



Chief Executive's Management Report – January 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 and guaranteeing availability of relevant staff to deal with the public in a timely manner.

With Level 5 COVID19 restrictions now in place access to our public offices is restricted to appointment only and should be limited to urgent and necessary business.

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.

All meetings of Kildare County Council are now taking place on-line. Members of the public and the press may request to attend these meetings by emailing meetings@kildarecoco.ie.



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 transferred to
Customer Services from Monday 05
October. **Current opening hours are
8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. 7 days a week.**



News Items

Communications Officer

Sarah Delahunt has been appointed Communications Officer with Kildare County Council and is based in Corporate Services.

An Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor in every Local Authority in Ireland

In December the Minister of State, Peter Burke, TD, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage officially launched the local authority based 31 Age Friendly Technical Advisors. Patrick Henderson, Executive Architect, has been appointed as the Kildare County Council Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor. Siobhan O'Rourke has recently taken up the position of Age Friendly Program Manager for Kildare County Council.

Prosperous Town Park

Prosperous Town Park is complete and opened to the Public on Wednesday 04 December 2020 (see page 33).

Business Advice and Mentoring

Free of charge, one to one business advice and mentoring is available from Kildare County Council's LEO (see page 90-91).

Dates for Your Diary

County Development Plan (CDP)

The review of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) formally commenced on Monday 11 January 2021. There will be 8 weeks of public consultation, during which two online public meetings will be held on 03 and 11 February in accordance with recent changes to the Planning and Development Act (see page 19).

Creative Ireland Bursary Awards 2021

Information sessions on the Creative Ireland Bursary Awards will take place online on the week beginning 15 March (see page 86-87).

Arts Grants and Bursary Awards 2021

Information sessions on the Arts Grants and Bursary Awards will take place online on week beginning 15 March (see page 87).

Shopfront Grant Initiative Open for 2021

Please advise constituents the call for applications for 2021 is now open (see page 94).



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Corporate Services

Irish Language Scheme

Kildare County Council's Draft Irish Language Scheme for 2021-2024 is before the January 2021 plenary meeting of council for the information of elected members. Following this, the draft scheme will be submitted to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the decision of the Minister of State. The draft scheme will also issue to An Coimisinéir Teanga.

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

On 30 November 2020 Kildare County Council adopted county-wide bye-laws to control the consumption and possession of alcohol in all public places. The bye-laws will be enforced by An Garda Síochána and came into effect on 30 December 2020.

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

Electoral Reform

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has published the General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill which provides for the reform of the electoral register and a range of significant electoral reforms including:

- The establishment of a statutory, independent Electoral Commission for Ireland,
- The regulation of online political advertising in the run-up to electoral events, and
- Amendments to Electoral Law which will assist in the holding of



electoral events if COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Details on the General Scheme of the Reform Bill can be accessed at:

[General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill 2020](#)

A press release with more background is available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/0dfe8-ministers-obrien-and-noonan-publish-the-general-scheme-of-the-electoral-reform-bill/>

Members Services

Statutory Declarations and Ethics Declaration Forms

Forms for Statutory Declarations related to Political Donation statements have issued to the members by email. Ethics Declaration Forms have also issued to the members by email. Please note that Mr Ger Maher, Administrative Officer, Building and Development Control has taken over the role of Ethics Registrar from 01 January 2021.

Statutory Declarations related to Political Donation statements are due back to Members Services by 31 January. Ethics Declaration forms are due back by 28 February. Due to the ongoing pandemic, both these forms can be returned by email.

Meetings

A little piece of history was made on the 21 December 2020 with the first ever remote meeting of Kildare County Council taking place, chaired by the Cathaoirleach of Kildare Councillor Mark Stafford.



As agreed at the December meeting of full council, all meetings of the council will be held remotely for the month of January. Facilities to allow members of the public and the press to attend these remote meetings, have been put in place.



Grant Funding towards supporting females and diversity in Local Government

Notification received from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage of €14,600 grant funding award to Kildare County Council to support females and diversity in Local Government.

Finance and Information Technology

Finance

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2020 is currently being prepared.

Information Technology

The Rainbow Phone System is currently being rolled out (63 staff are on it as of 10 January 2021). This technology will enable staff to answer their desk phones remotely using their laptops.



Housing

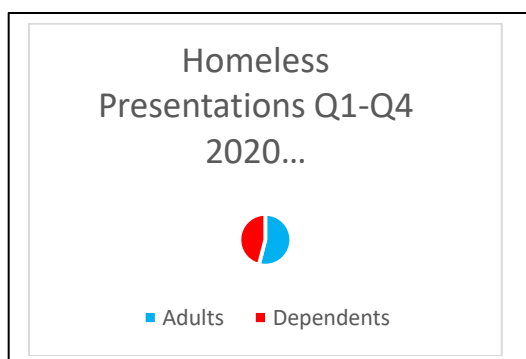
1. Update on progress with COVID -19 Measures in Place
2. Year End Report 2020

1. COVID-19: Challenges and Progress

Homeless Services

Engagement with the Mid East Regional Homeless Local Authorities (including Meath and Wicklow) and the HSE is ongoing, in addition to fortnightly engagement with the national leads for homelessness through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Figure 1: Homeless Presentations



A total of 390 adults and 316 dependents presented as homeless between January and December 2020



Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)

Technical difficulties are currently being experienced with the Pass System which records details of families and individuals in emergency accommodation. The provider is working to resolve this, and detailed reports will be provided for the February council meeting.

Housing Response and Planned Maintenance

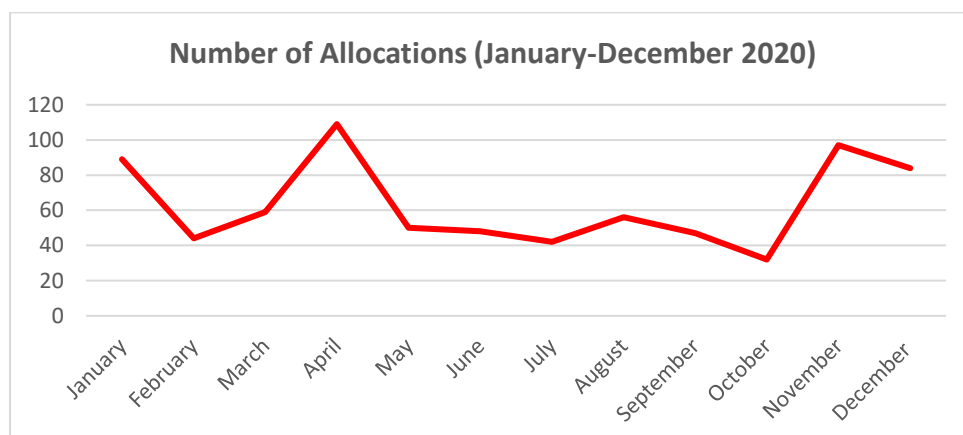
A total of 6,733 maintenance requests were completed in 2020.

Inspection of Private Rented Properties

972 inspections were carried out in 2020. However, in accordance with guidance received from the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the inspection of occupied private rented properties is suspended during the current Level 5 lockdown. The inspection team continue to inspect properties for inclusion in the leasing scheme.

Number of Allocations

757 allocations were made between in 2020, an average of 63 per month. These allocations took place within the controls and restrictions of COVID-19.





Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) Tenancies

682 tenancies were set up in 2020, with an average weekly set up of 13. Nationally, Kildare County Council is in the top five counties for new HAP tenancies. The Residential Tenancies Act 2020, which applies to Approve Housing Bodies (AHB's) and private tenancies, introduced a prohibition on tenancy terminations during an emergency period whereby travel restrictions outside a 5km radius of home are in place, except on limited grounds including anti-social behaviour.

Traveller Community

Traveller accommodation continues to demand significant resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside encampments. Demands on the council's social work service is very high with a notable increase in issues throughout the county. The social work team are maintaining daily contact with traveller families

particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

Capital Projects COVID-19 Update

The following units were delivered by Kildare County Council in 2020: Anne Street, Prosperous (12 units), Beechgrove, Rathangan (18 units). In addition, the PP1 site at Eustace Demense, Craddockstown, Naas completed with the delivery of 74 units. This Public Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme is managed by Choice Services, in conjunction with Oaklee Housing, an ABH.

