



## Chief Executive's Management Report – May 2021

### Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements During COVID-19

Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

#### Access to Public Offices Restricted – 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/](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/) or by phone to 045 980 200. An appointment based approach is assisting in managing attendance at the offices in a safe way. With 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](http://www.kildarecoco.ie) or email [customerservice@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@kildarecoco.ie) or Phone 045 980 200.

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

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



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**Kildare Community Call Helpline**

Freephone 1800 300 174

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



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## News Items

### **International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia #IDAHOBiT**

Kildare County Council was proud to support International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia #IDAHOBiT on Monday May 17 2021 (see page 10).

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

As of 18 May 2021, 209 applications have been received (see page 11).

### **Affordable Housing Bill 2021**

The Affordable Housing Bill has now been published (see page 13).

### **Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027 - Proposed Material Alterations**

The proposed material alterations are now on public display (see page 21).

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

Public consultation has commenced via survey (see page 27).

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

The National Spring Clean is proceeding for the month of May (see page 39).



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### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 123 separate Green Kilometres have been established (see page 39).

### **NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout**

NBI met with Kildare County Council and advised of pre-installation works in the Naas Municipal District on 20 May (see page 60).

### **Community Grants Schemes 2021**

Applications closed on 07 April. Almost 400 applications for funding were received under community, festival, residents' associations and Drehid grants schemes (see page 73).

### **Community Enhancement Programme**

Kildare County Council has been notified that a grant of €148,013 has been allocated for 2021 to improve community facilities (see page 74).



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## Diary/Calendar

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

The proposed material alterations are now on public display from Tuesday 11 May 2021 to Wednesday 9 June 2021 (see page 21).

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

The Chief Executive's Report will be circulated to the elected members of Kildare County Council before the 31 May 2021 (see page 21).

### **Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Public Consultation**

Decision on the extension of the operational life of the Doel 1 & 2 Nuclear Power Plants, located near the Port of Antwerp, Belgium - Wednesday 28 April to Wednesday 23 June 2021 (see page 23).

### **Biodiversity Week 2021 (15 May – 23 May)**

Biodiversity informercials will run on KFM from May – September. A number of online events have been organised but due to COVID-19 restrictions, event number are reduced in 2021 (see page 26).

### **Public Realm Projects**

Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published June 2021 (see page 30).

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

For the schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 (see page 37).



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### **Newhall Junction Improvement**

The Part 8 process has commenced and the submissions period to close on 26 May 2021 (see page 56).

### **County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre**

The tender for a Design Team to progress the project to Part 8 planning has been advertised with a closing date of 25 May (see page 79).

### **Castledermot Playground**

Works are due to recommence on the playground on the 24 May and be completed by the second week of June, subject to weather conditions (see page 82).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 May	31 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly meeting	1 Jun	2	3 10:30 LTACC	4 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD	5
6	7	8 15:30 Naas MD Monthly meeting	9	10 09:30 Integrated Strategy Implementation Steering Committee	11	12
13	14 15:00 County JPC 3.00	15	16 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly meeting	17 10:00 Naas LAP Elected Members Workshop; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Mary McCarthy	18 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip MD Monthly meeting	19
20	21 10:00 Athy MD Monthly meeting 14:00 CPG	22 14:30 Audit Committee	23	24	25 15:00 Annual Meeting Kildare County Council	26
27	28 13:00 Finance Committee 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly meeting	29	30	1 Jul 11:30 Local Community and Cultural SPC	2 08:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly meeting	3



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## Corporate Services

### Customer Services

Members of the public who need to attend the council offices while complying with COVID-19 restrictions, must continue to pre-book appointments with relevant services either online at:

[www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/) or by phone to 045 980 200

This appointment-based approach assists in managing attendance in a safe way.

### Alcohol Bye-Laws

The public are reminded that An Garda Síochána are enforcing the bye-laws in the county and a number of fines have been issued. The penalty for breach of the bye-law is a fixed payment of €75 served by An Garda Síochána in the form of a fixed penalty notice. In the event of non-payment within 21 days a person or persons shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €1,900.

Copies of the bye-laws can be viewed on the council's website below:

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/GovernanceandCompliance/Byelaws/>



## Members Services

### Meetings

Council meetings continued to be held on-line in April with the press and public in attendance. At the April meeting, the members of full council approved Maynooth as the candidate Decarbonizing Zone for Kildare. They also approved the Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2023.

The members of the Municipal District Committees considered the commencement of the public consultation process on a Speed Limit Schedule of proposed amendments relevant to their municipal district. Each Municipal District Committee also approved their allocations under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021 and grant awards under the various grant schemes administered by the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department.

### International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia #IDAHOBiT

Kildare County Council was proud to support International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia #IDAHOBiT on Monday May 17 2021. The Pride flag was flown at Áras Chill Dara in support of the event and as a celebration of sexual and gender diversities #Kildare.





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## **Finance and Information Technology**

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

On 30 December 2020, the Government announced a waiver of commercial rates for certain businesses, for the first quarter of 2021. This exemption was extended in February for a further three-month period until the end of June 2021.

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

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

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

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

The closing date for receipt of applications was 21 April 2021. As of 18 May 2021, 209 applications have been received. 54 applications have been paid totalling €216,000. 55 applications have been rejected. The others are being processed.

### **Monthly Management Reports**

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).

### **Motor Tax**

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



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

## **Information Technology**

### **Remote Working**

The majority of staff continued to work from home in April, with 1,393 Teams meetings held during the month of April. Usage of remote working technologies is now embedded in the organisation.



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## Housing

### **Affordable Housing Bill 2021**

The Affordable Housing Bill has now been published and the purpose of the Bill is to provide the legislative and policy framework for a number of schemes aimed at making housing for purchase and rent more affordable for eligible households. These include the provision of affordable purchase housing by Local Authorities and the Land Development Agency, the introduction of a new Affordable Purchase Shared Equity scheme for the delivery of homes by private developers and the introduction of a new form of tenure in cost rental, which will initially see homes delivered by the Land Development Agency, Approved Housing Bodies and Local Authorities. The capital funding for these schemes will be voted by the Oireachtas in line with Government spending priorities. The assessment of delivery required under these schemes that will form part of the review of the National Development Plan and the 'Housing for All' plan.

Summary infographics for the Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental Schemes are appended as part of this report.

### **Homeless Services**

The National Homeless Lead meeting was held in May and there continues to be no positive cases of COVID-19 in Homeless Services in the county. Fortnightly meetings continue with the Department and subsequently with the HSE, Meath and Wicklow to monitor any COVID-19 developments in the region. The discontinuance of Covid Isolation units is being considered nationally by the Department and any update will be discussed at the next meeting.

All frontline homeless staff have now received their first vaccination and this programme is expected to continue. The programme to vaccinate the Homeless Service users is underway and the providers and homeless team are liaising with the HSE in relation to delivery.



The cold weather initiative ceased on 30 April 2021 however the McVerry Trust are working with the Homeless team to provide accommodation for these individuals and to work with them for suitable move-ons.

The PASS 2 Homeless system is due for release in the near future and an update is awaited from the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) as to when the revised go-live date will be.

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

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	13	21	23
6 - 12 Months	13	17	22
12 - 18 Months	2	2	2
18 - 24 Months	11	16	23
24 - 30 Months	3	5	7
36 Months +	3	4	6
	<b>45</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>83</b>

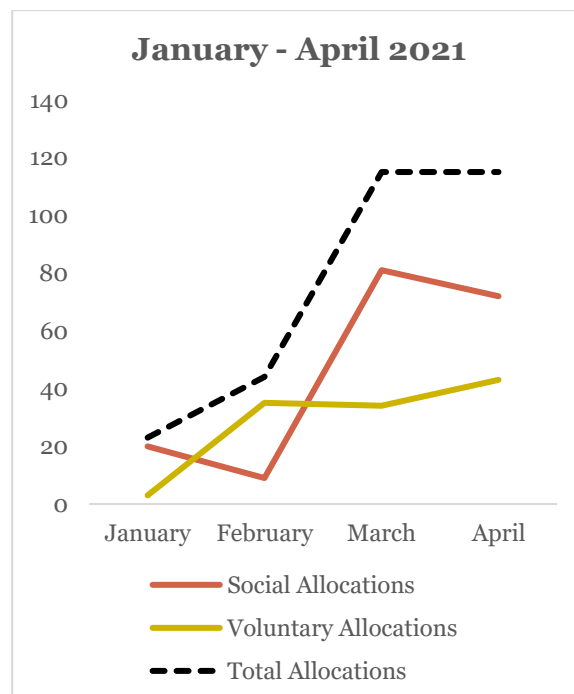


## Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 April 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	2	3	2
6 - 12 Months	3	4	4
12 - 18 Months	3	3	7
18 - 24 Months	3	7	5
24 - 30 Months	4	9	11
+ 36 Months	3	6	8
	<b>18</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>

### Number of Allocations

Allocations continued in April and included social housing and voluntary allocations, Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) and several transfers were facilitated. All allocations took place within the controls and restrictions of COVID-19.







