit is demonstrated).
- (iv) Pilot Stream for Vernacular Structures (not on the Register of Protected Structures (RPS) or within

Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's)).

- (v) Pilot Stream for Historic Shopfronts.

The closing date for receipt of applications for both the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund schemes has been extended to 19 March 2021. The Kildare County Council Thatching Grant Scheme for 2021 is now closed. Five applications were received. A budget of €10k has been set aside for this grant scheme.

Vacant Sites Update 2020

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

Having considered each of the surveyed sites against the 'tests' as set out in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended), a total of 34 Section 7(1) notices were issued to landowners. Of the 34 notices issued, 15 Section 7(3) notices



(formally placing sites on the Vacant Sites Register) were issued in December. Landowners have an opportunity to appeal any 7(3) notices to An Bord Pleanála. The council is currently in the process of seeking

tenders for valuation services with respect to the relevant sites to be entered on the register.

To date, the decision by Kildare County Council to enter 15 sites on the Vacant Site's Register - 8 have been appealed to An Bord Pleanála as follows:

No. of Appeals	Kildare County Council File Ref.	ABP File Ref.	Vacant Site Location
1	KILD-07	309200-21	Former Magee Barracks.
2	KILD-03	309246-21	Rathbride Road, Kildare Town.
3	KILD-04	309247-21	Rathbride Road, Kildare Town.
4	NEW-01	309170-21	Piercetown, Newbridge.
5	KILD-01	309290-21	Rathbride Road, Kildare Town.
6	MON-05	309297-21	Malthouse, Canal Harbour.
7	MAY-05	309295-21	Old Rail Park, Maynooth.
8	MAY-06	309296-21	Old Rail Park, Maynooth.

Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2021-2031

Following the extensive public consultation programme carried out in 2020, work has now commenced on

analysing the findings and preparing the final strategy. The Open Space Strategy will also inform the review of the County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029.



Department of Education and Skills

Ongoing consultations are taking place between Kildare County Council and the Department of Education and Skills

with respect to the provision of schools in the Kildare/Newbridge/Curragh Environs, Celbridge, Naas and Blessington Environs.

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 are almost complete:

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Grant Awarded
Ballymore Eustace	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000.00
Punchestown, Eadestown	Cycle Cafe	€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

Design work has commenced on the following projects, with physical works underway at Poplar Square, Naas:



Location	Total estimated project cost	Amount of Town and Village Grant Funding Requested for This Project
Leixlip Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Celbridge Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Newbridge Town Hall Environs and Georges Street	€45,000	€40,000
Main Street, Naas and Environs	€60,000	€40,000
Main Street, Maynooth and Environs	€45,000	€40,000
Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council	€11,000	€10,000

The following applications have been successful under the main Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020:

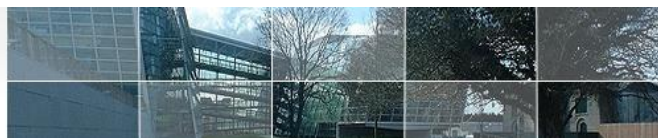
Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Funding Requested	Comments
Ardclough	Heritage Centre Phase 2	€97,000	€87,300	Ardclough Heritage Centre providing match funding.
Clane	Main Street and Clane Abbey Community Centre	€250,000	€200,000	Clane-Maynooth LPT match funding.



Athy	Enterprise Centre improvements	€99,000	€89,100	Enterprise Centre to provide match funding.
Sallins	Healthcheck and Town Renewal Plan	€70,000	€63,000	Naas LPT match funding.

Special Projects and Public Realm Team

Concept
Athy -Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence after the adoption of the Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP).
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Hydrological survey to be carried out.
Kildare-Newbridge – Collaboration with AE on design of Academy Street.
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan- Included in the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) application submitted 29 May 2020.
Clane-Maynooth - Maynooth-Town Branding and Signage – included in URDF application submitted 29 May 2020.
Naas - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.
Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured.
Part 8
Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published February 2021.



<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking underway. Temporary closure of Market Square carp ark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26January 2021.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 complete and ready for publication in February 2021.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants and Design</p>
<p>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works have commenced with almost 11km of the 48km before Christmas. Works will recommence once current restrictions are lifted.</p>
<p>Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Athy Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>



<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued. .</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process</p>
<p>Tender Consultants</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Project kick off meeting held.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. The Paul Hogarth Company appointed and project inception meeting held on 26 June. Joint site visit took place on 02 September. Public consultation to commence early 2021.</p>
<p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design is now commencing. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in early 2021 and will take 9 months to complete.</p>



<p>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.</p>
<p>Tender Works</p>
<p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Part 8 and detailed designed being prepared.</p>
<p>Design</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with urban designers. Meeting with key landowners (Cassidy Distillery Buildings) held 22 July 2020. Draft document under review. Public consultation will recommence in March 2021.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Included in URDF application submitted on 29 May 2020.</p>
<p>Detailed Design</p>



Kildare-Newbridge – 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.
Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. 5 no. tenders received. Contractor to be appointed.
On Hold
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting to be scheduled.
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured.
Construction
Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.
Naas – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Works will recommence once current restrictions are lifted.
Complete
Athy - Narraghamore-Socila Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.
Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.
Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.
Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December 2020.



period before being handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations in the summer 2021. 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 have been commissioned and will be handed over

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 were completed and commissioned in 2020. The sewerage network is due to be handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations by the end of Quarter 1, 2021. The pumping stations are being operated by the contractor for a 12 month proving

to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations following the taking in charge of the Newbridge Outer Orbital Relief Road by Kildare County Council.

Contract 2B (Network)

This contract was signed by Irish Water and Coffey Construction Ltd on 08 August 2019 and it has a 30-month construction programme.

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The current major network improvement works are continuing on



the Clane Rising Main adjacent to Alexander Bridge in Clane where the contractor is directionally drilling under the River Liffey to connect the pipelines either side of the river.

In Newbridge, pipeline works continue in Páirc Mhuire housing estate and preparatory works are ongoing as part of the pipeline to be installed on the Athgarvan Road under a road closure (due to commence 10 February).

Foul Pumping Station

upgrade/improvement works are continuing at Sallins Pumping Station (additional storm tank/new foul pumps and controls), Clane Pumping Station (new pumping station under construction) and Monread Pumping Station (new pumping station under construction).

Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility DBO Contract Variation

Veolia Water Ireland advanced works on this variation to the Design Build Contract (DBO) contract and completed these works in Quarter 4, 2020. Operational commissioning of the Thermal Hydrolysis Process Plant is continuing. The Exelys THP is

intended to be fully operational by end of Quarter 1, 2021.

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 nearly complete on the public roads and on private lands. Irish Water and their representatives are negotiating with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.

Capital Projects

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.
- Temporary pumping arrangements to transfer sewage from the buffer tank to the public gravity sewerage system and on to Allenwood Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) for treatment and disposal.
- In order to progress the agreed temporary solution to negate the need for ongoing tankering, Irish Water is currently seeking to acquire the land needed to develop the new foul pumping station at the buffer tank site.
- This will then allow Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations to construct the temporary solution to install a temporary foul pumping station at this location which will pump into the existing gravity sewerage system at Powerstation Road and on to

the Allenwood WWTP for treatment and disposal.

- It is hoped that the land acquisition can be completed reasonably quickly so that these temporary works can be arranged and completed by Quarter 2/Quarter 3, 2021 and deliver expected cost savings.

A significant benefit of this is the elimination of the need for tankering from the buffer tank, particularly during the winter months. As soon as the land has been acquired by Irish Water, it is intended that these temporary works will progress and be completed by Quarter 2/Quarter 3 and before winter 2021. The members will be kept informed. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-term pumping solution at the buffer tank site.

