



## Chief Executive's Management Report – June 2021

### Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



#### Getting ready to welcome you back

Your council is planning for the safe return of retail, hospitality and outdoor recreation this summer.

#ThePathAhead



#### Access to Public Offices

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/](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/) or by phone to 045 980 200. An appointment based approach is assisting in managing attendance at the offices in a safe way.

With restrictions and remote working continuing, access to our public offices is limited to appointment only and should be for the conduct of urgent and necessary business. In accordance with ongoing Public Health advice staff are working remotely as much as possible and work is continuing to enable staff to deal with queries online and by phone on their laptops.

Most meetings are held online on Microsoft TEAMS however some statutory meetings will be held in person commencing with the AGM of the Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.



Motor Tax transactions should continue to be made online or by post as there are a limited number of in person appointments available. Applications received by post in Aras Chill Dara are being returned on average within 3 working days.

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](http://www.kildarecoco.ie) or email [customerservice@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@kildarecoco.ie) or Phone 045 980 200.

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

Where Meetings of Kildare County Council are taking place on-line Members of the public and the press may request to attend these meetings by emailing [meetings@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:meetings@kildarecoco.ie).

**Kildare Community Call Helpline** Freephone 1800 300 174

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

Text KILDARE to 50555.

Community calls are handled by Customer Services.

**Current opening hours are**

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

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



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## News Items

### **Restrictions being lifted – Businesses, Pubs and Restaurants Reopening**

Kildare County Council welcomed the latest phase in the reopening of the tourism and hospitality sector (see page 6).

### **Rates Waiver Extended**

On 01 June the rates waiver was extended as part of the Government's Economic Recovery Plan (see page 9).

### **Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC)**

As of 11 June 2021, 210 applications have been received (see page 9).

### **SBASC scheme for SMEs and Microenterprises**

As part of the Government's Economic Recovery Plan on 01 June another SBASC scheme was announced and went live on the 10 June 2021 (see page 9)

### **Section 254 Licences**

Amendment to Planning and Development regulations to assist in supporting economic recovery and business activity in urban areas (see page 20).

### **Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment**

Part 8 approved by Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District on 19 May 2021 (see page 25).

### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 127 separate Green Kilometres have been established (see page 34).

### **Community Grants Schemes 2021**

Award letters are issuing to successful applicants (see page 69).

### **Irish Military Seminar 2021**

The seminar took place online from 08 June to 19 June (see page 77).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Kildare County Council June Meeting**

Kildare County Council monthly meeting on Monday 28 June to be held in Newbridge Town Hall (see page 6).

### **Amendment to LPT Tax Bands**

The base rate needs to be notified to Revenue by 31 August 2021 (see page 10).

### **Local Area Plans (LAP's) – Athy**

The proposed material alterations are on public display until Wednesday 09 June 2021 (see page 18).

### **Event Licence**

Forever Young 2021 to be held at Palmerstown House Estate on 10 to 12 September 2021 (see page 20).

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

For the schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 (see page 32).

### **Stacumney Ambush Booklet**

02 July 2021 is the centenary of a significant incident during the War of Independence that took place at Stacumney (see page 77).

### **Visual Artists Ireland (VAI)**

A webinar exploring new methods in which Irish artists are presenting their work in non-traditional formats on 23 June (see page 78).

### **Artist in Residence Scheme with Young Irish Filmmakers (YIFM)**

Community and Youth Work students at Maynooth University will showcase films on 24 June (see page 79).

### **Kildare LEO Hosts National Circular Economy Webinar**

On Thursday 30 June, Kildare LEO will host the National Circular Economy Webinar (see page 83).



<div> <div>Today &lt; &gt;</div> <div>July 2021</div> <div>           Dublin ▾           Today 63° F / 48° F           Tomorrow 63° F / 44° F           Friday 60° F / 46° F           Month ▾         </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Jun	28 13:00 Finance Committee 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly meeting	29 09:30 Meeting to Consider the Chief Executive Report and Members Directions on the CDP Issues Paper; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Mary McCarthy	30	1 Jul 11:30 Local Community and Cultural SPC	2 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Annual Meeting; Council Chamber Aras Chill Dara 10:30 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly meeting	3
4	5 09:30 Special Meeting of Full Council to consider the Draft Naas Local Area Plan & Chief Executives Report; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Mairead Hunt	6	7 10:00 LCDC	8	9	10
11	12 14:30 Protocol Committee	13 15:00 Naas MD Annual Meeting; Council Chamber Aras Chill Dara 15:30 Naas MD monthly meeting	14 10:00 Economic Development Enterprise and Planning SPC	15	16 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip Annual Meeting; Council Chamber Aras Chill Dara 10:30 Celbridge Leixlip MD monthly meeting	17
18	19 10:00 Athy MD Annual Meeting; Council Chamber Aras Chill Dara 10:30 Athy MD monthly meeting 14:00 CPG	20	21 10:00 Kildare Newbridge Annual Meeting; Council Chamber Aras Chill Dara 10:30 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly meeting	22 11:30 Twinning Liaison Committee	23	24
25	26 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly meeting	27	28 11:30 County Twinning Committee	29	30	31



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## Corporate Services



### Communications

Kildare County Council welcomed the latest phase in the reopening of the tourism and hospitality sector, the return of outdoor dining for hospitality businesses across the county.

Photocall with Cathaoirleach and Mayor of Naas Municipal District, to welcome the reopening of outdoor dining and highlight the pilot outdoor projects.

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office has been supporting tourism and hospitality businesses across Kildare with the rollout of the outdoor seating and accessories grant scheme. Hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses and attractions have been availing of financial supports of up to €4,000 to purchase or upgrade outdoor seating and equipment for the summer of 2021.

The communication also focused on the broader messaging of national government focusing on enjoying a safe and sustainable summer outdoors; and Kildare County Council was pleased to highlight the proactive development of a number of pilot projects to make our public spaces more people-friendly, usable and fun spaces to be, including Poplar Square, Naas pictured left.

## Members Services

### Meetings

#### Full Council

Council meetings continued to be held online in May with the press and public in attendance. A decision was made by the elected members at their May meeting that the Council AGM on Friday 25 June and the monthly meeting on Monday 28 June would be held in Newbridge Town Hall. It was agreed that Municipal District Committees would remain online in June with each municipal district to decide on online meetings or a return to the council chamber in July.



At the May meeting of Full Council, the members approved the Annual Report 2020, the Casual Trading Selection Policy, Standing Orders for SPCs and Standing Orders for Petitions to the Cathaoirleach which will enable members to action items related to non-council functions. The members also received a presentation from the Climate Action SPC and the Environment and Water Services SPC.

### **Municipal District Committees**

In June, the members of each of the Municipal District Committees approved

the date for their Annual Meetings as follows:

- Athy – TBC
- Celbridge-Leixlip – 10:00 a.m. on Friday 16 July
- Clane-Maynooth – 10:00 a.m. on Friday 02 July
- Kildare-Newbridge – 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday 21 July
- Naas – 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday 13 July.



The members of each municipal district also agreed the temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including enforcement in various locations across their municipal district area to facilitate the re-opening of businesses subject to S254 licence approval.





### **Information Technology Security for Elected Members**

The Information Technology (IT) Department, assisted by Corporate Services, are working with the elected members to enhance IT security measures.



A subgroup of members has been established to work with IT and Corporate Services to advance these measures.

### **Section 40 Data Protection Act – Representations by the Elected Members**

The Corporate Services Department are working with the members in addressing concerns related to the operation of Section 40 of the Data Protection Act and will keep members advised in this regard.

### **Cotton Mills**

Facilities section have demolished derelict buildings located just off the Aras Chill Dara Car park.

The buildings had to be removed as a matter of public safety. A Part 8 for further works is being prepared along with a tender for replacement of the roof.



## **Finance and Information Technology**

### **Commercial Rates Waiver for Quarters 1, 2 and 3 of 2021**

On 30 December 2020, the Government announced a waiver of commercial rates for certain businesses, for the first quarter of 2021. This exemption was extended in February for the second quarter until the end of June 2021. As part of the Government's Economic Recovery Plan on 01 June the rates waiver was extended for a third quarter until the end of September 2021.

Kildare County Council has applied this six-month waiver to 2,365 properties in the county. A dedicated online appeal portal for businesses who are not eligible for the waiver was launched and 41 appeals have been received.

### **Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC)**

The Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) is intended to help businesses that do not qualify for the COVID-19

Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) operated by the Revenue Commissioners, cover operating costs.

The closing date for receipt of applications was 21 April 2021. As at 11 June 2021, 210 applications are on the system. 73 applications have been paid totalling €292,000. 53 applications have been rejected. 16 applications awaiting the applicant to provide further information. 68 applications started on the system but only partially completed and not progressed by applicant for processing, if not progressed by 14 June they will be taken off the system.

As part of the Government's Economic Recovery Plan on 01 June another SBASC scheme was announced and this went live on the 10 June 2021 and the closing date for receipt of applications is 21 July 2021. SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and microenterprises can apply for a grant of €4,000 for those with turnover above €50,000 and €1,000 for microenterprises with a turnover of between €20,000 and €49,999. This scheme has been extended to include those businesses that are operating



from non-rateable premises such as a home office or hot-desk.

### **2020 Audit**

The Local Government Auditor will commence the audit of the 2020 Annual Financial Statements on 27 July 2021. Members were emailed with the confirmed date earlier in June.

### **Local Property Tax**

As a result of the decision to amend the Local Property Tax bands and to bring post-2013 properties into the LPT system, Revenue advised the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that the variation of the base rate needs to be notified to Revenue by 31 August 2021 instead of the traditional 30 September.

On 10 June 2021, the Department advised that the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014 had been amended. These regulations reduce the minimum public consultation period from 30 to 14 days. This change is aimed at ensuring that local authorities can proceed with the required consultation in time for the July meeting. The public consultation

period for Kildare will be from the 23 June to the 09 July 2021 and will be advertised in the local press, on social media and on the Kildare County Council website.

A report, summarising the written submissions, shall be brought to the July meeting.

### **Motor Tax**

Motor Tax is continuing to provide a full suite of services during restrictions. Direct customer contact is by appointment only and times are restricted. Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie). If they are not in a position to use the online facility, we accept and continue to process postal applications.

Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie). Alternatively customers can email [motortax@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:motortax@kildarecoco.ie) or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.

### **Monthly Management Reports**

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).



## Housing

### Homeless Services

The National Homeless Lead meeting was held on the 08 June and there continues to be no positive cases of COVID-19 in Homeless Services in the county.

Fortnightly meetings continue with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and subsequently with the HSE, Meath and Wicklow to monitor any COVID-19 developments in the region. There are currently no positive COVID-19 cases in Homeless Services in the Mid-East Region.

The programme to vaccinate the Homeless Service users is complete with the assistance of the Peter McVerry Trust who facilitated this in the Kerdiffstown facility.