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## **Inspection of Private Rented Properties**

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

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

A total of 169 tenancies have been signed up year to date.

## **Traveller Community**

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

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

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

269 application forms were sent out to tenants and 164 forms were returned. Processing of these forms has now commenced. Successful applicants must have up-to-date rent accounts.





## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Stage 4 approval received and notice letters to successful and unsuccessful contractors being prepared.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Draft Part 8 circulated to Internal Sections and responses received 17 May. Stage 2 being finalised for submission to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval to launch Part 8.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Architectural and quantity surveyor services being provided in-house with external consultant appointments concluded. This scheme is being progressed to tender. The submission of approval Stage 3 will be sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during May 2021.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	37 units	Contract signing in hand with consultants and initial meeting held. Social and affordable units to be developed.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultants tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Stage 2 and Design Team tender documentation in preparation.
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 Approval for submission to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Quarter 2, 2021.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Design Team preparing tender for site clearance and GPR survey. Design Team currently verifying survey information.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Architect Lead Design Team tender assessment concluded. Result letters issued and standstill period concluded. Tender recommendation report approved. Letter of Acceptance issued and initial meeting arranged.



Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Stage 1 submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage being prepared for development of 73 units [to include affordable units].
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### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 2 2021.
Narraghmore	4 units	Part 8 withdrawn due to lack of wastewater capacity. Alternative wastewater treatment under consideration.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 2 2021.
Patrician Ave, Naas	1 new + 1 refurb	Application for single stage approval to be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in May.
Shamrock Stores, Athy	1 new + 2 refurb	Application for single stage approval for new unit being prepared for submission to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Completion expected Quarter 2 or Quarter 3 2021.
Ardrew, Athy	74 units	Design review meeting to be held in late May to approve design before proceeding to the detailed design and Part 8. Section 85 motion to be brought before elected members to allow Dublin City Council to act on behalf of Kildare County Council.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Construction recommenced on site 12 April.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Completion now likely to be Quarter 1 2022.



Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	24 units	Further design development required to address ESB mobile mast and access for future maintenance. Design Team Tender to follow.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Design Team tender in progress.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE	3 Units Craddockstown	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 9 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 Department and Tiglin completed and commencement of occupation of units now anticipated.
Sofia Housing	34 units St. John's Convent Rathangan	Revised proposal to increase development from 28 to 34 older person units received from Sophia Housing. Proposal submitted for pre-planning in December 2020 and feedback issued to Sophia Housing.
Cluid	29 units Dominican Lands Athy	Planning Strategy to be confirmed following results of AA screening report due to the sensitivity of the site. Follow up pre-planning meeting to follow Quarter 2 2021. Meeting held with Master Plan Architects appointed by Kildare County Council for Dominican Lands.
The Peter McVerry Trust	4 units Sallins	Revised proposal for 4 units submitted for review in March 2021, pre-planning meeting to follow.

### Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	39	1
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	107	7



Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	20	
Total complete	255	379	187	28	
Acquisitions by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2021	0	0	6	8	14
Properties Leased Quarter 1, 2021 (includes AHB leasing)	6	1	0	7	51

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021 to date
<b>Total Approved</b>	€7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications)	€5,404,456 (includes 2020 applications)
<b>Total Drawn Down</b>	€2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals)	€549,945 (from 2019 and 2020 approvals)

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



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

### **County Development Plan**

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the pre-draft stage of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was circulated to the Elected Members on Friday 30 April 2021. The Chief Executive's report outlines the issues raised in the submissions received during the 8 week public consultation period and sets out the Chief Executive's opinion and recommendations on the policies and objectives to be included in the Draft County Development Plan. The members have 10 weeks to consider the report and to make directions on the content of the Draft County Development Plan.

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

#### **Athy**

A special meeting of the Athy Municipal District was held on Friday 23 April 2021 to consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions

received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027. The meeting was adjourned to Monday the 26 April 2021 at which the members resolved that proposed material alterations to the Draft LAP be placed on public display in accordance with Section 20 of the P&D Act 2000 (as amended).

The proposed material alterations are now on public display from Tuesday 11 May 2021 to Wednesday 9 June 2021, during which time members of the public may make submissions in relation to the proposed material alterations (and associated Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) documents) only.

#### **Naas**

880 no. submissions were received in relation to the Draft Naas LAP, the closing date for submissions being the 21 April 2021. The Chief Executive's report is currently being prepared which will include a summary of the issues raised in the submissions received and the Chief Executive's recommendations in response to those issues. The Chief Executive's Report



will be circulated to the elected members of Kildare County Council before the 31 May 2021. The elected

members will have six weeks to consider the report and issue motions on the Draft LAP.

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: April 2021	
Apr	Year		No.	Total Granted:	117
2019:	138	476	826	Retention:	8
2020:	107	448	1,433	Extension of Duration:	8
2021:	172	597	303	Total Refused:	25

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

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
21309954	3	Land Development Agency	Former Devoy Barracks, Naas	221	04/08/2021
20308943	3	Westar Investments Ltd	333 units at Capdoo, Clane	333	Grant 13/04/2021
21309087	3	Debussy	192 units at Western side of Millicent Road and Southern side of Prosperous Road, Clane	192	Grant 22/04/2021

Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
21/370	Glenveagh Homes	Mixed residential and commercial development with a total gross floorspace of c20,023sqm and a single level basement carpark of c8,153sqm at Parson Street, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 14/05/2021
21/361	Landport Estates	64 No. residential units on a 2.27ha site to be carried out over 2 phases at Cluain Dara, Derrinturn	Valid	Refused
21/345	Orchard County Residential Services	72 No. residential units at Coneyburrow, Carlow Road, Athy	Valid	Refused
21/156	High Degree Developments	Phase 2; 47 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 1.99 ha site adjoining existing	Further Information	Requested 31/03/2021





		lands at (Rockfield Court) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth		
21/155	High Degree Developments	Phase 1; 58 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 2.18 ha site adjoining existing lands at (Rockfield Park) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 31/03/2021
21/117	Johnstownbridge Spire Ltd	68 residential units at Johnstownbridge	Refusal	Appealed 26/04/2021
21/84	Ummeras Wind Farm Ltd	5 No. 169m high wind turbines and associated works at Ummeras, North Monasterevin Area	Refusal	Appealed 14/04/2021
20/1143	Musgrave Ltd	Extension and to distribution centre at Boycetown, Kilcock, an increase of 12,785 sqm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted	Further Information	Decision due 01/07/2021
20/1403	Bernard Moran	94 Dwelling units plus creche at Curryhills, Prosperous	Valid	NIS requested in accordance with 177T(5)
20/1338	Ballymore Naas Developments	Retention and completion of temporary construction site entrance and access road off the R448 Kilcullen Road, Naas at Bellingsfield residential development, Pipers Hill.	Further Information	Decision due 18/05/2021
20/1418	Elgin Energy Services	Solar Farm- 10.8Ha at Kerdiffstown and Monread, Naas.	Grant	05/05/2021

**Transboundary Environmental  
Impact Assessment Public  
Consultation**

**Wednesday 28 April to Wednesday  
23 June 2021**

**Decision on the extension of the  
operational life of the Doel 1 & 2  
Nuclear Power Plants, located near  
the Port of Antwerp, Belgium**

In accordance with the United Nations  
Economic Commission for Europe  
Convention on Environmental Impact  
Assessment in a Transboundary  
Context (the Espoo Convention) and  
Convention on Access to Information,  
Public Participation in Decision-making  
and Access to Justice in  
Environmental Matters (the Aarhus  
Convention), the Minister for Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



received notification from the Belgian Minister for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, of the intended extension of the operational life of the Doel 1 and 2 nuclear power plants (NPPs) and the associated nuclear safety-related improvement works, inviting Ireland to participate in transboundary public consultation. Doel 1 and 2 are two of Belgium's seven nuclear power plants, and both have been in operation since 1975. In 2003, the Belgian Government passed a law stipulating that all nuclear power plants would be decommissioned 40 years after their industrial commissioning, meaning that Doel 1 and 2 were scheduled to cease operations in 2015. A subsequent law was passed in 2015 that extended the operational life of Doel 1 and 2 by 10 years, from 2015 to 2025. A ruling in the Court of Justice of the European Union determined that the decision by Belgian authorities to extend the operational life of the NPPs constituted a 'project' within the meaning of the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU), thus requiring that an environmental impact assessment take place, along

with the associated transboundary consultation.