Timolin WWTP Upgrade

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



submitted by the council following a workshop held recently. This scheme was ranked high in the council's priority list due to commitment made to locals and public representatives in 2017 and the approval of a Part VIII planning process. Irish Water need to hold workshops with the rest of the local authorities before they progress Kildare County Council's priority list.



Water Networks Management Projects

Suncroft Village Water Connection Service Transfer Works

This project involves the transfer of approximately 30 water service connections within the Village of Suncroft along the Suncroft Road (L-3007) from an existing cast iron water main to an existing HPPE main. Works will also involve the decommissioning of 850 metres of cast iron mains along this route. It is expected that these works will commence in Quarter 1, 2021.

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

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme. Permanent road reinstatement works are now complete. A project review meeting is scheduled for 11 February 2021 between Kildare County Council,

Irish Water, and the regional contractor. The schedule for decommission works phase will be known at this stage.

Kildare Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works

Academy Street/Cleamore Road

All service connections along this route have now been transferred from cast iron mains to UPVC mains. The existing cast iron mains were decommissioned in January 2021 and this scheme is now considered fully complete.

Lourdesville BYSS

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme. The decommissioning of the existing cast iron mains in Lourdesville is now expected to commence in Quarter 2, 2021.



Campion Crescent BYSS

All necessary customer consent has now been obtained. Decommissioning works have yet to be completed.

This work will commence when all consent from customers in Assumpta Villas has been provided.

Assumpta Villas BYSS

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

Rowanville BYSS

There is currently 1 property remaining within this scheme, whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained. Decommissioning works have yet to commence. This work will commence once consent from the final customer has been provided and the properties service connection is installed.

St. Patrick's Terrace, Naas BYSS

(Works carried out as part of Irish Water's Stimulus Package)

This scheme involved the installation of 115 metres of new watermain together with associated assets on St Patrick's Terrace, Naas. The works also included the transferring of all existing service connections from the existing cast iron watermain to a new HDPE watermain within the public road. Construction works commenced on 02 November 2020. This scheme was successfully completed on 23 November 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 Councillor Clinics

Irish Water Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour.

The schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 is as follows:

26 April	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
26 July	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
29 November	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of the clinics.



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 two civic amenity sites continue to operate as normal. Members of the public are asked to continue to prioritise payment by contactless cards and to exercise social distancing at all times onsite. Notification has been received from the operators AES that they plan to increase the charges for accepting residual waste from 01 March 2021. The charges for recycling will remain the same. AES will organise for a media advertising campaign and issue flyers to all visitors during the weeks beforehand, as well as erecting signage at both facilities, in order to inform service users of the proposed changes.

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

Recycling Banks

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued on from last year. In January 2020, 422 tonnes of glass and cans were recovered in the month from the recycling banks. This year, for the same month, the figure is 559 tonnes – an increase of 33%. Staff and contractors continue to service existing sites but the co-operation of the public remains vital in this regard.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas tree recycling was facilitated in Athy, Clane, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge until the 23 January. All sites were managed well and some of the mulch has been given to community groups for landscaping works. The remainder will be distributed later in the year making it more cost effective as well as environmentally beneficial.



Burial Grounds

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

Environment Complaints

Pollution complaints will be investigated in accordance with national guidelines regarding social distancing and the safety of staff and the public.

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. Domestic waste collectors have however been granted permission by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) to carry out collections outside of their conditioned waste collection hours due to COVID-19 restrictions. -Check their website and social media for updates. For details of approved operators, check the NWCPO website: www.nwcpo.ie

National Tidy Towns / Spring Clean

Grant allocations were approved by each Municipal District Committee in 2020 for local Tidy Town Groups (€284,155). The National Tidy Town's Competition was cancelled for 2020. The Minister has recently announced details of additional funding from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs for Tidy Towns groups in 2021.

The council's 'Lily White Clean Up Day' (National Spring Clean) was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is hoped to be able to run this initiative later in 2021 when public health restrictions have been relaxed.



Environmental Education

In line with Government Guidelines, 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.

Environment Construction Projects/Schemes

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

Draft Litter Management Plan

The Draft Litter Management Plan was reviewed and considered during 2020 by the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) who has recommended that the Draft Plan be presented to full council for consideration and adoption. The plan is listed on the agenda for the February council meeting

New Initiatives

Civic Amenity Site North

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee. The process of procuring a consultant, subject to funding, is being progressed. Tenders received on 25 January are in the process of being assessed. The project is likely to be progressed as a Design Build Operate Finance Concession Contract.



Anti-Dumping Campaign and Litter Initiatives

The national “My Country/County/Town/Village My Waste” campaign was promoted locally through print and social media. This campaign is to highlight the consequences of dumping on the wider community.



Green Kilometre Scheme

In tandem with the Anti-Dumping Campaign, a lot of interest has been generated locally in the Green Kilometre Scheme with over 30 applications received during the month. The Environment Section is scaling up the response to these socially distanced cleanups of rural roads in terms of provision of pickers

and bags as well as arranging prompt collection of the waste.



Supports will need to remain in place as this scheme is likely to get more popular throughout the year.

To illustrate this point, one group near Straffan has collected over two tonnes of waste over successive weekends. Therefore, it is a very effective means of engaging with the community as they assist in removing litter and illegal dumping.

Air Quality and Ban on Smoky Coal

Under the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012-2016 it is illegal to burn bituminous or “smoky” coal and other prohibited fuels within specified areas or Low Smoke Zones (LSZ’s).



There are currently Low Smoke Zones in County Kildare in Newbridge/Athgarvan, Maynooth/Celbridge/Leixlip and Naas/Sallins.



Liffey Champion
Nationalist

15x3 111mm
15x3 98mm

AC

General information about the ban, including PDF maps of the LSZ's in which it applies, is now available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/26f183-environmental-policy/#air-quality>

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. Flood defence schemes have been classified as essential works by the County and City Management Association (CCMA).

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of the scheme is now underway, beginning with Phase 1 embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas. Further details of the scheme can be found at www.morellfms.ie.



Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. The specification for survey works of existing watercourses and drainage networks is being developed, with surveys scheduled for competition in Quarter 2, 2021.

Kerdiffstown

Wills Bros Ltd was appointed in October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park. The contract period is for 54 months but this timeline is expected to be improved upon by the contractor.



Work on the site resumed on 08 February as these remedial works are exempt from current restrictions.

A presentation on the progress of the project was given to the Naas Municipal District Committee on Tuesday 19 January.

The procurement of the Percent for Arts is proceeding and tenders are due back on 22 February.

The community is being kept informed through the Community Liaison Group meetings and the wider public will have access to updates on the council website:

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



Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence. This will continue through the COVID-19 lockdown. 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

Kildare Town Cemetery

A tender has been awarded for the renovation of the front wall and gates, the removal of the old bunker and the resurfacing of many of the internal roads and pathways. Works commenced in early January but have now been stepped down for the duration of the Level 5 Restrictions.

Newbridge Cemetery

The preferred contractor withdrew his tender. Therefore, it is intended to re-

advertise a new tender in Quarter 1, 2021.

Columbarium Walls

Rathangan, Newbridge, Crookstown and Celbridge

A consultant has been engaged and is working on the design of new columbarium walls at each of these cemeteries. It is expected that the works will advance in Quarter 3, 2021.

Risk Management

The next risk management cycle has commenced wherein all Gatekeepers have been requested to submit their updated Departmental Risk Registers by 26 February. A meeting of the Gatekeepers also took place to review training needs as well as current guidance. The group were advised that both the Local Government Auditor as well as the Chair of the Audit Committee were complimentary regarding current arrangements.



Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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

Implementation Guidance

The CARO established a working group in the Mid-East sub-region in 2020 to examine issuing of guidance to assist local authorities to implement their adaptation strategies. The work of this group has resulted in a guidance note of 2 parts; A Guide providing information on how to assemble the appropriate supporting framework within the local authority to enable implementation of the adaptation strategy; and A Toolkit providing resources which can be used and adjusted to assist in the process of

implementation of adaptation actions and to track and report on progress. This guidance note will be circulated to all counties across the Eastern and Midlands Region in the coming weeks.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs)

Following on from the Sustainable Energy Community webinar hosted by CARO in October 2020, the CARO continues to work through its sub-regional structure and through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, between the GAA and the County and City Management Agency (CCMA) to encourage and support establishment of further SEC's in the region and across the country.



Forestry

The Woodland Creation Scheme was published by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) on 12 August 2020. The CARO's initial involvement in this area was to work in collaboration with Coillte and the DAFM, to identify a number of pilot counties and appropriate landholdings for afforestation in the region and to support a number of counties as they begin the process of identifying suitable lands. The CARO are developing a FAQ document to accompany the tender for Forestry Services, which is expected to be ready for distribution in Quarter 1, 2021.

Just Transition

The CARO's application to the Just Transition Fund for community training and capacity building across the 21 identified communities has been granted initial approval in the sum of €255,000. The application has now moved onto stage two of the process which includes a state aid assessment review. 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 Public Participation Network (PPN), Cohmairle na nÓg, Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) and municipal districts to engage with the relevant communities.



Capacity Building



LOCAL AUTHORITY
Climate Action
Training Programme

The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners, such as Climate Ireland, Met Eireann, the Environmental 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. Details of the training programme, which includes 6 pillars, have been circulated to all Chief Executives and Climate Action Leads in the region over the Christmas period. Progress across each of six agreed training pillars which are as follows:

Elected Members/Senior Staff

The training for senior staff and elected members has been delivered to Sligo, Longford and Wicklow. Offaly, Roscommon, Laois, Westmeath, Donegal and Mayo. Galway City has been scheduled for February, March and April and feedback to date has been excellent.

Climate Action Teams

The first programme (post pilot) will commence on 24 February 24 and will be delivered across 6 half days on-line. Participants on the first programme will be from the midlands sub-regional counties – Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Laois, and Westmeath.

Online Training

Rollout of this programme has commenced with all Grade 7's nationally invited to register and complete the 3-module course before 28 February. To date approximately 800 people have registered and feedback has been excellent.



Behavioural Change Training

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) will deliver this programme as soon as health restrictions are lifted, and classroom style learning is permitted.

Outdoor Staff Training

This training will be delivered by the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) as soon as health restrictions are lifted, and classroom style learning is permitted.

Thematic Training

The following additional programmes and events are being prepared:

- CARO are collaborating with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and others to develop a training programme for local authority planners as they embark on development plan reviews.
- CARO are collaborating with SEAI to host a webinar on the ISO 50,001 energy management system and this will be held on 16 March at 09.30 a.m. (provisional).

Economic Opportunities Arising from Climate Action

CARO is now exploring this area with a view to promoting practical ways that the local government sector can exploit the opportunities arising climate action policy at a European, national, regional and local level. Phase one of the project includes research in into this particular topic in partnership the School of Business in Maynooth University and surveying the local authority enterprise sections and Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's). These elements of work have been substantially completed and presented to the project steering group, which was chaired by Ms Delaney, Chief Executive Officer, Offaly County Council, on Tuesday 02 February. The next steps for this project are currently under development and review.

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.



Workshops have been held in all three regional assembly areas.

Furthermore, the CARO is also working closely with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), and others, to develop more detailed training for planners who are embarking on county development plan reviews over the coming months. This training will be rolled out under the “Implementing Change” pillar of the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme.

Key Performance Indicators

The EM CARO sectoral climate action KPIs are currently subject to detailed design and they will be piloted across Carlow, Limerick City and County, Donegal, and South Dublin over the coming months. Mainstream rollout through the National Oversight Audit Committee (NOAC) Framework will follow this trial.

GAA/CCMA Partnership for Sustainable Communities

The CCMA/GAA “Green Club” programme was launched by Minister Eamonn Ryan, TD, on Wednesday 09 December last and has now entered the ‘pilot’ stage with support from

CARO. The first workshops were held online on Wednesday 03 February and club audits are ongoing across each of the programme pillars.

Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting

Following on from the first annual progress report as issued to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), CARO is continuing to support and coordinate the implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies across the region. Support is manifesting itself in projects, guidance, sub-regional meetings, maintaining strategic links between the region and external agencies such as SEAI, OPW, Climate Ireland and others.

Local Climate Action Initiative for Elected Members

The CARO, in collaboration with the AILG and the Kildare Climate Action SPC, have developed an interactive presentation for all municipal districts to assist elected members to link with local communities to progress the climate change agenda and build local



capacity. Video content includes reference to Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community (SEC), the Kildare Climate Youth Camps as well as the Kildare LEADER Communities 4 Climate Action programme. The completed video has been piloted at each of Kildare's Municipal Districts and will now be further delivered across the eastern and midlands region.

Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Team (CAT)

The first review of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) as referred to in the CARO summary on Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting above has been completed and circulated widely.

This will further inform progress on the mainstreaming of climate change resilience and adaptation through the council service delivery. The October/November/December and January Climate Action Team meetings took place and associated thematic work groups have been set up under the following Pillars:

- Energy
- Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations
- Infrastructure and Built Environment
- Land use and Development
- Drainage and Flood Management
- Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure
- Community Health and Wellbeing

The Energy Efficiency Officer has put in place a new Energy Management Team. A first deliverable of the Energy Officer will be the Sustainable Energy Action Masterplan (SEAP) for the county, a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors.

The Energy Management Team is a subgroup of the wider Climate Action Team.

Corporate Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Covenant of Mayors, Climate Action Charter, Climate Bill and Climate SPC

From a strategic point of view, significant progress has been made



with the Corporate Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Climate Charter and Climate SPC however the Climate Bill and the membership of the Covenant of Mayors requires significant inputs in the form of a new Climate Action Plan and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the county, now required.

A new initiative has seen Climate Action becoming a requirement of the PMDS system by seeking objectives in all organizational Performance Development Plans (PDPs) and Team Plans. Minister Eamon Ryan attended the Climate Action SPC on 10 February.

Sustainable Energy Communities/ Energy

Kildare has made good progress on sustainable energy communities in the county. A support model for Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) has been implemented. This was to financially support communities in developing energy masterplans. Four Sustainable Energy Communities (Clane, Maynooth, Kilcullen and

Monasterevin) are working with Kildare County Council's energy consultants, ORS, to get their energy master plans completed. COVID-19 has impacted the timeline in terms of how long each one has taken to complete. Clane SEC is the most advanced with Phase's 1 and 2 completed and Phase 3 is ongoing. Maynooth SEC has phase 1 completed and Phases 2 and 3 to be completed over Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2021.

Electric Vehicles

Some good work has recently been done on the provision of two car charging units in the Áras Chill Dara car park for use by staff and with two new Electric Vehicles (EVs) forming part of the council fleet, one on trial by the machinery yard and the other with the fire service. However, the scope to improve on these initiatives is being actively examined by the Transport Section/Fleet Manager.

Climate Action Training

During 2021, the council, will engage in the full roll out of very significant training initiatives as developed by the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action



Regional Office. The rollout of Climate Awareness Training has commenced locally with the Senior Management Team and Climate Action Team.

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Initiative

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee has provided LPT funding of €25,000 for a Climate Innovation Fund. A call for proposals has issued by the Climate Action Office using the Consultation Portal, in an innovative move to reduce paper applications. The Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Climate Innovation Fund is now live. Due to COVID-19 restriction, the deadline has been extended until 19 February 2021. It is likely that other municipal districts will follow this initiative.