The 12-unit own front door facility at Jigginstown Manor is now in operation with the first two placements made. This facility is being operated by Tiglin in conjunction with the Homeless Team and referrals will be made to this service for young adults leaving emergency accommodation.

The Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) 2 Homeless system is due for release with an anticipated go-live date of the end of June.

### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 May 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	14	22	18
6 - 12 Months	14	18	25
12 - 18 Months	7	8	9
18 - 24 Months	8	13	12
24 - 30 Months	4	8	10
36 Months +	3	5	7
	<b>50</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>

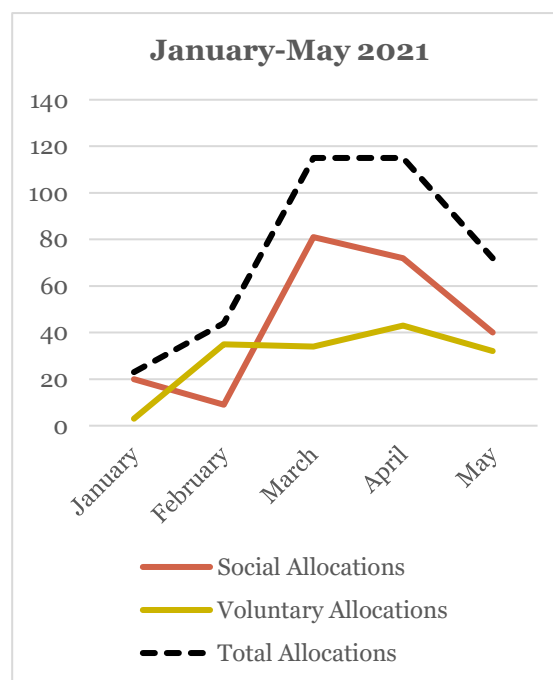


### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 May 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	2	1
6 - 12 Months	0	0	0
12 - 18 Months	1	1	4
18 - 24 Months	3	6	8
24 - 30 Months	3	4	9
+ 36 Months	4	8	9
	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>

### Number of Allocations

Allocations continued in May and included allocations to Kildare County Council and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) units. Several transfers were also facilitated. All allocations took place within the controls and restrictions of COVID-19.







### **Inspection of Private Rented Properties**

In accordance with recent guidance issued from the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the physical inspection of occupied properties continues to be suspended, we are awaiting guidance from the Local Government Management Agency to resume inspection of occupied properties.

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

A total of 215 tenancies have been signed up year to date.

### **Traveller Community**

Traveller accommodation continues to demand resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside encampments. Demands on the council's social work service is high and the team are maintaining daily contact with traveller families, particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

### **Applications under the Self-Help Scheme 2021**

The 2021 Self Help Scheme was advertised on the council's website, uploaded to the Members Information Portal (MIP) and in the local press with a closing date of 14 May 2021.

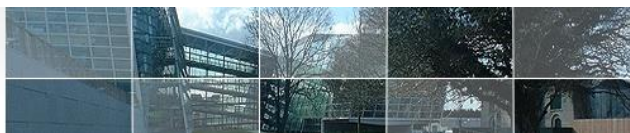
269 application forms were sent out and 164 forms were returned.

Processing of these forms has now commenced. Successful applicants must have up-to-date rent accounts.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Pre-Contract meeting arranged with Bretland Construction Ltd. Contract to be finalised following meeting and commencement date [expect July 2021] to be confirmed.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	In receipt of Stage 2 Cost Plan from consultant QS. Kildare County Council to review and revert with any comments. Expect to submit Stage 2 application to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage before end of June.
Coill Dubh	10 units	This scheme is being progressed to tender. The submission of approval Stage 3 expected be submitted to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage by end of June 2021.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	37 units	Design team meetings progressing. Social and affordable units to be developed on this site.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultants tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Stage 2 and Design Team tender documentation in preparation.
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Q3 2021.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Contract awarded for site clearance. Design Team currently verifying survey information.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Design team meetings progressing.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Stage 1 submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage being prepared for development of 73 units [to include affordable units].



### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 09 March 2021.
Camphill Communities of Irl The Bridge, Kilcullen	4 units	Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	34 units	Revised proposal to increase development from 28 to 34 older person units received from Sophia Housing. Proposal submitted for pre-planning in December 2020 and feedback issued to Sophia Housing.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	29 units	Planning strategy to be confirmed following results of AA screening report due to the sensitivity of the site. Meeting held with Master Plan Architects appointed by Kildare County Council for Dominican Lands.
The Peter McVerry Trust Sallins	4 units	Revised proposal for four units submitted for review in March 2021, pre-planning meeting to follow.

### Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	39	1
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	107	7
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	20
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>29</b>

Acquisitions by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2021	0	0	6	9	14
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing)	6	1	0	7	51



## Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	Phase 1 Beechgrove; out to tender, return date 23 June. Tenants were originally advised windows to be replaced. The Department subsequently capped funding which resulted in exclusion of windows, this reduced interest from 26 to 14.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	19	Phase 2 Ashbrook; tender returned and being assessed. Expect to start on site mid-July. Most residents in Ashgrove availing of energy upgrade works.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	26	Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/ Dunmurry View; out to tender, return date 25 June. More interest in Bishopland compared to Farrincooley and Dunmurray View. Overall uptake circa 60%.
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	12	Phase 4 St Evins' Park; out to tender, return date 02 July. Uptake is lower in St Evin's Park, circa 40%. There are some residents still to confirm.
Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First five units contract ready, remaining five units scheduled.
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	TBC	Documentation/surveys close to completion, final numbers to be confirmed. Expect tender to issue 21 June.
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	TBC	Documentation/surveys close to completion, final numbers to be confirmed. Expect tender to issue 21 June.
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	TBC	A number of vacant units will be included as part of the Retrofit Programme. These units are presently being assessed and scheduled.



### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021 to date</b>
<b>Total Approved</b>	€7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications)	€6,966,989. (includes 2020 applications)
<b>Total Drawn Down</b>	€2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals)	€1,011,845 (from 2019 and 2020 approvals)

<b>2021</b>	<b>Approval No.</b>	<b>Approval Amount</b>	<b>Approval Drawdown No (2021 apps)</b>	<b>Approval Drawdown Amount (2021 apps)</b>	<b>Expired No (2021 apps)</b>	<b>Expired Amount (2021 apps)</b>
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	4	€787,300	0	0	0	0
Mar	9	€1,895,600	0	0	0	0
Apr	5	€869,200	0	0	0	0
May	8	€1,852,356	0	0	0	0





## **Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm**

### **County Development Plan (CDP)**

The Chief Executive's report on submissions received to the pre-draft stage of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was circulated to the elected members on Friday 30 April 2021. The Chief Executive's report outlines the issues raised in the submissions received during the eight week public consultation period and sets out the Chief Executive's opinion and recommendations on the policies and objectives to be included in the draft County Development Plan.

Two workshops were held with the elected members to discuss the Chief Executive's report on 20 May and 25 May.

The elected members have 10 weeks to consider the report and to make directions on the content of the draft County Development Plan. In this regard a meeting to consider the Chief Executive's report and elected

members's directions on the CDP issues paper has been arranged for 29 June.

### **Local Area Plans (LAPs)**

#### **Athy**

The proposed material alterations to the draft Athy LAP were placed on public display from Tuesday 11 May 2021 to Wednesday 09 June 2021. 15 submissions have been received and the Chief Executive's report is being prepared and will be presented to the elected members of the Athy Municipal District before the 07 of July 2021.

#### **Naas**

The Chief Executive's report on submissions received to the draft Naas LAP was presented to the elected members of the county council on 31 May 2021. The elected members will have six weeks to consider the report and issue motions on the draft LAP. A workshop with the elected members took place on the 17 of June in this regard.



Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: May 2021	
	May	Year	No.	Total Granted:	110
2019:	146	622	1,188	Retention:	19
2020:	104	552	1,440	Extension of Duration:	4
2021:	169	766	363	Total Refused:	22

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

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
21309954	3	Land Development Agency	Former Devoy Barracks, Naas	221	04/08/2021

Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
21/618	Kilsaran Concrete	Application area c39.5ha. Continued use of existing permitted development and works; extension to works area c11.4ha; restoration of entire site; proposed operational period 10 years, plus 2 years for restoration; EIAR and NIS prepared. Ballysaxhills Townland, Kilcullen	Valid	01/07/2021
21/608	Strategic Power Projects Ltd	Battery storage compound for 76 units on c.4,089ha; new entrance off L6044; extend site access road and ancillary works at Dunnstown, Co Kildare	Valid	30/06/2021
21/370	Glenveagh Homes	Mixed residential and commercial development with a total gross floorspace of c20,023sqm and a single level basement carpark of c8,153sqm at Parson Street, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 14/05/2021
21/156	High Degree Developments	Phase 2; 47 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 1.99 ha site adjoining existing lands at (Rockfield Court) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 31/03/2021
21/155	High Degree Developments	Phase 1; 58 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 2.18 ha site adjoining existing lands at (Rockfield Park) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 31/03/2021



21/117	Johnstownbridge Spire Ltd	68 residential units at Johnstownbridge	Refusal	Appealed 26/04/2021
21/84	Ummeras Wind Farm Ltd	5 No. 169m high wind turbines and associated works at Ummeras, North Monasterevin Area	Refusal	Appealed 14/04/2021
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	Further Information	Decision due 01/07/2021
20/1403	Bernard Moran	94 Dwelling units plus creche at Curryhills, Prosperous	Valid	NIS requested in accordance with 177T(5)
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.	Grant	13/05/2021
20/1418	Elgin Energy Services	Solar Farm- 10.8Ha at Kerdiffstown and Monread, Naas.	Grant	05/05/2021

## Event Licence

Application received on 10 June 2021 for Forever Young 2021 to be held at Palmerstown House Estate on 10 to 12 September 2021 with a maximum attendance of 21,000 people and 1,500 staff and artists.

## Section 254 Licences

**Amendment to Planning and Development regulations to assist in supporting economic recovery and business activity in urban areas.**

A number of measures in respect of the above have commenced:

- Premises selling food for consumption on the premises are permitted, without specific planning permission to operate as takeaways until 31 December 2021.



- Street furniture licence fees for tables and chairs to facilitate the consumption of food outside such premises is waived until 31 December 2021.
- Structures ancillary to tables and chairs for outdoor dining can now be licenced under Section 254 i.e. awnings, canopies, parasols, shades, windbreakers, heaters or other similar structures. The fee is waived until 31 December 2021.

Licences have been granted providing 151 tables and 486 chairs for outdoor seating, with 28 further applications in progress. To date four applications have been refused - some because they are on private property.

### **Conservation Update**

An offer of appointment has now been made to fill the currently vacant Architectural Conservation Officer post. HR is following up with respect to start dates.