A member of the public may make a written submission or observation in relation to the potential transboundary environmental effects of the project, by sending them to their local planning authority, to be received by close of business on Wednesday 23 June 2021 at the latest. Submissions or observations to Kildare County Council should be made to:

[plandept@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:plandept@kildarecoco.ie) and marked Transboundary Public Consultation. Submissions or observations should not be made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Further information of the consultation available at:

- <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f160a-transboundary-environmental-public-consultation-decision-on-the-extension-of-the-operational-life-of-the-doel-1-2-nuclear-power-plants-located-near-the-port-of-antwerp-belgium/>





## **Section 254 Licences**

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

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

- Premises selling food for consumption on the premises are permitted, without specific planning permission to operate as takeaways until 31 December 2021.
- Street furniture licence fees for tables and chairs to facilitate the consumption of food outside such premises is waived until 31 December 2021.
- Structures ancillary to tables and chairs for outdoor dining can now be licenced under Section 254 i.e. awnings, canopies, parasols, shades, windbreakers, heaters or other similar structures. The fee is waived until 31 December 2021.

## **Conservation Update**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has recently announced the award of 2 grants under the Historic Structures Fund and these Grants have been accepted by Kildare County Council;

- Coillte for Donadea Castle Tower House €50,000
- Newbridge College for the Newbridge College Library €20,000

## **Heritage**

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

- Community Monuments Fund (1 application submitted)

## **Successful Funding to date**

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

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



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

- Kildare Biodiversity Action 2021
  - Online biodiversity workshops/mentoring and pollinator and Citizen Science workshops
  - Development of a number of high- quality video focusing on ecosystem services
  - Biodiversity action Radio advert Campaign on KFM
- Kildare Invasive Species Actions 2021 (American Skunk Cabbage control)

## **Heritage Council Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2021 - (€22,300)**

- Wogan-Browne Mausoleum Conservation Report – Mainham, Clane
- Mausolea doors conservation- Maudlins Graveyard, Naas
- Grattan Vaunt – conservation- Tealane, Celbridge

## **Walled Town Network Interpretation Grants - (€5,000)**

- Kildare Town
- Castledermot

## **Creative Ireland - (€18,000)**

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

## **Local Property Tax projects**

- Biodiversity Action Plans: 10 BAP launched. Proposed to extend this project in 2021 with funding from LPT
- Graveyard Projects: LPT funding has been secured for conservation works in the following graveyards:
  - Passlands - Monasterevin
  - St Michaels - Athy
  - Maudlings - Naas



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

Online course (5 workshops) with Irish Heritage School April – 26 participants two further courses planned for June (80 participants) and September.

### **Biodiversity Week 2021 (15 May – 23 May)**

Biodiversity informercials will run on KFM from May – September. A number of online events have been organised but due to COVID-19 restrictions event number are reduced in 2021.

### **KFM Virtual Heritage Walks**

Kildare County Council 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 being liaising with owners of Kilkea Castle regarding removal of plinth. The plinth has now been removed to Dublin for conservation and the site at Kilkea Castle will be reinstated. All National

Museum paperwork regarding licence applications completed.

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

Kildare County Council compiling information for application for inclusion on the Irish Tentative List due to the Department in June, 2021 with advice from Dr C Young. Public consultation has commenced via survey on [www.royalsites.ie](http://www.royalsites.ie).

The following will be required:

1) Letter of Support from the Cahaoirleacht & Chief Executive; (2) Landowner consent; (3) Delineation of boundary/map and (4) Public Engagement (online web portal to be established).

### **Kildare County Council Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2021**

A total of 50 applications were received under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021. 46 of the applications were deemed to be eligible for grant purposes. These



grants went to municipal districts for approval.

### **Open Space and Outdoor**

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

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

#### **Department of Education & Skills**

Ongoing consultations take 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**

#### **Public Realm Funding Applications & other items**

##### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID-19) Round 2**

The following are almost complete;

<b>Location</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
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;

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total estimated project cost</b>	<b>Amount of T&amp;V grant funding requested for this project</b>
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:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Ardclough	Heritage Centre Phase 2	€97,000	€87,300	Ardclough Heritage Centre providing match funding
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 & Town Renewal Plan	€70,000	€63,000	Naas LPT match funding



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

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

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

**Concept**

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

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

**Clane-Maynooth** – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan- URDF Application successful.

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

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

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

**Part 8**

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published June 2021.

**Kildare-Newbridge** - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking underway.





Temporary closure of Market Square carp ark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26 January 2021 and public consultation extended to 13 April 2021. CE Report before Kildare Newbridge Municipal District for consideration 19 May 2021.

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

### **Tender Consultants and Design**

**Athy/Kildare-Newbridge** - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.



<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued. .
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process
<b>Tender Consultants</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Research underway.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline.
<b>Naas</b> - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in mid 2021 and will take 9 months to complete.
<b>Athy</b> - Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.
<b>Tender Works</b>
<b>Athy</b> – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Tender for design team published.
<b>Design</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.





<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – 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 May 2021.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street</b> - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting to be scheduled.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Part 8 to be published in May 2021. Included in successful URDF application.</p>
<p><b>Detailed Design</b></p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Kilcock-Community Centre. 5 no. tenders received. Contractor appointed and works commenced on 17 May 2021.</p>
<p><b>On Hold</b></p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021.</p>
<p><b>Construction</b></p>
<p><b>Naas</b> - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.</p>
<p><b>Naas</b> – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Works will recommence once current restrictions are lifted.</p>
<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> - Narraghamore-Socila Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.</p>
<p><b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 Dec.</p>



## Water Services

### Infrastructural Projects

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

These works were completed and commissioned in 2020. The sewerage network is due to be handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations by the end of Quarter 2/3, 2021. The pumping stations are being operated by the contractor for a 12-month proving period before being handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations in the summer of 2021.

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

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement works on the Clane and Sallins rising mains are complete and both rising mains have gone live in Quarter 1, 2021. In Newbridge, pipeline works have started on the R445 towards the Edward Street/Standhouse Road junction. Pipeline works also continue in the Páirc Mhuire housing estate.

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

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

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

#### **Maynooth Transfer Pipeline**

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

Irish Water and its representatives are currently negotiating with affected



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

## **Capital Projects**

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

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

It is hoped that the land acquisition can be completed reasonably quickly so that these temporary works can be arranged and completed by Quarter 2 or Quarter 3 2021. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-term pumping solution at the buffer tank site.

### **Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade**

This project has been included in the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (STVGP) which will be subject to Irish Water approval. Irish Water agreed to the priority list submitted by the council following a workshop held recently. This scheme was ranked high in the council's priority list due to commitment made to locals and public representatives in 2017 and the approval of the planning process for a Part 8.

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

## **Water Networks Management Projects**

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

As Kilcock has been deemed as an area for development under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) and the Major Urban Housing Delivery Sites Scheme (MUHDS), an extension of the water main



infrastructure is now required to facilitate the planned housing development demands in this area. This project involves the construction of 755 metres of a new watermain. Works commenced on 22 February 2021, with an 8-week construction programme to completion of the project. To date, approximately 720 metres of new water main has been constructed as part of this project. Works in relation to the construction of the new section of watermain were completed in April 2021. Permanent road reinstatement works are due to be completed before Quarter 3 2021.

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

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

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

decommissioning of the cast iron water mains in this area. A submission for additional funding has been made to Irish Water.

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

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

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

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



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

### **Lourdesville BYSS**

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

### **Campion Crescent BYSS**

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

### **Assumpta Villas BYSS**

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

26 July – 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

29 November – 1.00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of these clinics.





## Environment Services

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

The three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have given notice of intention to commence preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy” to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans.

The current plans are available on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

Written submissions in relation to the preparation of the plans could have been made to [info@srwmo.ie](mailto:info@srwmo.ie) or by post to the Southern Region Waste Management Office or by completing a questionnaire on [www.mywaste.ie](http://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**

April marked the first month where there had been a decrease in glass tonnages at recycling banks since March 2020. In April last year, 571 tonnes of glass and cans were recovered. This year, for the same month, the figure is 525 tonnes. As businesses reopen it will be important to monitor trends to prevent problems at sites.

