



Chief Executive's Management Report – March 2021

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements During COVID-19

Coronavirus
COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our range of online services can be viewed here:

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

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



Kildare Community Call Helpline

Freephone 1800 300 174

Email covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie.

Text KILDARE to 50555.

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

Community calls are handled by
Customer Services.

**Current opening hours are
8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. 7 days a week.**



News Items

Kildare County Council secures over €15 million Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF)

Three regeneration projects in Celbridge, Maynooth and Naas

Kildare County Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (HLGH), Mr Darragh O'Brien, TD confirming funding for five regeneration projects in the Mid-East region of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow (see page 27).

Climate Action Knowledge Hub for Local Authorities - Now Live

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO's) have just launched a website www.caro.ie - to support all county and city councils in leading Ireland's climate action efforts (see page 49).

Kildare County Council signs up to All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Kildare County Council signed up to the to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on Monday 22 February (see page 23).

Curragh Plains - Conservation Management Plan and an Interpretation/Branding Strategy

The Paul Hogarth Company has produced a website which will provide a platform for all stakeholders to have their say, for the first phase of consultations. The website went live on 15 March for a period of 4 weeks (see page 33).

Allenwood Playground

Work will commence on the preparation of detailed design and specifications to tender for the construction of the playground (see page 88).

Royal Canal Greenway Launch

The Royal Canal Greenway launch, which will take place on 24 March (see page 78).

St. Patrick's Day Greetings

Greetings and best wishes were sent to our friends in the Kildare Association New York and to the Sister Cities Commission in Lexington Kentucky on behalf of the Council.



Dates for Your Diary

Preliminary Consultation Survey on the Curragh Plains

The preliminary consultation survey on the Curragh Plains opened on 15 March 2021 to 12 April, 2021 at www.curraghplains.ie (see page 33).

Community Grant Schemes

Online applications for Community Section Grant Schemes are now being accepted and the closing date for receipt of applications is 07 April 2021 (see page 73).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

For the schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 (see page 40).

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

The closing date for written submissions in relation to the preparation of the plans is on the 06 May 2021 (see page 40).

Decarbonization Zone in Local Authority

Consultation live on our Consultation Portal - Expressions of interest in relation to this and/or the selection process must be made before 5:00 p.m. on Friday 26 March (see page 48).

Brexit Support

Please advise constituents that the next VAT and Duties Workshop takes place on Thursday 25 March (see page 90).

Online Trading Vouchers

The next seminar is taking place on 15 April (see page 90).

Part 8 Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

The Part 8 planning consultation process commenced on 23 February and will close to submissions on 06 April (see page 95-96).



Calendar of council meetings in April as follows:

Today < > April 2021

Dublin ▾ Today 54°F/36°F Tomorrow 53°F/44°F

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28 Mar	29 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly meeting	30	31 10:00 LCDC	1 Apr 14:00 Briefing Athy LAP 15:30 Coiste Gaelige	2
4	5	6	7	8	9 09:00 Demonstrate Members Portal Clane Maynooth 10:00 Clane Maynooth Monthly MD meeting
11	12	13 08:30 Drehid Liason Committee 14:30 Demonstrate Members Portal Naas Md 15:30 Naas Md Monthly meeting	14	15	16 09:00 Demonstrate Members Portal Celbridge Leixlip 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip MD Monthly meeting
18	19 09:00 Demonstrate Members ... 10:00 Athy MD Monthly meeting 12:00 ATHY LAP 14:00 CPG	20	21 08:00 Demonstrate Members Portal Kildare Newbridge 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly meeting	22 09:00 Twinning Liaison Committee	23
25	26 13:00 Finance Committee 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly Meeting	27	28 11:30 County Twinning Committee	29	30



INDEX

News Items.....	2
Corporate Services	6
Finance and Information Technology.....	8
Housing	10
Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm	18
Public Realm	27
Water Services.....	36
Environment Services	40
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	52
Building and Development Control	70
Economic, Community and Cultural Development	73
Community Grants	73
Local Community Development Committee.....	74
Kildare Fáilte	77
Library and Arts Service.....	80
Kildare Sports Partnership	85
Parks	88
Local Enterprise Office (LEO)	89



Corporate Services

Value Your Vote

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

www.checktheregister.ie.

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

Electoral Reform

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have (DHLGH) published the General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill which provides for a range of significant electoral reforms. Details at [General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill 2020](#)

Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)

The council's new CRM system is scheduled to go live on 29 March subject to the ongoing testing and training programme. This project will also include a new customer portal on our website integrated with our CRM to receive and refer customer contacts to

the relevant department as quickly as possible.

The project also comprises a new Elected Members Representation Portal to facilitate the submission of representations in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements and provide members with other useful reporting features.

The project is part of a broader multi-annual plan to deploy innovative IT solutions to facilitate customer service improvements. Customers are reminded of the existing [online ways to transact business](#) with the Council at present.

Online Appointments System for Public Consultation documents

A [new online appointment facility](#) for customers to make bookings to view public displays and other consultation documents at Áras Chill Dara, Naas, has gone live on the council's website.



Members Services

International Womens Day (IWD)

With the assistance of the Communications Team, our women councillors were promoted across all the councils social media platforms on IWD. Work is continuing on projects related to funding received to support Women and Diversity in Local Government.



#ChoosetoChallenge #YourCouncil



A recent funding announcement from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the establishment of a local caucus for womens councillors is currently under review by Members Services, with support and input being sought from all our women councillors.

Meetings

All meetings of the council took place remotely on Microsoft Teams in February with both the press and public in attendance. Members Services continue to work with the elected members and with the IT Department in delivering an efficient, effective, and professional platform for online meetings.

Kildare County Council is part of a sub-group working with the LGMA and Microsoft on technical initiatives and innovations for use across the sector at online meetings of council.



Finance and Information Technology

Financial Reports

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for year ended 31 December 2020 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2021. It is anticipated that the 2020 AFS will be brought to council in April.

Schedule of Uncollected Rates

The schedule of uncollected rates was completed in January 2021. The total amount collected on rates for 2020 was €30.9 million compared to €51.9 million for 2019.

The closing arrears balance has increased to €15.7 million in 2020 from €12.5 million in 2019.

The overall collection percentage for 2021 is 70% - this is a decrease on the

2020 collection percentage of 83%.

However, it should be noted that to

alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on eligible businesses in 2020, the Government put in place a 9-month waiver scheme. Kildare County Council was allocated a grant of €22 million which matched the amount waived. In accordance with Department rules, this income is shown as grant income in the 2020 AFS. If this were shown as rates receipts, then the collection rate for 2020 would have been 80%.

Rates Demands 2021

The Rates Demands for 2021 were issued in February to all ratepayers. A new rates waiver scheme for the 6 months to 30 June 2021 was announced – this is more restricted than the schemes in 2020. In March all customers were advised as to whether it applies to them. There is a right of appeal, however this will be within the rules of the scheme.



Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure v Budget Reports for 2021 will be submitted to council as part of the Monthly Management report from April onwards.



Housing

2021 Funding Approvals Received to Date

- Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans: €9.12 million
- Housing Adaptation/Housing Aid Grants: €3.16 million (Kildare County Council's contribution is €632,458).
- Midlands Energy Retrofit Programme: €3.3 million
- Energy Efficiency Programme: €1.15 million

Homeless Services

The Mid-East Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2024 was approved at a special meeting of the Regional Homelessness Statutory Management Group on 12 March, having been considered by the Regional Homelessness Forum on 11 March. The action plan will now be presented to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and Corporate Policy Group (CPG), in advance of being brought before full council, in each of the three counties in the region

(Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) in April.

This plan was developed with the involvement of and input from all the relevant agencies and stakeholders in the region and will be subject to ongoing reviews of its implementation throughout the lifetime of the plan.

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



The incidence of COVID-19 in homeless services nationally remains very low and this is also the case in Kildare and the Mid-East Region. Kildare County Council continues to have 7 isolation units available for use should the need arise. Services are mindful, however, not to allow any complacency as international experience shows a much higher incidence among the homeless population which may be attributed to the most recent variants of the virus.

Housing First continues to operate successfully in the county with 5 tenancies with wrap around supports currently in place. A further two tenancies are expected in the coming

weeks and suitable one-bedroom properties are being sourced. Targets will be increased in this area and the DHLGH is gathering and collating data from each of the regions to determine the need for Housing First in each region.

The cold weather initiative remains in place in Kildare with the 24 bed spaces currently in use. Beds for an extreme weather event are also available for use at the Kerdiffstown Facility should the need arise and the operation of this will be managed by The Peter McVerry Trust with full adherence to HSE COVID-19 Guidelines.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2021
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	The Design Team received response to clarifications letter from the preferred bidder. The Design Team advised their report on tenders will follow shortly which will allow for the issue of Stage 4 Submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	All Part 8 documentation together except to conclude Engineers drawings. Further CCTV investigation required to foul and surface water drainage. Engineers expect to finalise design within the next 3 weeks.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Preparation of tender documents in progress. Estimated approval stage 3 submission Quarter 1, 2021
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 2, 2021.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	37 units	Tender for Architect Lead Design Team currently being assessed. Estimated appointment of consultants April 2021
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultants tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.