Designation of Essential Social Housing Sites (AHB's, Capital Delivery)

The Housing Agency has granted essential site status to various sites across the county; this designation allows work to continue on the delivery of 436 units for social housing.



1. 2020 Year End Report

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Completed		
Anne Street Prosperous.	12 units	Completed July 2020.
Approval Stage 4		Updated Status
Athgarvan Village.	18 units	Retendered to include COVID-19 protocol measures. Tenders received and being assessed.
Approval Stage 2		Updated Status
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 & 3).	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	The design team has been re-engaged on this project.
Coill Dubh.	10 units	Architectural and quantity surveyor services being provided in-house with external consultant appointments near completion. This scheme is being progressed to tender.



Approval Stage 1		Updated Status
Old Greenfield, Maynooth.	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units	Approval in principle received from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for a revised scheme of 65. Tender for design team issued, successful and unsuccessful letters issued.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge.	37 units	Design team tender issued and due back at end of January 2021.
Carbury.	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Ongoing engagement with community services in relation to existing structure on site.
Ambassador Site, Kill.	35 units	Design tenders received and being assessed.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	57 units	Stage 1 Approval received.
Caragh Road, Naas.	73 units	Stage 1 submission being prepared for the development of 73 units.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin.	16 units	Tender for building services consultants being prepared.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip.	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received April 2020. Part 8 scheduled for mid-February.
Narraghmore.	4 units	Part 8 launched.
Glandore, Athy.	4 units	Stage 1 Approval received from the DHLGH 29 September 2020. Part 8 to launch Quarter 1, 2021.



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
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 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
Andrew, Athy.	50 units	Initial project team meeting held and recommendation for appointment of design team issued.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy.	35 units	Transfer of site transfer now completed. No site works permitted under COVID-19 restrictions.
Tuath HA Castlifen, Sallins.	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Due for completion Quarter 3, 2021, however no site works permitted under COVID-19 restrictions.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip.	24 units	Design team tender issued.
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 design team.



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE.	3 Units Craddockstown	Part 8 launched.
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 in Quarter 1, 2021. Designated as an essential housing site.
Sophia Housing.	28 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	A revised Stage 1 & 2 approval request to be forwarded to DHLGH in Q1 2021.
Cluid.	29 units Dominican Lands Athy	Stage 1 Approval received July 2020. Design team appointed and initial design proposal to be circulated to Kildare County Council for comment ahead of pre-planning process. Approval Stage 2 submission due to the DHLGH Quarter 1, 2021.
The Peter McVerry Trust.	5 units Sallins	Stage1 and 2 being assessed by architects prior to submission to the DHPLG.

Acquisitions January – December 2020

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	In Progress
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	39	26
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	107	24
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	169
Total	255	379	187	72



Acquisitions by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2020	15	2	32	94	44
Properties Leased 2020 (includes AHB leasing)	10	4	7	23	2

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

2020	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
Jan	1	€165,000	1	€220,000	0	0
Feb	3	€655,000	1	€170,000	0	0
March	4	€967,900	1	€202,500	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	1	€237,800	0	0
June	1	€158,000	2	€319,500	0	0
July	0	0	3	€385,865	0	0
Aug	0	0	1	€30,645	0	0
Sep	5	€1,151,650	1	€165,300	5	€965,239
Oct	3	€620,500	4	€775,900	1	€245,000
Nov	8	€1,558,650	1	€286,468	0	0
Dec	12	€2,361,150	1	€158,000	0	0

	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)



Tenant Purchase Scheme

2019	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Total	35	7	16
2020	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Quarter 1	8	1	2
Quarter 2	4	1	0
Quarter 3	5	0	1
Quarter 4	10	1	2
Total	27	3	5

Extensions of 3 months have been granted to loan offers that expire during the Covid-19 crisis, with the conditions that an up to date payslip and bank statements are to be provided prior to drawdown. All applicants must now complete a Declaration of Unchanged Circumstances prior to final loan approval.

Grants

2019	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Total 2019	484	320	0	0	268	251
2020	Housing Adaptation Apps Recd	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aids Apps Recd	Mobility Aids Grants Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
Quarter 1	68	71(2019) 17 (2020)	0	0	50	42
Quarter 2	66	60	0	0	37	51
Quarter 3	125	95	0	0	72	50
Quarter 4	114	60			70	47
Total 2020	373	303	0	0	229	190



Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

2019	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Total	1,186	775	677
2020	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
Quarter 1	312	124	115
Quarter 2	231	144	147
Quarter 3	240	189	140
Quarter 4	295	150	160
Total 2020	1,078	607	562

Social Housing Applications

2019	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	310	82	998	20	219

2020	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
January-June	90	25	275	3	88
July – September	66	19	190	3	42
October-December	81	31	240	2	41
Total 2020	237	75	705	8	171



HAP Applications

2019	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Total	778	200	714
2020	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
January-December	586	134	682

Housing Maintenance

2019	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance requests completed	Number of Self Help Grants Approved
Total	92	144	6,602	6,333	77
2020	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Quarter 1	23	32	1,839	1,788	0
Quarter 2	11	18	1,278	1,248	79
Quarter 3	22	32	1,769	1,721	0
Quarter 4	41	26	2,053	1,976	1
Total	97	108	6,939	6,733	80



Homeless Presentations

2019	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1,141	435	706
2020	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	340	95	245
Quarter 2	245	85	160
Quarter 3	283	81	202
Quarter 4	311	87	224
Total	1179	348	831

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2019	Adults	Dependents
Total	431	359
2020	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	108	103
Quarter 2	94	71
Quarter 3	87	72
Quarter 4	101	70
Total	390	316



Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan (CDP)

The review of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) formally commenced on Monday 11 January 2021 with the publication of the statutory notice and Issues paper. This will start 8 weeks of public consultation, during which two online public meetings will be held on 03 and 11 February in accordance with recent changes to the Planning and Development Act. This consultation period commences the statutory 99-week period for the development plan review and preparation of the CDP 2023-2029. On-going work is being carried out in preparation of the development plan review.

Local Area Plans (LAP's)

The Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027 was published on 17 December 2020. The Draft LAP is on public display until 08 February 2021. An informal briefing with members took place on 14 December 2020. Public consultation has been aligned with public health restrictions in place at the time of publication and will include an interactive FAQ and social media blitz. All 8 documents are available on the website and on the council's consultation portal.



Planning Applications Received			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: December 2020	
Dec	Year		No.	Total Granted:	68
2018:	145	1,601	4,150	Retention:	15
2019:	115	1,452	2,662	Extension of Duration:	2
2020:	165	1,627	2,978	Total Refused:	18

Strategic Infrastructure

Development Applications (SID's)

to An Bord Pleanála – Ongoing

Drehid Waste Management Facility

(ABP Ref. 17/300506) increase in

waste material at disposal facility –

Refused by An Bord Pleanála on

11 November 2020.

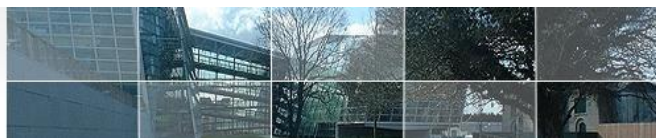
Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Applications to An Bord Pleanála

Pre-application Consultation					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
SHD202008	2	Briargate Development Newbridge Ltd.	Ballymany, Newbridge 348 dwellings; Access via R445 as permitted under planning 16/658	348	Requires further consideration/amen dment 23/12/2020.
SHD202009	2	Cairn Homes Ltd.	349 Apartments at Mariavilla – Phase 3; at Dunboyne Road, Maynooth	349	Pre-application decision due 06/01/2021.



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.
	3	Debussy.	192 units at Western side of Millicent Road and Southern side of Prosperous Road, Clane.	192	Awaiting validation.

Significant Applications				
Ref No.	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
20/808	Westar Investments Ltd.	Construction of 58 no. houses and 346sqm crèche at Brooklands Housing Estate; Capdoo, Clane.	Granted	04/01/2021.
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	Decision Due 15/01/2021
20/1403	Bernard Moran	94 dwelling units plus crèche at Curryhills, Prosperous.	Valid	Decision Due 23/01/2021.