### **Burial Grounds**

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

### **Environment Complaints**

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



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

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

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

The National Spring Clean is proceeding for the month of May - volunteers are encouraged to carry out a litter pick or community clean up within their area to clean up Kildare and An Taisce are now accepting registrations for it. The Environment Section will collect the gathered waste by arrangement. 235 clean-ups had been registered by the start of May. This is the highest number of cleanups registered for National Spring Clean and mirrors the increased levels of awareness by the public since people began walking their 5km during COVID-19.

### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 123 separate Green Kilometres have been established and 19 tonnes of litter and dumped materials were collected during the previous month. This is a huge amount to be gathered by hand and indicates that Kildare County Council will need to support these groups and individuals in providing clean up equipment and collecting the waste in a timely fashion.

### **Environmental Education**

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



## **Environment Construction Projects/Schemes**

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

## **New Initiatives**

### **Civic Amenity Site North**

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

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

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



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

## **Catchment Flooding**

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

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

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

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





### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. The tender competition for survey works of existing watercourses and drainage networks is now completed, with surveys scheduled to have begun in May.

### **Kerdiffstown**

Wills Bros Ltd was appointed in October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park. The contract period is for 54 months but Kildare County Council is working with the contractor to deliver the project sooner. The contractor is making great progress, all the buildings have been demolished and a substantial amount of the waste has already been moved internally, to form

the final shape of the park, as can be seen in the photo below.



The contractor has already commenced the capping of the site with the Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) sheeting.



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

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

A letter drop to the locals on the L2005 was carried out recently, giving them an update of the project.



Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence. This will continue through the COVID-19 lockdown and the works. The EPA visited the site and did not raise any concerns.

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 Carpark**

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

### **Columbarium Walls**

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

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**

All departmental Risk Registers have now been received and the Corporate Risk Register has been finalised and formally approved. It is expected that the updated Departmental Risk Registers will be presented to the Audit Committee on a rota basis.

A meeting of the departmental gatekeepers (risk advisory group) is now being convened to review any procedural, organisational, training issues which may have arisen during this cycle. The risk management policy has since been reviewed.



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

### **Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action:**



A webinar on the theme of Economic Opportunities Arising from Climate Action took place on Thursday 20 May 2021 and explored potential economic and enterprise opportunities from climate action for local authorities.

It was intended to inform the sector of the opportunities for economic development arising from climate action, outlining proposed next steps, stakeholder collaboration and would

provide a forum to generate discussion and information or knowledge sharing.

Ms Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive, Offaly County Council chaired the webinar in her role as chair of the Economic Opportunities Arising from Climate Action Project Steering Group, with others speaking as follows:

- Ms Marie Donnelly, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council spoke on climate action and economic development.
- Mr Alan Dunney, Regional Coordinator with Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) provided an overview of the project.
- Dr. John Cullen, Maynooth University, presented on the Local Government survey findings and policy analysis.
- Ms Anna Marie Delaney, Chair of the Project Steering Group provided a summary on the next steps.

The next steps for this project are under consideration and may include, but will not be limited to: additional



research into local government activity in this area internationally; training to raise awareness for local authority staff including the Local Enterprise Offices; an examination of how local government can engage policies and actions to exploit opportunities and an annual conference in collaboration with the project partners to be arranged for mid-October.

### Capacity Building:



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



### Elected Members/Senior Staff

The Climate Leadership training for senior staff and elected members has now been scheduled across 25 counties before the end of 2021 with the remaining counties to be completed in early 2022.

A provisional date of 24 September has been provided to Kildare County Council. Feedback to date on this training has been excellent.



### Climate Action Teams

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





### Online Training

The rollout of the Raising Awareness online training programme is ongoing; Grade 7, Grade 6 and technical equivalents have completed this programme across each of the 31 local authorities and the rollout has now cascaded to Grade 5 and equivalents.



### Thematic Training

In the first training course of the Actioning Policy training pillar, the Planning for Climate Change training is currently being rolled to all local authority planners. Through eight specifically focused modules, set out over four half days, this course supports the target training group in their role and responsibilities, to embed and implement climate action considerations across the forward planning and development management dimensions of the regulatory planning function of the local authority. This training course

further supports Part 3 (n) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

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

- Procurement Officers on promoting green procurement through supply chains.
- Impact of Climate Change on Flood and Water Management.
- Older Persons Council on raising awareness on climate change and climate action.
- Economic and Enterprise Opportunities arising from Climate Change.
- Climate Change and Roads Infrastructure.



### Outdoor Staff

Training for outdoor staff remains under design and development with delivery informed by the easing of Covid restrictions. The Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) are working with Chief



Executives in all local authorities to identify suitable candidates to deliver this training within each local authority. “Train the Trainer” type training will be provided to all candidates once health restrictions allow and access to the Regional Training Centers is permitted.



### Frontline Staff

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

### Climate Conversations – Climate Action Plan Public Consultation

As part of the public consultation process, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications launched a national portal for citizens to make submissions in relation to the development of the 2021 Climate Action Plan. The consultation portal was open until 18 May 2021 and submissions could have also been made by post or by email to; [ClimateConversation@decc.gov.ie](mailto:ClimateConversation@decc.gov.ie) .

They are also engaging with the public through the Public Participation Networks (PPN's). 10 PPNs across the country will facilitate workshops, supported by M.CO., to engage citizens to share their views. In addition to these workshops, local authorities whose PPN's have not been selected to facilitate workshops, will be asked to nominate individuals to take part in a dialogue, similar to a mini citizen's assembly. Representation from 15-16 Comhairle na nÓgs will also be chosen to take part in Climate Conversations.



## Kildare County Council Climate Action:



### Climate Action Knowledge Hub for Local Authorities Now Live

As previously reported the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO's) have launched a website [www.caro.ie](http://www.caro.ie).

This resource provides up-to-date information on all aspects of Climate Change of interest to Councils. The 'Alternative to Herbicide Project' overview was published on the website on 31 March and is available at [https://www.caro.ie/news/news-3-\(8\)](https://www.caro.ie/news/news-3-(8)). The Climate Action Team will continue to contribute to the website with interesting features as opportunities arise.

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

### Climate Change Adaption Strategy (CCAS)

The Climate Action Team (CAT) are the main drivers of action under the CCAS. The CAT's next meeting is on 03 June. Thematic Group 6, Community Health and Wellbeing will present the thematic actions and progress to date.

As per the April meeting the research on community funding sources for potential climate action projects was disseminated to community groups via established linkages including PPN, An Taisce and Community Stories to enable Community Action.

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

It is a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and will be a requirement of the amended Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill that Kildare County Council prepare a 5-year Sustainable Energy





Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). The tender closed on eTenders was 12 May. Pending a successful outcome from the bid evaluation process, it is expected to be able to award the preferred bidder with the creation of the county's SECAP/CAP in the near future.

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

The committee met on the 12 May and progressed through a heavy agenda. The highlight was an overview by the National Peatlands Council on the creation of a National Peatlands Park in the midlands and the need to progress the concept from a business, tourism, climate action, biodiversity and heritage view-points.

## **Energy**

### **Energy Management Team**

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team has been meeting monthly since its re-establishment in February 2021. The team is currently progressing a number of key areas, including the development of Kildare's register of opportunities (projects,

initiatives for energy savings), analysis of Kildare's top twenty energy users and potential areas for reducing their energy consumption. The team has also dedicated its next meeting on May 20 to ISO 50001 - a National and Internationally recognized energy management standard. To inform the group a presentation is being delivered by 3 Counties Energy Agency whom have assisted other county councils in achieving ISO 50001 accreditation. A sub-group of the Energy Management Team has also been set-up to develop a proposal on an Energy Week event to be held in Kildare County Council in late October 2021. It is proposed the Energy Week should encompass Energy and Climate matters given their symmetries. The event is targeted at both the internal workings and staff of Kildare County Council and also outward looking to the wider communities within the county.

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

Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on reducing its energy usage across the council.



Latest information as of the 13 May for year ending 2020 would suggest Kildare is now at 32.7% energy reduction against its baseline year of 2009, which is significant progress from our 2019 figure of 24%. Although this is a provisional figure from SEAI it shows continued progress on energy efficiencies through our council driven largely by the Facilities Team to date. It must also be taken into account the impact COVID-19 restrictions would have on energy reduction in 2020 with remote working and reduced services.

### **Energy Bureau**

Kildare is currently working with three other local authorities (Meath, Wicklow, Louth) on the formation of an Energy Bureau to service the four engaged local authorities. With the assistance and guidance of CARO the Mid East Energy Bureau discussions are progressing, with each Local Authority having to submit their respective Action Plans (energy projects for 2021) to the Bureau by May 12, this in turn will be adopted into the Bureau's position paper which will be presented to SEAI for progression of the Bureau. As previously noted the

new Mid East Energy Bureau formation is being designed to avail of significant SEAI grant funding [also called "pathfinder"] and will facilitate the delivery of energy projects of scale across the region, and to realise each Local Authorities national energy reduction commitments.