Approval Stage 1		Status March 2021
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Rapid Build/Volumetric Framework 65 units	Letter of Acceptance issued to successful architect lead design team. Contract signing to follow Quarter 1, 2021.
Ambassador Site, Kill	35 units	Results letters issued to participants. Letter of acceptance to follow Quarter 1, 2021.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.	57 units	Stage 2 and Design Team tender documentation in preparation.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 1, 2021.
Group Housing Andrew, Athy	5 units	Stage 1 application for submission to the DHLGH Quarter 1, 2021.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2021
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 application in preparation with launch anticipated in Quarter 1, 2021.
Narraghmore	4 units	Approval Stage 2 received from the DHLGH in September 2019.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Stage 1 approval received from the DHLGH in September 2020. Stage 2 in preparation.
Patrician Ave, Naas	1 unit	Brief finalised. Proposed scheme design issued for technical review.
Shamrock Stores	1 unit	Stage 1 application being prepared.
Iniscarra, Athy	4 units	Survey work complete.



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2021
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Phase 1 (17 units) expected to deliver by end of April 2021. Remaining 60 units due to complete in July 2021.
Andrew, Athy	74 units	2 no. design reviews complete. Presentation image to the DHPLG technical advisors. NDFA awaiting approval of increased unit numbers from DEPR.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Status March 2021
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	No site works permitted under COVID-19 restrictions.
Tuath HA Castlifen, Sallins	28 units	No site works permitted under COVID-19 restrictions.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	24 units	Tender for a Design Team currently being prepared.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Site investigations progressing on site by Cluid.



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Status March 2021
KARE	3 Units Craddockstown	Part 8 agreed by the Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 09 March.
Camphill Communities of Ireland	4 units at The Bridge, Kilcullen	Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Homeless Care CLG	12 Apartments at Jigginstown House, Naas	Completed January 2021. Engagement with TUSLA and Tiglin underway.
Sofia Housing	35 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	Revised proposal to increase development from 28 to 35 units received from Sophia Housing. Proposal submitted for pre-planning assessment and feedback issued to Sophia Housing.
Cluid	29 units Dominican Lands Athy	Design proposals in progress. Follow up pre planning meeting Quarter 1, 2021.
The Peter McVerry Trust	5 units Sallins	Revised proposal expected March 2021.

Acquisitions in Progress in 2021

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed Units 2021
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	72	2
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	106	1
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	2
Total	255	379	219	5



Acquisitions by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge -Leixlip	Clane- Maynooth	Kildare- Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions YTD	0	0	4	0	1
Leased Properties YTD (includes AHBs)	8	1	6	19	0

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

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

2021	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No.	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No.	Expired Amount
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	4	€787,300	0	0	0	0

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

79 new HAP tenancies were set up since January 2021, giving a total of 2,384 active tenancies in the county. As a result of processing improvements, the turnaround time for HAP files has been reduced to 3-4 weeks.



Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodation and Family Hubs as at 28 February 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	13	19	27
6 - 12 Months	9	11	7
12 - 18 Months	5	6	2
18 - 24 Months	11	16	26
24 - 30 Months	5	9	16
36 Months +	1	1	0
Total	44	62	78

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation

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



Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan (CDP)

The review of the Kildare County Development Plan formally commenced on Monday 11 January 2021 with the publication of the statutory notice and Issues Paper. The closing date for submissions was Monday 8 March and there were c.360 submissions received.

Two online public meetings have now taken place as well as meetings with the People Participation Network (PPN) and Comhairle na nOg as well as a briefing to the elected members on their roles and responsibilities with regard to the Development Plan process. On-going work is being carried out in preparation of the development plan review.

Local Area Plans (LAP's)

Athy LAP

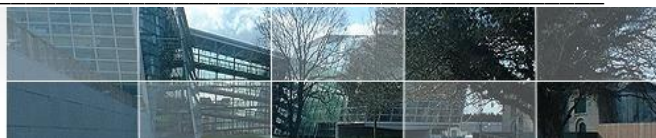
The Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027 was published on 17 December 2020 and was on public display until 08 February 2021. A total of 62 submissions were received.

A Chief Executive's Report on submissions and observations received will be issued to the elected members of the municipal district on or before 19 March 2021.

Workshop and Special Meeting dates are currently being arranged.

Naas LAP

The Draft LAP was published on 09 March 2021 with 7 accompanying documents. The Draft LAP will be on public display for 6 weeks until 21 April 2021. An Informal briefing with the Naas Municipal District Committee took place on 10 February 2021. Public consultation will be aligned with public health restrictions.



All documents will be made available on the council website and on the council's consultation portal.

The elected members should note that the Draft Naas LAP 2021-2027 must be considered by full council, in

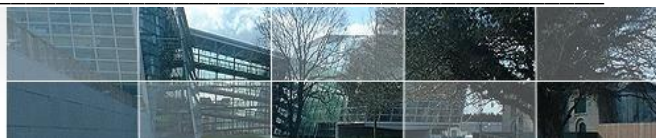
accordance with the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 (Schedule 14A, Part 2), as there are proposed land use zonings that straddle boundary with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area.

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: February 2021	
Feb	Year		No.	Total Granted:	83
2019:	100	187	651	Retention:	11
2020:	129	203	793	Extension of Duration:	4
2021:	134	234	168	Total Refused:	23

Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Applications to An Bord Pleanála

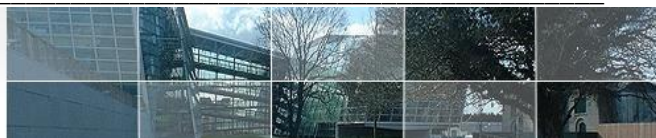
Pre-application Consultation					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
SHD202009	2	Cairn Homes Ltd	349 Apartments at Mariavilla – Phase 3; at Dunboyne Road, Maynooth.	349	Requires further consideration/amendment 22/02/2021

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
20308943	3	Westar Investments Ltd	333 units at Capdoo, Clane	333	19/04/2021
21309087	3	Debussy	192 units at Western side of Millicent Road	192	27/04/2021



			and Southern side of Prosperous Road, Clane.		
--	--	--	--	--	--

Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
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.	Valid	06/04/2021
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.	Valid	06/04/2021
21/117	Johnstown bridge Spire Ltd.	68 residential units at Johnstownbridge.	Valid	30/03/2021
21/84	Ummeras Wind Farm Ltd.	5 No. 169m high wind turbines and associated works at Ummeras, North Monasterevin Area.	Valid	18/03/2021
20/1143	Musgrave Ltd.	Extension and to distribution centre at Boycetown, Kilcock, an increase of 12,785 sqm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted.	Valid	Further Information 26/11/2020



20/1368	K Club Ltd.	Demolition and Extensions to Hotel	Granted	22/02/2021
20/1403	Bernard Moran.	94 Dwelling units plus creche at Curryhills, Prosperous.	Valid	NIS requested in accordance with 177T(5)
20/1284	Ballymore Newbridge Developments	Increase the number of units from 385 to 395 at Roseberry, Newbridge.	FI Received 12/02/2021	11/03/2021
20/1338	Ballymore Naas Developments.	Retention and completion of temporary construction site entrance and access road off the R448 Kilcullen Road, Naas at Bellingsfield residential development, Pipers Hill.	Further Informaiton	Requested 02/03/2021
20/1418	Elgin Energy Services.	Solar Farm- 10.8Ha at Kerdiffstown and Monread, Naas.	Further Information	Requested 26/01/2021

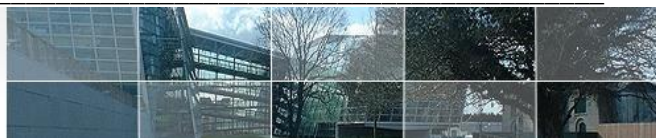
Historic Planning Registers

The Historic Planning registers are now available to view online at

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

Users are required to register to use the system. This project carried out by the Planning and the IT Departments will make planning searches easier

with the indexes and mapping dating back to 1964 available to view without the need to visit the Planning Department. Planning searches on more recent applications are available on the online planning system at: <http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/public/planningsearch/171>.



Section 254 Licences

The waiver of fees in respect of tables and chairs outside of qualifying businesses has been extended for the period that level 5 COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Only 10 businesses have availed of the waiver and these licences will now be extended. To date, 16 businesses have applied for and received licences. The breakdown of the current licences issued by municipal district/towns is as follows:

- Clane-Maynooth Municipal District – 10 Maynooth
- Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District – 1 Leixlip
- Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District – 2 Kildare Town and 2 Newbridge
- Naas Municipal District – 1 Naas

Conservation Update

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

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



The closing date for receipt of applications for both the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund Scheme was extended to the 19 March 2021. 21 applications were received under the BHIS and 6 applications under HSF.

Heritage Update

Kildare County Council signs up to All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Kildare County Council signed up to the to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on Monday 22 February. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) is a cross-sector initiative, led by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, with local authorities, farmers, businesses, schools and local communities, to support pollinators including our 98 bee species, one-third of which are threatened with extinction.