Forestry

The council has commenced identification of a number of sites across the county on the Property Interest Register (PIR) potentially suitable for the Woodlands on Public Lands Funding Scheme. A longlist is being drafted and each site will

subsequently be assessed by a qualified forester. A framework for tendering the different elements of this scheme is currently being drawn up. This project is in response to an item on the Environment SPC Works Programme.

Ezine

The Climate Action Office has published an Ezine/Newsletter with a view to circulating widely as a mainstreaming tool. Edition 2 will be issued in February.

GAA/CCMA Partnership for Sustainable Communities

In a follow up to the official launch of the GAA/CCMA Green Clubs Programme, on 09 December 2020, Cappagh GFC have been chosen to represent Kildare in the phase one pilot and have already commenced working with member of the Climate Action Team, particularly through the environmental and biodiversity pillars.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

M7 Widening, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins Bypass Project

SIAC Construction Ltd/Colas Ltd. is the contractor. The contractor has opened 3 lanes both eastbound and westbound from Junction 8 Johnstown to Junction 11 (M7/M9 merge) and substantial completion has been issued on this section on 19 November 2020. Works continue on the Osberstown Interchange and the R407 Sallins Bypass. The revised completion date for completion of the Osberstown Interchange and R407 Sallins Bypass is Quarter 1, 2021. Kildare County Council is liaising with the contractor with regard to a revised completion date for the remaining works, an update will be issued shortly.

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 has been appointed as technical advisor 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.

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

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The preferred route Option (C), was presented in-committee to the Maynooth Municipal District Committee on 05 April 2019. The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee confirmed approval of the Part 8 in respect of Option C on 29 July 2019.

The next phase of the project will be the completion of the design and procurement of the main contract. Kildare County Council is currently endeavoring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme) as a prerequisite to the CPO going ahead.

The preparation of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation is near completion. Valuers have been appointed. Discussions with Waterways Ireland, Iarnród Éireann and CIE are ongoing in relation to the design of the bridge structure which will span the Royal Canal and Dublin/Sligo railway line. The procurement of a NOBO consultant in respect of the design of the bridge



structure (an independent consultant to assess adequacy of the proposed design in relation to the EU Interoperability Directive) has just been completed and the assessment is to commence in January 2021. Detailed design of the scheme, including drainage design, is at an advanced stage.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

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

consultation process will commence in February 2021.

Kildangan Railway Bridge Footpath Scheme

This scheme has been completed and the road has been reopened.

Newbridge Southern Relief Road/ Second Bridge Crossing

The section of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road (NSRR) between the Newbridge to Naas dual carriageway (R445) and the Great Connell Road is now substantially complete and the Roads Planning Section is currently engaging with the developer on the completion of the snag list, the transfer of lands and the submission of the taking in charge documentation.

An application for funding under Call 2 of the URDF for the remainder of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road is currently with the DHLGH. Results of the application are expected in early 2021.



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

This scheme has been completed with the exception of a number of items on the snag list which are outstanding.

Athy Distributor Road

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October, 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist and Leinster Leader on 28 November 2017. No objections/Judicial Reviews were received by the deadline on 23 January 2018.

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 rails and sleepers is complete. The Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) lands have been secured from trespassers.

Tendering for the main contract commenced on the 25 March 2020.

The procurement is under the restricted procedure and involves a two-stage process.

The first stage is now complete with six contractors short listed for tendering. The consultants have completed the tender documents for Stage 2 – the ITT. These documents have been submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) and are with the Minister for Transport for approval.

The CIE/Irish Rail Bridge Agreement and Waterways Ireland Licence are being progressed. Land acquisition is also progressing.

Maynooth Inner Relief Street

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River has been substantially completed by Cairn Developments Plc. The Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section is engaging with the developer on the opening of the street to traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. The Road Safety Audit Stage 3 is being carried out on the completed works. It is



proposed to be opened in Quarter 2, 2021.

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

The Route Selection Report is substantially complete. This project will not proceed further until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy is completed.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Part 8 approval in respect of the New Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn Project was confirmed on 13 May 2019.

The development will replace the existing Machinery Yard in Newbridge and will include a new Regional Salt Barn. This Barn will provide storage for approximately 23,000 tonnes of salt for use by Kildare County Council and a number of other local authorities in the region.

An Enabling Works contract comprising earthworks, drainage and boundary treatments is currently on site with works being undertaken by Clonmel Enterprises Ltd. Due to COVID-19 restrictions contractors have moved off-site until further notice.

Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy

The Final Transport Strategy for Naas /Sallins has been published.

Kildare Town Transport Strategy

The Draft Transport Strategy for Kildare Town is currently being finalised. It is anticipated that a phase 2 non-statutory public consultation will be undertaken in Quarter 1, 2021 after which the strategy will be finalised.

Athy Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

The Athy Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) has recently been completed with the Planning Department to include it as part of the Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) process.



Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

Kildare County Council currently awaits 2021 funding from the DTTAS Bridge Rehabilitation Works.

2020 bridge rehabilitation works are near completion, with some parapet works on-site at present. Due to COVID-19 restrictions contractors have moved off-site until further notice.

Monasterevin Bridge and Brook Bridge are progressing through the approval process with An Bord Pleanála and it is proposed to proceed to construction stage in Quarter 3, 2021.

Newhall Junction Improvement

Newhall Crossroads is located on the R445 dual carriageway between Naas and Newbridge. It is the junction of three roads: the R445, the L2031, local road and the L6064 local road.

The existing junction is considered unsafe as it is a cross-roads junction on a busy dual carriageway.

An Options Selection Report to determine the most appropriate junction type to replace the existing arrangement was completed in June 2020. This report determined that a roundabout was the preferred option.

The preliminary design is now being progressed to detailed design. It is anticipated that the scheme will proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 2, 2021.

Royal Canal Greenway – Maynooth to Moyvalley

The Royal Canal Greenway provides a dedicated and substantially off-road recreational cycle facility from Dublin to Galway along the route of the Royal Canal. The Greenway from Maynooth to Moyvalley is now substantially complete and operational.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Kildare County Council are currently engaging with the National Transport Authority (NTA) on this project and have secured funding to bring this scheme to Part 8 in 2021. Consultants are currently working on preliminary designs for this project.



Broadband Connection Points (BCP's)

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 now live. Tenders are being reviewed to decorate a room to provide working desk space.
- Lullymore Heritage Centre – Vodafone to make live shortly.
- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre. Vodafone has made final installation and the site is live since 13 January
- Back Gate Lodge, Kilkea Castle – ready for NBI installation.

School BCP Sites

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

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

NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout

Tree trimming works are scheduled to commence in February in the Naas Municipal District.

Athy Municipal District January 2021

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

- Moone School works preparatory drainage works are complete. Phase 1 of works are complete. Surveys are being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the villages. No update.
- Castledermot School works phase 1 are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. A survey is being carried out at the present time



with a view to a complete design for the village. No update.

- Crookstown School works
Phase 1 works are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. A survey is being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village. No update.

In the above cases the Road's Section is liaising with the Public Realm Team to see if there are any areas of mutual interest.

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. At the time of writing no funding has been allocated for 2021. No update.

Bus Shelters

Funding has been allocated to the Athy Municipal District for two bus shelters in Castledermot for 2021.

The Athy Municipal District has had contact with the Local Link Team with a view to looking at these bus shelters in addition to bus stops along the new routes. No update.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

Preparatory drainage work is being carried out in advance of 2021 schemes.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

- Garter Lane – completion of lighting works.

Drainage works

- R417 – Athy/Carlow Road.
- R-417 – Athy/Monasterevin Road.
- R-418 – Athy/Castledermot Road.
- R-448 - Castledermot/Kilcullen Road.
- R-428 – Athy/Stradbally Road.
- Relieving localised floods around the municipal district.