### **Heritage**

Funding was announced by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:

- Community Monuments Fund (one application submitted)

### **Successful Funding to date:**

Heritage Plan Fund managed by Heritage Council - (€30,000)

- Heritage Awareness Project 2021
- Holy Well Audit
- Old Kilcullen Archaeology

National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund - (€41,000)

- Kildare Biodiversity Action 2021

Creative Ireland - (€23,000)

- Know Your Locality - Online Course to run April/June/Sept 2021.
- My Curragh -Public engagement project
- Holy Wells photography

### **Audit of Holy Wells in Kildare**

Consultants appointed.



### **Passlands Graveyard -**

#### **Monasterevin**

Assessment of conservation requirements underway.

### **Kildare Invasive Species Actions 2021 (American Skunk Cabbage control)**

With University College Dublin ongoing control has begun. Development of material for public and community control is in train.

### **Know Your Locality Community research course**

Online course (five workshops) with Irish Heritage School June (30 participants).

### **Heritage Week**

Preparation has begun. Heritage Council providing online training for event organisers.

### **Biodiversity Infomercials**

A series of Biodiversity infomercials will run from May to Sept on a number of biodiversity themes.

### **Kilkea Stone Table**

The plinth has been removed from Kilkea castle and the table recovered from the National Museum. Both items have been moved to the stone conservator's workshop.

### **UNESCO World Heritage**

#### **Designation - Royal Sites of Ireland – Dun Ailinne,**

Kildare County Council compiling information for application for inclusion on the Irish Tentative List due to the Department in June, 2021 with advice from Dr C Young. Presentations have been made to SPC, CPG and Full Council. Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach providing letters of support.

### **Open Space and Outdoor**

#### **Recreation Strategy 2021-2031**

Work is on-going in the preparation of the final strategy, which will inform the review of the County Development Plan 2023-2029.





## 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 implemented at Poplar Square, Naas;

Location	Total estimated project cost	Amount of T and V grant funding requested for this project
Leixlip Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Celbridge Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Newbridge Town Hall environs and Georges Street	€45,000	€40,000
Main Street, Naas and environs	€60,000	€40,000
Main Street, Maynooth and environs	€45,000	€40,000



Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council	€11,000	€10,000	
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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

The following public realm applications to Call 2 of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund were successful:

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Funding Awarded	Comments
Naas	Town centre Masterplan and Cultural Quarter.	€4,662,000	€3,490,000	Consultant to be procured.
Maynooth	Town Centre Masterplan to include Main Street and adjoining laneways, Carton Avenue, Courthouse Square, Harbourfield and environs.	€2,545,000	€1,900,000	Consultant to be procured.



**SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PUBLIC REALM TEAM**  
**Updates in PINK**

**Concept**

**Athy** - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence after the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .

**Kildare-Newbridge** - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Consultant appointed to carry out a hydrological survey which will inform design options.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan - Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Application successful.

**Clane-Maynooth** - Maynooth-Town Branding and Signage – included in successful URDF application.

**Naas** - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.

**Naas** - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. Design has commenced on National Transport Authority funded interim traffic management measures.

**Part 8**

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published June 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 carp ark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26.01.2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19.05.2021.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 complete and ready for publication in June 2021.

**Tender Consultants and Design**



<b>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing.
<b>Athy</b> – 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.
<b>Athy</b> - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> – 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. Members briefing held.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Poor response received to public consultation. Additional consultation being considered.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued. .
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.



<b>Tender Consultants</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Research underway.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline.
<b>Naas</b> - 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 has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in mid 2021 and will take nine months to complete.
<b>Athy</b> - 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.
<b>Tender Works</b>
<b>Athy</b> – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Tender responses being assessed.
<b>Design</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Public consultation has commenced.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation





into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.
<b>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street</b> - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting to be scheduled.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Part 8 to be published in June 2021. Included in successful URDF application.
<b>Detailed Design</b>
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – 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.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Kilcock-Community Centre. Five tenders received. Contractor appointed and works have commenced. Playground to be temporarily relocated during construction works.
<b>On Hold</b>
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021.
<b>Construction</b>
<b>Naas</b> - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.
<b>Naas</b> – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Works will recommence once current restrictions are lifted.
<b>Complete</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Narraghamore-Socila Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December.



## **Water Services**

### **Infrastructural Projects**

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

These 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 2 or 3, 2021. 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.

#### **Contract 2B (Network)**

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement works on the Clane and Sallins rising mains are complete and both rising mains have gone live in Quarter 1, 2021. In Naas, pipeline works are continuing on private lands between the M7 Motorway and Monread Road. In Newbridge, pipeline works are continuing on the R445 towards Langton's Cross / McLoughlin's Oil

junction. Pipeline works are substantially complete in the Páirc Mhuire housing estate.

Upgrade and improvement works are continuing at Clane, Monread and Sallins Pumping Stations.

#### **Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility - Design Build Operate (DBO) Contract Variation**

Veolia Water Ireland advanced works on this variation to the Design Build Operate (DBO) contract and completed these works in Quarter 4, 2020. Operational commissioning of the Thermal Hydrolysis Process Plant is continuing. The Exelys Thermal Hydrolysis Process (THP) is intended to be fully operational by end of Quarter 2 2021.

#### **Maynooth Transfer Pipeline**

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and detailed design stage.



Irish Water and its representatives are currently negotiating with affected landowners and Irish Water's consultants are preparing Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation for this scheme as option agreements have not been reached with all landowners.

## **Capital Projects**

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

While funding constraints have emerged on the part of Irish Water in light of the current COVID-19 crisis, the council continues to work with the utility to progress a temporary solution. This involves laying new pipe, land acquisition and temporary pumping arrangements to transfer sewage from the buffer tank to the public gravity sewerage system and on to the Allenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant (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 or Quarter 3 2021. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-

term pumping solution at the buffer tank site.

### **Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (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 the planning process for a Part 8.

Irish Water has notified the Director of Services that they will progress this to next stage subject to funding being available after the first priority (Derrinturn) and second priority (Nurney) are progressed.

## **Water Networks Management Projects**

### **Boycetown, Kilcock Water Main Extension Scheme**

As Kilcock has been deemed as an area for development under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund



(LIHAF) and the Major Urban Housing Delivery Sites Scheme (MUHDS), an extension of the water main infrastructure is now required to facilitate the planned housing development demands in this area. This project involves the construction of 755 metres of a new watermain. Works commenced on 22 February 2021, with an eight week construction programme to completion of the project. Permanent road reinstatement works were completed during May 2021. All works have now successfully been completed as part of this scheme.

### **Suncroft Village Water Connection Service Transfer Works**

This project involves the transfer of approximately 30 water service connections within the village of Suncroft. Works will also involve the decommissioning of 850 metres of cast iron mains along this route.

To date, all planned service transfer works have been completed as part of this scheme. An additional package of work has since been identified and is required to allow for the full

decommissioning of the cast iron water mains in this area. Additional funding has been allocated and works commenced in May 2021 which involve the installation of approximately 250 metres of new watermain together with associated assets along School Lane, within Suncroft Village. It is expected that this work will be completed in Quarter 2 2021.

### **Newbridge Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works –**

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

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme. Permanent road reinstatement works are now complete.

Full decommissioning of the existing cast iron watermain cannot be completed until further BYSS projects within the areas of Highfield Estate and Piercetown have been carried out. These projects are currently under review by Irish Water's Asset Planning.



## **Kildare Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works -**

### **Lourdesville BYSS**

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

### **Campion Crescent BYSS**

All necessary customer consent has now been obtained. Decommissioning works have 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 four 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 one property remaining within this scheme whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained. Decommissioning works have yet to commence. This work will commence once consent from the final customer has been provided and the properties service connection is installed.

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

Irish Water quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 is as follows:

26 July – 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

29 November – 1.00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of these clinics.





## Environment Services

### Pre-Draft Notice of Preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy”

The three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have given notice of intention to commence preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy” to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans. The current plans are available on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

### 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.

### Recycling Banks

In May, the decrease in glass tonnages at recycling banks continued on from the previous month. In May last year, 598 tonnes of glass and cans were recovered. This year, for the same month, the figure is 505 tonnes. As businesses reopen it will be

important to monitor this trend to prevent problems at sites.

### Enforcement Priorities 2021

In consultation with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the EPA, the Environmental Enforcement Priorities for 2021 are as follows:

- a) Waste Enforcement
  - Illegal waste activities,
  - C and D Activity,
  - ELV and Waste Metal, and
  - Household and commercial waste.
- b) Water Priorities
  - WFD Monitoring,
  - Private water supplies,
  - Farm inspections,
  - Septic tank inspections,
  - Section 4 license compliance,
  - River Basin Management Plans consultation.
- c) Air Priorities
  - Build capacity with local groups,
  - Promote compliance,
  - Solid fuel regulations,
  - Air monitoring prog,
  - Noise directive,
  - Air / noise complaints





### **Burial Grounds**

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

### **Environment Complaints**

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

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

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

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

The National Tidy Towns competition will proceed this year, with the adjudication being done remotely.

The Environment Department is supporting the entrants by providing grants early in the year to enable works to be done, as well as offering advice on the wide range of areas the competition covers.

National Spring Clean proceeded well this year with over 230 cleanups organised and undertaken by Tidy Towns groups, Scouts, residents associations and community groups. Bags and pickers were made available from Aras Chill Dara and the Municipal District offices and the latter is proving to be a great way of getting the equipment to groups easily without the volunteers having to travel long distances. The Roads Department are to be thanked for accommodating this.

### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 127 separate Green Kilometres have been established and 42 tonnes of litter and dumped materials were collected to date this year.

This is a huge amount to be gathered by hand and indicates that Kildare County Council will need to support these groups and individuals in



providing clean up equipment and collecting the waste in a timely fashion.

### **Environmental Education**

In line with Government Guidelines, all in-person 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. The Green Schools programme has continued in a number of schools and online assessments are now taking place in order to award the green flag. While the number of flags awarded will be substantially down on previous years, many schools are organising themselves to participate over the coming year. Information at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/EnvironmentalEducation/>

### **Environment Construction Projects/Schemes**

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

### **New Initiatives**

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

The process of procuring a consultant, subject to funding, is being progressed. The Tender Assessment Board has met online and the Tender Assessment Report has been submitted for review for the consultancy contract. The project is likely to be progressed as a Design Build Operate (DBO) Finance Concession Contract.

#### **Anti-Dumping Campaign and Litter Initiatives**

The national “My Country/County/Town/Village My Waste” campaign was promoted locally through print and social media.



This campaign is to highlight the consequences of dumping on the wider community.



## **Catchment Flooding**

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

A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM's) Programme commence. Flood defence schemes have been classified as essential works by the County and City Management Association (CCMA).

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is now underway, beginning with Phase 1 embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas. Further details of the scheme can be found at: [www.morellfms.ie](http://www.morellfms.ie).

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

The Kildare County Council and 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. Topographical and drainage survey will be completed in July. Further details of the scheme can be found at: [www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/](http://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/)

## **Kerdiffstown**

Wills Bros Ltd was appointed in October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park. The contract period is for 54 months but Kildare County Council is working with the contractor to deliver the project sooner.