Following the adoption of Kildare County Council's Pollinator Action Plan, which can be viewed at: <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/index.html>

Consideration of the applications is currently underway. The Kildare County Council Thatching Grant Scheme for 2021 is now closed. Five applications were received. A budget of €10k has been set aside for this grant scheme.



Councillor Mark Stafford, Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council and Mr Peter Carey Chief Executive, Kildare County Council signed the agreement between Kildare County Council and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. On signing the document Mr Carey reiterated Kildare County Council's commitment to taking action for pollinators in all work of the council.



Funding Applications

A funding application for two projects was made to the Heritage Plan Fund managed by the Heritage Council.

Funding was announced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) as below:

- Community Monuments Fund (3 funding streams).
- National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund (2 funding streams).

Funding was announced by the Heritage Council as below:

- Walled Towns Network Limited to three towns in Kildare -Athy, Castledermot and Kildare (2 funding streams).

Creative Ireland

Funding has been secured for "Know Your Locality" the online course is to run to April 2021.

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP's)

10 BAP's were launched. Funding has been secured from LEADER.

KFM Virtual Heritage Walks

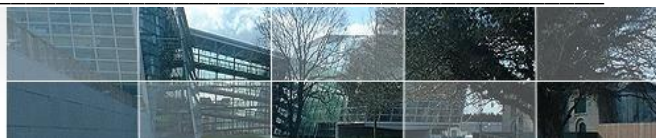
KCC sponsoring online heritage walks in towns across Kildare for March-May Programme "Know Your County: Take A Virtual Heritage Walks "

Kilkea Stone Table

Conservation Letterfrack has been liaising with owners of Kilkea Castle regarding the removal of the plinth. All National Museum paperwork regarding licence applications has been completed. The council is awaiting the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions to conduct a site visit in Kilkea Castle.

Community Heritage Grants Scheme

The 2021 Community Heritage Grant Scheme form and guidelines have been revised to take consideration of COVID-19 restrictions. This scheme has been advertised. The closing date for receipt of applications was 16 March 2021.



Vacant Sites Update 2020

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

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

Of the 34 notices issued, 15 Section 7(3) notices (formally placing sites on the Vacant Sites Register) were issued in December. Landowners have an opportunity to appeal any 7(3) notices to An Bord Pleanála. The council is currently in the process of seeking tenders for valuation services with respect to the relevant sites to be entered on the register. To date, the decision by Kildare County Council to enter 15 sites on the Vacant Sites Register has been appealed to An Bord Pleanála for 8 sites as follows:

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



Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2021-2031

Following the extensive public consultation programme carried out in 2020, work has now commenced on analysing the findings and preparing the final strategy. The Open Space Strategy will also inform the review of the County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029.

Department of Education and Skills

Ongoing consultations are taking place between Kildare County Council and the Department of Education and Skills with respect to the provision of schools in the Kildare-Newbridge/Curragh Environs, Celbridge, Naas and Blessington Environs. A meeting took place on 03 March with senior officials from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to educational capacity and demands over the period of the emerging CDP to 2029. There has been some progress made in relation to sites in Blessington and Celbridge in particular.



Public Realm

Kildare County Council Secures over €15 million Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF)

Three regeneration projects in Celbridge, Maynooth and Naas

Kildare County Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (HLGH), Mr Darragh O'Brien, TD confirming funding for five regeneration projects in the Mid-East region of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

A total of €15,642,624 has been provisionally allocated for Kildare County Council's successful applications under 'Call 2', of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). These projects include the Maynooth Town Centre Renewal (€1,908,750), the Naas Town Renewal Masterplan (€3,496,374) and the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road (€10,237,500).



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&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

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

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



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

SPECIAL PROJECTS and PUBLIC REALM TEAM

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



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



<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage - tender for detailed design to be issued. .</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process</p>
<p>Tender Consultants</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands - tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Project kick off meeting held.</p>



<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Kildare County Council in collaboration with the Department of Defence have jointly procured the services of a multi-disciplinary team, led by Paul Hogarth Company, to develop a Conservation Management Plan and an Interpretation/Branding Strategy for the Curragh Plains. The Paul Hogarth Company has produced a website which will provide a platform for all stakeholders to have their say, for the first phase of consultations. It is vital that anyone with an interest in the Curragh Plains and its conservation and management, engage with this process, as it is your views and opinions that help inform the outcome. The website went live on 15 March for a period of 4 weeks and can be accessed at www.curraghplains.ie</p>
<p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design is now commencing. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in early 2021 and will take 9 months to complete.</p>
<p>Athy- Ballitore - engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard. Onsite meeting with the Tanyard Committee being scheduled.</p>
<p>Tender Works</p>
<p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Part 8 and detailed designed being prepared.</p>
<p>Design</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>



Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.
Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - Work ongoing with urban designers. Meeting with key landowners (Cassidy Distillery Buildings) held 22 July 2020. Draft document under review. Public consultation will recommence in March 2021.
Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.
Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Included in URDF application submitted on 29 May 2020.
Detailed Design
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.
Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. 5 no. tenders received. Contractor to be appointed.
On Hold
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting to be scheduled.
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured.



Construction	
Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.	
Naas – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Works will recommence once current restrictions are lifted.	
Complete	
Athy - Narraghamore-Socila Enterprise Community Shop - completed.	
Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – completed.	
Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.	
Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December 2020.	



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 1, 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 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 with both rising mains gone live in the last month. In Newbridge, pipeline works continue in Páirc Mhuire housing estate and on the Athgarvan Road. Upgrade/improvement works are continuing at Sallins Pumping Station,

Clane Pumping Station and Monread Pumping Station.

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

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

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



Irish Water and its representatives are negotiating with landowners and Irish Water's consultants are beginning to prepare Compulsary 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/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 VIII. Irish Water will hold workshops with the rest of the local authorities before they progress the council's priority list.



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)/ 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 8 week construction programme to completion of the project. Approximately 220 metres of new water main have since been constructed to date.

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. Works commenced on this scheme on 01 March 2021. It is expected that the project will be completed within 6 weeks.

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

Rowanville BYSS

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



Irish Water Councillor Clinics

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

26 April - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

26 July - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

29 November-1pm - 2:00 p.m

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of these clinics.

Environment Services

COVID-19

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

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

Written submissions in relation to the preparation of the plans can be made to info@srwmo.ie or by post to Southern Region Waste Management Office or by completing a questionnaire on www.mywaste.ie by close of business on 06 May 2021.



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

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued on from last year. In February 2020, 341 tonnes of glass and cans were recovered in the month from the recycling banks. This year, for the same month, the figure is 443 tonnes – an increase of 30%. Staff and contractors continue to service existing sites but the co-operation of the public remains vital in this regard.

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

National Tidy Towns/Spring Clean

The Minister has recently announced details of additional funding from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs for Tidy Town Groups in 2021.



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

Green Kilometre Scheme

As a response to the problem of litter and dumping in rural areas, the Green Kilometre scheme continues to make an impact. A number of groups are working collaboratively to clean up larger areas (while maintaining COVID-19 protocols) and the scheme has begun to generate a good amount of positive publicity. The provision of native saplings is proving to be particularly popular for many participants. During February, approximately 3.5 tonnes of waste were gathered by these groups and collected by the Environment crew.

Environmental Education

In line with Government Guidelines, all educational talks and events are suspended until further notice in the interests of public health and will be rescheduled at a later date where feasible. Information and services normally provided are referenced at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/EnvironmentalEducation/>

Environment Construction

Projects/Schemes

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

Litter Management Plan

The Draft Litter Management Plan was presented to and adopted by full council at the February council meeting.



New Initiatives

Civic Amenity Site North

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee. The process of procuring a consultant, subject to funding, is being progressed. 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 (CFRAMs) Programme commence. Flood defence schemes have been classified as essential works by the County and City Management Association (CCMA).

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of 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.



Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Kerdiffstown

Wills Bros Ltd was appointed in October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park. Work on the site resumed on 08 February as these remedial works are exempt from current restrictions.

The tenders for the Percent for Arts were returned on 22 February.

They are currently being assessed

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

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

The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/KerdiffstownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualisation/>



Cemeteries

Kildare Town Cemetery

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

Newbridge Cemetery

It is intended to re-advertise a new tender in Quarter 1, 2021.

Columbarium Walls

Rathangan, Newbridge, Crookstown and Celbridge

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

Risk Management

Most Departmental Risk Registers have now been received and work will commence shortly on the preparation of the Draft Corporate Risk Register with input from the Audit Committee.

Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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



Implementation Guidance

The CARO established a working group in the Mid-East sub-region in 2020 to examine issuing of guidance to assist local authorities to implement their adaptation strategies. The work of this group has resulted in a guidance note of 2 parts:

A guide providing information on how to assemble the appropriate supporting framework within the local authority to enable implementation of the adaptation strategy and a toolkit providing resources that can be used and adjusted to assist in the process of implementation of adaptation actions and to track and report on progress. This guidance note has now been completed and circulated to all counties across the Eastern and Midlands Region.