Signage works

The Athy Municipal District Office is in the process of upgrading signage on regional road junctions with local roads.

Municipal District Road Surface Dressing Works 2020

Preparatory drainage works are being carried out in advance of 2021 schemes.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District January 2021

Cycleway Works/Pedestrian Works Newbridge

Road resurfacing and footpath reconstruction works are ongoing in Pairc Mhuire. These works are being carried out in stages following completion of Irish Water Sewer upgrade works. All other works are suspended during Level 5 restrictions.

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measures Updates

Works on Drogheda Street and Main Street in Monasterevin are continuing through lock down, Mainstreet is now

resurfaced and line marking work is ongoing. It is expected that there is approximately 4 weeks work remaining.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

The 2021 Programme of Works is now being prepared for tendering

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

All LPT works are now suspended due to Level 5 restrictions.

Low Cost Accident Schemes

The 2021 Programme of Works is now being prepared.

Drainage

Only emergency drainage works are being carried out throughout Level 5 restrictions. A new pipe was installed and a number of gullies were upgraded to elevate flooding in Raheens, Carna and Tullylost.

Miscellaneous Works

Patch repairs on the R445, water cuts, cleaning of gullies and patching are ongoing throughout the municipal



district as emergency works throughout Level 5 restrictions.

Naas Municipal District January 2021

Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works and Surface Dressing Works 2021

The Naas Municipal District is currently preparing the 2021 Municipal District Roads Programme.

Naas Municipal District Footpath Works

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (FP3) from 2020. These works have been delayed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions but it is hoped to recommence works as soon as possible at the following locations:

- Lakelands to Sundays Well, Naas – complete.
- Jigginstown Drainage Works – complete.
- Roseville, Naas – at construction stage.

- St. Martins Avenue, Naas – at construction stage.
- Woodlands, Naas – at construction stage.
- Friary Road, Naas – at construction stage.
- Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas – at construction stage.

The Naas Municipal District is currently at tender stage for footpath improvement works (Naas Municipal District Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 1 – 2021) at the following locations:

- Main Street, Kill.
- Elmwood, Naas.
- Osberstown Road, Sallins.
- Monread Road, Naas.

The Naas Municipal District is also at tender stage for the construction of a toucan crossing and associated works at Main Street, Kill.



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

The LPT/Paid Parking funded Road and Footpath Works Programme for 2021 is to be agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee in the coming weeks.

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District January 2021

The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District has undertaken following works in January 2021:

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

Park View Clane – footpath repairs (Phase 2) have commenced.

On easing of the restrictions the following works will be completed:

- Footpath repairs in Parkview Clane – Phase 2 completion.
- Footpath repairs in Old Greenfield.
- Footpath repairs in Carton Court.

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measures Updates

The completion of the pedestrian crossing at Allen School is currently awaiting power.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020/2021

The Municipal District Office is currently awaiting the allocation of funding for 2021 but is preparing a list of schemes for consideration in the 2021 Roads Programme.

The following works were undertaken in January:

- Meadow Court, Ballinagappa Road, Clane – replacement of defective ramps.
- R148 Maynooth at the Tesco Roundabout.
- R406, Straffan Road, Maynooth – defective section at Barton Buses.
- L1012 Moyglare Road Clane – to County Bounds.



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

Local Property Tax is being utilised to partially fund the footpaths outlined above.

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District January 2021

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has undertaken following works in January 2021:

Cycleway Works/Pedestrian Works

The Royal Canal Greenway design is being finalised and it is planned to go to tender with a view to starting construction in Quarter 1, 2021 subject to funding being available from the National Transport Authority (NTA).

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measures Updates

€380,000 has been allocated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities in the municipal district. The Municipal

District Engineer and his team have completed these works.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020/2021

All resurfacing works in the municipal district for 2020 have been completed and the Municipal District Office is awaiting notification of funding from the DTTAS to draw up its plans for 2021.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

Footpath repairs have been carried out in St Marys Park, Riverforest and Glendale in Leixlip. The 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. The members have not yet approved the LPT funding for 2021.



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 Defence's ability and training to deliver. It provided assistance with the Irish Blood Transfusion Service from

25 - 28 January inclusive at a clinic in Maynooth.

Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2020	Total Calls 2021 (to end January)
Newbridge	429	38
Naas	389	36
Athy	194	22
Maynooth	280	21
Monasterevin	151	14
Leixlip	203	8
Total	1,842	139



Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2019	75	72
2020	33	31
2021	2	2

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	7
2021	1

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	204
2021	13

Building and Development Control

Building Control (figures to end of January 2021)

Commencement Notices	2020	2021
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	461	15
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	454	15
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	7	0
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	199	15



Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2020	2021
Total Number of Certificates received:	426	45
Number Valid	425	45
Number Invalid	1	0
Awaiting processing	0	0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	196	38

Disability Access Certificates	2020	2021
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	124	13
Number granted:	137	11
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	2	0
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	66	7

Building Control Active Sites	2020	2021
Number of units inspected	2,067	81

Development Control Active Sites	2021
Number of Active Sites	92



Health and Safety

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

- 7 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Lead Worker Representative meetings.
- Business Continuity meeting.
- Accident and Incident Reports and Investigations.
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments.

Accessibility

Meetings

Local Access Groups:

Schedule of meetings for the year agreed and sent for:

- Naas
- Athy
- Newbridge, Celbridge/Leixlip and Maynooth contacted re meeting schedule for year. Some logistical problems to

which we are currently providing support.

2 Local Access Group meetings were held with Naas and Athy.

County Kildare Access Network (CKAN):

- First County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) meeting of 2021 held at which the following objectives were agreed:
 - Training
 - Disability Awareness Training for Kildare County Council staff – libraries first and if good will be rolled out to all customer facing staff.
- Social media training for the CKAN and other access groups.
- Specific training for Engineers around accessibility
- Improve the accessibility of Kildare County Council's website and make it user

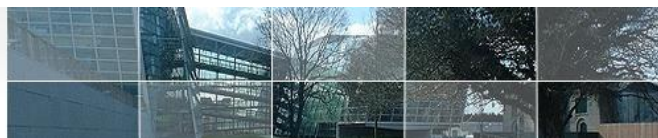


friendly incorporating tools like Browsealoud.

- Incorporate Changing Places where possible in any new public buildings- new changing places going into Áras Chill Dara – the goal is to have a changing place put into each municipal district going forward.
- 3 Awareness Campaigns- Back in 5, Make Way Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Survey to be completed in all municipal districts to ensure

adequacy of disabled bays (location and number).

- Presentation to the 5 Municipal District Committees on Accessibility.
- Ensure that CKAN is included as a stakeholder for consultation in any KCC developments.
- Develop training pack for schools.
- Develop checklist for businesses – items they can aspire to around disability.



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2020		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	179	€281,233
Festival Grants	49	€28,225
Local Property Tax	235	€923,257
Private Estates Res. Assoc.	264	€213,842
Local Authority Res. Assoc.	78	€63,956
Drehid Grants	31	€217,581
Community Enhancement Programme	32	€287,800
Community Mental Health Fund	9	€35,800
Education Bursaries	37	€21,750
Covid-19 Emergency Fund	67	€94,390
Total	981	€2,167,834

The Community Section is planning to introduce an online application system for all grant schemes in 2021 and hopes to launch 2021 schemes at the end February. Full details will be available on social media, on Kildare County Council's website and in local press.

The second round of the Department of Rural and Community Development's COVID-19 Emergency Fund has been notified to all relevant groups. The closing date is 26 February. Kildare's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has €57,940 to allocate under this fund.



Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 27 January 2021.