Gas extraction wells are being installed along with the capping system. The photo below shows the drilling rig.





The contractor has already commenced the capping of the site with the Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) sheeting and subsoils being placed as can be seen in the following photo.



As can be seen in the next photo, the site compound is progressing well with the site offices roofed, the leachate storage tank complete and the leachate treatment building soon to be clad.



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

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

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

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/>

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

This programme, which includes cemetery extensions, capital type internal improvements and proposals for columbarium walls is currently being reviewed and is likely to be intensified.





### 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 stepped down due to the level 5 restrictions. Works recommenced recently and will soon be completed.

### Newbridge Cemetery Carpark

It is intended to re-advertise a new tender in Quarter 2 2021.

### Ballymore Eustace Cemetery

New paving works are taking place around the old part of the Ballymore Eustace cemetery and are due to be completed soon.

### Risk Management

Risk management cycle for 2021 is now complete.



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support its constituent local authorities to drive

climate action projects in their counties, with particular focus on implementing actions contained within climate adaptation strategies. A number of projects are ongoing across the Eastern and Midlands Region:

### Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action:



This project aims to determine how local government can engage policies and actions to exploit opportunities arising from climate action. Following the successful webinar on this theme which took place on Thursday 20 May 2021, exploring potential economic and enterprise opportunities from climate action for local authorities, additional research is now being undertaken into local government activity in this area internationally. In addition, training to raise awareness for local authority staff including the Local Enterprise Offices is under development. Plans are also underway for a conference to be held in collaboration with the project



partners, later in the year. This is likely to take place in mid-October.

### Capacity Building:



The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners, to implement on behalf of the local government sector, a national training programme for all elected members and local authority staff. Details of the training programme, which includes six pillars and has received CPD accreditation from a number of bodies (Engineers Ireland, Irish Planning Institute, CIWEM), have been circulated to all local authorities.



### Elected Members/Senior Staff

The Climate Leadership training for senior staff and elected members has now been scheduled across 25 counties before the end of 2021 with the remaining counties to be completed in early 2022. A provisional date of 24 September has been provided to Kildare County Council.

Feedback to date on this training has been excellent.



### Climate Action Teams

This programme commenced with participants from the midlands sub-regional counties (Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Laois, and Westmeath), has now moved to local authorities of the Atlantic Seaboard North CARO region and will be rolled to other regions as the year progresses.



### Online Training

The rollout of the Raising Awareness online training programme is ongoing; Grade 7, Grade 6 and technical equivalents have completed this programme across each of the 31 local authorities and the rollout has now cascaded to Grade 5 and equivalents. To date, 3,315 Grade 5's have registered for the programme, with a further 2,260 to follow.





**Actioning  
Policy**  
Local Authority Climate Action  
Training Programme

### Thematic Training

In the first training course of the Actioning Policy training pillar, the Planning for Climate Change training has been rolled out to all local authority planners. Through eight specifically focused modules, set out over four half days, this course supports the target training group in their role and responsibilities, to embed and implement climate action considerations across the forward planning and development management dimensions of the regulatory planning function of the local authority. This training course further supports Part 3 (n) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

Other training courses falling under the Actioning Policy pillar are at various stages of design and progression towards delivery:

- Procurement Officers on promoting green procurement through supply chains.
- Impact of Climate Change on Flood and Water Management.

- Older Persons Council on raising awareness on climate change and climate action.
- Economic and Enterprise Opportunities arising from Climate Change.
- Climate Change and Roads Infrastructure.



**Delivering  
Action**  
Local Authority Climate Action  
Training Programme

### Outdoor Staff

Training for outdoor staff remains under design and development with delivery informed by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) are working with Chief Executives in all local authorities to identify suitable candidates to deliver this training within each local authority. "Train the Trainer" type training will be provided to all candidates once health restrictions allow and access to the Regional Training Centres is permitted.



### Frontline Staff

Training for front line or community engagement staff remains under design and development with the Institute of Public Administration with delivery to be informed by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.



### Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans:

The Eastern and Midland CARO working in partnership with the EPA / Climate Ireland have recently commenced work on the development of Guidelines for Local Authorities on preparing their Local Authority Climate Action Plans. As per the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021, each local authority will be required to prepare and make a Climate Action Plan containing mitigation measures and adaptation measures, to be adopted by the local authority. The

guidelines are an expressed provision of the Amendment Bill also. These guidelines will support local authorities in terms of both the content and the process of making their own Climate Action Plans, when formally directed to do so, by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.



### Creative Ireland's Creative Climate Action Fund:

The Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications launched the Creative Climate Action Fund – a €2 million fund for creative projects which can meaningfully connect people with profound changes happening in our environment, society and economy arising from climate change. The first funding call, which closed on the 31 May, sought proposals which can use creative and artistic approaches to transform connection and awareness



into climate action and behaviour change. The CARO has partnered / collaborated on / supported a number of application proposals, including a large scale project with local authorities in the South East sub-region. These will now be assessed for funding support.

#### **Kildare County Council Climate Action:**



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

#### **Climate Change Adaption Strategy (CCAS)**

The Climate Action Team (CAT) are the main drivers of action under the CCAS. The CAT met on 03 June. Thematic Group 6, Community Health and Wellbeing presented a very

informative and inspiring account of the work being undertaken and progressed to date.



A presentation was made by a fledgling Irish company Vyra. Their Zero to Sustainable programme asks

participants to engage for five minutes a day to reduce their carbon footprint by 30kg week through behavioural change in their daily activities. CAT members have opted to join the trialling of the application.

#### **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)/Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

It is a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and will be a requirement of the amended Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill that Kildare County Council prepare a 5-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). The tender competition has closed, and tender evaluations have concluded with a successful tenderer outcome. The awarding of the contract is being processed.



## **Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**

The committee met on the 12 May and progressed through a heavy agenda.

The highlight was an overview by the National Peatlands Park Group on the creation of a National Peatlands Park in the midlands and the need to progress the concept from a business, tourism, climate action, biodiversity, and heritage viewpoints.

The committee's action plan will be taken account of during the development of the SECAP/CAP.

## **Energy**

### **Energy Management Team**

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team has been meeting monthly since its re-establishment in February 2021. The team is currently progressing several key areas, including the development of Kildare's register of opportunities (projects, initiatives for energy savings), analysis of Kildare's top twenty energy users and potential areas for reducing their energy consumption. The team received a presentation from 3 Counties Energy Agency at its May meeting to inform the group on ISO

50001 as the team is currently considering applying for this recognised energy management standard for Kildare County Council.

A sub-group of the Energy Management Team is focusing on developing a proposal to hold a Climate and Energy week event in October of this year. The group has progressed the event proposal and hopes to submit to senior management for consideration later in June.

The event itself will be targeted at both the internal workings, staff of Kildare County Council and outward looking to the wider communities within the county.

### **Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R)**

Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on reducing its energy usage across the council. Latest information as of the 13 May for year ending 2020 would suggest Kildare is now at 32.7% energy reduction against its baseline year of 2009, which is significant progress from the 2019 figure of 24%. Although this is a provisional figure from Sustainable Energy Authority of



Ireland (SEAI) it shows continued progress on energy efficiencies through Kildare County Council driven largely by the Facilities Team to date. It must also be taken into account the impact COVID-19 restrictions would have on energy reduction in 2020 with remote working and reduced services.

### **Energy Bureau**

Progress is ongoing regarding the formation of an Energy Bureau to provide energy related services and projects at a regional level through SEAI's pathfinder grant funding. The group representing each of the Local Authorities with support from CARO met with SEAI on May 28 to put forward the Bureau's Position Paper for consideration and are currently awaiting feedback from SEAI on next steps. It was also learned at this meeting that Louth County Council no longer wishes to be included in the proposed energy bureau, which results in Kildare, Wicklow and Meath LA's leading this initiative.

### **Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)**

Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities in the county. There are currently 21 SEAI registered SEC's in County Kildare, with four of these nearing the end of their energy master plan stage which will allow them to move to the action phase. A meeting was held with these four SEC's to receive feedback on their progress to date in this process and to learn what changes if any might be needed to ensure positive outcomes and hence encouragement for fledgeling SEC's. The feedback received centred on an additional "community engagement" piece to be included in the Energy Master Plans. The council have engaged with SEAI and the energy consultant ORS Ltd to address this missing piece. Naas SEC are currently compiling their application to join with Kildare County Council to deliver their energy master plan.





## Fleet Electrification



In communication with Area Engineers in Kildare's municipal district offices there has been agreement with two of the municipal district offices to progress the area of fleet electrification by way of receiving quotations to supply and install EV charging points in both Celbridge and Naas Municipal District offices. While there are currently four small EV vans in Kildare County Council's fleet it is very much hoped to increase the presence of EV's in the fleet in the coming years and by having the infrastructure in place to support fleet electrification this will facilitate such growth.

As fleet electrification starts to embed in Kildare County Council through infrastructural changes and greater awareness of EV's it will also be key to facilitate specific EV driving training for all drivers of fleet vehicles to ensure potential EV drivers are fully informed and upskilled in this area.

## Celbridge – Leixlip Municipal District Initiative

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has provided LPT funding of €25,000 for a Climate Innovation Fund.

Work has commenced on the two projects with updates to be provided in mid to late summer. Both projects are examples of Community Activation by demonstrating Climate Action at a local level with potential for scalability.

## Forestry



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

The finalised document 'Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme' was released on the 28 May, 2021. The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara, with the respective functional areas of the council being notified of the potential sites being considered in each municipal district. The management team's support is required to advance the establishment of woodlands on public lands in response to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Works Programme. Template tender documents for procuring the different





elements of this scheme are currently being drawn up by a CARO Working Group and these will be available for use by all local authorities. The CARO is seeking clarifications to inform the application process.

### **Ezine**

The Climate Action Office published its second edition of the year during the week ending 13 June with a view to circulating widely as a mainstreaming tool.

This edition is focusing on actions, enterprise greening opportunities, SPC involvement and training aspects.

### **Partnerships**

The Climate Action Office has partnered with Creative Kildare Team and the Age Friendly Alliance to assist in streamlining Climate Action through their work.

Climate Action's first proposed joint project in Ballymore Eustace has been initially assessed and potential programme of objectives set out. A walkability survey is to be undertaken by the Age Friendly local members to advance the project once restrictions allow.

Climate Action's first proposed joint project with Creative Kildare was submitted on 31 May under the call associated with the Creative Ireland Grant. The proposal is called 'Just Transition Estates – A Feast for the Future'. The submission is a collaboration between Libraries, Heritage, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Climate Action Office and creative entities. The proposal, if successful will be undertaken, in lower income housing estates - Lough Na Mona in Leixlip, Castlefen, Sallins and Zero Waste Garden in Rathcoffey. Through practical education it will build awareness and community resilience around local food production. The footprint of their estates will be used to provide communal food that will be celebrated through street feasts and creation of cookbooks etc. If funded, this project instils fundamental learnings in Climate Awareness in a fun community atmosphere that is easily replicable across the county.