Forestry

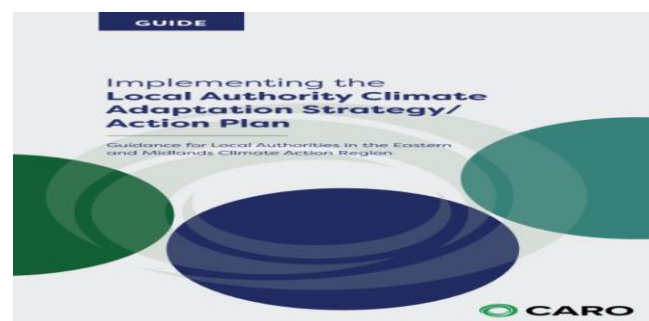
The CARO are developing a FAQ document to accompany the tender for Forestry Services, which is expected to be ready for distribution in Quarter 1, 2021.

Capacity Building



**LOCAL AUTHORITY
Climate Action**
Training Programme

The CARO continues to work with its



strategic training partners, such as Climate Ireland, Met Eireann, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the Department of Communications, Action and Environment (DCCAE), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) etc., to develop a suite of training



for all elected members and local authority staff.

Details of the training programme, which includes 6 pillars and has the appropriate CPD accreditation, have been circulated to all Chief Executives and Climate Action Leads in the region over the Christmas period. Progress across each of six agreed training pillars are as follows:

Elected Members/Senior Staff

The training for Senior Staff/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 of September has been provided to Kildare County Council. Feedback to date on this training has been excellent.

Climate Action Teams

The first programme has commenced with participants from the midlands sub-regional counties – Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Laois and Westmeath.

Online Training

Rollout of this programme is ongoing, to date approximated 1,600 Grade 7's and their technical equivalents have completed this programme across each of the 31 local authorities.

Thematic Training

The following additional programmes and events are being prepared:

- CARO are collaborating with the OPR, DHPLG and others to develop a training programme for local authority planners as they embark on development plan reviews.
- CARO collaborated with SEAI to host a webinar on the ISO 50,001 energy management system and this was held on 16 March.



- CARO are collaborating with Age Friendly Ireland to develop climate action awareness training for local authority Older Persons Councils.

Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action

CARO completed research in into this particular topic in partnership with the School of Business in Maynooth University and has completed a survey of local authority enterprise sections and Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's). These elements of work have presented to the project steering group, chaired by Anna-Marie Delaney, CE Offaly County Council, on Tuesday 02 February. The next steps for this project are currently under development and will include, but not be limited to: additional research into local government activity in this area internationally, awareness raising training for local authority staff, including the LEO, and an annual conference in collaboration with the project partners.

Climate (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is due to be enacted in the coming months and this includes a requirement for all local authorities to formulate and adopt a new climate action plan which will involve updating the counties climate change adaptation strategy to include mitigation actions that will drive decarbonization in line with national climate action policy.



CARO is currently working with Climate Ireland and others to develop guidance notes to assist local authorities in this process in a similar manner to the development of the climate change adaptation strategies prior to September 2019.



Kildare County Council Climate Action

Climate Action Knowledge Hub for Local Authorities Now Live

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO's) have just launched a website www.caro.ie - to support all county and city councils in leading Ireland's climate action efforts.

This valuable new resource for Ireland's 31 local authorities, will provide up-to-date climate change research, exemplar case studies, training, events and relevant news for the sector. Links to relevant national policy, sectoral plans, funding information and national organisations, such as Climate Ireland, are also available, making this new website an essential resource for local authorities to engage with.

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

The Minister for Transport and Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr Eamon Ryan TD, met the Kildare County Council Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee on Wednesday 10 February to discuss the supports available for sustainable transport and climate action

Sustainable Energy Communities/ Energy

Kildare has made good progress on sustainable energy communities in the county. A support model for Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) has been implemented. This was to financially support communities in developing energy masterplans. Four Sustainable Energy Communities (Clane, Maynooth, Kilcullen and Monasterevin) are working with Kildare County Council's energy consultants, ORS, to get their energy master plans completed. COVID-19 has



impacted the timeline in terms of how long each one has taken to complete. Clane SEC is the most advanced with phases 1 and 2 completed and phase 3 ongoing. Maynooth SEC has phase 1 completed and phases 2 and 3 to be completed over Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2021.

Climate Action Training

During 2021, the council will engage in the full roll out of very significant training initiatives as developed by the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office. The rollout of Climate Awareness Training has commenced locally with Grade 7's and their technical equivalents recently completing the online Climate Action Awareness programme. Grade 6's and analogous grades will be enrolled on this programme in the coming weeks.

Celbridge – Leixlip Municipal District Initiative

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has provided LPT funding of €25,000 for a Climate Innovation Fund. A call for proposals has issued by the Climate Action Office (CARO) using the Consultation Portal, in an innovative move to reduce paper applications. Applications under the scheme have been assessed by the Climate Action Officer in collaboration with the Community Section and the successful parties have been notified.

It is hoped that other municipal districts will follow this initiative.

Forestry

The council has commenced identification of a number of sites across the county on the Property Interest Register (PIR) potentially suitable for the Woodlands on Public Lands Funding Scheme. A long list is being drafted and each site will subsequently be assessed by a qualified forester. 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. This project is in response to an item on the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Works Programme.

Ezine

The Climate Action Office has published an Ezine/newsletter with a view to circulating widely as a mainstreaming tool. Edition 1 of 2021 was issued in February, with thanks to Mr Peter Carey, Chief Executive. The second edition is due in May and potentially will be published with Corporate Services proposed newsletter.

GAA/CCMA Partnership for Sustainable Communities



In a follow up to the official launch of the GAA/CCMA Green Clubs Programme, on 09 December 2020,



Cappagh GFC have been chosen to represent

Kildare in the phase one pilot and have already commenced working with members of the Climate Action Team (CAT), particularly through the environmental and biodiversity pillars.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

M7 Widening, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins Bypass Project

SIAC Construction Ltd/Colas Ltd. is the contractor for this project. The contractor has opened 3 lanes both eastbound and westbound from Junction 8 Johnstown to Junction 11 (M7/M9 merge).

Substantial completion has been issued on this section on 19 November 2020.

Works continue on the Osberstown Interchange and the R407 Sallins Bypass. The revised completion date for completion of the Osberstown Interchange and the R407 Sallins Bypass is Quarter 1, 2021. Kildare County Council is liaising with the contractor with regard to a revised completion date for the remaining Works and an update will be issued shortly.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The 'M4 Maynooth to Leixlip' is listed as a section of the transport network to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning and it is 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) will examine feasible options for intervention which could address



the aim of the project.

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

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

Athy Distributor Road

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

Notices to Treat have been issued.

Notice of Entry on lands has been issued. Advance works between Corran Árd and Fortbarrington Road have been completed. The railway abandonment is complete. The removal of rails and sleepers is complete. The Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) lands have been secured from trespassers.

Tendering for the main contract commenced on 25 March 2020. The procurement is under the restricted procedure and involves a two-stage process.



The first stage is now complete with six contractors short listed for tendering. The consultants have completed the Stage 2 Tender documents which have been submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) and the Minister for Transport. The DTTAS has recently granted approval to proceed with the Stage 2 Tender process, subject to amendments. The tender process commenced in the second week of March 2021.

The Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ)/Irish Rail (IR) Bridge Agreement and Waterways Ireland (WI) licence are being progressed. Land acquisition is also progressing.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

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

The development will replace the existing Machinery Yard in Newbridge and will include a new Regional Salt Barn. This Barn will provide storage for approximately 22,500 tonnes of salt for use by Kildare County Council and a number of other local authorities in the region.

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

Tender documents are being prepared for both the equipment contract and main contract works. It is expected to have a contractor on site by Quarter 4, 2021.



Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

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

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

The preparation of the CPO documentation is near completion. Valuers have been appointed. Discussions with Waterways Ireland, Iarnród Éireann and CIE are ongoing in relation to the design of the bridge structure which will span the Royal

Canal and Dublin/Sligo railway line. The procurement of a NOBO consultant in respect of the design of the bridge structure (an independent consultant to assess adequacy of the proposed design in relation to the EU Interoperability Directive) has been completed and the assessment is has commenced.

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

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Engineering Consultants RPS have been engaged for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Project. Their brief is to bring it from scheme concept and feasibility through to the statutory processes. Kildare County Council was successful in securing funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) under Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF).



An application for further funding under Call 2 of the URDF is currently being considered by the DHLGH. The scheme, which will connect Celbridge Town and the Hazelhatch Train Station and will include a second bridge over the River Liffey. The project is currently at Route Selection Stage and the non-statutory public consultation process was completed on 11 March 2021.

Kildangan Railway Bridge Footpath Scheme

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

Newbridge Southern Relief Road/ Second Bridge Crossing

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

the submission of the taking in charge documentation.

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

This scheme is substantially completed with the exception of a number of items on the snag list which are outstanding due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Maynooth Inner Relief Street

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River has been substantially completed by Cairn Developments Plc. Kildare County Council's 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 open the road in Quarter 2, 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 by the end of March 2021.

Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy

The Final Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy has been published.

Kildare Town Transport Strategy

The Draft Transport Strategy for Kildare Town is currently being finalised. It is anticipated that a Phase 2 non-statutory public consultation will commence by the end of March 2021, after which the strategy will be finalised.