20/226	Robert J Goff and Kildare Hotel.	3 storey 50-bedroom hotel, restaurant and bar at Goffs Bloodstock Sales, Greenhills, Kill.	Granted	Granted on 07/12/2020.
20/1284	Ballymore Newbridge Developments.	Increase the number of units from 385 to 395 at Roseberry, Newbridge.	Further Information	Requested 16/12/2020.
20/1235	BNRG Neoen Holdings.	Ground mounted solar photovoltaic farm on a site area of 49.74 hectares within Dunmurry Springs Golf Club at Dunmurry West, Kildare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitability of location - Contravenes CDP 	Refused	04/01/2021
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.	Requested 06/01/2021

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. A breakdown of the current licences issued by municipal district 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 (ACA's):

- (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 RPS or within ACA's).
- (v) Pilot Stream for Historic Shopfronts

A public advertisement for the above, inviting applications for same, has been placed in the Leinster Leader and Liffey Champion newspapers.



The Kildare County Council Thatching Grant Scheme for 2021 is now open for applications with a closing date of 29 January 2021. 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.

Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2021-2031

A report is now being prepared outlining the findings of the extensive public consultation exercise for this strategy, which included:

- An online user satisfaction survey (735 responses).
- An Issues Paper which received 55 no. submissions.
- Online workshops with Kildare County Council staff, elected members and external stakeholders.
- Schools and sports clubs questionnaires.

The next step is to carry out an analysis of the findings and prepare the final strategy.



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 George's 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

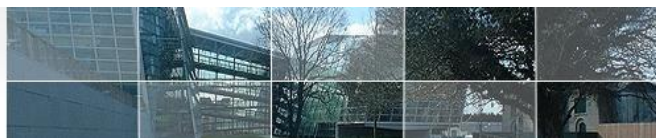


The following applications have been successful under the main Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020:

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 - Athy Urban Design Framework – not yet commenced.	
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - St Bridget's Well re-development - draft concept received.	
Kildare-Newbridge – Collaboration with AE on design of Academy Street.	
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan - Included in the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) application submitted 29 May 2020.	
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Town Branding and Signage - On hold until a funding source is identified.	
Naas - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.	
Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding source to be identified.	
Naas – Land use survey and survey of businesses to determine the need for us of the Public Realm (queueing, outdoor seating, parklets etc) during COVID-19 now completed. Findings currently being drafted. Parklet concept and Public Realm social distancing requirements being reviewed for a number of businesses in Naas and Sallins.	
Part 8	
Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents finalised. Part 8 to be published in January 2021.	
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking underway. Temporary closure of Market Square car park being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.	
Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 finalised and will be published on 21 January 2021.	



<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 complete and ready for publication. A municipal district briefing prior to Part 8 was held on 05 June 2020.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Tender Consultants and Design</p>	
<p>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works have commenced with almost 10km of the 48km was completed before Christmas. Section 85 agreement with Laois County Council not now required. Advance Funding of €2.5Million has been approved and will be received in the coming week.</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.</p>	
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>	



Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.	
Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.	
Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued. .	
Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process	
Tender Consultants	
Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed.	
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. The Paul Hogarth Company appointed and project inception meeting held on 26 June. Joint site visit took place on 02 September. Public consultation to commence early 2021.	
Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design is now commencing. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in early 2021 and will take 9 months to complete.	
Athy - Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard. Onsite meeting with the Tanyard Committee being scheduled.	
Tender Works	
Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.	



Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.	
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Part 8 and detailed designed being prepared.	
Design	
Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.	
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.	
Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Work ongoing with urban designers. Meeting with key landowners (Cassidy Distillery Buildings) held 22 July 2020. Draft document under review. Public consultation will recommence in January 2021.	
Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.	
Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.	
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Included in URDF application submitted on 29 May 2020.	
Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised with the architect in collaboration with Robertstown Community Amenities Association (RCAA). Masterplan published on Kildare County Council's website. Town and Village application submitted for car park and planning applications for Phase 1.	



Detailed Design	
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for local authority led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.	
Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. 5 no. tenders received. Tender report was to be considered by Bawnogues Steering Group on 17 December 2020.	
On Hold	
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - on hold. Town and Village funding application submitted.	
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage - on hold until funding source identified.	
Construction	
Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.	
Naas – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Official start date on site was 11 November 2019.	
Complete	
Athy – Narraghamore - Completed.	
Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.	
Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park is complete and opened to the public on Wednesday, 04 December 2020.	



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 while the pumping stations are being operated by the contractor for a 12 month proving period before being handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations in the Summer of 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 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. Works have been completed on the R445 Newbridge Road in Naas and in Pacelli Road/St. Martin's Avenue



housing area to replace further sections of the gravity sewer.

In Newbridge, pipeline works continue in Páirc Mhuire housing estate.

Foul Pumping Station

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

Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility DBO Contract Variation

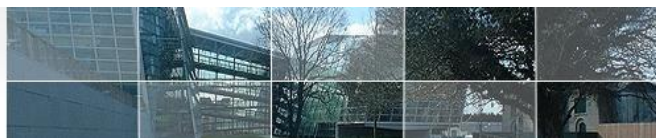
Veolia Water Ireland is advancing works on this variation to the Design Build Contract (DBO) contract, with an expected completion date in Quarter 4, 2020. Operational commissioning is continuing at the Thermal Hydrolysis Process Plant. The Exelys THP is intended to be fully operational by the end of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

Osberstown Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)

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

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and detailed design stage. Site investigation works are nearly complete on the public roads and in private lands. The outstanding works and permanent reinstatement works should be complete in the next four weeks. Irish Water is negotiating with landowners as part of the land and wayleave process.



Capital Projects

Kilmeague WWTP Upgrade

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

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

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

- The laying of a 40 metre pipe to connect to the nearby gravity system.
- Some small level of land acquisition.
- Temporary pumping arrangements to transfer sewage from the buffer tank to

the public gravity sewerage system and on to Allenwood 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 the above 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, 2021 and before winter in 2021. The members will be kept informed. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-term pumping solution at the buffer tank site.

Water Networks Management Projects

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

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 8 planning process. Irish Water will hold workshops with the rest of the local authorities before they progress the council's priority list.

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. It is expected that works regarding the decommissioning of the old watermains will be completed during Quarter 1, 2021.

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 2021.

Campion Crescent BYSS

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

Assumpta Villas BYSS

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

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 property's service connection is installed.

St. Patrick's Terrace, Naas BYSS

Works will be carried out as part of Irish Water's Stimulus Package. This scheme involves the installation of 115 metres of new watermain together with associated assets on St Patrick's Terrace, Naas. The works also include the transferring of all existing service connections from the existing cast iron watermain to a new



HDPE watermain within the public road. Construction works commenced on 02 November 2020. This scheme was successfully completed on 23 November 2020.

Irish Water Updates

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (HLG&H) 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 continued in December. They are held online for approximately one hour. A schedule of upcoming clinics will issue shortly from Irish Water.

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.

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

Recycling Banks

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued through to December. In 2019, 414 tonnes of glass and cans were recovered monthly from the recycling banks.

Last year, the figure was 535 tonnes – an increase of almost 30%. Staff and contractors continue to service existing sites but the co-operation of the public is vital in this regard.



Christmas waste management activities included a social media campaign on seasonal waste reduction and using recycling facilities correctly in order to reduce risks to the public.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The Athy and Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Centres were open over the Christmas and new year period. Christmas tree recycling will be facilitated in Athy, Clane, Naas and Newbridge from Wednesday, 06 to Saturday, 23 January. Details are being advertised in press and social media.

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 working contracted hours due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please 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. Minister Humphreys has recently announced details of additional funding from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs for Tidy Town 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 is currently under consideration by the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

New Initiatives

Green Kilometre Scheme

COVID-19 delayed the promotion of this scheme in 2020 given the varying levels of restrictions throughout the year. The scheme is being revised with a greater focus on it being a community-based activity which can be done while social distancing. Sixteen groups had signed up to this scheme in 2020 and a total of 800 saplings have been planted by the groups. It is a voluntary litter removal scheme for rural areas which has also become a good biodiversity project with native species such as holly, hazel, spindle and alder buckthorn being planted into Kildare hedgerows by the participants. It is hoped the scheme will gain momentum in 2021.



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 are on OJEU/Etenders with the tender return date extended to 25 January 2021. The project is likely to be progressed as a Design Build Operate Finance Concession Contract.