## Graduate LGMA



The Climate Action Office is delighted to welcome a graduate under the LGMA's Graduate Recruitment Competition, who will progress climate activation initiatives in the community. The PPN, LCDC and Community Section have been consulted to ascertain the areas of most need and the synergies to allow the graduate to best target their skills.

## Just Transition

The municipal districts of Athy, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge have generously contributed €15,000 per municipal district to establish a fund to engage a consultant to carry out research to identify possible initiatives which could be advanced in order to provide the necessary supports for the most affected communities. The tender has been advertised on eTenders and bids are to be returned by 25 June.

## Alternatives to Herbicides Project

The CARO assisted the Parks/Climate Action Office to promote the project on alternatives to herbicide use in the upkeep of amenity public open spaces. The scientific research together with practical assessment in the field (Kildare County Council Parks Department and National University of Ireland, Maynooth) is designed to produce a practical maintenance guide for public open spaces. Collaborators include University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Teagasc. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has committed to aligning research to this area.

The number of partners including local councils and other entities will be known in the coming weeks.

The project was presented to the Cork City Council's Environment, Water and Amenity SPC on the 18 May. The stakeholders welcomed the initiative and were strongly in favour of the need for the research. Cork City Council have confirmed their partnership.

Sophia Couchman commenced the Master's position in National University of Ireland, Maynooth on the 08 June



and is familiarising herself with the sites as she looks forward to the challenges and working with all parties involved. The Parks Department and Community Section have contributed enormously regarding their expertise, time, and financial contribution to make Sophia's position possible.

Community Stories on Facebook will provide monthly updates on various aspects up to and including October.



## **Roads, Transportation and Public Safety**

### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip**

The 'M4 Maynooth to Leixlip' is listed as a section of the transport network to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning and prioritised for delivery under the National Development Plan 2018–2027.

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. Arup have been appointed as technical advisors to support the delivery of the project through Phases 1 to 4.

These phases include:

- Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) which would determine if an intervention (project) is required and if an intervention is feasible.
- Phase 2 (Option Selection) would examine feasible options for intervention that could address the aim of the project.

- Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) would develop the design of the preferred option from Phase 2 for further assessment including evaluation of environmental impacts; and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) would include undertaking the Statutory Processes.

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

### **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.

The tender process has commenced. The PQQ (Stage 1) has been completed with six contractors short listed for tendering. Stage 2 tender documents were submitted to the Department of Transport and the Minister for Transport and approval to proceed to Stage 2 of the tender process was granted. The Stage 2 tender process closed on the 17 May 2021. A tender assessment board is currently assessing the quality component of the completed tenders and will report on this by the end of June. It is expected to have a

contractor on site by Quarter 4 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

The CIE/ Iarnród Éireann (IE) Bridge Agreement and Waterways Ireland Licence documents are at draft stage and currently being reviewed.

### **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 the 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 22,500 tonnes of salt for use by Kildare County Council and a number of other local authorities in the region.

The Enabling Works Contract started on site in July 2020 but has been delayed by COVID-19 restrictions. Clonmel Enterprises Ltd. have completed the storm attenuation system and the lime/soil stabilisation works. The enabling works contract is



now scheduled to be substantially completed by the end of June.

The design and tender documents for the main contract are being progressed by Kilgallen and Partners Consulting Engineers. The equipment contract tender analysis has been completed and the preferred tenderer will be novated into the main contract. The main contract is due to go to tender in July.

It is expected to have a main contractor on site for Quarter 4 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **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 the 29 July 2019.

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

lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme) as a prerequisite to the CPO going ahead.

The preparation of 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 been completed and the assessment has commenced.

Detailed design of the scheme, including drainage design, is at an advanced stage.

Further discussions are required with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (LIHAF) regarding project funding and with Irish Water regarding the inclusion of water





and sewerage services along the proposed road infrastructure.

### **Funding**

Discussions are needed as soon as possible with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (LIHAF), the Department of Transport and the NTA with regards to the financial direction of this project.

### **Services**

Agreement is needed with Irish Water on the servicing of the lands associated with the MERR LIHAF project.

### **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 under Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). 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. A four week virtual public consultation on the route corridor options has been completed and submissions have been compiled. This is facilitating the ongoing development of the project to emerging preferred route stage.

A URDF Call 2 application for further funding has been successful with Kildare County Council receiving €10,237,500 for this project (75% Funding, Kildare County Council to contribute 25%). This will facilitate the development of this project to construction stage.

### **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. A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. Documentation associated with the Part 8 process have been completed and discussions have taken place with the Planning Department. Kildare County Council departments have been notified of the Part 8 process associated with this project.

An in-committee meeting with the Kildare-Newbridge Councillors was held before their March statutory meeting, to discuss the scheme. Affected landowners are being consulted at present.

The Part 8 process has commenced and the submissions period closed on 26 May 2021. A Part 8 report is being prepared at present. It is proposed to present the Part 8 scheme to the Kildare-Newbridge Councillors at the July meeting.

### **Naas to Sallins Greenway**

Kildare County Council are currently engaging with the National Transport Authority on this project and have secured funding to bring this scheme to Part 8.

The tender process to appoint a consultant is currently at tender assessment stage. It is expected that the appointment will be made in the coming weeks.

It is expected to proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 4 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Naas / Sallins Transport Strategy**

The Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy has been completed and published.

### **Athy Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)**

The Athy Area Based Transport Assessment has recently been completed and the Planning Department have included it in the Draft Athy LAP Process.



### **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 commence in June 2021, after which the strategy will be finalised.

### **Maynooth Transport Strategy**

A brief and tender documentation have been prepared to facilitate the appointment of Consultants for the development of the Maynooth Transport Strategy. The tender process is now complete, and the consultants have been appointed. It is expected to take six months to complete.

This will facilitate the development of the Maynooth LAP going forward.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme**

Kildare County Council received funding for 2021 from the Department of Transport for bridge rehabilitation works at six locations. Design works and tender documentation are being prepared at present and it is expected to deliver these works during Quarter

2/Quarter 3 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

2020 bridge rehabilitation works are near completion, with some parapet works on-site at present.

Monasterevin bridge is progressing through the approval process with An Bord Pleanála and it is proposed to proceed to construction stage Quarter 3 2021.

Brook bridge has commenced the approval process with An Bord Pleanála and it is proposed to proceed to construction stage Quarter 3 2022.

### **Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing**

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



A URDF Call 2 Application for funding for the Great Connell to Athgarvan Road section, including a new bridge over the River Liffey has been unsuccessful and we are currently reviewing feedback from the URDF. The offer of a feedback session with the Department has been accepted. The process to procure consultants for this project has commenced and a brief is being prepared to appoint consultants and bring the project through to planning stage. It is expected that consultants will be appointed in October.

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River has been substantially completed by the 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 3 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **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, which is due to go to public consultation in June 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. A stage 4 safety audit and snags are now being completed for this project.

### **Kildangan Railway Bridge Footpath Scheme**

The scheme is now substantially complete and the footpath is operational.



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

This scheme is substantially complete, except for snags which are outstanding due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Broadband Connection Points**

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

- Bigstone Community Hall, Castledermot. This site is now live. Contractor has commenced contract to renovate and decorate room to provide working desk space.
- Lullymore Heritage Centre –Site is now live.
- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre. Site is now live.

### **NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout**

Surveying commenced in Newbridge, Kildare, Kilcullen, Donadea and Clane areas on 15 March.

NBI are to apply for a S254 licence in June to install poles and overhead fibre in the Castledermot area. This will be the first installation works in Kildare.

### **Athy Municipal District May 2021**

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

- Moone School works.  
Preparatory drainage works are complete. Phase 1 of works are complete. Lining of the car parking outside school has been completed. Surveys being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the villages. Area outside the Piers Café has been granted permission to use the section of new footpath for tables/chairs for outdoor dining.
- Castledermot School works  
phase 1 are complete.  
Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside school,





including red thermoplastic colouring on ramps has been completed. Survey being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village. Looking into linkage between new playground and footpath infrastructure.

- Crookstown School works phase 1 are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside school, including red thermoplastic colouring on ramps has been completed. Survey being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village. No update.

In the above cases we are liaising the Public Realm Team to see if there are any areas of mutual interest. In Castledermot we are liaising with Parks Department with a view to upgrading playground project and provide continuity of services in the vicinity of the works.

## **The Department of Transport – Climate Adaptation Projects**

An allocation has been received from the Department of Transport to raise the R-417 at Maganey. The Regional road at this location is adjacent to the Barrow flood plain.

## **Bus Shelters**

Funding has been allocated to Athy Municipal District for two bus shelters in Castledermot for 2021. Athy Municipal District has had contact with the Local Link Team with a view to looking at these bus shelters in addition to bus stops along the new routes. Have had provisional meetings with business owners. No update on progress.

## **Municipal District Road Improvement Works and Restoration Improvement Works 2021**

Surfacing and pad coating of the following Local Schemes has been completed.

1. Blackcastle.
2. Knocknagee.
3. Ballaghmoone.



4. Crocket.
5. Kildoon.
6. Peelhall.
7. Nicholastown.

roads, this includes Junction Delineator Posts etc. Athy Municipal District is upgrading signposting at junctions where we are upgrading.

### **HRA surfacing of the following Regional roads has been completed**

1. Ardsclull R-418.
2. Castlemitchell R-428

### **Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021**

- Footpaths in housing estates throughout Athy – replacement of damaged sections.
- McDonnell Drive.
- Greenhills.
- Dominic's Park.

### **Restoration Maintenance Surfacing works**

There is a comprehensive surface dressing program in the Athy Municipal District.

### **Signage works**

Athy Municipal District is in the process of upgrading signage on Regional road junctions with Local

### **Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District May 2021**

#### **NTA – Active Travel Measures updates**

Works on Drogheda street and Main street in Monasterevin are now complete

#### **Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021**

The 2021 program of works is now underway and the following the following re-surfacing works have been completed.

L70721 Eascanrath Lane

L6047 Coughlanstown

L6045 Flemingstown

L6068 Green Avenue

L-7089 Raheens, Caragh

L-7027 Loughbrown

L-7038 Roseberry

Bracknagh Road, Rathangan



### **Surface Dressing Works**

The Surface Dressing Programme has commenced. Phase 1 will see the below named roads receive a surface dressing over a period of two weeks

L7012 Ballykelly Cross

L7001 Rathangan

L7006 Punchersgrange

L7032 Pollardstown

L7023 Pollardstown

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

Works in Pairc Mhuire – Completed  
Logstown – Footpaths and Road resurfacing

Works in Avondale commenced –  
Footpaths

### **Low Cost Accident Schemes:**

There are three Low Cost Accident schemes programmed for 2021 and designs will be developed in due course.