Athy Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

The Athy Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) has recently been completed and the Planning Department has included it in the Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) process.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

A brief and tender documentation are being prepared to facilitate the appointment of consultants for the development of the Maynooth Transport Strategy. Once the consultants are appointed it is expected to take 6 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, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) for bridge rehabilitation works at 6 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. Due to COVID-19 restrictions contractors have moved off-site until further notice.

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

Newhall Junction Improvement

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

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

An Options Selection Report to determine the most appropriate junction type to replace the existing arrangement was completed in June 2020.

This report determined that a roundabout was the preferred option.

The preliminary design is now being progressed to detailed design.

It is anticipated that the scheme will proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 2, 2021.

Royal Canal Greenway – Maynooth to Moyvalley

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

The Greenway from Maynooth to Moyvalley is now substantially complete and operational.



Naas to Sallins Greenway

Kildare County Council are currently engaging with the National Transport Authority on this project and have secured funding to bring this scheme to Part 8 in 2021. Tender documents are being prepared to appoint Consultants to facilitate the delivery of this project.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP's)

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

- Bigstone Community Hall, Castledermot. This site is now live. Tenders are being reviewed to decorate the room to provide working desk space.
- Lullymore Heritage Centre – Vodafone to make live shortly.

- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre. This site is now live.

NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout

Tree trimming works commenced in January in the Naas Municipal District. Surveying has been completed in the Athy Municipal District. Surveying commenced in Newbridge, Kildare, Kilcullen, Donadea and Clane areas on 15 March.

Athy Municipal District February 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 the school has been completed. Surveys are being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the villages.



Castledermot School Works

Phase 1 of works are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside the school, including red thermoplastic coloring on ramps has been completed. Surveys are being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village.

Crookstown School

Works on phase 1 are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside the school, including red thermoplastic coloring on ramps has been completed. Surveys are being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village.

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

The Department of Transport – Climate Adaptation Projects

Updates can be added next month when the council will have had grant funding confirmed. At the time of writing this report projects are being assessed for 2021.

Bus Shelters

Funding has been allocated to the Athy Municipal District for two bus shelters in Castledermot for 2021. The Athy Municipal District Office has had contact with the Local Link Team with a view to looking at these bus shelters in addition to bus stops along the new routes.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works and Restoration Improvement Works 2021

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



Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

- Footpaths in housing estates throughout Athy – replacement of damaged sections.

Drainage

Only emergency drainage works are being carried out through level 5 restrictions.

Signage works

The Athy Municipal District Office is in the process of upgrading signage on regional road junctions with local roads, this includes junction delineator posts etc.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District February 2021

Newbridge

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

upgrade works. All other works are suspended during level 5 restrictions.

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

Works on Drogheda Street and Main Street, Monasterevin are continuing through Level 5 restrictions. The final section of this phase is being completed which include ramps, iron works and completion of road markings.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

The 2021 Programme of Works was presented at the March municipal district meeting.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

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

Low Cost Accident Schemes

The 2021 Programme of Works is now being prepared.



Drainage

Only emergency drainage works are being carried out through level 5 restrictions.

Miscellaneous Works

Water cuts, cleaning of gullies and patching are on-going throughout the municipal district as emergency works throughout level 5.

Naas Municipal District February 2021

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

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

- Roseville, Naas – at construction stage.
- St. Martins Avenue, Naas – at construction stage.

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

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (Naas Municipal District Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 1 – 2021). These works are currently on hold as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. The locations are as follows:

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

A tender has been awarded for the construction of a toucan crossing and associated works at Main Street, Kill. Construction will commence in March 2021.



Bus Shelters

The Naas Municipal District Office is currently preparing design and tender documents for the installation of bus shelters which will proceed subject to funding at the following locations:

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

Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

The Naas Municipal District is continuing its preparation of the 2021 Municipal District Roads Programme.

Naas Municipal District has issued a tender for the Naas Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works Scheme 1 – 2021 at the following locations.

- L2022 - Eadestown
- L2022 - Nunsland

- L6021- Bishopscourt
- L6026 - Coolahocka
- L6029 - Cupidstownhill
- L6054 - Tipperkevin

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

Surface Dressing Works

The Naas Municipal District is preparing its 2021 Surface Dressing Programme.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

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



Clane-Maynooth Municipal District February 2021

The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District crews are currently undertaking routine maintenance including opening inlets, clearing drains and gullies, patching and sign clearance. The inclement weather over the past month has led to numerous issues which are being attended to as promptly as possible by the crews.

In addition, the following essential works were undertaken in February 2021.

Road Improvements and Drainage

- Road resurfacing in Derrinturn due to deteriorating road surface.
- Drainage improvement works at Crinstown, Maynooth.

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

- Footpath repairs in Parkview, Clane – Phase 2 completion.

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates

The installation of bollards for cycling and pedestrian safety on Mill Street and the Dublin Road Maynooth and at the Junction in Prosperous were completed.



Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

The roads maintenance funding to the Municipal Districts was allocated during

the month. The allocation to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District is as follows:

Kildare County Council Funding					
		2021	2020	Difference	Percentage
Local Road Maintenance		€1,205,763	€1,349,535	-€143,772	-11%
Footpaths		€68,535	€79,000	-€10,465	-13%
Traffic Calming		€21,625	€25,000	-€3,375	-14%
Signage		€21,625	€25,000	-€3,375	-14%
		€1,317,548	€1,478,535	-€160,987	-11%

National Transport Authority (NTA)

Allocations

The National Transport Authority Sustainable Transport Measures Grant was allocated in the past month with Kildare County Council receiving €7,730,000 in total. Of this funding the following projects relate to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District.

These projects will be managed by the Sustainable Transport Team.

Maynooth North-South Corridor – Phase 5 Mill Street	€500,000
Royal Canal Greenway	€3,750,000
Maynooth Permeability Measures	€500,000
Celbridge Road, Maynooth	€60,000
Kilcock Road, Maynooth	€60,000



Regional and Local Road Grant

Allocations

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations from the Department of Transport were allocated during the past month with Kildare County Council receiving €18,947,475 in total. The allocation for the Clane-Maynooth

Municipal District was €4,179,911 and is detailed as follows:

	2021	2020	Difference	Percentage
Restoration Improvement	€2,295,990	€2,221,290	74,700	3%
Restoration Maintenance	€708,915	€666,93	€41,985	6%
Discretionary Maintenance	€669,816	€682,416	-€12,600	-2%
Drainage Grant	€105,190	€101,190	€4,000	4%
Former National Roads	€350,000	€ -	€350,000	
Safety Improvement Works	€50,000	€45,000.00	€5,000	11%
	€4,179,911	€3,716,826	€463,085	12%

The former national roads grant of €350,000 is a one-off grant towards road surface improvements on the R148 from Blackwater Bridge towards Moyvalley. The Safety Improvement work allocation of €50,000 is divided as follows:

- L2002/L2004 - Millicent Cross €30,000.
- L1019/L5071 – Mangan's Cross €20,000.



**Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District
February 2021**

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

Cycleway Works/Pedestrian Works

The Royal Canal Greenway design is being finalised and it is planned to go to tender with a view to starting construction in Quarter 2, 2021 subject to funding being available from the NTA.

**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, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) funding allocation for 2021 has been received and it is planned to resurface the following roads during 2021:

- R403 - Youngs Cross, Celbridge.

- R148 - Maynooth Road, Leixlip. (Galvin's Cross).
- L1016 - Kearneystown Upper to Newtown.
- L 5056 - Green Lane, Leixlip.
- L1015 – Shaughlen's Glen, Leixlip.

Surface Dressing Works

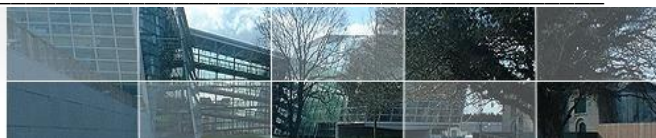
Planned works for the summer of 2021:

- L6018 -Pluckstown, Ardclough.
- L5067- Ardrass, Straffan.

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

Design and tendering works on further footpath and roads improvements in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District are ongoing.

The members at the Celbridge-Leixlip February municipal district meeting approved the LPT funding for 2021 and the Municipal District Office is currently working through a programme for delivery of these projects.



Kildare Civil Defence – February 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. The Civil Defence has been involved in a missing person search in Athy since 28 February.

Fire Service – February 2021

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2020	Total Calls 2021 (to end February)
Newbridge	429	65
Naas	389	58
Athy	194	36
Maynooth	280	36
Monasterevin	151	29
Leixlip	203	14
Total	1,842	238

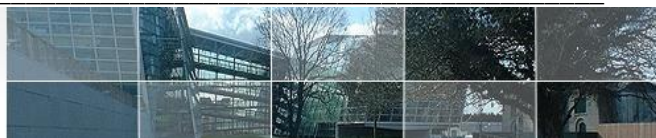


Fire Safety – February 2021

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

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	7
2021	2

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	204
2021	25



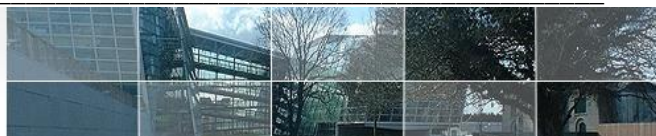
Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to 28 February, 2021

Commencement Notices	2020	2021
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	461	35
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	454	35
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	7	0
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	199	35

Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2020	2021
Total Number of Certificates received:	426	95
Number Valid	425	95
Number Invalid	1	0
Awaiting processing	0	0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	196	46

Disability Certificates	2020	2021
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	124	17
Number granted:	137	15
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	2	1



Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	66	13
---	----	----

Building Control Active Sites	2020	2021
Number of units inspected	2,067	107

Development Control Active Sites	2021
Number of Active Sites	98

Health and Safety

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

- 23 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Lead Worker Representative Meetings.
- Business Continuity Meeting.
- Accident and Incident Reports and Investigations.
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments.
- Pregnancy Risk Assessments.
- Online Remote Worker VDU assessments.