Anti-Dumping Campaign

The council is participating in a recently announced national Anti-Dumping Initiative Campaign which began in December.



This campaign consists of multiple social media posts with the message: "Your Country/County/Town/Village- Your Waste? Let's all Take Responsibility #stopillegaldumping".

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 (LSZs).

In County Kildare there are currently LSZs in Newbridge/Athgarvan, Maynooth/Celbridge/Leixlip and Naas/Sallins.



General information about the ban, including PDF maps of the Low Smoke Zones 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.

Morell Flood Management Scheme

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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Kerdiffstown

Wills Bros Ltd were 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.



Works have proceeded with the installation of new temporary site offices. The demolition of the concrete structures and vegetation clearance has commenced and the groundworks for the leachate treatment facilities has commenced.



The site was closed for the Christmas holidays from 18 December to 04 January. It reopened for week commencing 04 January. Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions the site will be closed for works from Friday 08 January until the end of January.

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

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

A letter drop updating the locals on the project and directing them to the website was carried out before Christmas. Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, (in accordance with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Licence) and will continue through the COVID-19 restrictions.

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 early January 2021.

Columbarium Walls

Rathangan, Newbridge and Crookstown, Celbridge

A consultant has been engaged and is working on the design of new columbarium walls at each of these three cemeteries. It is expected that



the works will advance in Quarter 1, 2021.

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. It is intended the guidance note will be distributed to all local authorities in the Eastern and Midlands Region early in 2021.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs)

Following on from the Sustainable Energy Community webinar hosted by the 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 Association (CCMA), to encourage and support establishment of further SECs 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, has been circulated to all Chief Executives and Climate Action Leads in the region over the Christmas period.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was decided to prioritise the development and delivery of online training in 2020 and this will now be rolled out to all local authority indoor staff from mid-



January 2021. Limerick IT have been appointed to develop the climate action leadership training programme for elected members and senior staff and this programme was piloted in Sligo County Council on 27 November last. The CARO is now working with the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) to create a delivery schedule across all training pillars for 2021 and beyond. The proposed training programme launch by Minister Eamonn Ryan, has yet to be rearranged.

Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action

The CARO is working with Maynooth University's School of Business and a number of strategic partners (the County and City Management Association (CCMA), Enterprise Ireland, Chambers Ireland, IBEC, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Environment, Communications and Climate Action, to establish practical measures for the local government sector to exploit potential economic and enterprise opportunities arising from climate action. This project

involves research into current policy and funding instruments at European, national and local levels to identify where opportunities may arise. A detailed survey has been issued to the Directors of Enterprise, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Heads of Enterprise in order to ascertain current levels of knowledge across the sector and to identify potential opportunities for building on this base. A post-doctoral researcher has been appointed to Phase 1 of this project and is expected to report in Quarter 1, 2021.

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) to firstly ensure that the content of proposed training for elected members aligns



with the requirements of current spatial planning policy and secondly 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 CARO is currently working on a draft set of indicators to measure local authority performance against the requirements of all of the Government Climate Action Plan 2019 and subsequent Climate Action Charter, as signed by all county councils. The draft set of indicators has been approved by the Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning subcommittee of the CCMA and will be piloted across four counties, one in each of the climate action regions, in 2021.

GAA/CCMA Partnership for Sustainable Communities

The official launch of the GAA/CCMA Green Clubs Programme, by Minister Eamonn Ryan took place online on 09 December 2020. This programme is

being developed through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities between the GAA and the CCMA. A number of clubs have been identified for this pilot and will focus on various thematic areas such as Biodiversity, Waste, Water, Transport and Energy. The programme will kick off with an online workshop for participating clubs with expert partners for their thematic area.

Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting

All local authorities completed their first annual progress report on the implementation of their Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and these have been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The Eastern and Midlands CARO co-ordinated this work on behalf of the other CARO's and all 31 local authorities. A detailed analysis has been carried out to examine which actions have progressed, those which have been completed and those which have been delayed. This analysis also looks at the impacts of COVID-19 (both positive and negative), a



breakdown of common stakeholders and common themes under the National Adaptation Framework.

Local Climate Action Initiative for Elected Members

The CARO, in collaboration with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) have created a presentation, aimed at encouraging elected members to lead local climate action initiatives at municipal district level in each of the 17 constituent local authorities. The Climate Action SPC of Kildare County Council has provided invaluable feedback and input into the presentation to date having facilitated two iterations of this piece at SPC meetings. It recognises the leadership role played by elected members in our communities within municipal districts and the untapped expertise which exists at local level. It explores how one might connect with their communities. It looks at the framework provided by the Climate Action Charter and some of the important actions it contains, particularly the building of a sustained localised citizen engagement model and engaging with young citizens.

The CARO will be rolling this presentation out to all municipal districts in Kildare and in the Eastern and Midlands Region, over the coming months.

Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Team (CAT)

The Climate Action Officer has completed the first review of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) as referred to in the CARO summary on Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting above. This will further inform progress on the mainstreaming of climate change resilience and adaptation through the council service delivery. The October/ November/ December Climate Action Team meetings took place and associated thematic work groups have been set up. It is worth restating that the role of the CAT is in mainstreaming and embedding Climate Action across the functions of the council.



The Energy Efficiency Officer was appointed on 09 November 2020 and has commenced work on reinvigorating the council's Energy Management Team. A first deliverable of the Energy Officer will be the Sustainable Energy Action Masterplan (SEAP) for the county, a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors. The Energy Management Team will be a de-facto subgroup of the wider Climate Action Team.

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

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

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)/ Energy

Kildare has made good progress on sustainable energy communities in the county. During 2020 a support model for Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) was implemented. This was to financially support communities in developing Energy Masterplans. Four Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) (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 ongoing. Maynooth SEC has Phase 1 completed and Phases 2 and 3 are to be completed over Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2021.



Additionally, a further 14 towns and villages have registered with the SEAI County Mentor as Sustainable Energy Communities and are progressing from that registration process to developing their own Energy Masterplans. This is a process that the council will continue to support. The council is looking to be a leader in this area, to show the way for other local authorities, so it is important to have a sufficient budget available for this. All funds used for SEC EMPs are fully recoupable from the SEAI. The SEAI funding is granted retrospectively which has been a huge barrier for community groups. The council's support in bridging this financial gap to support such communities has been very well received. The overall benefit is the level of climate action which SECs can undertake towards the national transition objective to become a net zero carbon and climate resilient society. Kildare's new Energy Officer will be an added resource for SEC's.

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. Two new Electric Vehicles (EVs) now form part of the council fleet, one on trial by the machinery yard and the other with the fire service. There is huge scope to improve on these initiatives. The Climate Action Officer and Energy Officer are working with the parent departments on the identification and feasibility of multiple EV locations in the county.

Climate Action Training

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



Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Initiative

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has provided LPT funding of €25,000 for a Climate Innovation Fund. A call for proposals has issued by the Climate Action Office (CAT) using the Consultation Portal, in an innovative move to reduce paper applications. The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Climate Innovation Fund is now live and will run until the end of January 2021.

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 the 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 and Water Services SPC Works Programme.

Ezine

The CARO has published a draft Ezine /Newsletter with a view to assessing the feasibility of compiling a quarterly online version, to commence in Quarter 1, 2021. This will be widely available.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Fatal Collision figures - Kildare

There were five road fatalities on Kildare roads in 2020, compared to 4 in 2019.

‘Shine a Light’

In place of the annual event or masses for ‘World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims’ last year, Road Safety Officers in Kildare and Mayo co-ordinated a national campaign called ‘Shine a Light for Road Safety’ which saw homes, businesses, buildings and services ‘shine a light’ for road safety. Many public, council and Government buildings were lit up, a candle shone in the windows of homes, and almost every Garda, ambulance and fire station held a synchronized two-minute silent blue-light tribute to those who died on the roads, many of whom those services would have responded to. This proved to be a huge success in terms of public interest and involvement. Road Safety Officers Mr Declan Keogh in Kildare and Mr Noel Gibbons in Mayo

have said it will be an annual occurrence going forward.