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

Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities in the county. Three further SEC's in Kildare have recently registered with the SEAI bringing total number 21 in Kildare. Not all of these have applied for partnership support with Kildare County Council.

While COVID-19 restrictions have dented SEC's progressions it is envisaged that momentum can be re-instilled in the coming months as restrictions ease. In this regard some of the SEC's have re-engaged energy auditing through their communities to complete their energy master plans and move to the action phase.

A meeting was held with Kildare County Council's Energy Officer and



four of the most advanced SEC's on Monday May 10 to enhance engagement and to receive feedback to improve the process for both advanced and fledgling SEC's.

### **Celbridge – Leixlip Municipal District Initiative**

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has provided LPT funding of €25,000 for a Climate Innovation Fund. The proposed awards were approved at the April Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting.

The first seed funding tranche of the award monies are being presently processed with the applicants providing a timeline of late Autumn to complete their projects (COVID-19 dependent timeline).

### **Forestry**

The council has identified several potential sites across the county on the Property Interest Register (PIR) suitable for the Woodlands on Public Lands Funding Scheme. A long list of sites 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. The CAO is seeking clarification on potential application approval timelines and potential options to reduce timelines where appropriate. This project is in response to an item on the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Works Programme.

### **Ezine**

The Climate Action Office will publish it's second edition in late May of its Ezine with a view to circulating widely as a mainstreaming tool.

To enhance mainstreaming further the Climate Action Office are working with Corporate Services by providing editorial content for the 'Climate Corner' in the council's 'The Pulse' bi-monthly Newsletter. The first editorial content was published in early May.

### **Partnerships**

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

Our first proposed joint project with the Age Friendly Alliance is to assess climate action and age friendly measures that have potential to enhance the lives of those in



Ballymore Eustace. The settlement statistically has the highest percentile of older adults in the county.

Our first proposed joint project with Creative Kildare is to submit an application under the Creative Ireland Grant. The submission is being drafted in conjunction with Libraries, Heritage, National University of Ireland, Maynooth and a creative entity. The proposal is to create linkage between community, heritage, biodiversity, food and the arts. The project, if funded, will provide knowledge in a fun community atmosphere to inform fundamental learning in Climate Action that is easily replicable across the county.

### Citizen Science



The Climate Action Office is working with Climate Response Ireland, a local community group based in Celbridge, to add an air quality monitor at Maynooth Library and potentially other

locations over time as the group can oversee. The open data is free to view.

### Graduate LGMA

The Climate Action Office is to be assigned a graduate and it is expected the person will commence working this summer to progress climate activation initiatives in the community. The post is for three years and is assigned under the LGMA's Graduate Recruitment Competition 2020.

### Just Transition

The municipal districts of Kildare Newbridge, Athy and Maynooth Clane has generously contributed €15,000 per municipal district to establish a fund to engage a consultant to carry out research to identify possible initiatives which could be advanced in order to provide the necessary supports for the most affected communities. The brief has been finalised by the CARO and will be going to tender in the coming weeks.

### Alternatives to Herbicides Project

The CARO are working with the Climate Action Office to promote and progress a project on alternatives to herbicide use in the maintenance of amenity public open spaces. The



scientific research together with practical assessment in the field (Kildare County Council Parks Department and National University of Ireland, Maynooth) is designed to produce a practical maintenance guide for the maintenance of open spaces. Collaborators include University College Dublin, Maynooth University and Teagasc. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has committed to aligning research to this area.

Through the CARO, local authorities across the country have received a detailed presentation on the project, details of associated costs and an invitation to partner at this early stage.

The number of councils who have indicated positively to partnering together with Irish Water is 18. Councils are to provide their final decision the week commencing the 10 May upon which each partner will be issues a service level agreement To assist with mainstreaming the proposal, Cork City Council's Environment, Water and Amenity SPC, has requested that the presentation be made to inform their stakeholders on the 18 May.

To conduct the initial research a master's position in National University of Ireland, Maynooth was advertised attracting 10 applicants, 7 were interviewed with 3 were shortlisted due to the high caliber of applicants. The position has been awarded and the student is to commence on the 8 June under the supervision of Dr. James Carolan of National University of Ireland, Maynooth with assistance from Professor Jane Stout of Trinity College (Joint founder of All Ireland Pollinators Plan). Sophia Couchman brings a wealth of practical experience and research to the position and it is felt she had both the ability and character to encompass all aspects of the project including working with contractors and communities.





## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

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

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

These phases include:

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

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

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 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 Córás Iompair Éireann (CIE) lands have been secured from trespassers.

The tender process has commenced. The PQQ (Stage 1) has been completed with six contractors short listed for tendering. Stage 2 tender documents were submitted to the Department of Transport and the Minister for Transport and approval to proceed to Stage 2 of the tender process was granted. The Stage 2 tender process is to close on the 17 May 2021. A tender assessment board

has been set up and will meet in June. It is expected to have a contractor on site by Quarter 4 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

The CIE/IE Bridge Agreement and Waterways Ireland Licence documents are at Draft stage and currently being reviewed.

### **New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn**

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

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

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





works. The enabling works contract is now scheduled to be substantially completed by Quarter 3 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

The design and tender documents for the Main Contract are being progressed by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers. The equipment contract tender analysis is ongoing and the preferred tenderer will be novated into the main contract. The Main contract is due to go to tender by the end of Quarter 2 2021.

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

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

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

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

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

The preparation of CPO documentation is near completion. Valuers have been appointed. Discussions with Waterways Ireland, Iarnród Éireann and CIE are ongoing in relation to the design of the bridge structure which will span the Royal Canal and Dublin/Sligo railway line. The procurement of a NOBO consultant in respect of the design of the bridge structure (an independent consultant to assess adequacy of the proposed design in relation to the EU Interoperability Directive) has been completed and the assessment is has commenced.

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

Further discussions are required with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (LIHAF) regarding project funding and with Irish Water regarding the inclusion of water and sewerage services along the proposed road infrastructure.



## **Funding**

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

## **Services**

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

## **Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road**

Engineering Consultants RPS have been engaged for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Project. Their brief is to bring it from scheme concept and feasibility through to statutory processes. Kildare County Council was successful in securing funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). The scheme, which will connect Celbridge Town and the Hazelhatch Train Station, will include a second bridge over the River Liffey. The project is currently at Route Selection stage. A 4-week virtual public consultation on

the route corridor options has recently been completed and submissions are currently being compiled. This is facilitating the ongoing development of the project to emerging preferred route stage.

Urban Regeneration and Development Funding (URDF) is available for Phases 1 and 2.

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

## **Newhall Junction Improvement**

Newhall Crossroads is located on the R445 dual carriageway between Naas and Newbridge. It is the junction of three roads: the R445 the L2031 local road and the L6064 local road. The existing junction is considered unsafe as it is a cross-roads junction on a busy dual carriageway.

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



2020. This report determined that a roundabout was the preferred option.

A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. Documentation associated with the Part 8 process have been completed and discussions have taken place with the Planning Department. Kildare County Council departments have been notified of the Part 8 process associated with this project. An in-camera meeting with the Kildare-Newbridge Councillors was held before their March statutory meeting, to discuss the scheme. Affected landowners are being consulted at present.

The Part 8 process has commenced and the submissions period to close on 26 May 2021.

### **Naas to Sallins Greenway**

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

The tender process to appoint a consultant is currently at tender assessment stage. It is expected that

the appointment will be made in the coming weeks.

It is expected to proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 4 2021, subject to Covid19 restrictions.

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

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

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

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

### **Kildare Town Transport Strategy**

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

### **Maynooth Transport Strategy**

A brief and tender documentation have been prepared to facilitate the appointment of Consultants for the development of the Maynooth Transport Strategy. The tender process is ongoing and it is expected that an appointment will be made in



the coming weeks. Once the consultants are appointed it is expected to take six months to complete.

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

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme**

Kildare County Council received funding for 2021 from the Department of Transport for bridge rehabilitation works at six locations. Design works and tender documentation are being prepared at present and it is expected to deliver these works during Quarter 2 or Quarter 3 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

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

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

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

A URDF Call 2 Application for funding for the Great Connell to Athgarvan Road section, including a new bridge over the Liffey has been unsuccessful and we are currently reviewing feedback from the URDF.