COVID-19 Community Response Forum

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum has had 21 meetings to date via Microsoft Teams. 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 2020 by Kildare County Council. The Response Forum has representation from key statutory and voluntary organisations across the county. Mr Peter Carey, Chief Executive Officer chairs the forum and high levels of collaboration to ensure the most vulnerable are responded during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The draft end of year report 2020 and Draft SICAP plan 2021 were presented for approval of the LCDC. Both the report and the plan were discussed by the SICAP subgroup and submitted to Pobal for assessment prior to the meeting.

Review 2020 - highlighted that the targets set to work with communities and individuals were exceeded. The target to work in disadvantaged communities was not reached, largely due to the complexity of working with very marginalised groups via the technology during Covid-19 lockdowns. The full budget was spent.



Plan 2021- The budget for 2021 is the same as 2020, €1,092,867. The targets are also the same as 2020 with 59 community groups and 781 individuals to be engaged with as part of the SICAP Programme. The plan meets all the required parameters and there are COVID-19 specific initiatives. The plan has a focus on Kildare target groups, and areas of Athy and north west Kildare. The review and plan were approved by the LCDC.

Heads-up

While Heads Up Kildare continue to engage remotely with men, the demand for their programmes is very high. Increasing referral levels are experienced. This is expected to continue due to the impact of COVID-19. The programmes in north Kildare have commenced with the next programme targeting the north west of the county.

Local Community Development Plan (LECP)

Guidelines for the next Local Community Development Plan (LECP) are expected from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in the coming months. The current plan ends in 2021.

Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise gave the LCDC an update on progress with the demand for Local Enterprise Office (LEO) services continuing to be high.

LCDC Priorities 2021

A short presentation on the work progress and priorities for 2021 took place. It was agreed that the focus of the work 2021 is:

Work priorities: To oversee and lead as appropriate on:

- a) Department requirements- LECP, LEADER, SICAP, Healthy Ireland, COVID-19 responses, the Community Enhancement Programme and other funding streams
- b) Kildare LCDC priorities- target disadvantaged areas/communities particularly Athy, north west Kildare,



Youth Mental Health, Athy Interagency Group, Heads-up and Rural Transport.

Structure: High quality LCDC and subgroup meetings, with a commitment to review structures in 2021.

Promotion: LCDC and Kildare County Council websites, community stories, LEADER and through the LCDC members

agreed at the next LCDC/LAG meeting.

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday, 31 March 2021

Rural Development LEADER

Work continues to promote and support applications to the LEADER Programme.

Transition funding was announced in late December. Kildare will receive €358,745 for projects in 2021. This programme commences on 01 April until December 2021.

Work is being finalised to present the final projects under the 2014-2020 budget to the LCDC/the Local Action Group (LAG) at their next meeting on 31 March. Finalisation of the priorities for the transition programme will be



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

January was a busy month planning for St Brigid's Day activities. Kildare Fáilte organised for the Hill of Allen to be illuminated for the first time on 31 January and 01 February as a symbol of hope for the year ahead.



The project was co-ordinated with all stakeholders (Kildare County Council, Aviation Authorities, Roadstone) and site visits took place to ensure feasibility and safety.

A competition on Facebook was a great success encouraging children to submit their St Brigid's Crosses using whatever materials they had available. Entries included cakes baked in the shape of a St Brigid's Cross, crosses made from newspaper, recycled material, carved wood, pipe cleaners and lollypop sticks. Kildare Fáilte linked in with children from St Brigid's School in Kildare Town who were filmed by RTE talking about St Brigid.

Kildare Fáilte also promoted all activities taking place in the county as part of St Brigid's Day including Féile Bríde which was held virtually and organised by Solas Bhríde and also workshops organised by Kildare's Library Service.



An Taoiseach, Mr Micheál Martin shared a message for St Brigid's Day to launch the virtual festival and lighting of the Hill of Allen. A message was also received from the President, Mr Michael D Higgins. Kildare Fáilte sent greetings for St Brigid's Day (with a St Brigid's Cross pin to wear to celebrate the day) to Tourism Ireland markets overseas and Irish embassies abroad, as well as embassies based in Ireland.

Kildare Fáilte took part in the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Digital Strategy Training and attended the Tourism Ireland virtual industry event which provided an update on the latest research carried out in the top four overseas markets, consumer behaviours and opinion on Ireland as a destination. They also attended the monthly Twinning Liaison Committee Meeting and held the first Board Meeting of 2021.

There were ongoing online meetings and calls supporting the tourism and hospitality sector in the county in particular with promoting take-away and dine at home.

Kildare Fáilte attended the monthly steering group meeting for the development of the Shackleton Museum and also a fundraising workshop which was attended by key stakeholders in the project.

The month of January across digital channels and print media focussed on the outdoor walking and St Brigid's Day. Media coverage as a result of press releases issued featured Kildare in 26 print/online articles.



Other media secured included TV coverage on RTE News – 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and Ireland AM as well as radio interviews on KFM, Today FM and Newstalk. Support Sunday continued to encourage people to support local and promote tourism and hospitality businesses in the county.

Website visits and engagement across all social media channels grew substantially during January with Facebook engagement reaching over 43K people. This positive growth in gaining new followers on social media was primarily a result of activity around St Brigid's Day, in particular the lighting up of the Hill of Allen with lots of positive feedback being received nationally and from the local community.



Library and Arts Service

“Cutting libraries in a recession is like cutting hospitals in a plague” – Eleanor Crumlehulme.

Féile Bríde – “The Hills Speak – History and Mystery”

Ms Dolores Keaveney and Mr John Kenny presented an online presentation celebrating folklore, myths and legends with reference to St Brigid, promoting oral communication and bridging the gap between home and school.

Ireland Reads

Ireland Reads is a new campaign to get the whole country reading this month in the lead up to a national day of reading on Thursday 25 February when the campaign asks everyone to ‘squeeze in a read’. A new website www.irelandreads.ie has been set up where the public can pledge to read on ‘Ireland Reads’ Day.

The Ireland Reads campaign which is part of the Government Keep Well initiative aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment.

Kildare Libraries will host a range of events this February including an author event between Ms Kerri ní Dochartaigh and Mr Manchán Magan. A Young Adult author event with Ms Moira Fowley, adult story telling with Ms Aindrias de Staic, a Young Adult song writing workshop, a talk on “How to raise a reader” with Ms Lorraine Levins, book club events and much more.

Kildare Readers’ Festival

Planning is well under way for this year’s Kildare Readers’ Festival which will take place across Kildare from 01 – 17 October this year.



CAO Information Session

With the CAO deadline looming Newbridge Library hosted a CAO Information Session with Mr Karl Hegarty, the principal in Leinster College. The session was aimed at parents and students applying for third level education through the CAO system. What to choose? Where to choose? How to choose? Mr Hegarty also went through useful information on the application process itself and on the various options available.

Irish Language Courses

Online Irish Language classes for beginners, intermediate and improver levels are taking place by Sult na Sollan. A total of 135 people have booked these Irish courses which will run one day per week over 8 weeks, with 15 participants per course.

Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme

The new series of Toys, Technology and Training (TTT talks/workshops for 2021, designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties or disabilities was launched on Thursday 04 February.

A talk was given by Speech and Language Therapist, Ms Joanne Fine on 'Using LEGO as a therapeutic intervention to Promote Social Inclusion.' Over 30 people attended this online talk and it was very well received.

Thirty-six events in total are scheduled for the Spring TTT Programme which will take place between February and May.

Talks/ workshops for the month of February include ASD-Friendly Sensory Story Time Sessions, a Webinar Series with Occupational Therapist, Dr Dorothy Armstrong, Get Autism Active (ASD Training Programme) and additional Speech and Language Therapy Webinars. With the arrival of Covid-19, all events for 2021 are taking place online. Facilitators are using mixed media to deliver their talks/workshops via Zoom and the Library Service's social media platforms. Talks and workshops for 2020 have also been uploaded to the TTT Vimeo channel and are available to view.