Drug Driving Awareness

Following a request from a recent Joint Policing Committee, the Road Safety Officer and Kildare Gardaí undertook a joint social media and local media campaign on Drug Driving. Gardaí set-up an MIT (Mandatory Intoxicant Testing) checkpoint in North Kildare for the purpose of a social media video outlining the dangers, risks and consequences of using drugs while driving. The video was shared on KCC and AGS social media pages and on the RSA platforms.

Winter Ready

Road safety advisory notices were posted on Kildare County Council's social media platforms relating to Winter Ready and Tyre Safety.



‘National Slow Down Day’

Kildare County Council supported An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Association of Ireland’s (RSA’s) National Slow Down Day on Friday 14 December. During the first 12 hours, Gardaí and GoSafe checked the speeds of 154,869 vehicles. 653 of which were found travelling at excessive speeds. This year, just one driver was detected travelling at excessive speed on the R417, Athy, compared to 3 the past two years consecutively.

Walking and Cycling

Mr Declan Keogh, Road Safety Officer (RSO) promoted the advantages and benefits of walking and cycling. A list of popular walking and cycling routes were also promoted on the council's platforms and for the local media.

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

These phases include:

- Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) which will determine if an intervention (project) is required and if an intervention is feasible.
- Phase 2 (Option Selection) would examine feasible options for intervention that could address the aim of the project.
- Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) would develop the design of the preferred option from Phase 2 for further assessment including evaluation of environmental impacts.
- Phase 4 (statutory processes) would include undertaking the statutory processes.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) deliverables for Phase 1 are now complete and signed off by both Kildare County Council and TII.

The scheme has now moved to Phase 2, Option Selection. The scheme will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (statutory processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

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

The next phase of the project will be the completion of the design and procurement of the main contract. Kildare County Council is currently endeavoring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local



Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme) as a prerequisite to the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) going ahead.

The preparation of the CPO documentation is near completion.

Valuers have been appointed.

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

The procurement of a NOBO consultant in respect of the design of the bridge structure (an independent consultant to assess adequacy of the proposed design in relation to the EU Interoperability Directive) 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 snag items 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 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) 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)

Kildare County Council is currently undertaking an Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) for Athy. The ABTA is intended as a supporting document to inform the upcoming review of the Athy Town Local Area Plan (LAP). The ABTA is being undertaken in-house. The Draft Assessment Report is being finalised.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

Kildare County Council currently awaits 2021 funding from the DTTAS for 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 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 (BCP's) in Kildare. These sites will provide high speed broadband to the public until the NBI fibre broadband is available:

- Bigstone Community Hall, Castledermot. This site is now live. Tenders are being reviewed to decorate the room to provide working desk space.
- Lullymore Heritage Centre – Vodafone is to go live shortly.
- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre - Vodafone is to do the final installation and

make the site live on 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 to commence in January/February in the Naas Municipal District.

Athy Municipal District December 2020

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

- Moone School works. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Phase 1 of works are complete. Surveys being carried out at the present time with a



view to a complete design for the villages.

- 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.
- Crookstown 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.

In the above cases the Roads Section is liaising 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.

Bus Shelters

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

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

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



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

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

Drainage works

- R417 – Athy/Carlow road.
- Calverstown.
- Crookstown near R-415.
- Castledermot adjacent to school.
- Moone Village.

Signage works

- R-418 – Castledermot/Tullow Road.
- Crossroads at the junction of the R-448 and the R-747.

Municipal District Road Surface Dressing Works 2020

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

Aftercare works continue to be undertaken on a number of the above works.

National secondary resurfacing works South of Athy have been completed. 4 Community Improvement Schemes. (CIS's) have been completed:

- Ballybough, Athy.
- Belan, Athy.



- Pit lane, Kildoon.
- Brennan's Lane, Kilcrow.

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

Drains and gullies are being cleaned out.

Drainage works have taken place at:

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

Towards the end of 2020 the sweeper and patcher was utilised to clean up and patch lanes in the following areas:

- Richardstown Lower.
- Lanes in and around Ballitore.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District December 2020

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

Newbridge

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

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

Works on Drogheda Street and Main Street in Monasterevin are progressing well. It is expected that there is approximately 6 weeks work remaining. The installation of a pedestrian crossing at the GAA field and Girls School in Rathangan is now complete and is awaiting the ESB connections.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

The Roads Programme for 2020 is now complete.



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

The LPT Programme of Works commenced on site mid-December, the program of works is approximately 6 weeks.

Low Cost Accident Schemes

The Low Cost Accident Schemes are now complete for 2020.

Drainage

To date the Municipal District Office has addressed a number of difficult drainage issues in the municipal district arising from Customer Relations Management (CRM) notifications, representations from elected members and at locations identified by the council's General Services Supervisors, some were inherited from taking additional areas into the Kildare-Newbridge area from the Naas Municipal District. The Municipal District Office resolved a drainage issue in Cloncurry before the initial lock down in March and had to wait for autumn before the tendered work could be resumed.

To date the council has resolved issues at the following locations:

- Double Ditch Road, Raheens near Caragh.
- Castlekeeley, Caragh.
- Two Mile House.

Miscellaneous Works

The Municipal District Office carried out footpath upgrade works at Dara Park and Dunmurry Court in Kildare, cleaning of gullies in Rathangan, Monasterevin and Kildare, pothole repairs and opening of water cuts throughout the municipal district. Also cleaning and replacing of signage, footpath repair on Henry Street and repair of damaged tactile pavement on Edward Street was completed.



Naas Municipal District December 2020

Naas Municipal District Footpath Works

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

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

The Naas Municipal District Office has completed its second package of footpath improvement works (FP2) at the following locations:

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

- Bishopshill Ballymore Eustace.
- Johnstown Manor, Johnstown.
- The Sycamores, Naas.

The Naas Municipal District Office is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (FP3) 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 footpath/cycle track extension on the Kilcullen Road, Naas (at Killashee) to the multi-denominational school is complete.



Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

The fourth package of road improvement works (WP4) is now complete. It includes the following works locations:

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

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

In addition to the above the Naas Municipal District applied for funding under the recently announced July Stimulus Package Funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA). Kildare were successful in securing funding for a number of schemes. The timeframe for using these funds was extremely tight but the Naas Municipal



District Office endeavoured to progress them in a timely fashion.

The schemes are as follows:

- Castlefen, Sallins – footpath improvement project.

Surface Dressing Works

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

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

Bus Shelters

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

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

The LPT/Carpark funded works programme for 2020 was been agreed by the Naas MD Councilors. These works were included within the roads and footpaths works packages that progressed through the design/tender/construction stages.

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District December 2020

The Clane Maynooth Municipal District has undertaken and completed the following works during December:

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

- Park View Clane – footpath repairs (Phase 1).

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measures Updates

A number of schemes are progressing under the funding from the NTA.

The following were completed in December:

- Design works at Robertstown, Killina and Derrinturn National Schools.



- New Road Straffan – new footpath and public lighting.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

The Roadworks Programme has been completed which involved 33km of restoration improvement, 35km of restoration improvement, safety improvement works, numerous footpath and drainage projects. In total the Municipal District spent in excess of €6,500,000 on the maintenance and improvements of the road and footpath network in the municipal district.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

No further works were undertaken in December and projects have been carried forward to 2021.

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District December 2020

Cycleway Works/Pedestrian Works

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

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

€380,000 has been allocated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities in the municipal district. The Municipal District Engineer and his team have completed these works.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020

All resurfacing works in the municipal district for 2020 have been completed.



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

Footpath repairs have been carried out in St Marys Park, Riverforest and Glendale in Leixlip. A pedestrian phase has been installed on the traffic signals outside Tesco on the Shackelton Road in Celbridge.

Design and tendering works on further footpath and roads improvements in the municipal district are ongoing.

to support the response of the local authority and the HSE as requested and where the requests fall within the Civil Defences ability and training to deliver. They provided assistance with the Irish Blood Transfusion Service over four days. They participated in drive through events for children for Christmas e.g. Special Olympics and autism groups.

Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence as a Voluntary Emergency Service has been working

Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2019	Total Calls 2020
Newbridge	422	429
Naas	435	389
Athy	223	194
Maynooth	321	280
Monasterevin	181	151
Leixlip	240	203
Total	1842	1646



Fire Safety

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

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	7

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	204

Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 31 December 2020:

Building Control

	2019	2020
Commencement Notices		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	611	461
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	596	454
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	15	7
Number of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices:	211	199
Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2019	2020



Total Number of Certificates received:	646	426
Number Valid	645	425
Number Invalid	1	1
Awaiting processing		0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	139	196

Disability Access Certificates	2019	2020
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	122	124
Number granted:	131	137
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid:	0	2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	21	66

Building Control Active Sites	2019	2020
Number of units inspected	1881	2067

Development Control Active Sites	2020
Number of Active Sites	88



Health and Safety

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

- 13 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Lead Worker Representative Meetings.
- Business Continuity Meetings.
- Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting.
- Accident and incident reports and investigations.
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments.
- Ballitore Dog Pound inspection.

- The County Kildare Access Network Flag was flown in prominent locations across the county.



The County Kildare Access Network Face Covering was distributed. Large banners were placed on the access roads into main towns across the county. Landmark buildings were flooded in purple lights in a salute to 643,131 people in Ireland, (over 13% of the population) who live with a disability. Some examples of landmarks which participated in Kildare included:

Accessibility

The following events took place:

- The launch of County Kildare Access – A Universal Access Approach 2020-2022.
- Promotional Events to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Áras Chill Dara.
- Newbridge Town Hall.
- Naas Ball.



Naas Ball



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



Local Community Development Committee

A special meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held via Microsoft Teams on 16 December 2020.

COVID-19 Community Response Forum

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had 20 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 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 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Plan (SICAP) 2021 was submitted to Pobal for assessment. The sub group are scheduled to meet on 21 January and the plan will be presented to the LCDC for approval at the next meeting.

Heads-Up

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

Rural Development LEADER

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



Seven further projects were approved at the LCDC/Local Action Group (LAG) meeting. 95% of the budget is allocated. A national extension has been granted to 31 March to allow for the remaining funding to be allocated. Projects are being finalised for consideration at future LCDC/LAG meetings.

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

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 January 2020.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

There were ongoing online meetings and calls supporting the tourism and hospitality sector in the county, in particular to those who were reopening their doors for December. Their activity for December and the Christmas break was supported by press releases, digital activity which secured pieces in the Sunday Times, the Irish Independent and the Business Post.

The inaugural Taste of Kildare Christmas event



took place virtually from 06 to 18 December in the form of a series of demonstrations themed around Christmas food and drink.



Ms Rachel Allen officially launched the event with an introduction from the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mark Stafford. There were 21 demonstrations streamed over 13 days which featured 19 chefs, mixologists, brewers and sommeliers from a variety of local businesses.

Kildare Fáilte organised video messages, supported by Kildare County Council from each Twinning Committee in the county which was compiled into a special message and broadcasted to Twinning Groups overseas as part of the launch event. They were invited to join the event given they were unable to visit the county this year and each Twinning Group had a dedicated post during the event with a Christmas greeting from Kildare. Each international Twinning Group also received a Taste of Kildare Hamper from the County Kildare Twinning Committee.

A comprehensive media and PR plan was put into place to ensure coverage in print, online and radio. A partnership with TheTaste.ie further supported the event and with a solus ezine to 727k of

their Irish members. Overall, the event reached over 230,000 people across Into Kildare social media channels and received a lot of positive feedback as well as supporting local businesses and the community.

Kildare Fáilte attended a virtual meeting with all key stakeholders to discuss the launch plan for the Royal Canal Greenway. The launch has been planned to be able to take place in line with relevant guidelines.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Tourism Ireland Virtual Industry Event, Ready for Recovery. The event included an address from Ms Catherine Martin TD Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and other speakers. It ended with a panel discussion led by Mr Eoghan Corry and a Q&A session.

Kildare Fáilte also attended the Tourism Ireland Virtual Industry Event which provided an update on the latest research carried out in the top four overseas markets. Kildare Fáilte presented at the Clongowes Career Day and spoke with students about a career in tourism marketing, tourism in



Kildare and as an employer of tourism
the importance of tourism in the
county.

The month of December across digital channels focussed on the Taste of Kildare Christmas virtual event. Other posts encouraged people to visit outdoor walking areas within the county, enjoy festive experiences and gifting. The Chief Digital Officer visited tourism providers adhering to COVID-19 Guidelines and created highly engaging content for #SupportSunday and to promote tourism and hospitality businesses. Website visits and engagement across all social media channels grew substantially during December with Instagram engagement up 19%. The positive growth in gaining new followers and website visits is attributed predominately to the success of the Taste of Kildare at the Christmas virtual event and has created an opportunity to showcase all Kildare has to offer to a new audience.



Library and Arts Service

The three most important documents a free society gives are a birth certificate, a passport and a library card.” – E.L. Doctorow.

Kildare Library Services move online during level 5

Following the announcement from Government, that the entire country is to be elevated to level 5 of the Recovery and Resilience 2020-2021 for living with COVID-19, it is not possible to visit Kildare Libraries for browsing, PC appointments or Contact and Collect Services from are operating from 23 December until further notice. Additionally, it is not possible to return library items you currently have on loan. The Library Service will provide housebound services to those cocooning over 70 years or to those who are medically vulnerable.

Patrons can still access the libraries full range of online services – eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eComics, Music Streaming, Online Courses and Online Language Learning on the

council's website:

www.kildare.ie/library/online-services

Updates will be posted on the council's website www.kildare.ie/library and on its social media channels. You can follow the library team on social media for up to date information on online events and service developments:

[Twitter @kildarelibrary](https://twitter.com/kildarelibrary)

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kildarelibrary)

[KildareCountyLibraryService](https://www.kildare.ie/library/service)

[Instagram @kildarelibrary](https://www.instagram.com/kildarelibrary)

Féile Bríde - Starting on Saturday 30 January

Follow Beth Murphy across the Curragh Plains as she collects rushes and invites you to take part in a 90-minute workshop to make your own traditional St. Brigid's Cross in your home. Bookings are through Eventbrite.

Support to the Secondary Schools Programme

In the Autumn 2020 term, despite difficulties presented by COVID-19, a limited number of support to Secondary School's events took place. Ré Ó Laighléis conducted a number of workshops with schools focusing on key



texts in Irish for both Junior and Leaving Certificate students. Mr Dave Lordan adapted his very successful Creative Writing workshops to take place online via Zoom to classrooms. A modified version of the extremely popular Forensics Fun workshops took place in schools in Athy, Kildare, Celbridge, Leixlip and Naas, with 476 students benefiting from the workshops.

2021

Several of the most popular workshops and talks from previous years have been planned for the 2021 Support to Secondary School Programme. These include Creative Writing workshops with young adult author Ms Moira Fowley Doyle; Irish workshops with author Ré Ó Laighléis; Talks by Kildare Boxer and Motivation Coach, Mr Eric Donovan; and immersive Shakespeare workshops for Leaving Certificate students. These events offer students the opportunity to gain knowledge and insights beyond the classroom, and to experience their school subjects in an alternative way. We will also embark on a new partnership with the Maynooth University Maths Department, through their Project Live initiative.

Students and staff from the university will develop curriculum supports for Leaving Certificate students, including online tutorials - both pre-recorded and live.

With the challenges of further COVID-19 restrictions ahead, planning for the programme has involved prioritising key subjects, along with mental health, in workshops which can be delivered in a safe and effective way.

Community Outreach Collaboration with the Eyre Powell Centre

Newbridge Library again collaborated with the Eyre Powell Centre in Newbridge on creating Christmas craft packs for delivery to the residents. They were jam-packed with craft supplies and festive treats to mark the occasion.

Let's Talk about Parenting 2021

The 'Let's talk about Parenting' Online Programme 2021 for Kildare Libraries is launching this month with Baby Sign Language (a 4 week course to teach your baby how to communicate before they can talk) followed by workshops and talks in January/February on the following topics:



'First Aid for Parents'; 'Parenting Alone'; 'Managing your Families Mental Health during Covid'; 'Communicating with your Teenager'; a course on 'Newborn Care', and another on 'Reflexology for Babies and Toddlers'. These informal and informative workshops will provide a much-needed outlet for parents to connect with each other and get support during a challenging time.

For professionals working with children and families in County Kildare there will also be continuing professional development opportunities with 'Motivational Interviewing', 'Youth Mental Health First Aid' and 'Supporting Families Online and by Phone' courses, all of which have been supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Leixlip Community Library

The council's team in Leixlip Library were working hard on their online Storytime and craft sessions during December, with activity packs and festive craft packs being put together for families to collect and work on from home.