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

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



is proposed to be opened in Quarter 3 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

The Route Selection Report is substantially complete. This project will not proceed further until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy is completed, which is due to go to public consultation in 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.

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

The scheme is now substantially complete, with the footpath is operational.

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

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

### **Broadband Connection Points**

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

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





## **NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout**

Tree trimming works commenced in January in Naas Municipal District area.

Surveying has been completed in the Athy area.

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

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## **Athy Municipal District April 2021**

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

- Moone School works.  
Preparatory drainage works are complete. Phase 1 of works are complete. Lining of the car parking outside school has been completed. Surveys being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the villages. No update.
- Castledermot School works  
Phase 1 are complete.  
Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside school, including red thermoplastic colouring on ramps has been completed. Survey being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village. Looking into linkage between new playground and footpath infrastructure.
- Crookstown School works  
Phase 1 are complete.  
Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside school, including red thermoplastic



colouring on ramps has been completed. Survey being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village. No update.

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

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

A schedule of project will be provided once grant funding has become available.

### **Bus Shelters**

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

with business owners. No update on progress.

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

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

1. Blackcastle.
2. Knocknagee.
3. Ballaghmoone.
4. Crooket.
5. Castlerritchell.
6. Ardsull.
7. Castlefarm.
8. Carrighill.

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

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





### **Restoration Improvement overlay works**

- R428 – Overlaying Athy/Stradbally road at Castlemitchell.
- R-418 – Overlaying Athy/Kilcullen road at Ardsclull.
- L-8088 – Overlaying road at Gotham.
- L-8078 Overlaying road at Nicholastown.

### **Signage works**

Athy Municipal District in the process of upgrading signage on Regional road junctions with Local roads, this includes Junction Delineator Posts etc.

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

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

#### **Newbridge :**

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

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

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

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

The 2021 program of works has been agreed and tenders are now being issued.

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

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

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

The 2021 program of works are now being prepared.

### **Drainage/flooding**

Only emergency drainage works are be carried out through level 5.

### **Miscellaneous Works:**

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



## **Naas Municipal District April 2021**

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

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (FP3) from 2020. These works had been delayed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, but will recommence throughout May at

- Roseville, Naas – At Construction
- St. Martins Avenue, Naas – At Construction
- Woodlands, Naas – At Construction
- Friary Road, Naas – At Construction
- Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas – At Construction

The Naas Municipal District is currently at construction stage for footpath improvement works (Naas Municipal District Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 1 – 2021). These works were on hold as a result of COVID-19 restrictions but it is hoped they will commence shortly subject to contractor availability. The locations are as follows:

- Main Street, Kill
- Elmwood, Naas

- Osberstown Rd., Sallins
- Monread Rd., Naas

Construction of a toucan crossing and associated work at Main St. Kill is now complete and the crossing was made fully operational following the switching on of traffic signals in April.

### **Bus Shelters**

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

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

Funding has been approved for these bus shelters by the NTA. The proposals are currently going through a Section 38 process and if approved, it is hoped to commence construction during the summer months.



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

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

Works at the following locations (Scheme 1) are now at construction stage and it is hoped to progress works throughout May following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions:

- L2022 Eadestown
- L2022 Nunsland
- L6021 Bishopscourt
- L6026 Coolahocka
- L6029 Cupidstownhill
- L6054 Tipperkevin

A tender has been awarded for works at the following location (Scheme 2) and it is hoped that these works will be completed during May:

- L6030 Hempstown (Slate Quarries)

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

## **Surface Dressing Works**

The Naas Municipal District has finalised its 2021 surface dressing programme. Designs are currently being finalised in advance of the commencement 2021 surface dressing season.

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

The LPT or Paid Parking funded road and footpath works programme for 2021 has been agreed. These works are at design stage and will progress to tender stage across the coming months.

## **Low Cost Accident Schemes 2021**

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

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

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



## **Clane-Maynooth Municipal District**

### **April 2021**

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

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

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

#### **Restoration Improvement**

The following works were undertaken in April.

#### **Restoration Improvement (Overlay) – Approximately 10km**

- L70056 Derrymullen towards Ballyteigue – Complete
- L7072 Robertstown to Brockagh Cross – Complete
- L7073 Mylerstown Cross towards Newtown Donore – Complete
- L50533 Carton Court Maynooth – Complete
- L5039 Connaught Street, Kilcock – Complete

- R415 Travellers Rest to Kilmeague – Overlay complete, awaiting surface dressing
- L7075 Robertstown at Hanlon Concrete – Overlay complete, awaiting surface dressing
- L2004 Digby Bridge to Millicent Cross – Overlay complete, awaiting surface dressing
- L6008 Donore Cottages - Complete
- R148 Blackwater Bridge towards Moyvalley – Complete

We will be progressing more of these projects over the coming month.

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

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

In advance of this and due to deteriorating road surface patch repairs have been undertaken on the following roads during the month of April.

- R403 Allenwood to Shee Bridge



- R408 Ladychappel towards Rathcoffey
- R408 Beaterstown Cross to Borehole Cross
- L2004 Digby Bridge to Millicent Cross
- L5026 Killina

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

Designs for improvement works at Robertstown, Killina and Derrinturn National schools are ongoing with detailed design expected in May.

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

The following Local Property Tax funded works were completed in the previous months.

- Lining completed in Griffin Rath Maynooth
- Footpath works completed in Railpark Maynooth
- Additional Bollards at Main Junction Prosperous
- Additional Cleaning Equipment Clane
- Fence Replacement Meadowbrook
- Oaklawns, Kilmeague Car space repairs

- Footpath Repairs 139 Kingsbry, Maynooth

Proposed traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvement measures at Ticknevin National School are currently out for public consultation.

The Municipal District Office has identified a number of footpaths, this funding will be matched by the Municipal District Office. The Municipal District Office is currently preparing contract documents which will be published in the coming month.



Project	Allocation
Castleridge & Parklands, Maynooth	€ 24,000.00
The Downings, Prosperous	€ 10,000.00
Church View Lawns, Prosperous	€ 32,000.00
Corrachoill park, Prosperous	€ 18,000.00
Wood View, Clogherinka	€ 18,000.00
Kilmurray Brook, Kilshanroe	€ 1,600.00
Bridgewell Johnshtown Bridge	€ 1,000.00
Mill Race, Broadford	€ 22,000.00
Lough Bollard, Clane	€ 14,000.00
Hillview, Clane	€ 6,000.00
Hillview Heights Clane	€ 6,000.00
Butterstream Lawns & Drive, Clane	€ 2,000.00
Liffey Lawns, Clane	€ 16,000.00
Grattan Park, Derrinturn	€ 2,000.00
Newbury Park , Derrinturn	€ 2,400.00
Trinity Crescent, Derrinturn	€ 36,000.00
Drenane Park, Derrinturn	€ 1,000.00
Church Street, Kilcock	€ 38,000.00

We will be identifying further works in the coming months.

We have also identified a number of drainage repairs and will be preparing tender documents in the coming month.

These contracts will be progressed as quick as soon as contractors are available.

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

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has undertaken following works in April 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 National Transport Authority.





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

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

### **Municipal District Road**

#### **Improvement Works 2020/2021**

The Department of Transport funding allocation for 2021 has been received and it is planned to resurface the following roads during 2021

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

### **Surface Dressing Works**

Preparatory drainage works being carried out in advance of works commencing 31 May, weather permitting.

- 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 municipal district are ongoing.