- Development of COVID-19 Framework Infographic.
- COVID-19 Building Risk Assessment.

Accessibility

Meetings:

Local Access Groups:

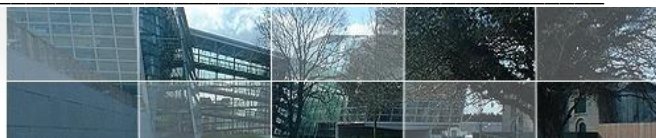
- Celbridge Access Group Meeting held - agreed local objectives and schedule of meetings for 2021.
 - Naas Access Group Meeting.
- County Kildare Access Network (CKAN):



- County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) meeting held.
- Prepared a Constitution document for CKAN.

Additional:

- Presentation on Accessibility given to:
 - Naas Municipal District
 - Athy Municipal District
 - Celbridg-Leixlip Municipal District
 - Clane-Maynooth Municipal District
- Sourced Disability Awareness: Training as per National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 and have organised for delivery to library staff .
- Meeting with Access Earth – re Celbridge Accessible Parking Analysis.
- Social Media Training delivered to local access groups.



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

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

Online applications for Community Section Grants Schemes are now being accepted. The closing date for receipt of applications is 07 April. Full details have been advertised on social media, Kildare County Council's website and in the local press. Applications can be submitted for

community and festival grants and also for Resident's Associations grants for local authority and private housing estates. An instructional video for completing the forms online is available and public information sessions have also been organised.



Local Community Development Committee

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

COVID-19 Community Response Forum

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had 21 meetings to date via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the forum is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. A dedicated COVID-19 support helpline was established on 30 of March 2020 by Kildare County Council. The Response Forum has representation from key statutory and voluntary organisations across the county. Mr Carey, Chief Executive chairs the forum and high levels of collaboration to ensure the most vulnerable are responded during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The draft end of year report 2020 and Draft SICAP Plan 2021 was presented for LCDC approval. Both the report and plan were discussed by the SICAP subgroup and submitted to Pobal for assessment prior to the meeting. Review 2020- highlighted that the targets set to work with communities and individuals were exceeded.

The target to work in disadvantaged communities was not reached, largely due to the complexity of working with very marginalised groups via the technology during COVID-19 lockdowns. The full budget was spent. Plan 2021- The budget for 2021 is the same as 2020 at €1,092,867.

The targets are also the same as 2020 with 59 community groups and 781 individuals to be engaged with as part of the SICAP Programme. The plan meets all the required parameters and there are COVID-19 specific initiatives. The plan has a focus on Kildare target



groups, and areas of Athy and North West Kildare. The review and plan

Heads-up

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

LECP

Guidelines for the next Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) are expected from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in the coming months. The current plan ends in 2021. Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise gave the LCDC an update on progress with demand for the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) services continuing to be high.

LCDC Priorities 2021

Work priorities: To oversee and lead as appropriate on:

a) **Department requirements-** LECP, LEADER, SICAP, Healthy Ireland, COVID-19 Responses, Community Enhancement Programme and other funding streams

B) **Kildare LCDC priorities-** target disadvantaged areas/communities particularly Athy, North West Kildare, Youth Mental Health, Athy Interagency Group, Heads-up, Rural Transport

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

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



Rural Development LEADER

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

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

Work is being finalised to present the final projects under the 2014-2020 budget to the LCDC/LAG at their next meeting on 31 March.

Finalisation of the priorities for the transition programme will be agreed at the next LCDC/LAG meeting

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



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities



Kildare Fáilte organised for the Hill of Allen to be illuminated for the first time on 31 January and 01 February as a symbol of hope for the year ahead, co-ordinating the project with all stakeholders (Kildare County Council, Roadstone).

The feedback from the local community and nationally was immense. The lighting featured on RTE News (6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.) on 31 January and additional coverage was secured on St Brigid's Day (6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. national news) featuring Solas Bríde and St Brigid's Well. To augment the activity County, Kildare Fáilte collaborated with Solas Bríde and arranged for Kildare to feature on Ireland AM where the presenters were taught by Sr Mary how to make a St Brigid's Cross and

Ms Mangan gave interviews on Today FM, Newstalk and KFM.

To promote Kildare at this key time, a multi-faceted approach was taken. In addition to the illumination of the Hill of Allen, a message for St Brigid's Day was sent to Irish embassies around the world, embassies in Ireland and Tourism Ireland market offices. Messages of thanks were received regarding the greeting and the gift of the St Brigid's pin to wear on the day was warmly appreciated.

Additionally, other activities taking place around the county for St Brigid's Day were promoted across Kildare Fáilte's social media channels, including Féile Bríde which was held virtually and organised by Solas Bhríde. Workshops were organised by Kildare Library Service and a virtual concert was held by St Brigid's Cathedral.



Fáilte Ireland hosted an industry event, Survive to Thrive, where plans to promote Ireland to visitors were shared. Kildare Fáilte attended and shared these plans to tourism and hospitality businesses in the county. Kildare Fáilte also joined the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) workshop, Leading Tourism Recovery, where the various scenarios for the recovery of tourism for Ireland were presented by industry leaders. Meetings were held with the Shackleton Museum Project, of which Kildare Fáilte is on the marketing steering group, as well as meetings to support the marketing activity and promote the centenary of Shackleton's death.

In advance of the Royal Canal Greenway launch, which will take place on 24 March, Kildare Fáilte attended several marketing meetings to prepare for the virtual event. In addition, content to promote the launch was arranged, as well as working closely with tourism and hospitality businesses along the route, Kildare County Council and Waterways Ireland to promote the trail.

As part of the marketing steering group for the Grand Canal Greenway, Kildare Fáilte attended meetings during the month. Fáilte Ireland held a Greenway Development workshop which was attended by tourism boards, including Kildare Fáilte, from counties where there are Greenway opportunities. Kildare Fáilte continues to communicate and collaborate with Fáilte Ireland to share plans and activities. Kildare Fáilte represented Kildare at an Ireland's Ancient East (IAE) Marketing Alignment Workshop, which was hosted by Fáilte Ireland. The attendees reviewed how tourism boards within IAE and Fáilte Ireland can work closer to drive tourism to their counties.

Fáilte Ireland facilitated a virtual networking event for tourism and hospitality businesses in the county and discussed ideas to support each other. Sentiment was hopeful that businesses will be able to open in some way in the summer. Ongoing calls were made to the industry through the month by Kildare Fáilte to



promote their offers for Valentine's Day.

The first meeting to analyse how Kildare Fáilte can assess the tourism assets in Kildare was held. This project, funded by LEADER, will include all key stakeholders in the industry to identify a framework for measuring visitor numbers and revenue to the county.

Visitor engagement across all social media channels grew in February.

Blog posts and content were inspirational and experiential – *Top Ideas for Family Days Out in Kildare this Summer*, to inspire people to play a visit to the county and *Into Kildare Shares the Love this Valentine's Day*, which put together gift ideas for people to experience Kildare when it safe to do so as well as dine at home options. The message, "We Care in Kildare," and support local continues to be a key priority.

In March, Kildare Fáilte will promote Kildare Goes Green for St Patrick's Day and has arranged for the greening of the Hill of Allen. Other tourism sites around the county that will be lit up green for the day includes St Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower, the Keep at Barberstown Castle, Killashee Hotel, Kildare Village, Ardclough Visitor's Centre and Castletown House. Kildare Fáilte has collaborated with the industry and groups around Kildare and will share the activity with Tourism Ireland as part of their Global Greening Campaign. A number of community activities are taking place, including the greening of Naas, virtual Irish Dancing competitions and Kildare Fáilte will assist promoting these.



Library and Arts Service

“Everything you need for a better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library.”

– Henri Frederic Amiel

Ireland Reads

Ireland Reads was a new campaign to get the whole country reading in February in the lead up to a national day of reading on Thursday, 25 February when the campaign asked everyone to ‘squeeze in a read’. A new website www.irelandreads.ie was set up where the public pledged to read over 863,000 minutes on ‘Ireland Reads’ Day. The Ireland Reads campaign is part of the government Keep Well initiative and aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment.

There were three national events organised by the Libraries Development Unit of the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and the County Librarian, Ms Marian Higgins, discussed Ireland

Reads along with book recommendations on The Ryan Tubridy Show. In addition to the three national events, Kildare Libraries hosted eleven events.