Let's Talk about Parenting

Programme

The Let's talk about Parenting Programme launched this month with two workshops, one on 'Parenting when Separated' 22 participants took part and feedback was very positive. A First Aid for Parents workshop was also held with 16 participants, a workshop which features regularly on the programme. Online events continue to do very well with 100

people booked in for a 'Minding your Families Mental Health' talk which took place with Mr John Sharry on Tuesday 09 February.

Continuing Professional Development Training will take place also for those working in services with families in County Kildare this month - a four-day course on the topic of 'Motivational Interviewing: Helping People Change.'

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Duggan Lynch, main contractor for Naas Library and Cultural Centre Capital Project commenced works in December. Under the Public Health

Restrictions due to COVID-19 (issued 06 January 2021), works ceased and the contractors closed the site on Friday 08 January. The site will remain closed until these restrictions are lifted.

Clane Library

The Design Team Tender for the new library and preparation for Part 8 Planning is now underway with support from the Architect's Department.

The Library Service hope to be at the construction phase of the project by early summer 2021.



Kildare County Library and Archives

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

County Library and Archives Capital Project which is a Part B of an Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) project.

Kildare Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department

Revolutionary Women with Ms Liz Gillis

An interview with Ms Liz Gillis on Irish Revolutionary Women throughout the Decade of Commemorations period is available on Kildare's Decade of Commemorations social media and YouTube channel. It features discussions on Cumann na mBan, the Irish Citizen Army and Inghinidhe na hÉireann amongst others. An interview with author and serving Defence Forces member Mr Wayne Fitzgerald on the Army Rangers Wing is also to be published in mid-February.

Upcoming Decade of Commemorations Anniversaries

An ambush in Maynooth in late February 1921 which resulted in the death of Mr Joseph Hughes, R.I.C., from Ballylinan, the opening of Rath Internment Camp on the Curragh and an attempted ambush of Crown Forces at the Hill of Allen in March 1921 are among the events to be highlighted in the coming months. Digital online content and articles on e-history and in the local media are in progress.



Decade of Commemorations 2021 Programme

An exciting broad programme of activities is being designed for the 2021 County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme. The focus will be community led events, artistic and cultural activities, digital content and marking the key centenary events including military actions, Kildare personalities, the Truce period from July and the debate around the Treaty which took place in Kildare County Council.

Digital Local Studies Content and Digital History Programme Co- Ordinator

Digital content continues to be added to www.kildare.ie/ehistory and to the Local Studies and Archives web pages on www.kildare.ie/library. A reminder also that all years of The Kildare Observer newspaper and the Journals of the County Kildare Archaeological Society (up to 2007) are available 24/7 among other digital resources on www.kildare.ie/library

A digital history programme co-ordinator has recently commenced projects on behalf of the Decade of Commemorations Committee and the Library Service. Training of local history groups in adapting to online technologies for meetings is among the projects being undertaken.

Research Queries Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department in Newbridge

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department continue to source material and answer research queries from historians, researchers, students and community groups throughout Level 5 Restrictions. Family history/genealogy queries can be sent to cildaragenealogy@gmail.com and local history research queries can be emailed to localhistory@kildarecoco.ie



Kildare Arts Service

Creative Ireland Bursary 2021

The Creative Ireland Team are currently developing a new online grant application system which will go live shortly. Online information sessions will be available to the public on the Creative Ireland Bursary and how to apply. The closing date for application is 18 March 2021.

Arts Grants and Bursary Opportunities 2021

The Arts Service in conjunction with the Community and Cultural Development Department are currently developing a new online grant application system which will go live shortly. Online information sessions

will be available to the public on the suite of grants available and how to apply. The closing date for the online grant applications will be 18 March 2021.

Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign

The Library and Arts Service continue to support the Healthy Ireland 'Switching Off and Being Creative' Keep Well Campaign, through a wide range of online seasonal content in wellbeing, gardening, nature and crafts created by facilitators in Kildare. The latest video on growing willow is available at:

<https://youtu.be/8j1thRsSaBI>



Parks

Tree Works Programme 2021

Tree surgery contractors have been appointed to carry out tree works across the county. The start date for works in each of the municipal districts is subject to the relaxation of current COVID-19 restrictions.

Tree Planting Programme 2021

Landscape contractors have been appointed to carry out a tree planting programme for the county. Due to COVID-19 restrictions it may not be feasible to complete this within the current planting season which ends in March. Planting may have to be delayed until November/December.

Allenwood Playground

Work is ongoing on the preparation of a report on the Part 8 for Allenwood Playground. This will be forwarded to the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department for completion of the report. Once the report is finalised by the Planning Department it will then be placed on the agenda for the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District monthly meeting for consideration by the members.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Elected members please advise your constituents that Kildare LEO is always open to discuss business needs or grant availability, and weekly business advice clinics continue to be held in 2021. Email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Immediate business support:

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

For trading online queries [email sstaunton@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:sstaunton@kildarecoco.ie)

For COVID-19 business loans, visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan/>

The LEO is also providing support for writing funding applications, visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/onlinebookings>

And finally, for Brexit support, visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Portal/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit/Brexit-Supports-for-your-Small-Business.html>

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

or call the office line on 045980838.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Kildare County Council LEO

Operating Full Services Remotely

In the interest of Public Health and Safety, Kildare County Council LEO must operate its services remotely.

However, **Kildare County Council LEO remains open and continues to offer supports** to the local business community. Brexit supports, business advice and e-commerce funding and training are just some of the supports available. Please advise your constituents that all business supports are available on the council's website at [localenterprise.ie/Kildare](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare).

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie



or call the office line on **045980838**.
For continued updates please follow
the Kildare LEO on social media.

Business Advice and Mentoring

Free of charge one to one business
advice and mentoring are available
from the LEO. Please advise
constituents to email
localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie to set
up a one to one session with a
business advisor. Specialised Brexit
advisors are also available.

Brexit Support

Researching the Market

Kildare LEO issued a '**Brexit Pulse
Survey**' to gauge an understanding of
the capabilities and the level of support
required by Kildare businesses in the
face of the new Brexit environment.
Themes which emerged from the
survey were:

- There is a limited understanding
of VAT/duties obligations on
both the Republic of Ireland and
the UK side.

- Business customers are looking
to source from local vendors
instead of Ireland.
- There are significant delays on
products coming from UK.
- Respondents are looking at
sourcing alternative suppliers
outside of the UK.

In response to this feedback, Kildare
LEO has designed new supports,
including the *VAT and Duties
Workshop*, which is due to take place
on Friday 12 February, with 40
participants registered to attend.
Kildare County Council LEO continue
to work on designing new independent
Brexit supports to meet the needs
highlighted in the Brexit Pulse Survey,
Customs and Expert Mentoring.
Kildare LEO are also running 'Prepare
Your Business for Customs'
workshops and expert one to one
Brexit Mentoring.



Please advise constituents of all Brexit supports, available at:
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Change-is-here-Act-Now-and-Prepare-Your-Business-for-Customs.html>

Kildare LEO are delivering a campaign to promote Brexit supports available to Kildare businesses. The campaign highlights the message '*Change is here – Act Now*'. The campaign began on 15 December 2020 and will run until late February 2021. **Kildare LEO encourages members of the council to promote and share this online campaign over the coming weeks.**

E-commerce Funding and Support

Current lockdown implications have seen many Kildare businesses close the doors of their businesses again, meaning that the ability to generate online sales is now critical. As with 2020, Kildare LEO continue to provide extensive ecommerce support.