### **Miscellaneous Works**

Verge Cutting across all areas of the municipal district

Footpath repairs in Newbridge and Kildangan

Pothole repairs across the municipal district

General Maintenance – Water Cuts, Patching and Gully Cleaning

### **Naas Municipal District May 2021**

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

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (FP3) from 2020. These works had been delayed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, but are now progressing at the following locations:

- Roseville, Naas – Awaiting Contractor Availability
- St. Martins Avenue, Naas – Complete
- Woodlands, Naas – Works Ongoing
- Friary Road, Naas – Awaiting Contractor Availability
- Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas – Awaiting Contractor Availability



The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (Naas Municipal District Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 1 – 2021). These works were on hold as a result of COVID-19 restrictions but have now commenced.

The locations are as follows:

- Main St., Kill - Awaiting Contractor Start Date
- Elmwood, Naas – Works Ongoing
- Osberstown Rd., Sallins - Awaiting Contractor Start Date
- Monread Rd., Naas – On hold pending completion of Irish Water works

Construction of a Toucan Crossing in Kill was completed in April.

### **Bus Shelters**

Naas Municipal District prepared a design and tendered for works to facilitate the installation of bus shelters subject to funding at the following locations:

- Kill Village - Main Street
- Sallins - R407 opposite Chapel Lane
- Naas - Dublin Road – Odeon Cinema

The construction of these bus shelters will progress in June.

### **Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021**

Naas Municipal District has finalised its preparation of the 2021 Municipal District Roads Programme.

Works at the following locations (Scheme 1) are now at construction stage and it is hoped to progress works following the easing of COVID restrictions:

- L2022 Eadestown – Complete
- L2022 Nunsland – Complete
- L6021 Bishopscourt – Works Ongoing
- L6026 Coolahocka – Complete
- L6029 Cupidstownhill – Complete
- L6054 Tipperkevin - Complete

Works at the following locations (Scheme 2) are now complete:

- L6030 Hempstown (Slate Quarries) - Complete



The Naas Municipal District is at design stage and preparing tender documents for all other schemes.

### **Surface Dressing Works**

Surface Dressing will commence in June and July at the following locations subject to favourable weather conditions:

- R410 Blessington Road (Naas to Beggars End)
- R410 Blessington Road (Crab Lane to Eadestown)
- R411 Ballymore Eustace Road (Donode)
- L2026 Ardenode Cross - to Silverhill
- L2010 Sherlockstown to Bodenstown
- L2014 Kill (Interchange) to Blackchurch Roundabout
- L6011 Sallins to Sherlockstown Road
- L6047 Coughlanstown Hill, Ballymore Eustace
- L6021 Blackchurch/Castlewarden
- L60161 Killeenmore (Turnings Upper to Sherlockstown)

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

Work has commenced on LPT/Paid Parking Funded Works at the following locations:

- Woodlands, Naas (footpath upgrades) - Ongoing
- Elmwood, Naas (footpath upgrades) - Ongoing
- Morell Avenue (raised uncontrolled crossing) – Ongoing

Design and tenders continue to be prepared for works at other locations

### **Low Cost Accident Schemes 2021**

There are two Low Cost Accident Schemes programmed for 2021 at the following locations:

- L2007/L2008 Clownings
- L2026/L6059 Kerrys Cross (Ballymore Eustace)

Designs for works at these locations will be developed over the coming months.





## **Drainage**

### **Naas Municipal District Drainage Works Scheme 1 – 2021**

A tender has been awarded for drainage works at various locations to address localised surface water and/or flooding issues. We are awaiting a programme from the Contractor for the commencement of works. Locations include:

- Mountain View, Naas
- Johnstown
- Esmondale, Naas
- Turnings, Straffan
- Oldtown Court, Naas
- Dun na Riogh Green, Naas

### **Clane-Maynooth Municipal District May 2021**

The crews are currently undertaking routine maintenance including opening inlets, clearing drains and gullies, patching, sign clearing and preparing for the Restoration Maintenance Programme.

## **Municipal District Road**

### **Improvement Works 2021**

Since the last update the municipal district office has progressed the agreed roads programme for 2021 as follows.

### **Restoration Improvement**

The following works were undertaken in May

#### **Restoration Improvement (Overlay) – Approximately 4.5 km**

- L5013 Doogary Mucklon – Complete
- L5006 Cadamstown to Moyvalley – Complete
- L5081 Malones Way. Allenwood – Complete awaiting Surface Dressing

### **Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing)**

The design of these roads is complete and the surface dressing chips are ordered with deliveries ongoing. It is anticipated to commence the surface dressing programme on 01 June.



## **Footpath Works**

There are currently two contracts awarded and two more out to tender with works to commence in the coming months.

## **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District May 2021**

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has undertaken the following works in May 2021

## **Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works**

The Royal Canal Greenway design is being finalised and it is planned to go to tender in the coming weeks. The final detailed design drawings are with the NTA and Waterways Ireland awaiting approval to tender the works.

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

The Municipal District Engineer and his team have completed these works.

## **Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020/2021**

The Department of Transport funding allocation for 2021 has been received

and it is planned to resurface the following roads during 2021

- R403 Youngs Cross, Celbridge (Completed)
- R148 Maynooth Road, Leixlip (Galvins Cross) (Start date 05 July)
- L1016 Kearneystown Upper to Newtown (Start date 28 June)
- L 5056 Green Lane, Leixlip (Completed)
- L1015 Shaughlens Glen, Leixlip (Contract awarded provisional start date 03 August)

## **Surface Dressing Works**

The following roads were surface dressed on Monday 31 May.

- L6018 Pluckstown, Ardclough
- L5067 Ardross, Straffan

## **Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021**

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

The members at the February municipal district meeting approved the LPT funding for 2021 and the municipal district office are currently



working through a programme for delivery of these projects.

### **Kildare Civil Defence – May 2021**

Kildare Civil Defence as a Voluntary Emergency Service has been working to support the response of the local authority and the HSE as requested and where the requests fall within the Civil Defence's ability and training to deliver.

- Assisted Community Forum with transport requests for vaccination centres in Carlow and in Punchestown.

Assisted Irish Blood Transfusion Service in Clane.



## Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2020	Total Calls 2021 (to end May)
Newbridge	429	173
Naas	389	161
Athy	194	81
Maynooth	280	99
Monasterevin	151	60
Leixlip	203	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>630</b>

## Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
<b>2019</b>	75	72
<b>2020</b>	33	31
<b>2021</b>	3	3

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
<b>2019</b>	16
<b>2020</b>	7
<b>2021</b>	6

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
<b>2019</b>	179
<b>2020</b>	204
<b>2021</b>	79



## Building and Development Control

### BUILDING CONTROL (figures to end of May 2021)

<b>Commencement Notices:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	461	212
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	454	211
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	7	2
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	199	138

<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Number of Certificates received:	426	274
Number Valid	425	274
Number Invalid	1	0
Awaiting processing	0	0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	196	119

<b>Disability Access Certificates:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	124	51
Number granted:	137	40
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	2	1
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	66	19





<b>Building Control Active Sites:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of units inspected	2067	693

<b>Development Control Active Sites:</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of Active Sites	104

### Health and Safety

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

- 24 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Ergonomic Assessment of Cash Desk in Finance
- Presentation to Environment Team on H&S Requirements
- Local Authority Safety Officers Group (LASOG) Meeting
- Lead Worker Representative Meetings
- Business Continuity Meeting
- Meeting re Development of Drug Litter Protocol
- Accident & Incident Reports and Investigations
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments

- LGMA Health & Safety Webinar-Influencing Safety Practices & Behaviours in Challenging Times
- Support given around adherence to COVID requirements for ministerial visit to Shackleton Museum Athy.

### Accessibility

Meetings:

Local Access Groups:

- Athy Access Group Meeting held
- Naas Access Group Meeting held
- Newbridge Access Group Meeting held
- Celbridge Access Group Meeting

County Kildare Access Network (CKAN):

- County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Meeting



## Training:

- Disability Awareness Training as per National Disability Inclusion Strategy delivered to library staff
- Inclusive Recruitment – Disability Awareness Training

## Additional:

- Attended COVID Community Response Forum
- Attended webinar- Creating Accessible Online Content – a necessity today
- Meeting with Disability Liaison Officer South Dublin County Council on the implementation of JAM (Just a Minute) Card and Changing Places
  - JAM Card allows people with a learning difficulty, autism or communication barrier tell others they need 'Just A Minute' discreetly and easily.
  - Changing Places facilities are a real improvement on standard accessible toilets as they provide a larger floor area of 12m<sup>2</sup> and additional equipment such as a height-adjustable adult-sized changing bench, a full room

coverage ceiling track hoist system, a centrally located toilet bowl with space either side for transfers/assistants and a safe and clean environment.

- Project Live Maynooth
  - Pitch made to students in Maynooth University about working on a project that focuses on:
    - Promoting accessibility to local businesses and highlighting the economic benefit of embracing a universal design approach.
    - Recognising Co. Kildare as an accessible friendly County by identifying and mapping Co. Kildare's accessible friendly businesses and tourist sites.
    - Developing innovative new ideas around promotion of future awareness campaigns.
    - How can we promote the message that not all disabilities are visible?
    - Improving and promoting CKAN'S profile, name and image.



## Economic Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2021		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	117	€172,250
Festival Grants	55	€41,455
Local Property Tax	202	€375,480
Private Estates Res. Assoc.	300	€111,517
Local Authority Res. Assoc.	71	€44,573
Drehid Grants	28	€201,697
Community Enhancement Programme	0	€0
Education Bursaries	0	€0
<b>Total</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>€946,972</b>

Details of all grants awarded to date in 2021 listed above.

#### 2021 grants schemes

Award letters are issuing to successful applicants and payments are being processed as quickly as possible.

#### Local property tax grants

Lists have been advised from Municipal District Committees and community section staff are processing relevant awards or mini-schemes as required.

#### Community Enhancement Programme

Kildare County Council has been notified that a grant of €148,013 has been allocated for 2021 to improve community facilities. The LCDC team will process this funding over the coming weeks when further details are known.



## Local Community Development Committee June 2021

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 26 May 2021.

### COVID-19 Community Response Forum

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had 25 meetings to date via 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 the 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 chairs the forum and high levels of collaboration to ensure the most vulnerable are responded to during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last meeting discussed the vaccination roll out and an update on responses from members.

### Rural Development LEADER

Projects were approved by the LCDC/Local Action Groups (LAG) on 26 May totalling €84,809.62

1. Robert Kirwan Forestry was grant aided €48,060 towards specialist equipment to develop his enterprise.
2. Maynooth University Barnhall Rugby Football Club was grant aided €19,999.62 towards a lighting initiative to upgrade their facilities.
3. County Kildare LEADER Partnership were grant aided €16,750 towards the delivery of a Smart Villages training programme in County Kildare as an in house project.

The Department of Rural and Community Development recently announced additional Transitional Programme funding under the LEADER programme for 2021 and 2022.

County Kildare has a confirmed commitment of €1,076,236 to allocate to projects. An additional EU (EURI) budget is being negotiated with an additional €478,327 available when agreed to spend on LEADER projects in Kildare.