International Women’s Day 08 March

Naas Library hosted a live Instagram event for Women’s International Day by doing an interview with Ms Smart Money (Kel Galavan).

One of this year’s themes was ‘Choose to Challenge’ in the Workplace. Kel Chose to Challenge by leaving her job after 16 years and embarking on a no-spend year. Her journey has now led to the publication of her book 'Mindful Money: More Money, More Freedom, More Happiness' by Orpen Press. There are some great tips for all our Instagram viewers.



International Writer's Day

To celebrate International Writer's Day, check out Kildare Libraries Blog where Naas Mr Wayne Byrne, Librarian and Author writes about five things that have shaped his writing.

Grow It Forward

Kildare's Library Service is working with GIY a leading food literacy organisation supporting the UN Sustainability Goals by reconnecting people with food.

The objectives of this programme is to support Irish people to eat well during the spring and summer of 2021 as the country continues to deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic and restrictions. This involves work with key stakeholders including Healthy Ireland, the Department of An Taoiseach, the Government Information Service, 31 Local Authorities and over 330 libraries nationwide to ensure a successful programme.

50,000 participants have been recruited to grow some of their own food with a free GIY starter kit and encouraged to 'grow it forward' to 9 others by passing on seeds, seedlings or produce for a total minimum campaign reach of 500,000 people.

Starter kits will be distributed via libraries nationally who, supported by GIY, will be activation and knowledge hubs for the programme. Kildare will receive approximately 800 kits.

Kildare Library Service will organise and host online workshops and information sessions to support and complement this programme. It will launch in mid-March, followed by registration with delivery of kits starting in April.

Celebrating World Book Day – 04 March - Kildare Writers Showcase

Established and emerging writers from Writing Groups all over the county share their work online to celebrate the joy of writing.



Toys Technology and Training (TTT) Programme

The new series of TTT talks/workshops for 2021 launched on Thursday 04 February with a talk by Speech and Language Therapist Ms Joanne Fine on 'Using LEGO as a Therapeutic Intervention to Promote Social Inclusion'.

Over 40 events in total are scheduled for the Spring TTT Programme which will take place between February and May.

All events for 2021 are taking place online, and facilitators are using mixed media to deliver their talks/ workshops via Zoom and the council's social media platforms.

Over 600 attendees have taken part in the programme already this spring, and the majority of events still to come are now fully booked.

Irish Language Events

An online Irish Language programme for Kildare libraries is underway for 2021. As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, a second Tolg Liteartha (Literature Couch) was organised and workshops with Monica deBath, "Ceardlann Fia dhúlra i mo Cheantar" are taking place. A county-wide Ciorcal Comhrá is now being discussed, where branches would combine for a session online weekly, facilitated by library staff members. Upcoming workshops include creative writing sessions with Mr Richie Conroy. Ranganna Gaeilge in conjunction with Sult na Sollán and Conradh na Gaeilge are taking place at the moment and they are made up of Beginners, Intermediate and Improver sessions, over 8 weeks.

Let's Talk about Parenting

Nearly 200 participants attended 'Let's talk about Parenting' events in February on topics such as Minding your Mental Health, communicating with your Teen and Parenting Alone. A motivational interviewing course was held as



part of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) element of the programme for Kildare professionals working with families, which will be sure to bring knock on benefits to those they work with.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

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

Under the Public Health Restrictions due to COVID-19 (issued 06 January 2021), works ceased and the contractors closed the site on Friday 08 January. Level 5 restrictions have now been extended until 05 April and the site will remain closed until they are lifted.

Local Studies and Archives and Decade of Commemorations

Collections Moved Off-Site

The Local Studies and Archives Collections have been moved offsite in recent weeks. This is to prepare the collection for the capital project and also to facilitate urgent building works to the Local Studies building in Newbridge.

Online Exhibition to Mark Centenary of Opening of Rath Internment Camp on the Curragh

An online digital exhibition was published online on 01 March to mark the centenary of the opening of the Rath Internment Camp on the Curragh in March 1921. Further projects are being worked on, including the centenary of the Hill of Allen Ambush and other episodes from the War of Independence.



Digital History Programme

Co-Ordinator

Mr William O'Neill has recently taken up the position of Digital History Programme Co-Ordinator, supported by the Decade of Commemorations Committee. He is assisting the programme by arranging digital content, working on future projects and working with local history groups.

Arts Grants and Bursary

Opportunities 2021

The Arts Service, with the Community Department are currently developing a new online grant application system which will go live shortly. Online information sessions will be available to the public on the suite of grants available and how to apply.

The closing date for the online grant applications was 18 March 2021.

Kildare Arts Service

Creative Ireland Bursary 2021

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



Kildare Sports Partnership

Community Outdoor Leadership Award – The COLA Programme

Kildare Sports Partnership has developed a new community activation course.



The course is designed to promote outdoor activity in the community. The aim is to increase participation in outdoor physical activity in a post-COVID 19 environment by encouraging people to use local facilities such as Canal Blueway and Greenway routes

There are currently two COLA Programmes with 33 participants engaging. Training is delivered using a blended learning approach (online

workshops, Zoom sessions, personal eLearning tasks).

Stay Active for Life Video

Kildare Sports Partnership have produced a promotional video highlighting the importance of Physical Activity for Life.



<https://youtu.be/0P4vZQtmMM>

Partner Support Initiatives

- **Kildare GAA – From the Shoulders Up** – Primary Schools programme covering physical, social & mental wellbeing through sport for 5th and 6th class students.
- **Basketball Ireland – Primary Schools Basketball** programme involving placement of Pro American Basketball Player/coaches to deliver coaching for



- Children in Kildare (In association with BBI and Liffey Celtics) (starts Sept '21).
- **Sport Ireland Coaching – Understanding Physical Literacy** workshop tutor.
- **Heads Up – Adapted Exercise** and social interaction sessions for Heads Up participants.
- **KSP Workshops – Coach and Squad Resilience and Understanding Physical Literacy.**

Women in Sport Programme



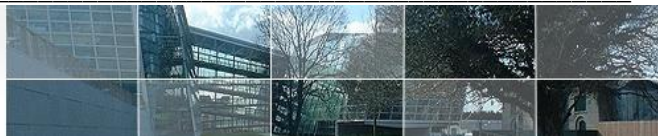
- **Operation Transformation 11** January – 19 February. 745 registered participants, including people from the deaf community as each online session was ISL interpreted.

- **Buggy Buddies Programme** online 22 January – 26 Feb February – 40 participants.
- **Spring into Strength Yoga 03** February – 10 March – 467 participants.
- **Mind Body Movement – Over 60's** Class – 51 participants.
- **International Women's Day - 08** March – four different classes across the day with 90 participants.

Safeguarding Programme



- In 2020 despite not having safeguarding available online for 5 months the Kildare Sports Partnership had 26 Workshops catering for volunteers from 20 different counties.
- Even though the class size was reduced from 16 to 12, there were 300 participants from 108 different



clubs and across 52 different sports.

- In 2021 we have already completed 11 workshops so far with another 17 scheduled up until the end of April. These are a mix of generic workshops with a broad range of clubs/sports. Kildare Sports Partnership also have stand-alone classes for Kickboxing Ireland, Triathlon Ireland and Kildare Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA).

Sports Capital Programme Information Session

Kildare Sports Partnership organised a Sports Capital Programme Information Session on Monday, 08 February.

Upcoming Events as part of the Keep Well Programme

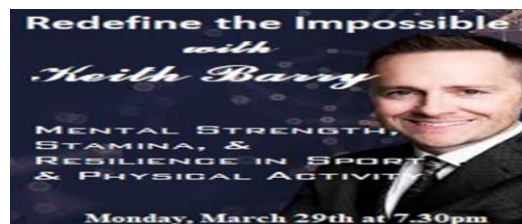
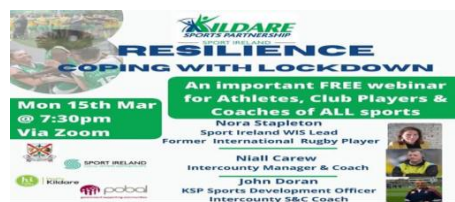


- 61 clubs took part.
- 22 clubs contacted the Kildare Sports Partnership in the following days for further advice and guidance.
- 132 Kildare clubs/organisations have applied for funding.
- Almost 3,150 clubs/organisations have applied nationally.

Physical Activity App Development

Kildare Sports Partnership is at the early stages of the development of a Physical Activity App to help us:

- Engage with our Target Groups.
- Promote local community activity and events.
- Promote Kildare Sports Partnership events and programmes.





Parks

Allenwood Playground

The Part 8 Report for Allenwood Playground was approved by the Maynooth Municipal District Committee at their March Meeting. Work will now commence on the preparation of detailed design and specifications to tender for the construction of the playground.

Sallins Amenity Land

An initial design for the amenity lands has been prepared by Cathal O'Meara Landscape Architects. This is currently being reviewed and once this is complete it will be developed further so the proposal can be brought to Part 8.

Open Space Strategy

Work is continuing on the development of an Open Space Strategy for the county in conjunction with the Planning Department. A report on the audit of 25 parks and open spaces has been completed to inform and be included in the strategy.