Highlights for the month of December included an online Christmas Recital of Festive Songs by local soprano Ms Abbey McGiff who is currently a student at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. The Library Service also had a Christmas show with Genie Mackers filled with magic, fun dances and songs which could be viewed on Kildare Library Service's Vimeo Channel.

Art and craft packs for housebound library patrons were curated and distributed to libraries around the county. These packs included painting sets, mindful colouring books for adults and seasonal activities and were delivered to anyone over 70 or medically vulnerable who requested one.

The Kildare Libraries Blog is being updated from Leixlip Library with posts covering events around the libraries, initiatives and book reviews. The regular library groups including book clubs and creative writers, amongst others continue to meet online via Zoom.



Toys Technology and Training (TTT) Programme 2021

The series of TTT talks/workshops for 2021, designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties or disabilities will be taking place online this year and is due to launch in February.

Events will include ASD-Friendly Sensory Story Time Sessions, Sibshop Seminars and Workshops, a Webinar Series with Occupational Therapist Dr. Dorothy Armstrong, Lámh Module One Courses, Get Autism Active (ASD Training Programme), Speech and Language Therapy Webinars, Music Therapy Talks, webinar with Family Carers Ireland and Social Skills Talks. With the arrival of COVID-19, all events for 2020 were moved online, and facilitators used mixed media to deliver their talks/ workshops via the council's social media platforms. Talks and workshops for 2020 have also been uploaded to the TTT Vimeo channel and are available to view.

Irish Language Events

A full Irish Language programme for Kildare libraries was organised for 2020. Due to COVID-19, face to face events were postponed and moved online. These included Richie Conroy workshops for primary schools, Ré Ó' Laighléis - Junior and Leaving Certificate student workshops. Art workshops with Monica deBath, Micro Theatre workshops with Clíona deBrí and a Zoom talk with Éanna Ní Lamhna on the 'Grand Canal wildlife' through the seasons. Our Ciorcal Comhrá groups have also moved online post Covid, as has our Storytime as Gaeilge sessions. Ranganna Gaeilge in conjunction with Sult na Sollán and Conradh na Gaeilge took place in November and December made up of beginners, intermediate and improver sessions, over a course of 8 weeks. These were so successful and booked out within days that a new 8-week course for all levels will be starting in January, including both daytime and evening classes.



STEAM 2021

Planning is currently underway for the STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths) 2021 Programme of events for primary schools which has been run by Kildare libraries for the past 6 years. This programme supports the curriculum in Kildare primary schools through a range of free workshops which give children an opportunity to explore STEAM subjects in a fun and stimulating environment while also introducing the library service to children who may not already be members.

In 2020 the Library Service delivered over 150 workshops across the year in celebration of the key STEAM festivals such as Space Week and Science Week. The workshops were adapted for online delivery on foot of the outbreak of COVID-19.

The 2021 programme will again be based on an online delivery model and we have an exciting programme lined up with new and old partners such as the National Reptile Zoo, the Rediscovery Centre and Anyone4Science.

In 2021 the Library Service will also be introducing a new strand in the form of a series of talks from notable figures working in STEAM areas in Ireland. Included in the line-up will be Aoife McLysaght, professor of genetics at Trinity College and one of the world's leading genetics researchers, and David Moore, chairman of Astronomy Ireland and a writer and broadcaster. The Library Service is hoping that these talks will give insight into real life career paths in STEAM for children and help inspire and encourage them to see the real-world application of these subjects.

Reader Services

Family Time at Your Library

Right to Read is the national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy, in addition to local programming.



Family Time at Your Library

Events took place in Kildare libraries in December to support a family-focused approach to reading with children and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children.

There were 19 online events throughout the month of December and 234 participants.

National Summer Stars Short Story Competition

The annual summer reading challenge **Summer Stars** finished in August 2020. This year the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Libraries Development Unit ran a Libraries Ireland Summer Stars Short Story competition. There were three age categories: category 1 (ages 6-9), category 2 (ages 10-14) and category 3 (ages 15-18). There were 574 entries in total and shortlisting continued throughout September and October. Kildare libraries were delighted to be informed that they had four finalists across all three categories and Kildare borrowers won category 2 and category 3. All four finalists

received a €50 One-for-All Voucher and the winners of categories 2 and 3 won an iPad and a Samsung tablet respectively.

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 on 06 January 2021), works will cease and the contractors closed their site at 6:00 p.m. on Friday 08 January. The site will remain closed until these restrictions are lifted.

Clane Library

The design for the new library and preparation for Part 8 Planning is now underway with support from the Architects 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 Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) project.

Kildare Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department

History Ireland Hedge School Podcast on Kildare in the Revolutionary Decade

A History Ireland Hedge School Podcast on 'Kildare in the Revolutionary Decade' has just been released and is available for free through the usual podcast sources. It features discussion on Kildare during the 1912-23 period with four prominent historians on various aspects of political, social and military life in Kildare. This podcast was supported and organised by the Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.

Decade of Commemorations 2021 Programme

An exciting broad programme of activities is being designed for the 2021 County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme.

All activities will adhere to public health guidelines. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media have granted €50,000 to each local authority for 2021. The focus will be on community events, artistic and cultural activities, digital content and marking the key centenary events including military actions, key Kildare personalities, the Truce and the Treaty Debate in Kildare County Council.

Irish Military Seminar Interviews Online

Interviews with Ms Liz Gillis on Irish Revolutionary Women and Wayne Fitzgerald on the Irish Rangers have been recorded and are available on Kildare Decade of Commemorations social media and YouTube channel.



Digital Local Studies Content

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. Some recent additions include the Kildare Drama Festival Programme, newspaper articles and history essays. 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

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 Awards 2021

The Kildare Creative Ireland Team are working with the Community and Cultural Development Department and IT Services to establish an online application system for the 2021 Bursary Awards 2021. It is hoped that the deadline for grant applications will remain 18 March. Information sessions on the Creative Ireland Bursary Awards will take place online week beginning 15 March.

Arts Grants and Bursary Awards 2021

The Arts Service are working with the Community Dept and IT Services to establish an online application system for the 2021 Arts Grants and Bursary Awards. It is hoped that the deadline for grant applications will remain 18 March. Information sessions on the Arts Grants and Bursary Awards will take place online on week beginning 15 March.



Dance

Body of Work Movement Research Project 2021, exploring themes and stories of work past, present and future with communities in Kildare will be led by Ms Philippa Donnellan.

Starting Monday 18 January, Philippa will be leading The Social Sessions, a series of informal movement and conversation sessions on zoom. The programme is free and open to anyone aged 18+ living in Kildare, with an interest in sharing stories about work-life, dance and theatre and stretching at the end of a long day's work.

The Social Sessions will take place Mondays 18, 25 January and 01 and 08 February, 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. on Zoom. For information and to register please visit:

bodyofworkdance@gmail.com. Body of Work is supported by the Arts Service and the Arts Council of Ireland.

Music Generation Kildare

Following an intensive set-up and planning process in 2020 Music Generation Kildare will begin delivery of programmes in 2021. A panel of 36 Musician Educators are in place to

facilitate the delivery of a broad range of performance music education programmes across country Kildare. Online delivery will be the main focus of the initial programming, with pilot online hubs beginning on 25 January in a range of musical genres available to all children and young people across the county. These will include a 'Digital Hub' programme, delivered in partnership with The Hive in Kildare Town, 'LOOP' an online music production programme, the Library Service's Orchestral Programmes Sinfonia and Sinfonia Chamber Ensemble and online instrumental hubs in brass, Irish traditional music, percussion, guitar, ukulele and vocal. Music Generation Kildare will be delivering primary schools programmes in 22 primary schools, across all 5 Municipal Districts, over the coming months, offering a range of pilot programmes to over 1,000 children across the county. Musical instruments and equipment to support the delivery of these programmes were ordered in December 2020 and will be available to young musicians participating in the Music Generation Kildare Programmes for a nominal rental cost.