Applications are now being sought from individuals, businesses and community groups/organisations seeking grant aid to progress enterprise, community development and environmental initiatives.

The LCDC/LAG have agreed priorities for funding. Applications are invited for grants ranging from €15,000 to €100,000. There are strict criteria and priorities for the funding.

County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) can be contacted for detailed information and support:

[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

### **SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme**

Work is progressing in 2021 to roll out the national social inclusion programme, SICAP, in Kildare under Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme implementer. This programme targets socially excluded groups and communities across Kildare through a range of programmes and supports.

For further information on the programmes and supports on offer please contact: County Kildare

LEADER Partnership:

[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

### **Healthy Ireland Strand 1 Round 3**

Projects continue to implement health and wellbeing initiatives funded under this programme across the county.

Progress reports are due for submission to Pobal in July for the period 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator post is currently advertised.

The next LCDC meeting will be held on **Wednesday 07 July 2021**.

### **Kildare Fáilte**

#### **Key Activities**

Inter-county travel recommenced in May which provided a boost to the tourism and hospitality businesses throughout the county, in particular outdoor attractions and golf courses. As hotels and restaurants prepared for reopening in June, ongoing calls were made by Kildare Fáilte to support.

At the Into Kildare industry meet-up, Fáilte Ireland presented the latest customer sentiment research and





shared marketing plans as well as supports available for industry. Fáilte Ireland presented their domestic marketing campaign, Keep Discovering, to industry and the campaign officially launched.

Kildare Fáilte continued their collaboration and communication with monthly calls in particular with a focus on content for the Fáilte Ireland Keep Discovering campaign. Plans for promoting Kildare as a destination across all media channels is underway and due to commence mid-August, following the funding Fáilte Ireland received on behalf of Kildare last August.

Kildare Fáilte took part in a digital workshop for tourism businesses in Ireland's Ancient East which was organised by Fáilte Ireland and attended by tourist attractions, accommodation providers and other tourism boards from the region.

The monthly Shackleton Museum Project meeting took place, of which Kildare Fáilte is on the Marketing Steering Group. Kildare Fáilte also attended meetings to discuss the support and promotion of the Derby

Festival in June and meetings of the Thoroughbred Country Committee.

The Royal Canal Greenway Marketing Group met to agree on the communication plan for the remainder of 2021 and up to March 2022, including press and fam trips and filming.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Association of Irish Professional Conference Organisers (AIPCO) conference, Power of the Past, Force of the Future, which looked at how business tourism can recover from the pandemic. Overall there was a sense of optimism with some concern regarding flight schedules and travel arrangements for inbound tourists.

Media coverage in May concerned the reopening of tourism attractions and encouraged visitors to take their staycation in Kildare this summer. Kildare Fáilte placed a full page advert in the Holiday at Home supplement across 14 titles, and secured editorial in the same edition. To support this activity, there was also a podcast interview with the CEO of Into Kildare which will boost the profile of Kildare as a destination.



Social media content in May focused on accommodation providers promoting mid-week breaks throughout the summer, golf, dine at home and activities for families. Kildare Fáilte also ran a competition to win a dine at home box from the Cliff at Lyons.

Visitor engagement across all social media channels remains strong with a new suite of weekly posts inviting users to recommend their favourite places in Kildare. The most popular content was staycation offers and outdoor activities. The message, We Care in Kildare, and support local continues to be a key priority.

## Library and Arts Service

“The library is like a candy store where everything is free.” Jamie Ford

### Cruinniú na nÓg

Ireland’s national day of free creativity for children and young people, took place on Saturday 12 June. Kildare’s Creative Ireland team in conjunction with Creative Ireland had an action-packed list of events and workshops lined up for the day.

There were many workshops to be enjoyed on the day and be found through the following link:  
<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/kildare/>

### Summer Stars

Summer Stars, the annual summer reading challenge began on 14 June this year. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the programme is being delivered at least in part online. In addition to a national short story competition, Kildare also has a weekly book review competition open to children across the county. Winners are being announced weekly and will receive a book token. The great Summer Stars online events are being advertised through the library service’s social media channels and of course the library newsletter.

### Library Information Technology and eServices

#### Library Website

The library website is getting an overhaul. The website team looked at library websites internationally, at user experience and design layout. A new template has been agreed, a structure is being developed and content is



being collected. The Library Services have engaged a photographer staff member for up-to-date photos. The Library Services are looking forward to a fresh new look.

### **eServices Team**

The Library Services eServices team put on their last eService web show on Friday 04 June. This time demonstrating the new eMagazine service called Libby from Overdrive. There are 3,302 eMagazine titles available for Library Services members to download and read on their smart devices.

The eServices Team are also making short instructional videos on all the Library Services eServices which will be added to the Library Services Vimeo account.

### **SurfBox – Printing/scanning and photocopying services**

Library Services are working with SurfBox to add additional payments feature for lost items on library kiosk. This will be another self-service function and will limit the need for library staff cash handling which is desirable for security but also for public health reasons. COVID-19

restrictions stalled the rollout of the SurfBox self-print kiosks to Library Services branches, but it is hoped that this can be resumed and completed by year end.

### **Keep Safe Campaign**

#### **Eat Well - Grow It Forward**

In partnership with Healthy Ireland, Libraries Ireland, and Grow It Yourself (GIY) 50,000 free food growing kits will be given away, participants are asked to use the kits to share the experience with ten people, enabling half a million people across Ireland to enjoy the wide range of benefits that come from growing food at home.

The 830 packs allocated to Kildare Library Services were supplemented by 100 more packs which were delivered to schools around the county.

May online events to complement the campaign included a repeat of the three step by step growing workshops and creating a wildlife friendly garden workshop. Workshops in June include Raising Zero Waste Kids, Gardening for Mental Health and Composting.



## Keep Safe Campaign

### Keeping Active

Kildare Library Services in conjunction with Kildare Sports Partnership organised online talks for secondary schools to focus on keeping well, physically and mentally.

Dr Mary O'Kane spoke on anxiety, its effects and how young people can take control, Jennifer Ryan spoke on communication and its role in improving relationships and Eric Donovan spoke on Motivation and Resilience discussing his own life and adversity with motivational tips. These talks took place over April and May. 11 talks were delivered to four secondary schools reaching 1200 students.

### Beyond the Book Young Readers Festival 2021

957 children attended events across the month of May.

There were 38 events with 31 events going ahead, some events were postponed due to COVID-19 but will go ahead in the Library Services Children's Book Festival in October. In addition to Library Services events that were facilitated by authors and

illustrators, Kildare Library staff facilitated seven events with a total of 122 attendees.

### Creativity in Older Age

#### 'Making MAC Project'

The Making MAC Project received funding under The Creative Ireland Programme in response to the Creativity in Older Age Scheme.

This project centres on supporting positive ageing groups in communities in Kildare to explore, discuss and question artworks from the Kildare County Council Municipal Art Collection, through gentle, but structured conversation. These sessions will take place online (in live format) with facilitator and artist Vera McEvoy. This experience is aimed at people in isolation, in nursing homes and care settings, those feeling a sense of loneliness, family members, friends and neighbours. Phase 1 begins in June with nursing home residents followed by individuals in the community in September.

### Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM)

Several STEAM workshops were held this month which included a Bog in the



Classroom workshop with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council where children learned all about the formation, biodiversity, and archaeological importance of the wild bogs of Ireland. One local school also participated in a Meet the Scientist event whereby six other local schools all around Kildare tuned in for an event with Kildare writer and biodiversity expert Juanita Browne who told the children all about how they can help their local biodiversity.

### **Toys Technology and Training (TTT) Programme**

Leixlip Community Library had a busy May with a Series of Music Therapy talks for the TTT Programme. Three Music Therapy Webinars were held covering topics Music therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Developmental delay and Intellectual Disabilities, acquired strokes and mental health concerns.

### **Let's talk about Parenting Programme**

727 parents and professionals have attended talks in the Library Services 'Let's talk about Parenting' February to May programme. There will be a talk

on 'Tackling Social Anxiety as Society re-opens' with Maynooth Counselling and Psychotherapy this month, as well as Healthy Food Made Easy Courses which will run over the summer - one for parents and another for parents cooking with their teenagers. Planning is now underway for the September to December programme.

### **Local Studies and County Archives**

The Local Studies Collections and County Archives have moved to Kildare Town in recent months to facilitate essential works to the existing old County Library building in Newbridge. Staff continue to assist researchers, local history groups, school students and others with various research queries. They can be contacted by emailing [localhistory@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localhistory@kildarecoco.ie) or phoning 0873611439.

### **Kildare Decade of Commemorations**

#### **A Timeline of the War of Independence in County Kildare**

Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee has produced a new publication documenting a wide range





of significant events that took place throughout County Kildare in the War of Independence. It covers the social, military, and political history of the county in this tumultuous period. The booklet is available to download through [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory), while physical copies will be made available in libraries, schools and to local history groups in the coming weeks. It will be of particular benefit to secondary school students undertaking local history research on their area.

### **Irish Military Seminar 2021**

The 2021 Irish Military Seminar, supported by Kildare Decade of Commemorations, County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups and June Fest 2021, took place online from 08 June to 19 June. Topics covered included the War of Independence, World War I, Strongbow, Garrison Towns and War Cartoons.

### **Remembrance The World War I Dead Of Co. Kildare**

A new book with a detailed listing of the 750 men and 3 women from

county Kildare who died as a result of World War I has just been published by County Kildare Decade of Commemorations. It was launched by the Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, Councillor Mark Stafford, on Thursday 19 June during an Irish Military Seminar event featuring Irish Times journalist and historian Ronan McGreevy. Copies will be available for loan in all Kildare library branches, with copies of this beautiful publication also available for purchase in several independent bookshops throughout county Kildare.

### **Stacumney Ambush Booklet**

02 July 2021 is the centenary of a significant incident during the War of Independence that took place at Stacumney. An attempted attack on British forces by members of the Kildare and Meath Irish Republican Army was foiled by the unexpected appearance of a much larger British force in the form of lorries and aeroplanes. The Decade of Commemorations Committee are supporting a booklet publication by local historian and teacher Seamus Cummins. Copies will be available for



free in Celbridge Library or by emailing [localhistory@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localhistory@kildarecoco.ie)

## **Kildare Arts Service**

### **World premiere of The Ballad of a Care Centre**

Kildare born artist John Conway presents the world premiere of The Ballad of a Care Centre this month, as part of The Arts Council's 'Brightening Air/Coiscéim Coiligh' nationwide season of arts experiences and supported by Kildare Arts Service's Arts, Health and Wellbeing programme. John has been developing this work since 2019, around the individual and collective oral histories of older people who attend the Naas Day Care Centre. The performance presents interwoven memories and life stories to an audience of one via life performance and virtual reality. 16 June to 20 June, McAuley Place, Naas.