- 1. Online Trading Vouchers** to the value of €2,500 are available to businesses to improve e-commerce

capabilities. In 2020, Kildare LEO invested €1.5 million in these vouchers to support Kildare businesses in moving their businesses online. Please advise constituents of this available funding.

The first step in applying is to attend an information seminar. The next seminar is taking place on 24 February 2021. For more information and to secure a place, visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Trading-Online-Voucher-Seminar-24th-Feb.html>

- 2. Practical workshops** designed to teach Kildare businesses how to maximise websites, improve digital marketing strategies and acquire the technical skills needed to increase online sales are taking place frequently over the coming months.



Free of charge one to one e-commerce mentoring is also available. Please advise constituents of these practical supports, available to book on our website at:

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

3. **Shop County Kildare** was established by Kildare County Council to cater for the needs of businesses throughout the pandemic. The dedicated local website provides Kildare businesses the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly model. Following an extensive marketing campaign throughout November and December 2020, the website has generated significant traffic and has subsequently led to increased sales for Kildare businesses over the Christmas period.

The website continues to operate and remains open to Kildare businesses in need of an alternative route to generating sales. Please encourage constituents to register for Shop County Kildare at:

www.shopcountykildare.ie

Showcase 2021

Four Local Enterprise Offices supported clients, *Baressential*, *Johnny Magory Books*, *Sam agus Nessa* and *KT Metal Design* showcased their businesses at Ireland's biggest creative exhibition from 23 - 26 January 2021.

The international event takes place each year at the RDS, Dublin, however this year it took place virtually. For more information please visit:

<https://www.showcaseireland.com/>



#JoinIn Virtual Coffee Break Series

Following the success of the series in 2020 and the demand to continue the initiative, Kildare County Council LEO relaunched the Join In Virtual Coffee Break Series in January 2021.

The objective of the series is to provide Kildare business owners with the opportunity to communicate with peers experiencing similar COVID-19 related issues, share ideas and discuss topics of interest.

The weekly series features a high calibre of speakers which has so far included two former *Dragons*; Mr Sean Gallagher and Mr Gavin Duffy, renowned Management Development expert Mr Blaise Brosnan, and various global Chief Executive Officers and Irish entrepreneurs and thought leaders.

The series was exceptionally well received in 2020 and so far in 2021, with an average of 75 registered each week and a positive feedback across social media.

The next session takes place on Monday 15 February. For more information and to book your place, follow the link at:

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

Lunchtime Lessons with Leaders

In February 2021, Kildare County Council LEO launched their brand new 8-week lunchtime series **Lunchtime Lessons for Leaders** with one of Ireland's foremost keynote speakers, Mr Gerry Duffy. Every Tuesday afternoon from **1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, Mr Duffy will deliver a module which focuses on transforming Kildare individuals and businesses to achieve a greater focus and set clearer goals. The first session took place on Tuesday 09 February, and 50 Kildare businesses were in attendance.



Please advise constituents of this valuable support. Elected members are also invited to attend one or all sessions. More information and to book please visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Preparing-for-Recovery-Lunchtime-Lessons-for-Leaders-with-Gerry-Duffy.html>

Grow with ALDI

Applications are now open for ALDI's Supplier Development Programme 'Grow with ALDI'. This year, Irish food, foodservice and non-food products are invited to enter. In 2020, Kildare company Prokulture Organic Kombucha successfully completed the programme, and saw their products on sale in ALDI stores nationwide.

On Wednesday 27 January, KILDARE County Council LEO hosted an information seminar in association with ALDI for Kildare producers interested in applying, 10 Kildare businesses attended. More information can be found at: <http://www.aldi.ie/grow>

Start Your Own Business - Blueway Programme

Following plans to upgrade the Barrow Canal towpath 46km Blueway as a major economic boom for the communities in counties Laois and Kildare, Kildare County Council LEO have designed and provided the Start Your Own Business on the Blueway Programme for potential new businesses in the tourism, recreation and hospitality sectors. On Thursday 04 February, the first session of the 8-week course began, with 13 new potential start-ups in attendance. The programme also features session with a guest speaker from Waterways Ireland.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/The-Blueway-Start-Your-Own-Business-Programme.html>



Spring Training Programme 2021 Launched

Kildare County Council LEO launched the official Spring 2021 Brochure of Training Programmes in January 2021. The suite of programmes feature areas such as finance, digital marketing, management development (QQI Level 6), LEAN management and Brexit support. The training schedule has a focus of providing Kildare businesses with the knowledge and technical skills to continue to trade throughout 2021 despite current economic challenges. To see a list of these courses, please visit:

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

Economic Support Services

Economic Development – Capital Projects

MERITS – Innovation Hub

A revised construction programme has been developed with the key stakeholders. Once the site can reopen after COVID-19 restrictions the main contractor (Duggan Lynch) has a further 2 months on site to complete their scope of works. Due to the construction delays, the Economic and Cultural Development Department decided to press ahead with running its first programmes on a virtual basis. The first programme aimed at existing digital businesses seeking to expand into export markets, has now been finalised between the MERITS and the LEO teams and will be launched during Enterprise Week in early March. A second programme, aimed at digital StartUps specifically with products/services to address Sustainability/Climate Action markets is being considered.



MERITS joined with a Maynooth University team to submit a bid to be designated a European Digital Innovation Hub – this highly competitive process will lead to one or two such hubs being established in Ireland, with funding from the EU to support a 7 year programme of work.

MERITS will co-host (with the Innovation Value Institute) a webinar on 18 February entitled Accelerating SME Digital Transformation and Competitiveness through Collaboration and Partnership – interested parties can register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/accelerating-sme-digital-transformation-and-competitiveness-tickets-117545992227>.

The LEO have secured the participation of Mr Willem Jonker, Chief Executive Officer of EIT Digital, for the event.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led by Ms Bluett O'Donoghue has been appointed. The project team have held eight meetings with the design team and a programme schedule has been approved. Work has advanced considerably on the detailed design and Part 8 planning process following a preplanning meeting with the various departments in Kildare County Council. The project team have also briefed the Athy Municipal District Committee on the project. A formal Part 8 planning application will be submitted in February to Kildare County Council.

The team have also submitted a funding application for under RRDF Category 1 to the Department of Rural and Community Development to provide for construction works associated with the renovation of the hub and a decision is expected in Quarter 2, 2021.



Appendix A:

COVID-19 Business Supports

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 Kildare LEO Website at:

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

Objective	Support	Link
Financial		
Immediate Cashflow	MFI COVID-19 Business Loan – first 6 months interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete loan application form.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html
	Enterprise Support Grant - Enterprise Support Grant is available to assist self-employed recipients who are exiting the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) Scheme. This will provide owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to re-start their business.	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-owners-and-school-meals-scheme-to-be-extended-into-summer/
	Restart Grant – for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through	http://www.kildare.ie/County-Council/Finance/ReStartGrant/



	Kildare County Council's Rates Department) Note: Applications closed on 31 October 2020.	
Generate Revenue with Online Sales	Shop County Kildare – A new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html
	Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to submit completed application forms to us to localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie .	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/
Upgrade Shopfronts and Implement Outdoor COVID-19 Signage	Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html
Advisory		
Expert Strategic Mentoring	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with a panel of specialist mentors.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE
Health and Safety Guidance	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	https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE



	Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	
Managing Employees in Line with Government Guidelines	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.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE
Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing	Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing.	To apply email: localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie
Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales	A suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/
Communications		
Frequent Updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and Services as Well as	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise (HOE) Update and online knowledge hubs.	HOE Note: https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html



Support Documents and Publications		Sign up to newsletter: https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&id=87063fc48c
Access to the LEO Team and Specialists	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact, and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry.	localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045 980838

Peter Carey
Chief Executive