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

### **Kildare Civil Defence – April 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.

- Assisting with Community Forum with transportation to Vaccination Centre in CityWest.
- Assisting Irish Blood Transfusion Service in Finnstown Castle, Lucan
- Completed Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council Audit (First one for Civil Defence nationally)



## Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2020	Total Calls 2021 (to end April)
Newbridge	429	135
Naas	389	118
Athy	194	64
Maynooth	280	79
Monasterevin	151	47
Leixlip	203	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>480</b>

## Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
<b>2019</b>	75	72
<b>2020</b>	33	31
<b>2021</b>	2	2

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
<b>2019</b>	16
<b>2020</b>	7
<b>2021</b>	3

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
<b>2019</b>	179
<b>2020</b>	204
<b>2021</b>	59



## Building and Development Control

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

<b>Commencement Notices:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Number of Commencement Notices Received:	461	146
Number of Valid Commencement Notices Received:	454	146
Number of Invalid Commencement Notices Received:	7	1
No. of Inspections Carried out on Commencement Notices	199	99

<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Number of Certificates Received:	426	213
Number Valid	425	213
Number Invalid	1	0
Awaiting Processing	0	0
Additional Information		
Number of Inspections Carried out on Compliance on Completion	196	68

<b>Disability Access Certificates:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates Received:	124	35
Number Granted:	137	28
Number Refused:	0	0
Number Invalid	2	1
Number of Inspections Carried out on Disability Access Certificates	66	11



<b>Building Control Active Sites:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of Units Inspected	2067	402

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

### Health and Safety

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

- Seven COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Ergonomic Assessment of Cash Desk in Finance
- Two Pregnancy Risk Assessments
- Lead Worker Representative Meetings
- Business Continuity Meeting
- COVID-19 Seniors Meeting
- Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting
- Webinar on - The Wider Horizons of Hybrid Working
- Meeting re Development of Drug Litter Protocol

- Accident & Incident Reports and Investigations
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments
- Online Remote Worker VDU assessments
- Liaised with libraries on review of return to workplace risk assessment

### Accessibility

Local Access Groups:

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

County Kildare Access Network (CKAN):



- County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Meeting

Additional:

- Disability Awareness Training as per National Disability Inclusion Strategy delivered to library staff
- Social Media Training delivered to local access groups
- Athy Implementation Team Meeting
- Attended COVID Community Response Forum
- CKAN Workshop on Awareness Initiative held
- MERITS Part 8 pre-planning meeting



## Economic Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

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

Details of all grants awarded in 2020 listed above.

### 2021 Grants Schemes

Applications closed on 07 April. Almost 400 applications for funding were received under community, festival, residents' associations and Drehid grants schemes. Assessment of all applications was carried out during April and May and lists of proposed

awards were presented to each MD at their May meetings. Full details will be included in the June report.

### Local Property Tax

Lists have been advised from most municipal districts and community section staff are processing relevant awards or schemes as required.

### Community Enhancement Programme





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

### **Local Community Development Committee May 2021**

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on March 31 2021.

### **COVID-19 Community Response Forum**

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had 24 meetings to date via Teams. The purpose of the Forum is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. A dedicated COVID -19 support helpline was established on the 30 of March by Kildare County Council. The Response Forum has representation from key statutory and voluntary organisations across the county. Peter Carey CE chairs the Forum and high levels of collaboration to ensure the most

vulnerable are responded during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last meeting discussed the vaccination roll out and the drop in test centre Newbridge.

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Projects are being worked on for presentation at the next LCDC/LAG meeting for funding approval.

Work is underway to publicise the funding available under the Transitional LEADER programme 2021/2022. Further information can be obtained by contacting CKLP:

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

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

Work is underway to implement the SICAP plan for 2021. Specific work is taking place with the most excluded communities and individuals across the county. For further information contact County Kildare LEADER Partnership [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), 045-895450

The next LCDC meeting will be held on **Wednesday May 26 2021**.



## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

April was a positive month for the tourism and hospitality industry as travel was extended to within the county and outdoor attractions and golf courses re-opened on 26 April. Ongoing calls were made to the industry through the month by Kildare Fáilte to support those preparing to re-open. News that inter-county travel will be permitted from 10 May and the gradual re-opening of businesses was appreciated by many.

Following on from the presentation to council on 29 March, Kildare Fáilte attended municipal district meetings throughout April and responded to queries from elected members.

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

a meeting with Newbridge Tourism Committee.

Additionally, as part of the Twinning Committee, Kildare Fáilte attended a meeting with the President of the Twinning Committee from Deauville, alongside the Chair of the Kildare Twinning Committee and other representatives. The objective was to discuss ways of strengthening relationships.

Fáilte Ireland announced the new Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme, in partnership with Local Authorities, and this information was shared with the relevant tourism and hospitality businesses in the County by Kildare Fáilte.

Kildare Fáilte continues to communicate and collaborate with Fáilte Ireland to share plans and activities with monthly calls. Fáilte Ireland will present to the industry at the next meet-up in May.

The Royal Canal Greenway Visitor Experience Working Group, which was set up to oversee the ongoing development of the Royal Canal Greenway, met in April. High on the



agenda was incorporating the Green Kilometre initiative into all marketing communications.

The Barrow Blueway Economic Report was presented to all stakeholders, which was attended by Kildare Fáilte as a contributor to the Report.

Kildare Fáilte hosted a consultation workshop for the tourism and hospitality industry in Kildare, which was attended by over 30 participants from a cross section of the tourism and hospitality industry. The workshop examined how tourism data is currently being recorded so that gaps can be identified and a solution identified. The work will also identify the assets that need to be measured within categories and the categories to be measured in the county. This project is ongoing and expected to conclude in the latter half of the year.

Following the launch of Green for Micro, Kildare Fáilte shared details regarding the tourism and hospitality information event to the industry and encouraged them to attend. Promoting and encouraging sustainable tourism is a focus for Kildare Fáilte and, as

part of Green for Micro, an action plan is being created and will be included in the upcoming Tourism Strategic Plan.

Media coverage in April included the Elaine Show on Virgin Media featuring outdoor activities and attractions, Newstalk (The Hard Shoulder) to promote golf in Kildare and a piece in the Irish Daily Mail highlighting outdoor attractions and golf.

Social media content in April included supporting the Punchestown Festival in the run up to the event, as well as during; inspiration for days out in Kildare – including the reopening of attractions and golf, and dine at home. Visitor engagement across all social media channels grew again in April with an increase in engagement and followers. The most popular content was outdoor walks, the reopening of outdoor attractions and staycation ideas. The message, We Care in Kildare, and support local continues to be a key priority.



## Library and Arts Service

According to Neil Gaiman “Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.

### Right to Read - Spring into Storytime

Spring into Storytime began on 01 April and continues through to the end of May. Events are being held online this year with a mix of pre-recorded story times and live story telling via Zoom. Live story times must be booked through Eventbrite and the pre-recorded story times will be available to view.

<https://vimeo.com/channels/springintostorytime>

### Right to Read – Little Library Book Bags

Kildare Libraries will begin rolling out the Little Library Book Bag initiative this May, contacting all registered Early Learning and Care Centres (ELCs) and childminders who are registered with Tusla.

The First 5 Little Library Bags initiative is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion

and Youth and the Department of Rural and Community Development to build on the relationships between the Early Learning and Care centres and libraries as part of the First 5 Government Strategy for babies and children and the public libraries Right to Read Programme.

The Little Library Bags each contain five books, one in Irish and four in English. The books are aimed at the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) age range of 2.5 years to 5.5 years primarily but can be used with all preschool children. There is also a Mála Beag Leabharlainne which contains five books all in Irish for registered Naíonraí in Kildare.

### Keep Safe Campaign

#### Eat Well - Grow It Forward

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



The 830 packs allocated to Kildare Library Service have been packed and distributed to individuals, schools, and groups around the county. There was a very positive response especially from schools who expressed their support and enthusiasm for the campaign, particularly mentioning the benefits given the last year and its challenges.

Online events were run by Kildare libraries to complement the campaign. April's events included three family step by step growing demonstrations using the packs, Dee the Bee Storytime, Sensory gardens talk, Wildflower Masterclass and Hedgerows/Planting to combat pollution. Further events will run in May and June.

## **Keep Safe Campaign**

### **Keeping Active**

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

Dr Mary O'Kane is speaking on anxiety, it's effects and how young people can take control , Jennifer

Ryan is speaking on communication and its role in improving relationships and Eric Donovan will speak on Motivation & Resilience discussing his own life and adversity with motivational tips.

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

104 people attended online events in April including 'First Aid for Parents', 'Resilience and Self Care' and 'Fussy Eaters'. Upcoming events for May include 'Baby Sign language', 'Healthy Sleep for Babies and Toddlers'. 'Understanding Sleep in Children and Teenagers' and 'The Storms and Stresses of Adolescence' talk with Stella O'Malley taking place later in the month (for which there are 90 booked in already). A presentation on the programme was given to the Kildare and West Wicklow Parenting Forum which was very well received. There will be 'Healthy Food Made Easy'

### **Toys Technology and Training**

TTT events including music therapy for children and adults with ASD, developmental delay or Intellectual disability, a Sibshop Workshop that provides support for siblings of children with additional needs and



speech and language therapy webinars covering topics such as Developmental Verbal Dyslexia, Supporting Communication in Preverbal Children and Early Communication Milestones.

## **Capital Projects**

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

Duggan Lynch the main contractors are now on site. The hoarding has gone up around the site and we hope to have the branded design for the project applied to the hoarding over the next week. The official contract for the construction phase was signed this week by Chief Executive, Peter Carey and Duggan Lynch. The project is expected to take 14 months to completion.