Sports Capital Grant Application

Four applications were made for this year's Sports Grant Applications. These were for an extension to Newbridge Sport's Centre to provide a multi-purpose hall which will accommodate the needs of the local community for fitness, sport, and wellness programmes. Applications were also made for an outdoor gym and to upgrade St Cocoa's Athletics changing and toilet facilities in the Bawnogues. An application was also made for portable goal posts for two soccer pitches in Monread Park.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Elected members are asked to advise constituents that the Kildare LEO and Economic Development Unit is continuing to provide a full range of support services:

Immediate business support:

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

For trading online queriers email

sstaunton@kildarecoco.ie

For COVID-19 Business Loans, visit

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan/>

The LEO is also providing support for training, visit:

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

And finally, for Brexit support, visit:

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

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

or call the office line on 045 980838.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Kildare LEO Operating Full Services Remotely

In the interest of public health and safety, the Kildare LEO must operate its services remotely however, **the Kildare County Council LEO remains open and continues to offer**

supports to the local business community. Brexit supports, business advice and e-commerce funding and training are just some of the supports available. Please advise your constituents that all business supports are available on our website at [localenterprise.ie/Kildare](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare). For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

or call the office line on 045 980838.

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



Business Advice and Mentoring

Free of charge one to one business advice and mentoring is available from the Kildare LEO. Please advise constituents to email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie to set up a one-to-one session with a business advisor. Specialised Brexit advisors are also available.

Brexit Support

In response to this feedback following the issue of the '**Brexit Pulse Survey**' in January 2021 to gauge an understanding of the capabilities and the level of support required by Kildare businesses in the face of the new Brexit environment, the Kildare LEO has designed new supports, including the VAT and Duties Workshop which to date has supporting 80 clients.

Please advise constituents that the next the next VAT and Duties Workshop takes place on Thursday 25 March.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online-Bookings/Brexit-Guide-to-VAT-and-Duties11.html>

The Kildare LEO continue to work on designing new independent Brexit supports to meet the needs highlighted in the Brexit Pulse Survey.

Customs and Expert Mentoring

The Kildare LEO is also running 'Prepare Your Business for Customs' workshops and expert one to one Brexit Mentoring.

Please advise constituents of all Brexit supports, available at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Change-is-here-Act-Now-and-Prepare-Your-Business-for-Customs.html>

E-commerce Funding and Support

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

- 1. Online Trading Vouchers** to the value of €2,500 are available to businesses to improve e-commerce capabilities are available. In 2020, the Kildare LEO invested €1.5 million in these vouchers to support Kildare businesses in moving their businesses online. Please advise constituents of this available funding.



The first step in applying is to attend an information seminar.

The next seminar is taking place on 15 April. For more information and to secure a place, visit

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Trading-Online-Voucher-Seminar-15th-Apr.html>

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

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

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

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

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



#JoinIn Virtual Coffee Break Series

The objective of the series is to provide Kildare business owners with the opportunity to communicate with peers experiencing similar COVID-19 related issues, share ideas and discuss topics of interest. The weekly series features a high calibre of speakers which has so far included two former Dragons; Mr Sean Gallagher and Mr Gavin Duffy, renowned Management Development expert Blaise Brosnan, and various global Chief Executive's and Irish entrepreneurs and thought leaders. The most recent headlining speaker was RTE's How to be Good with Money host Mr Eoin McGee.

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

The next session takes place on Monday 22 March. For more information and to book your place, follow the link:

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

Lunchtime Lessons with Leaders

The Kildare LEO continues to provide the 8-week lunchtime series

Lunchtime Lessons for Leaders

with one of Ireland's foremost keynote speakers, Mr Gerry Duffy. Every Tuesday afternoon from **1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, Gerry Duffy delivers a module that focuses on transforming Kildare individuals and businesses to achieve a greater focus and set clearer goals. The sixth of 8 sessions will take place on Tuesday 16 March. The average number of Kildare business owners in attendance at these sessions is 70.

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

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



National Enterprise Week 2021

National Enterprise Week took place from the 01 - 05 March and was a huge success. The Kildare LEO hosted 20 events remotely throughout the week and 1 National Flagship Programme on LEAN Management. In excess of 700 businesses engaged in the events throughout the week and feedback has been an unanimous outpour of gratitude to the entire department from the business community.

€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 a LEO initiative to increase awareness around sustainability and the low carbon future. Businesses in County Kildare are being offered 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/>

Economic Support Services

Economic Growth

While the Tourism and the Hospitality sector has suffered badly, Quarter 1, 2021 has seen significant requests for startup and expansion support. There have been 10 new grant files for March Evaluation with a combined budget allocation of €300,000. Every effort is being made to ensure to maintain a positive economic outlook in all communications.

County Kildare Diaspora Strategy

Facilitated by Ms Sally Murphy of Murphy Communications, Kildare County Council is seeking to create linkages and networks that create and maintain relationships, share experiences, create opportunities and deliver on further investment and economic activity for our county. Consultation with 19 key stakeholder groups has begun.



Tá Gnó Tábhachtach don Gheilleagar - Shopfront Grant

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge (01 – 05 March), and to highlight the supports available to local business owners, the Kildare LEO launched the 'Comharthaíocht Campaign'.

The objective of the campaign is to engage with local shop owners to encourage the promotion of the Irish language through the use of the Kildare County Council Shopfront Grant.

Please advise constituents that applications for the Shopfront Grant are now open. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Shop-Front-Improvement-Scheme/>

Establishment of the Kildare Remote Working Hub Network

Establishment of the Kildare Remote Working Hub Network took place on Thursday 04 March. 14 hub owners attended. A key objective of Kildare County Council's Economic Strategy 2025 was to create and support a network of connected hubs in the county.

The Kildare LEO continue to work on the development of a Draft Operating Proposal, mapping and classification exercise, ensuring adequate and quality space is distributed equally across the county. The next meeting is due to take place virtually on Thursday 08 April 2021.

Economic Development – Capital Projects

MERITS – Innovation Hub

A revised construction programme has been developed with the key stakeholders. Once the site can reopen after COVID -19 restrictions are lifted the main contractor (Duggan Lynch) has a further 2 months on site to complete their scope of works.

Due to the construction delays, Kildare County Council's Economic Development Section decided to press ahead with running its first programmes on a virtual basis.

The programme for the first of these, aimed at existing digital businesses seeking to expand into export markets, was launched on Friday 05 March. 42 high Tech Entrepreneurs from across the county attended to express their interest in the first global ambition programme commencing at the end of



March. They put their name down as potential tenants when the building opens in September 2021.

A second programme, aimed at digital startups specifically with products/services to address Sustainability/Climate Action markets is being considered.

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

Equine Tech Innovation Hub

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

technical and entrepreneurial innovation.

Following funding approval from Kildare LEADER of €87,821.25, The CKCN has appointed Glounthane Property Development to carry out the renovation. The CKCN has appointed Ms Vivian Cummins to work with the project team and a start date for construction of 11 January was agreed with the contractors and the Irish National Stud. In light of level 5 restrictions and the cessation of non-essential construction activity set out by the Government, the project will only proceed when construction activity is allowed to resume.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

In 2019 Kildare County Council was the benefactor of €500,000 from Coca Cola on their departure from Athy as a contribution towards the development of the old Model School in Athy into the Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.



CKCN/Kildare County Council was awarded €311,000 under The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) Category 2 funding to support the appointment of an architect-led design team to perform professional services for the delivery of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.

Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led by Ms Bluett O'Donoghue has been appointed. The project team have held weekly meetings with the design team and a programme schedule has been approved. Work has advanced considerably on the detailed design and Part 8 planning process following a pre-planning meeting with the various departments in Kildare County Council. The project team have also briefed the Athy Municipal District Committee on the project. The Part 8 planning consultation process commenced on 23 February and will close to submissions on 06 of April.

The team have also submitted a funding application under the RRDF Category 1 to the Department of Rural and Community Development to provide for construction works associated with the renovation of the

hub and a decision is expected in Quarter 2, 2021.

Clentech Hub

Mr Carey, Chief Executive and Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise presented a proposal to Bord na Móna on a collaboration development which would realise a Cleantech Innovation Hub in Newbridge, County Kildare. Bord Na Móna is now reviewing this collaboration in the context of other projects in hand. As one of Kildare County Council's Strategic Economic Projects, this will continue to advance the vision.



Appendix: 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
Financial		
Immediate Cashflow	MFI COVID-19 Business Loan – 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.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html
	Enterprise Support Grant – is available to assist self-employed recipients who are exiting the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) Scheme. This will provide owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to re-start their business.	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-owners-and-school-meals-scheme-to-be-extended-into-summer/
	Restart Grant – for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through the council's Rates Department.) Note:	http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/



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



	measures in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	
Managing Employees in Line with Government Guidelines	Free of charge workshop and 1:1 mentoring with a HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and bringing staff back to work in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE
Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing	Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing.	Email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie to apply
Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales	A suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/
Communications		
Frequent Updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and Services as well as Support	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update and online knowledge hubs.	Head of Enterprise Note: https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Head-of-Enterprise-Updates.html



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

Peter Carey
Chief Executive