### **Support - Live Performance Industry**

Kildare County Council has recently secured funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the new Kildare

Local Live Performance Programming scheme.

The award (€143,000) will support the creation of employment opportunities for local professional artists, technicians, crew, engineers, designers, and other support staff working in the live arts and culture sectors in county Kildare. It aims to assist producers, promoters, and venues to programme outdoor live performances in summer 2021 animating town centers for local communities, should public health considerations permit. The call out for expressions of interest, managed by Kildare Arts Service, closes on 23 June.

### **Supporting Artists' Development**

Kildare County Council, through the Arts Service, continues to provide professional development supports to artists working and living in the county, through collaborations and partnerships with arts and educational organisations:

23 June: Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) presents a webinar exploring new methods in which Irish artists are presenting their work in non-traditional formats. This event is part of a collaborative series of webinars



between VAI and Kildare County Council Arts Service, combining resources to support the professional development of visual artists at regional level.

24 June: Community and Youth Work students at Maynooth University will showcase films created as part of their participation in the pilot Artist in Residence Scheme with Young Irish Filmmakers (YIFM), supported by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) National Youth Arts Programme and Kildare County Council Arts Service. This showcase is programmed as part of the 'What's the Story?' conference, hosted by the Centre for Youth Research and Development, Maynooth University (24 and 25 June).

## Parks

### Castledermot Playground



The playground opened for the June Bank Holiday Weekend. It features 20 different types of play equipment most of which was chosen by the local community after an extensive consultation exercise. These include a tube slide and multi activity unit, double zip wire, trampoline, swings including an hexagonal swing, adventure trail, sensory play panels and mud play area. The playground was built by Gardenescapes. The playground was funded from development levies, local property tax and a grant from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. It cost €180,000. Part of the works also involved creating a new paved entrance, circulation paths and landscaping around the Fairgreen. All this work was carried out by locally based Walsh Civil Engineering. This cost €200,000 and was funded from the Community Enhancement Programme and Leader funding.

### Allenwood Playground

Work on the tendering process has been temporarily paused pending the appointment of a replacement staff member for the Parks Team. This is unfortunate but could not be helped.



As soon as is practicable the process of tendering for the playground will recommence. The objective is to have a tender ready by the end of the year and for construction to take place in 2022.

### **Tree Works Programme**

The tree works programme for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District has been completed. Works have started on the Naas and Athy Municipal District Programmes and works are due to start on the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District works programme this month.

### **Leixlip Playground**

A consultation exercise with local children is underway to ascertain their views on the playground in Leixlip. This will inform the upgrade of the playground.



## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Immediate business support:

Funding Applications Awarded From January – 15 June 2021			
	No. Businesses	Amount Received	
Web Development Grant	62	€104,285	
Shopfront Grant	26	€54,976	
Outdoor Seating & Accessories Grant	49	€166,162	
Export Marketing Grant	6	€12,675	
Start-up/ Expansion/Pri ming/ Export Marketing Grants	28	€545,979	
Agile Innovation Enterprise Ireland Fund	2	€167,269	

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

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

For trading online queriers email

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

The LEO is also providing support for writing funding applications, visit

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

And finally, for Brexit support, visit

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Portal/Discovers-Business-Supports/Brexit/Brexit-Supports-for-your-Small-Business.html>

For all other queries

email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

or call the office line on 045980838.

For continued updates please follow

Kildare County Council's LEO on social media

Elected members are asked to advise constituents that Kildare LEO is always open to discuss business needs or grant availability, and weekly business advice clinics are available.



## Business Restart 2021

Businesses right across the County are availing of free of charge one-to-one advisory sessions on business concerns relating to reopening in Summer 2021. An expert mentor will be appointed to advise any concerns

Please advise constituents to apply for this support here:

<https://leokildare.submit.com/show/113>

## E-commerce Funding and Support

Kildare LEO continue to provide extensive ecommerce support.

**Online Trading Vouchers** to the value of €2,500 are available to businesses to improve e-commerce capabilities are available. The first step in applying is to attend an information seminar. The next seminar is taking place Wednesday 14 July. For more information and to secure a place, visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online-Bookings/>

## Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Businesses

<b>Outdoor Seating &amp; Accessories Grant processed</b>	49	€166,162
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The aim of the Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant Scheme is to provide support to individual independent hospitality and tourism businesses towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and facilitate these individual independent businesses to increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021.

The scheme is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafés, public houses or other establishments where food is normally sold for consumption on the premises. All applicants will be required to comply with planning Section 254 codes, legislative requirements and other compliance requirements.

The Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant is open until the 30 September 2021.

For more information visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Outdoor-Seating-Accessories-Grant/>





## **€100,000 Green for Micro Funding Initiative**

The Green for Micro Programme was launched to help businesses across county Kildare to prepare for the low-carbon economy. This is an initiative to increase awareness around sustainability and the low carbon future. Businesses in County Kildare are being offered two full days of consultancy costs, a unique opportunity to cut harmful emissions and make significant energy, waste, water and other savings through this programme. Please advise constituents that applications are open for the Green for Micro Programme at: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Green-for-Micro/>

## **Kildare LEO Hosts National Circular Economy Webinar**

On Thursday 30 June, Kildare LEO will host the National Circular Economy Webinar.

The webinar will allow companies gain valuable insight into new business opportunities by adopting a green strategy and considering the circular economy.

Open to all businesses, the event will feature guest speakers, panel discussion and a masterclass.

Please advise constituents of this upcoming opportunity:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/The-Circular-Economy-New-Business-Opportunities.html>

## **Business and Tourism**

### **Greenway - Royal Canal Greenway - Barrow Blueway**

Kildare County Council LEO continues to be engaged with these projects, offering business advice and mentoring services and start your own business programs to those businesses wishing to capitalize on the economic benefits of these developments.

## **Economic Development – Capital Projects**

### **MERITS – Innovation Hub**

Having recommenced at the beginning of May construction on the building has gathered pace with the main contractor on schedule to finish in early July. This will be followed by internal ICT and furniture fitout, with the MERITS and LEO teams moving in during



August, followed by the StartUp tenants in September.

The initial Accelerator programme recently finished with 11 companies pitching to a team of investors and advisors, including some of the leading Venture Capital firms in the country. A number of the companies are now in negotiations with those investors with a view to securing investment to fuel their growth. A further 11 companies are now enrolled on a Pre-Accelerator Programme and are undertaking deep market research and customer validation exercises.

On 02 June , MERITS and LEO hosted a webinar on Finance Options for StartUps and SMEs, with speakers from SBCI, Spark Crowdfunding, LinkedFinance, Flender, EI, LEO, Grant Thornton, Halo Business Angel Network and the Irish Venture Capital Association. A new website was also launched and is available for viewing at [www.merits.ie](http://www.merits.ie).

### **Equine Tech Innovation Hub**

Construction has commenced on the development of a National Equine Innovation Centre at the Irish National Stud. The project is an exciting partnership between Kildare County Council, Kildare Local Enterprise Office and the Irish National Stud. The first of its kind for the equine sector in Ireland, the innovation centre will facilitate and promote enterprise, innovation, applied research, commercialisation and learning.

The transformation of the existing museum at the National Stud into a 14-desk workspace complete with a dedicated meeting room has been funded with the support of County Kildare LEADER Partnership and Kildare County Council. Following a competitive tender process, GPD Building Contractors will carry out the refurbishment works and the project is being managed by Vivian Cummins Architects from Athy.

Following a 16 week construction programme, it is anticipated that companies will begin to locate at the equine innovation centre in September.



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

Model School in Athy into the Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. Bluett O'Donoghue and Head Of Enterprise presented the Part 8 for approval to the Athy Municipal District at the May meeting and it has been formally granted by the members. Final Design and Costings are to be ready for end of July 2021.

## **Mid East REP Consultation Forum, Monday 14 June (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.)**

The Head of Enterprise and the Chief Executive are part of this forum which is chaired by Eamon Sinnott and attended by Minister English. The forum will be split into two sessions, Session A and Session B. In each session we will be randomly assigned into separate breakout rooms to begin our discussions. Session A will focus on the thematic areas of Resilience & Recovery and Transition (Climate/Digitalisation) Session B will focus on the thematic areas of Enterprise Innovation/Smart Specialisation and Eco system strengthening & competitiveness.

The Consultation is part of the Next version of the Mid East Regional Enterprise plan 2021 –2024.

## **Launch of the Kildare Economic Strategy 2025.**

On Tuesday 06 July, Kildare County Council will launch the Kildare Economic Strategy 2025. The plan's economic and social development targets provide critical signposts that companies—both foreign and domestic—would be wise to heed when determining their own plans for the coming months and years. The five-year plan is the centrepiece of Kildare County Council's economic vision for the county for the years ahead. Reflecting on the transformation of the county over the past number of the years, Peter Carey, Chief Executive of Kildare County Council will discuss the plan with economist Jim Power during a webinar where businesses will hear first-hand the exciting new innovative plans for Kildare.

The strategic plan sets out an ambitious agenda to promote high-quality development in all aspects, including the economy, environment, and people's livelihood and wellbeing whilst ensuring Kildare is and



continues to be the ideal location for business enterprise.

Link will be circulated to all elected members and invites to the Business Community Through Kildare Chamber

## 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 the Kildare LEO Website:**

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

Objective	Support	Link
<b>Financial</b>		
<b>Support Purchasing Outdoor Seating</b>	<b>Grant Scheme for Outdoor Seating &amp; Accessories for Tourism &amp; Hospitality Businesses</b>	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Outdoor-Seating-Accessories-Grant/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Outdoor-Seating-Accessories-Grant/</a>
<b>Funding to businesses who are not eligible for the Government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme</b>	<b>Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid [SBASC]</b>	<a href="https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/">https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/</a>



<b>(CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes.</b>		
<b>Immediate Cashflow</b>	<b>MFI COVID-19 Business loan</b> – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html</a>
<b>Generate Revenue with Online Sales</b>	<b>Shop County Kildare</b> – new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html</a>
	<b>Trading Online</b> - Please encourage constituents to submit completed application forms to the LEO at <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> .	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/</a>
<b>Upgrade Shopfronts and Implement Outdoor COVID-19 Signage</b>	<b>Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme</b>	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html</a>



<b>Advisory:</b>		
<b>Expert Strategic Mentoring</b>	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE</a>
<b>Health and Safety Guidance</b>	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring with specialist to ensure businesses have tools and knowledge to implement Health and Safety measures in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE</a>
<b>Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines</b>	Free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and bringing staff back to work in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE</a>
<b>Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing</b>	<b>Re-Designing Businesses Programme</b> - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing	Email <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> to apply
<b>Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales</b>	Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a>





Communications:		
<b>Frequent Updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications</b>	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.	<p>Head of Enterprise</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html</a></p> <p>Sign up to newsletter:</p> <p><a href="https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c">https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c</a></p>
<b>Access to LEO team and specialists</b>	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry	<p><a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a></p> <p>045980838</p>

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