### **County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre**

This Capital Project received Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF) under Category B as part of the Newbridge Cultural and Civic Quarter. The tender for a Design Team to progress the project to Part 8 planning has been advertised with a closing date of 25 May.

### **New Clane Library**

The Library Service is currently working with the Architects Department, Kildare County Council on tender documents for a Design Team for a new Library in Clane. The tender will be advertised on eTenders in May.

## **Kildare Decade of Commemorations**

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

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





## **Irish Military Seminar 2021**

The 2021 Irish Military Seminar, supported by Kildare Decade of Commemorations and JuneFest, is taking place online from 8 to 19 June.

An exciting and varied line-up of speakers and topics has been drawn up with Strongbow, the War of Independence, Military Archives Collections, and the role of museums in collecting historic artefacts among the topics lined up. Online Zoom talks and pre-recorded material will feature. The full programme will be circulated in late May and will also be available on [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory)

## **Kildare Libraries STEAM Programme Talk for Primary Schools**

### **Journey to a COVID-19 Vaccine with Professor Teresa Lambe**

As part of the Kildare Libraries STEAM programme of talks and workshops for primary schools in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths, we held the first in a series of four talks with real-life scientists. Six schools from around County Kildare joined us for a live talk and Q&A with Professor Teresa Lambe. Professor

Lambe is an Irish scientist, originally from Kilcullen, who works at the University of Oxford and is one of the lead developers of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Professor Lambe spoke to the children all about her love of science, her career path and how the vaccine was developed. Over 180 children tuned in for an engaging and informative talk about the real science behind a topic that has had such a profound impact on their lives and the world around them.

## **Kildare Arts Service**

### **Kildare Short Grass Film Commission 2021 Awarded**

Hardback Films have been awarded the 2021 Kildare Short Grass Films Commission for their short film 'Lambing.' The film centres on a young rural dad who must face his own father's gendered bullying and the scars it has already left on him when his baby is born intersex. An award of €12,500 will be made to shoot the film on location in County Kildare and will engage local Kildare-based crew.



## **Kildare County Council Cultural Grants and Awards 2021 awarded**

Kildare Arts Service, Creative Ireland and Decade of Commemorations teams have notified all applicants of the decisions to 18 award schemes including the Arts Grants, Bursary Awards, Creative Ireland and Short Grass Film Commission award opportunities 2021.

The schemes were adjudicated by independent assessors, with Arts Grants and Awards recommendations formally approved by the county's five municipal districts at meetings during April. Successful applications are valued at €179,500 for creative projects and commissions commencing in the weeks and months ahead.

## **Professional opportunities and awards for artists supported by Kildare County Council**

A number of professional opportunities and awards for artists, supported by Kildare County Council through the Arts Service, have recently been announced including:

Kildare Library and Arts Services and Maynooth University will shortly interview shortlisted applicants for two Writer in Residence positions (October 2021 – May 2022).

Kildare Arts Service and Kildare Education Centre have recently announced a call out for the Teacher-Artist Partnership (TAP) Programme 2021.

CREATION 2021/2022 is a new artistic development and residency programme supporting artists at all stages of their career. The initiative is a partnership between Local Authority Arts Offices in Kildare, Dublin City, South Dublin, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford in collaboration with Carlow Arts Festival, Dublin Dance Festival, National Circus Festival, Irish Street Arts Circus and Spectacle (ISACS) Network, United Fall Dance Company, Danseu Festival, Spain and led by The Performance Corporation.



## Local Studies & County Archive

### Seventeenth Century Naas Barony Map

The Library Service has recently arranged conservation work and framing of a mid-17 Century original map of the Naas Barony that was acquired in recent years. This very rare map documents the various landowners and their holdings in the Naas area in the 1660s. The framed map will eventually go on public display in the new library in Naas Town Hall.

## Parks

### St Cocoas Athletic Track Bawnogues, Kilcock

Work has recommenced on the improvement works at the Athletics Track in Kilcock. The work is expected to be complete by the end of August subject to weather conditions.

### Castledermot Playground

Works are due to recommence on the playground on the 24 May and be completed by the second week of June subject to weather conditions. Design work to improve the paths to connect from the playground back to the town are underway in conjunction with the Roads Area Office.

### Newbridge Playground

An application under the Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation was made to assist with the development of a natural play space or trail in Liffey Linear Park in conjunction with Newbridge Tidy Towns. The estimated cost of the project is €60,000. Grant funding of €16,131 has been awarded towards the project. It is planned to progress this throughout the remainder of the year.



## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Applications Awarded From January – May 2021		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
<b>Web Development Grant</b>	49	€79,951
<b>Shopfront Grant</b>	22	€50,365
<b>Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant</b>	37	€120,352
<b>Start-up/ Expansion/ Priming/ Export Marketing Grants</b>	25	€433,201
<b>Microfinance Ireland Funding</b>	€96,300 approved between seven businesses Approving between €7,500 and €25,000 for Kildare companies	

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

Immediate business support:

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

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

For trading online queriers email

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

For COVID-19 Business Loans, visit

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

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

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

And finally, for Brexit support, visit

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

For all other queries

email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie) or call the office line on 045980838.

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



## Business Restart 2021

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

- Cashflow and Finance
- Tax/VAT related Queries
- HR and Staffing issues
- Sales and Marketing
- Online Strategy and promoting your reopening
- Applying for Finance
- Health and Safety - Reopening your shop or business premises in line with Covid 19 Government Guidelines
- Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses (Hospitality Sector Only)
- Or any other business-related issues that may arise due to the current circumstances.

Please advise constituents to apply for this support here:

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

## E-commerce Funding and Support

Kildare LEO continue to provide extensive ecommerce support.

1. **Online Trading Vouchers** to the value of €2,500 are available to businesses to improve e-commerce capabilities are available .The first step in applying is to attend an information seminar. The next seminar is taking place Wednesday 16 June. For more information and to secure a place, visit:  
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>
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 the Kildare LEO website here

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

### **Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Businesses**

The aim of the The Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant Scheme is to provide support to individual independent hospitality and tourism businesses towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and facilitate these individual independent businesses to increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021.

The scheme is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafés, public houses or other establishments where food is normally sold for consumption on the premises.

All applicants will be required to comply with planning Section 254 codes, legislative requirements and other compliance requirements. Plant stands

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

For more information visit:

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

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

The Green for Micro Programme was launched to help businesses across county Kildare to prepare for the low-carbon economy. This is a LEO initiative to increase awareness around sustainability and the low carbon future. Businesses in county Kildare are being offered two full days of consultancy costs, a unique opportunity to cut harmful emissions and make significant energy, waste, water and other savings through this programme.

Please advise constituents that applications are open for the Green for Micro Programme at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Green-for-Micro/>





## **Economic Support Services**

### **Retail Enhancement Scheme**

Kildare LEO's Retail and Retail Enhancement Support Programme has supported over 50 Kildare retailers in April 2021. The combined paint and merchandising scheme and mentoring and training programme featured significant financial support.

## **Business and Tourism**

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

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

## **Economic Development – Capital Projects**

### **MERITS – Innovation Hub**

Construction has recommenced at the beginning of May. The revised construction programme developed with the key stakeholders, shows

that the main contractor (Duggan Lynch) has a further two months on site to complete their scope of works and then another month will be required for internal ICT and furniture fitout.

As previously indicated the team progress with running its first programmes on a virtual basis. Following an oversubscribed application process, 11 companies were chosen to participate on the Accelerator programme. The first three weeks of this eight-week programme have been completed with excellent guest speakers being brought in for each module, including Mr Kenny Jacobs, Chief Marketing Officer at Ryanair, Mr Michael Dwyer, Founder of PigsBack.com and Ms Geraldine Gibson, Founder of AQMetrics. The programme will conclude with an investor pitch day at the end of May.

Additional programmes are currently being designed for StartUps that are a little earlier in their development.



### Equine Tech Innovation Hub

Construction will commence on the 31 May with a view to having our first tenants in situ in September 2021 .

### Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub

Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led

by Bluett O'Donoghue has been appointed. Part 8 planning process was completed on the 17 May 2021 and food consultant has recently been appointed to work with the project team on the detailed design of the building.

### COVID-19 Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID-19.

### All COVID-19 Business Supports Available from All Government Bodies Outlined on the Kildare LEO Website:

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

Objective	Support	Link
<b>Financial</b>		
<b>Immediate Cashflow</b>	<b>MFI COVID-19 Business loan –</b> The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/New/s/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/New/s/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html</a>



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



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



		<a href="https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c">https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&amp;id=87063fc48c</a>
<b>Access to LEO team and specialists</b>	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry	<a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> 045980838

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