Alongside the Library Service's ongoing programming, Music Generation Kildare will also be delivering a range of short-term programming, including a vocal project delivered by Sharon Carty the Maynooth Campus Associate Artist beginning 22 January, a digital opera project delivered in partnership with Music Generation Meath and Irish National Opera, a virtual trad ensemble, singer-songwriter masterclasses and a range of digital music performances.

First Fortnight

Now in its 12th year, First Fortnight is an arts-based mental health charity that organises a festival at the beginning of the year, aimed at raising awareness of mental health and challenging stigma. This year's programme will be held at the Riverbank Arts Centre from 16- 23 January includes:

Online Theatre – Fishamble- The New Play Company 'Mustard' by Ms Eva O'Connor

A one-woman show about heartbreak, madness and how condiments are the ultimate coping mechanism, by award-winning playwright and performer Ms Eva O'Connor.

Online Workshop - Wire Sculpture for Beginners with Glenn Gibson

It has been well documented that participating in arts and creative activity benefits one's mental wellbeing. This ZOOM workshop with artist Mr Glenn Gibson will encourage people to explore techniques and materials to create sculptures from wire.

Children's Books Ireland Book Clinic

Are you a young reader? Do you need a prescription for an exciting new read? Then pop into the virtual Book Clinic! Visit the Book Doctor and consult on your favourite reads – come away with a prescription for your next book which you can take to your local bookshop or library! These clinics will be presented on ZOOM free and are suitable for children 0-18 years, booking is essential.

Online Workshop: Create a 'Mood Book' with Artist Marta Golubowska

Does happiness have a colour? Does anger have a shape? In this workshop hosted by artist Marta Golubowska, children will create 'mood books' for sketches and collages to express their



emotions. Suitable for ages 08-12 years.

Parks

Castledermot Playground

Completion of the playground has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions in relation to construction works.

Tree Works Programme 2021

Tenders have been received for tree works in Celbridge-Leixlip, Naas, Kildare-Newbridge and Athy Municipal Districts. These are currently being analysed and it is hoped to have contractors appointed by the end of the month.

Masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land

An initial call for submissions to inform the development of a masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land was completed last month. 78 submissions were received. These will be used to inform the masterplan which is under preparation.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Kildare Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Supporting Businesses in 2020 (From 01 January 2020 - 31 December 2020)	
€965K investment in Start Up and Expansion Grants	92 businesses funded to Improve Shopfronts
3,784 businesses availed of Online Training	1,057 businesses received Expert Mentoring
€1.75M investment in COVID-19 Business Continuity Support	€1.5 million investment in E-commerce Funding
€6.8K invested in Micro Enterprise Assistance Funding	13 businesses received €447,500 with Micro Finance Business Loans

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Kildare County Council's LEO

Operating Full Services Remotely

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

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

or call the office line on 045 980838.

For continued updates please follow Kildare County Council's LEO on social media.

Business Advice and Mentoring

Free of charge, one to one business advice and mentoring is available from Kildare County Council's 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

On 01 January, the Brexit transition period ended, with the UK leaving the EU Single Market and Customs Union. This has a wide range of impacts on any Kildare business who move goods from, to or through the UK (ex. Northern Ireland), irrespective of the new trade deal. To support Kildare businesses with this transition, Kildare County Council's LEO are running 'Prepare Your Business for Customs' workshops and expert one to one Brexit Mentoring for business which are directly impacted by this change. 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 County Council's LEO provided a Brexit Helpline from 29 December to the 04 January as a means of emergency support to businesses throughout the Christmas break. Kildare County Council's 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 February 2021. Kildare County Council's LEO encourages members of the Council Chamber 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 County Council's LEO continues to provide extensive e-commerce support:

- 1. Online Trading Vouchers** to the value of €2,500 are available to businesses to improve e-commerce capabilities. In 2020, Kildare County Council's 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 21 January 2021. For more information and to secure a place please visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Trading-Online-Voucher-Seminar-21st-Jan.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 to 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 throughout Quarter 1, 2021 lock down, and remains open to Kildare businesses in need of an alternative route to generate sales. Please encourage constituents to register for Shop County Kildare at: www.shopcountykildare.ie



Spring Training Programme to Launch January 2021

Kildare County Council's LEO has launched the official Spring 2021 Brochure of Training Programmes. The suite of programmes will feature areas such as finance, digital marketing, management development (QQI Level 6), LEAN management and Brexit support. The training schedule will have a particular 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, visit:

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

Economic Support Services

Shopfront Grant Initiative Open for 2021

Kildare County Council established the Shop Front and Accessibility Grant Scheme to financially assist and support independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts and/or commercial properties. Please advise constituents that the call for applications for 2021 is

now open. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Local-Authority-Business-Services/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Town-Centre-Improvement-Grant-Scheme-.html>

Shop Local and Look for Local Campaign December 2020

Kildare County Council's LEO, in conjunction with the National Local Enterprise Office Network and in association with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), managed the National Look for Local Campaign throughout December 2020. Kildare County Council's LEO launched the campaign with local businessman Mr Paul Lenehan of Firecastle at the Kildare Town premises on Friday 04 December 2020.

This national campaign ran concurrently with Kildare County Council's LEO's original local campaign that began in June 2020. The aim of both campaigns was to continue to champion small, local



businesses, to educate the local community on the importance and need for shopping local during the current economic climate and to encourage people across the county to buy Christmas gifts locally.

Economic Development – Capital Projects

MERITS – Innovation Hub

Although construction activity has been paused in line with Government COVID-19 restrictions, activity continues on many fronts:

- Procurement of furniture and fit out is underway with a healthy number of bids have received for the building furnishings. Bids are being reviewed with a view to appointing a supplier during January.
- The MERITS Team intends to press ahead with running its first pre-Accelerator programme for Digital StartUps, although it will now be delivered online, rather than at the MERITS building. The programme will

now be developed over a 14-week period. It will aim to support participating companies' development and get them ready for pitching their businesses to a panel of investors at the end of the programme. The full programme is being developed at the moment and once finalised, applications will open via the MERITS and LEO websites. The programme should commence during Enterprise Week.

- A Programme Manager position is supported under the Regional Enterprise Development Funding (REDF) secured and a final candidate has been selected for this position. Once the contract is finalised, that person will join the team and be responsible for delivering a series of bespoke programmes to support the StartUp community.
- The new MERITS website is well underway and is being adorned with the new branding



ahead of its launch later this month.

Equine Tech Innovation Hub

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

Following funding approval from Kildare LEADER of €87,821.25, CKCN have appointed Glounthane Property Development to carry out the renovation. CKCN have appointed Ms Vivian Cummins to work with the project team and a start date for construction of 11 January was agreed with the contractors and the Irish National Stud. In light of Level 5 restrictions and the cessation of non-essential construction activity set out

by the Government, the project will only proceed when construction activity is allowed to resume.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

In 2019 Kildare County Council was the benefactor of €500,000 from Coca Cola on their departure from Athy as a contribution towards the development of the old Model School in Athy into the Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. CKCN/ Kildare County Council was awarded €311,000 under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) Category 2 funding to support the appointment of an architect-led design team to perform professional services for the delivery of Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.

Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led by Bluett O'Donoghue has been appointed. The project team have held six 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 pre planning meeting with the



various departments in Kildare County Council. A formal Part 8 planning application will be submitted in Quarter 1, 2021 for decision by Kildare County Council.

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.

The team have also submitted a funding application for under RRDF

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 Outlined on Kildare County Council's 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, reduced rate of 4.5%, LEO mentor assigned to complete loan application form.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html
	Enterprise Support Grant - Enterprise Support Grant is available to assist self-employed recipients who are exiting the	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-



	Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) Scheme. This will provide owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to re-start their 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 Kildare County Council's Rates Department) NOTE: Applications closed on 31 October 2020.	http://www.kildare.ie/County Council/Finance/ReStartGrant/
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. The LEO have 70 plus applications under review.	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-



		Accessability-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 specialist to ensure businesses have tools and knowledge to implement Health and Safety measures in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/KHSQYE
Managing Employees in Line with Government Guidelines	Free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a Human Resource (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	Email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie to apply



	achieve implement physical distancing.	
Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales	A suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/
Communications		
Frequent updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and Services as well as Support Documents and Publications	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.	<p>HOE Note: https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html</p> <p>Sign up to newsletter: https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&id=87063fc48c</p>
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 045980838

Peter Carey
Chief Executive